

OL4D Jimma University team

## Oral Narrative Performance and Workshop at Nekemte High School

Date: August 27, 2024

Time: 8:00 AM– 5:00 PM

Venue: Nekemte High School Model Lab



*Dr. Teshome, Tsehay and Terefe arriving at Nekemte High School*

### Participants by category:

Female	
Youth (high school students)	10
Senior	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>

Male	
Youth (high school students)	12
Senior	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>

### Activities:

0. Preparations
1. Brief Intro
2. Elders blessing
3. Opening remark and Introduction to the OL4D project objectives, performance, and plans by Dr. Teshome Egere Mossissa

4. Display of the video of an Oral Narrative performance by JU art students (<https://www.ol4d.ugent.be/videos/#anchor5>)
5. Discussion on the video
6. Live performance of Oromo oral narrative by elders and youth
7. Discussion on the live performance
8. General discussion on the workshop events and OL4D project in general

### **Facilitators**

S. N	Name	Role	Remark
1.	Dr Teshome Egere Mossissa	Projector Coordinator	
2.	Terefe Mitiku	Facilitator	
3.	Tsehay Dinsa	Facilitator	
4.	Mr. Dereje	School Director and Focal person	
5.	Dr. Megersa Dinsa		
6.	Mr. Diriba Mammo		
7.	Dr. Desalegn Beyene		

### **Report**

0) The preparations for the workshop started on the 26th of August 2024. On that date, the team of OL4D resumed the mission by visiting the setting of the workshop and arranging the organisation of the activities together with the management (school leaders) of Nekemte High School, involving the entire hall setup, installing supportive tools, and hall facilities. In addition, the team posited the workshop banner, refreshment materials, and printouts of the workshop schedule.

On the morning of August 27th, the team arrived before the arrival of the workshop participants so as to engage with the final preparations. Upon their arrival, the participants were registered and offered the activity schedule.

1) According to schedule, Dr. Teshome Egere Mossissa formally opened the day, by announcing the activities and the ground rules of the workshop activities.

2) After this, Dr. Teshome invited participating elders to start the day with morning blessings.



*Elders' blessing*

3) After the blessings of elders, Dr. Teshome invited Mr. Dereje, the Director of Nekemte High School, to welcome the participants, during which he noted the importance of the workshop for the participating youths.

This was followed by Dr. Teshome explaining the OL4D project and its core objectives for the participants. He elaborated on how the project linked to crisis management and how the project aimed to approach crisis from within methods of crisis coping strategies using oral storytelling as an approach.

4) Following the introduction of the project, Dr. Teshome invited the participants to watch a video of an oral narrative performed by Jimma University Art students.



*Watching the video together*

5) After they watched the video, participants were requested to reflect on the performance and relate the story to the objective of the OL4D project. Accordingly, participants recognised and acclaimed the contribution of the project to digitizing Oromo's oral narrative and making it available for the educational trajectory of youths. In addition, Wallaga University art and literature teachers commented on the flaws of the costume of some characters (e.g. the cat, dog, and rat); they had wished for a more realistic costume. In addition, one elder commented on the missing cultural elements of the bride-proposing process. The elder suggested that the way the family of the bride treated the elders also did not meet Oromo cultural values.

Next to feedback on the video, the participants were requested to discuss the content of the story to relate to the objective of the OL4D. Accordingly, the participants were arranged to six groups, which consist of a balanced ratio of gender and age. Each group selected group leaders and secretaries. Dr. Teshome offered leading points for the discussion, and all OL4D members rotated across the groups to moderate and facilitate the discussion, besides recording the session. After the discussion, all groups reported the result of their discussion to all participants through their representatives. The representatives of the groups consisted of both elders and youth, making the workshop successful in terms of intergenerational exchange as elders and youths came together to learn from one another.



*Intergenerational exchange during the workshops*



After summarising the discussion, the workshop paused for a tea break and networking chats.

6) Returning from the break, six selected participants performed a live storytelling performance. Accordingly, three elders and three youth participants took the stage to narrate stories.



*A girl performing an Oromo oral narrative*

7) After the live storytelling, all participants regrouped to discuss the relevance and connection of the stories to the OL4D project namely (gender, poverty, Othering, ecological and disease crises.) and what lessons could be learnt or harnessed from the stories. Accordingly, all groups reflected on the points of the stories through the reports of their group representatives.



*Female participant reflecting on the narrative*

8) After the group discussion on the stories, the participants raised general issues on the importance of oral narratives for holistic development and coping with crises. Elders appreciated the attempt of the OL4D project and advised to expand such initiatives to other schools and universities too. The youth also thanked the project coordinators and Nekemte High School for organising such workshops and requested to make other chances for other fellow youth. Nekemte High School leaders and Wallaga University Art and Literature instructors also agreed to make connections to train and inform the school students on art, oral literature, and related activities. Dr. Teshome and Mr. Dereje, Director of Nekemte High School thanked all participants for attentively attending the workshop and indicated that a similar workshop would be organised again in due course of time.

This day concluded with recognising the team for the organisation and the contribution of all the participants for their input.

The activities were closed at 5:00 PM.