

**AN ANALYSIS OF ODERA ORUKA'S PHILOSOPHIC SAGACITY  
MANIFESTATION IN THE THARAKA COMMUNITY WISE SAYINGS IN  
THARAKA NITHI COUNTY, KENYA**

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**A Thesis Submitted to the Graduate School in Partial Fulfilment of the  
Requirements for the Award of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in  
Philosophy of Chuka University**

**CHUKA UNIVERSITY**

**OCTOBER 2024**

## DECLARATION AND RECOMMENDATION

### Declaration

This thesis is my original work and has not been presented for an award of Diploma or conferment of degree in any other institution.

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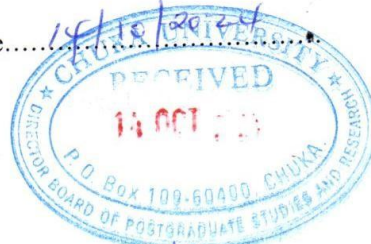
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### Recommendations

This thesis has been examined, passed and submitted with our approval as the University Supervisors

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## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this thesis to my father Alfred Ndumpa and my mother Judith Kaburi for their parental endless love and financial support they have given me through my research work.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

I humbly acknowledge the almighty God for giving me a chance in life and good health to carry out this research. I would like to thank all who have contributed their moral, psychological, social and spiritual support in writing this thesis. Among the many I could mention, I sincerely thank Prof P. Muriungi (PhD) Vice Chancellor Tharaka University, my supervisors Dr. Jonathan Kathenge (PhD) and Dr. Pascal Mwina (PhD) for their helpful comments, guidance and dedication they have offered me during the study.

I am also grateful to many persons who shared their knowledge, wisdom and experiences especially my lecturers among them Dr. Nyangau (PhD), Prof. Muraya (PhD), Dr. Christopher Kiboro (PhD) the dean Faculty Humanities and Social Sciences of Chuka University, my brother Johnstone Gitonga who offered me financial support and Thanantu Catholic Church fraternity for encouraging and providing me with moral and spiritual support during my study. I also acknowledge the input of all lecturers, friends and colleagues staff from Tharaka University and fellow students who offered critique and advice towards improving this work to what it is today (thesis) from the proposal at the departmental level, faculty level up to now a thesis at the post graduate level. I mostly acknowledge and express my gratitude and deep appreciation the supportive role my extended family whose hospitality and understanding have played in helping me conduct this research.

Lastly, I am greatly indebted to my students at Tharaka University for their encouragement, support and incessant probing questions on African philosophy that triggered the writing of this study. You were the reason that I have completed this study and therefore I am so grateful.

## ABSTRACT

Henry Odera Oruka defined philosophic sagacity as body of thought produced by persons considered wise by their communities. To understand the concept of philosophic sagacity discourse, this study contextualized that Odera Oruka's philosophic sagacity was first an attempt to distinguish and distance an African philosophical position from ethno-philosophy that was at the time vehemently criticized as lacking the critical aspect of professional philosophy, considered to be the hallmark of philosophy. Oruka considered philosophic sagacity as logical and critical African wisdom endowed to African individuals who because of the depth of their reasoning were able to build strong African traditional community. This research critically analyzed Odera Oruka's philosophic sagacity and its manifestation in Tharaka community wise sayings. By studying Odera Oruka's philosophical sagacity through the lens of Tharaka traditional wise sayings, the research's main objective was to understand the philosophical wisdom endowed and communicated in the community's wise sayings for individual and societal well-being. The need for the study was prompted by over emphasis on systematic Western philosophy since scholastic time that has continued to devalue traditional African wisdom which was not only a foundation of African philosophy but also the wisdom behind African traditional societal development. This problem was enhanced by the debate on misunderstanding among African and Western Philosophers as to what constitutes a philosophical concept or discourse in Africa. The study used rational-analytical philosophical approach in addressing the problem of the study. The critical-analytical approach or method of philosophizing that has been used for the analysis is widely associated with philosophy as an academic discipline and finds its lasting expression in the questioning attitude of Ancient Greek philosopher Socrates. The study employed three theories, namely: communitarianism, hermeneutics and postcolonial theory. The study was library based, drawing resources from published and unpublished works, journals as well as digital sources. The research findings point to contribution of deeper understanding of African wisdom and an added knowledge in the academic pool in the field of African Philosophy.