

# **Toward a Decolonial Ecological Epistemology: Wiredu's Linguistic Philosophy and the Rehabilitation of Africa Ecological Knowledge**

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## **Abstract**

The aim of this article is to show that Kwasi Wiredu's philosophy of language offers the most philosophically critical tool that can presently rehabilitate and legitimize African ecological knowledge systems. These systems had been relegated by Western dominant epistemic frameworks, that constituted themselves as the sole arbiters of valid knowledge. Kwasi Wiredu significantly argues that language is not epistemologically innocent, but a culturally influenced medium that either permits or bars entire domains of knowledge from attaining epistemological visibility. This offers an influential systematic tool for clearly understanding how African ecological knowledge has been steadily eliminated from what Western rationality claims to be the universal epistemic authority. Using a critical analytic method, this article establishes that the relegation of African ecological knowledge is structurally entrenched in the Western language and theoretical categories that distinguish valid from invalid knowledge. Although Kwasi Wiredu's philosophy of language offers the basis for this rehabilitation, it does not fully apply its own insights within the context of ecological knowledge. Beyond Kwasi Wiredu, I propose a decolonial ecological epistemology (DEE), which is the philosophical commitment to recuperating African ecological systems, by critically dismantling the linguistic and conceptual structures that excluded and silenced them. Any philosophical theory that explains how we know and understand the natural world cannot pretend that the language it uses is neutral be it in what is said or silenced.

**Keywords:** *Decolonial Ecological Epistemology, Linguistic Philosophy, African Ecological Wisdom, Epistemic Marginalization, Conceptual Decolonization*

## **ACADEMIC PROFILE**

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## **RESEARCH INTERESTS**

Logical positivism, African philosophy, Logic, Philosophy of science, Artificial Intelligence and Philosophy of education

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