



**THE TRAINING OF STUDENT TEACHERS IN ORAL LANGUAGE SKILLS IN SELECTED TEACHER TRAINING INSTITUTIONS
IN LUSAKA AND KITWE DISTRICTS**

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Abstract

This paper is part of a study that was conducted in selected teacher training institutions on the training of student teachers in the teaching of oral language skills for initial literacy. The study sought to establish whether student teachers were prepared to teach oral language skills in schools. A total of 63 respondents, composed of student teachers, lecturers and serving teachers were drawn from four Colleges of Education and two primary schools. The qualitative research design was used to collect data. Structured and unstructured questions were used to collect data from lecturers, focus group discussions were held with the students, observations of oral language lessons were done and the syllabus was analysed to establish the oral language skills that learners should be taught. Data was analysed descriptively. The findings revealed that students were not adequately trained in oral language skills. Further, students were not familiar with the oral language skills found in the syllabus. The study also revealed that some lecturers were not familiar with oral language skills that students should be taught. Therefore, the paper recommends that teacher training institutions should strengthen student teacher training in oral language skills by teaching all the components of oral language. In addition, oral language teaching should be given more attention by allocating more time to it. Apart from that, institutions should employ trained and competent lecturers to teach oral language skills.

Key words: Students, Oral Language, Skills, Training.

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