



Resilient Voices: The Sociolinguistic Evolution of Kabyle Women's Expression from Traditional Heritage to Contemporary Empowerment, Navigating Past Oppression and Modern Rebellion

Hamane Soraya

Associate Professor(MCA).University of Oran2, Mohamed Ben Ahmed, Algeria

sorayahamane2@gmail.com

hamane.soraya@univ-oran2.dz

Orcid Id:0009-0004-0182-403

Abstract : The Kabyle people, an indigenous Berber ethnic group in Northern Algeria, have a rich cultural heritage characterized by a distinctive language, music, and traditions. Kabyle women have historically played significant roles within their communities, utilizing traditional forms of expression such as oral literature, songs, and dance to convey their experiences and preserve their cultural identity. However, these women have also faced systemic oppression and marginalization, both within their communities and in the broader socio-political context of Algeria. In recent decades, Kabyle women have begun to navigate a complex landscape of cultural preservation and modern empowerment, challenging traditional norms while forging new paths of expression and activism. This research aims to explore the evolution of Kabyle women's expression from traditional heritage to contemporary empowerment, analyzing how these women have navigated past oppression and modern rebellion, transforming their roles and voices in the process. Despite the significant contributions of Kabyle women to their cultural heritage and the notable shifts in their roles and expressions, there is a gap in the literature concerning the transition from traditional to contemporary forms of expression among Kabyle women. Existing studies often overlook the nuanced ways in which these women have resisted oppression and embraced modern avenues of empowerment. This research addresses this gap by providing an in-depth analysis of the evolution of Kabyle women's voices, considering both historical contexts and modern dynamics. This study contributes to the broader discourse on women's rights and cultural preservation by highlighting the unique experiences of Kabyle women, underscoring the importance of understanding how indigenous and minority groups navigate the interplay between tradition and modernity. By focusing on the resilience and empowerment of Kabyle women, this research offers valuable insights into the strategies employed by marginalized groups to resist oppression and assert their identities in contemporary contexts, and it provides policy recommendations for supporting the empowerment and cultural preservation of indigenous women globally. Through this comprehensive analysis, the study aims to contribute to the academic understanding of women's resilience and empowerment, offering a nuanced perspective on the intersection of cultural heritage and modernity in the context of Kabyle women's experiences.

Keywords: Kabyle Women; Cultural Heritage; Empowerment; Resilience ; Modern Rebellion

Received: 10/08/2024 **Accepted:** 02/11/2024 **Published:** 14/11/2024

I- Introduction

The Kabyle people, an indigenous Berber ethnic group in Northern Algeria, boast a rich cultural heritage characterized by a distinctive language, music, and traditions. Central to this cultural tapestry are Kabyle women, who have historically played pivotal roles within their communities. Traditionally, these women have used oral literature, songs, and dance to convey their experiences, preserve their cultural identity, and pass down knowledge through generations (Maddy-Weitzman, 2011) (Goodman, 2005). Kabyle oral literature, often in the form of poetry and storytelling, has been a crucial medium through which women express their personal and collective histories, emotions, and values (Goodman, 2005). Songs and dances, performed during various social and religious ceremonies, serve not only as entertainment but also as vehicles for cultural transmission and social cohesion (Maddy-Weitzman, 2011).

Despite their integral roles, Kabyle women have faced systemic oppression and marginalization, both within their own communities and under broader socio-political structures in Algeria. Historically, the colonial period and subsequent nation-building efforts imposed additional layers of marginalization on Kabyle women, exacerbating their struggles for cultural preservation and gender equality (Chaker, 1990). During the French colonial rule, many aspects of Kabyle culture, including women's roles, were suppressed or altered to fit colonial narratives (Silverstein, 2004). Post-independence, the centralization policies and Arabization efforts further marginalized Berber identity, including that of Kabyle women, who had to navigate a complex landscape of cultural and political oppression (Chaker, 1990).

This dual burden of preserving cultural identity while navigating pervasive discrimination has shaped their unique forms of expression and resilience. Kabyle women have developed various strategies to maintain their cultural heritage while advocating for their rights. They have utilized traditional platforms such as music and storytelling, as well as modern avenues like literature and social media, to resist oppression and assert their identities (Goodman, 2005) (Maddy-Weitzman, 2011). This blend of traditional and contemporary forms of expression highlights the dynamic and adaptive nature of Kabyle women's resistance and empowerment efforts.

1- Problem Statement

Despite the significant contributions of Kabyle women to their cultural heritage and the notable shifts in their roles and expressions over time, there is a noticeable gap in the literature concerning the transition from traditional to contemporary forms of expression among Kabyle women. Kabyle women have been instrumental in preserving and promoting their cultural heritage through oral literature, music, and other traditional forms of expression (Maddy-Weitzman, 2011) (Goodman, 2005). However, the existing studies predominantly focus on these traditional roles and often fail to capture the dynamic evolution of their expressions in response to modern socio-political challenges (Chaker, 1990).

The literature on Berber culture, including works by (Chaker, 1990) and (Goodman, 2005), provides valuable insights into the traditional cultural practices of Kabyle women. Yet, these studies rarely delve into how these women have adapted and transformed their modes of expression to navigate contemporary issues such as gender inequality, political marginalization, and globalization. Furthermore, the resilience and agency of Kabyle women in the face of oppression often need to be explored, leaving a critical gap in understanding the full spectrum of their empowerment journey (Maddy-Weitzman, 2011).

Recent socio-political developments have seen Kabyle women increasingly using modern platforms, including literature, art, and social media, to voice their struggles and advocate for their rights (Goodman, 2005). However, scholarly attention to these contemporary forms of expression remains limited. For example, while there is an acknowledgement of the role of Kabyle women in traditional cultural preservation, there needs to be more analysis of how these women leverage modern technologies and global networks to further their causes (Silverstein, 2004).

This gap in the literature underscores the necessity for a comprehensive analysis that not only acknowledges the historical roots of Kabyle women's expression but also examines the contemporary transformations and innovations they have adopted. By addressing this gap, the research aims to provide a holistic view of the evolution of Kabyle women's voices, from their rich historical heritage to their current expressions of empowerment and rebellion. Such an analysis is crucial for appreciating the complexity and richness of Kabyle women's contributions to cultural heritage and contemporary socio-political discourse.

2- Objective

This research is designed to investigate the evolution of Kabyle women's expression, tracing the transition from traditional forms of cultural representation to contemporary modes of empowerment. The study focuses on two main objectives:

Examine the Transformation of Traditional Expression: The first objective is to systematically analyse how traditional forms of expression among Kabyle women, such as oral literature, music, and dance have evolved over time. This involves exploring how these traditional practices have adapted in response to changing socio-political contexts and how they continue to serve as vehicles for cultural preservation and identity amidst modern influences. By examining historical and contemporary sources, the research will uncover the shifts in the nature and significance of these expressions, providing insight into how Kabyle women have maintained and transformed their cultural practices over the decades (Maddy-Weitzman, 2011); (Goodman, 2005).

Analyze Navigation of Oppression and Modern Rebellion: The second objective is to investigate how Kabyle women have navigated historical oppression and contemporary challenges to redefine their roles and voices. This includes analyzing the strategies employed by these women to resist and overcome systemic marginalization, as well as their adaptation to modern forms of activism and empowerment. The study aims to highlight how Kabyle women have utilized both traditional and contemporary platforms, such as social media, literature, and public demonstrations, to assert their identities, challenge prevailing norms, and advocate for their rights (Silverstein, 2004); (Chaker, 1990). This analysis will shed light on the dynamic interplay between past and present in shaping the voices of Kabyle women and their ongoing struggle for empowerment and recognition in a rapidly changing world.

By addressing these objectives, the research seeks to provide a comprehensive understanding of the ways in which Kabyle women's expressions have evolved, reflecting broader themes of resilience, adaptation, and empowerment within the context of their cultural and socio-political landscapes.

3- Significance

Understanding the resilience and empowerment of Kabyle women is vital for enriching broader conversations surrounding women's rights and cultural preservation. By illuminating the distinctive experiences of Kabyle women, this study provides critical insights into the methods and strategies that marginalized communities use to counteract oppression and assert their identities within contemporary settings. It highlights how these women have employed both traditional and modern approaches to resist systemic challenges and advocate for their rights, thus offering a model for similar groups navigating their struggles.

The research not only underscores the importance of acknowledging and supporting the diverse manifestations of women's resilience and empowerment across various cultural contexts but also emphasizes the necessity of integrating these experiences into broader discourses. By analyzing the ways in which Kabyle women have balanced the preservation of their cultural heritage with the pursuit of modern empowerment, the study contributes to a more nuanced understanding of how cultural traditions and contemporary movements interact and influence each other.

Through this comprehensive examination, the study aims to enhance academic knowledge about the intersection of cultural heritage and modernity. It provides a detailed perspective on the challenges faced by Kabyle women, as well as their successes and strategies in overcoming these challenges. This enriched understanding of their ongoing journey toward empowerment not only adds depth to the discourse on gender and cultural preservation but also informs future research and policy efforts aimed at supporting marginalized women's struggles and achievements in diverse cultural settings.

Ii- Research Design And Methodology

Research Design: This study employs a qualitative research design to gain an in-depth understanding of the evolution of Kabyle women's expressions from traditional heritage to contemporary empowerment. Qualitative methods are chosen to capture the complexity and nuance of personal and collective experiences, providing a rich, contextualized understanding of how Kabyle women navigate and transform their roles over time.

Data Collection:

1- *Historical Analysis:* The research will begin with a comprehensive historical analysis of documents, literature, and cultural artefacts that pertain to Kabyle women's traditional roles and expressions. This includes examining historical texts, oral traditions, and cultural artefacts to understand the foundational aspects of Kabyle women's cultural contributions and their historical context (Maddy-Weitzman, 2011) (Goodman, 2005). The analysis will focus on sources such as oral literature, traditional songs, and visual representations that have documented the roles and expressions of Kabyle women throughout history.

2- *Semi-structured interviews with contemporary Kabyle women:* To capture contemporary perspectives, the study will conduct semi-structured interviews with Kabyle women from various backgrounds. These interviews will provide qualitative data on how these women perceive and experience their roles and expressions in the current socio-political context. Semi-structured interviews allow for flexibility and depth, enabling participants to share their personal stories and insights while also addressing specific research questions (Silverstein, 2004).

3- *Review of contemporary literature, art, and activism involving Kabyle women:* Review of Contemporary Literature and Art: The research will also include a review of contemporary literature, art, and activism involving Kabyle women. This component aims to identify how modern Kabyle women utilize these platforms to express their identities, challenge oppression, and advocate for their rights (Chaker, 1990). This review will encompass modern literary works, artistic expressions, and activist movements that reflect the current state of Kabyle women's empowerment and resistance.

Data Analysis:

1- *Thematic Analysis:* Data from historical documents, interviews, and contemporary sources will be subjected to thematic analysis to identify recurring patterns and themes related to expression and empowerment. This analysis will help uncover the ways in which traditional and contemporary forms of expression intersect and evolve (Braun & Clarke, 2006). Themes such as resilience, adaptation, and cultural continuity will be explored to understand the transformation of Kabyle women's roles over time.

2- *Comparative Analysis:* The study will also include a comparative analysis with other indigenous and minority groups to contextualize the findings. This comparison will highlight similarities and differences in the experiences and strategies of Kabyle women relative to those of other marginalized groups, offering a broader perspective on the dynamics of cultural preservation and empowerment (Maddy-Weitzman, 2011); (Silverstein, 2004).

Through these methodologies, the research aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the evolution of Kabyle women's expressions, from traditional roles to contemporary empowerment, and to contribute valuable insights into the intersection of cultural heritage and modernity.

Iii- Results

1- Historical Context

This section provides a detailed examination of traditional Kabyle women's roles and expressions, including oral literature, music, and dance. Kabyle women have historically engaged in a rich array of cultural practices that reflect their social and familial roles. Oral literature, such as proverbs, storytelling, and poetry, has been a fundamental method for transmitting cultural values and personal narratives (Goodman, 2005). Music and dance, integral to Kabyle ceremonies and rituals, have served as both individual and collective expressions of identity, encompassing everything from celebratory dances to solemn rites of passage (Maddy-Weitzman, 2011). The study also highlights notable Kabyle women in history who embodied these traditional forms, such as celebrated poets and musicians whose contributions have shaped and preserved Kabyle's cultural heritage (Chaker, 1990).

In Kabyle society, women have traditionally been the bearers of cultural knowledge and have been responsible for the transmission of customs, language, and values across generations. This role was especially evident in the art of weaving, where kabyle women would create intricate carpets, textiles, and other handmade items that were not only utilitarian but also symbolic of their identity and heritage. The patterns and motifs woven into these textiles were often rich in symbolism, representing aspects of nature, spirituality, and communal life. Weaving was typically a communal activity with women gathering together to work on looms. These gatherings were more than just opportunities to create beautiful textiles; they were also social spaces where women could share stories, sing traditional songs, and discuss the challenges they faced in their daily lives. The songs they sang, known as "ahwach" or "imesliyen", often expressed the sorrows, struggles, and hopes of Kabyle women, reflecting their experiences under patriarchal structures and colonial rule. Throughout history, Kabyle women have used their cultural expressions as subtle forms of resistance against external pressures, including the impositions of French colonial rule and the patriarchal norms of their society. During the colonial period (1930-1962), the French sought to suppress Berber culture and language as part of their broader strategy of assimilation. Despite these efforts, Kabyle women continued to pass down their traditions through weaving, singing, and storytelling, ensuring the survival of their cultural identity. The songs and stories shared among Kabyle women during this time often contained veiled critiques of the colonial authorities and lamented the hardships of living under foreign domination. The act of gathering together to weave and sing became a form of cultural and emotional solidarity, allowing women to assert their identity in the face of oppression.



Figure 01: Traditional Kabyle women gathering around a weaving loom / an authentic traditional weaving setting. Retrieved from:

https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=8267684936600515&set=gm.9457494154277714&type=3&mibextid=xfxF2i&rdid=U9kzOZGEoeWoXm9X&share_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Fshare%2FaYaA2iyjjFpBHxJB%2F%3Fmibextid%3DxfxF2i



Figure 02 : Drawing water from the mountain springs / the struggles of valiant Kabyle women . Retrieved from : <https://kabylieaucoeur.blog4ever.com/gestes-de-femmes-kabyles-autrefois>

Modern Rebellion and Empowerment

This section analyses key shifts in the socio-political landscape that have significantly impacted Kabyle women. The transition from colonial rule to post-independence Algeria introduced new challenges and opportunities, with shifts in governance and social policies affecting women's roles (Silverstein, 2004). Contemporary forms of expression and empowerment, including modern literature, art, and activism, are examined to understand how Kabyle women are redefining their voices and roles. The impact of education, globalization, and digital platforms is assessed to explore

how these factors have facilitated new forms of empowerment and provided women with broader platforms for advocacy and expression (Maddy-Weitzman, 2011). In contemporary times, the role and expression of Kabyle women have evolved significantly. While traditional practices like weaving and singing remained important cultural activities, Kabyle women have also adopted new forms of expression to address modern challenges and assert their rights more publicly. Today, Kabyle women are at the forefront of various social and political movements, advocating for gender equality, cultural recognition, and linguistic rights. This modern rebellion is characterized by a more overt and organised form of resistance compared to the subtle expressions of the past. Women are now using platforms such as literature, film, social media, and public demonstrations to amplify their voices and fight for their places in society. For instance, Kabyle women have played a pivotal role in the Berber cultural revival movement in Algeria, demanding official recognition for the Tamazight language and greater representation in political and cultural spheres. This activism is not just a continuation of their traditional roles but a transformation that integrates modern tools and platforms to make their voices heard on a national and global scale.



Figure 04: Heritage in motion/ a living legacy of strength and tradition Retrieved from Google Pictures



Figure 05: Defying challenges/the Kabyle woman asserts her opinion and position in the world.

Retrieved from: <https://www.facebook.com/p/Reine-kabyle-au-Canada-2020-et-2021-100066839401043/>

2- Navigating Past Oppression

This section delves into the strategies employed by Kabyle women to resist historical oppression. These strategies include the use of traditional cultural forms as tools for resistance, as well as innovative methods adapted to contemporary contexts. The intersectionality of gender, culture, and politics is analyzed to understand how these factors influence Kabyle women's struggles and strategies (Chaker, 1990). Comparative insights with other indigenous and minority groups are provided to highlight commonalities and differences in approaches to overcoming oppression and advocating for rights (Silverstein, 2004).

3- Kabyle Women's Linguistic Resilience: From Heritage to Empowerment

The study highlights success stories and milestones in the journey toward empowerment for Kabyle women, showcasing individuals and movements that have achieved significant progress. The role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), social media, and international support is examined to understand their contributions to fostering empowerment and raising awareness (Goodman, 2005). Additionally, the ongoing challenges faced by Kabyle women are discussed, along with future prospects for continued progress and development in their empowerment journey.

Kabyle women have long embodied resilience, forging a path of remarkable achievements that highlight their vital role in preserving and advancing their cultural and linguistic heritage. Historically, these women were the quiet yet unwavering custodians of their community's identity, particularly through the intricate weaving practices. Each thread and pattern woven into their textiles carried with it a story, a symbol, or a piece of the Tamazight language, an essential part of the kabyle identity. For instance, they might weave the motif of the "tanifsa" (the loom), a symbol of life's hardships and the strength to endure them, reflecting the kabyle idiom "Amedyaz yessen-dubrid, ur yettin, ur yella" (the poet knows the road, he doesn't get lost, nor does he fall). This idiom reflects the idea that someone wise, knowledgeable, or experienced (like a poet, who is often a symbol of wisdom in many cultures) is able to navigate life's challenges without losing their way or succumbing to difficulties. In the context of Kabyle women, it emphasizes their resilience and deep-rooted knowledge, suggesting that despite the hardships they face, they remain steadfast and guided by their cultural wisdom and identity. It highlights the idea that their traditional knowledge and cultural expressions are their strength, helping them to endure and thrive through adversity. In a time when external forces sought to suppress their culture, these women used their crafts not just to create but to communicate and preserve their linguistic and cultural legacy. Through their artistry, they ensured that the richness of Kabyle language and tradition was passed down through generations, even when overt expression was restricted. The oral tradition also played a crucial role. Women would gather around the loom and recite "Timgad" (a form of traditional Kabyle poetry), often expressing their grief or hope in metaphors that echoed their life experiences. A well-known "Timgad" might speak of the "fat" (the light) of resilience that refuses to be dimmed, even when "Tidetts tella di tmadyazt" (truth is in the poetry). These poetic expressions were not merely personal laments but were communal narratives that reinforced the values and identity of their people. In the present day, the role of kabyle women has evolved from silent guardians to outspoken advocates, particularly in the sociolinguistic sphere. They have become central figures in the movement to revitalize the Tamazight language, pushing for its recognition and inclusion in public life. Their advocacy extends beyond linguistic preservation; it is intertwined with broader efforts to secure gender equality and social justice within their communities. These women have taken their traditional modes of expression -once confined to the loom and communal gatherings, and transformed them into powerful tools for contemporary activism. Whether through education, media, or public discourse, they continue to leverage their linguistic heritage to assert their rights and shape the future of their culture. This evolution from traditional to modern forms of expression illustrates not only the enduring resilience of Kabyle women but also

their ability to adapt and thrive, ensuring that their linguistic and cultural legacy remains vibrant and influential in today's world. By weaving these traditional stories, idioms, and poems into their modern activism, Kabyle women maintain a deep connection to their cultural roots while forging new paths of empowerment. Their resilience is not just in their ability to survive adversity but in their capacity to transform their heritage into a dynamic force for change.

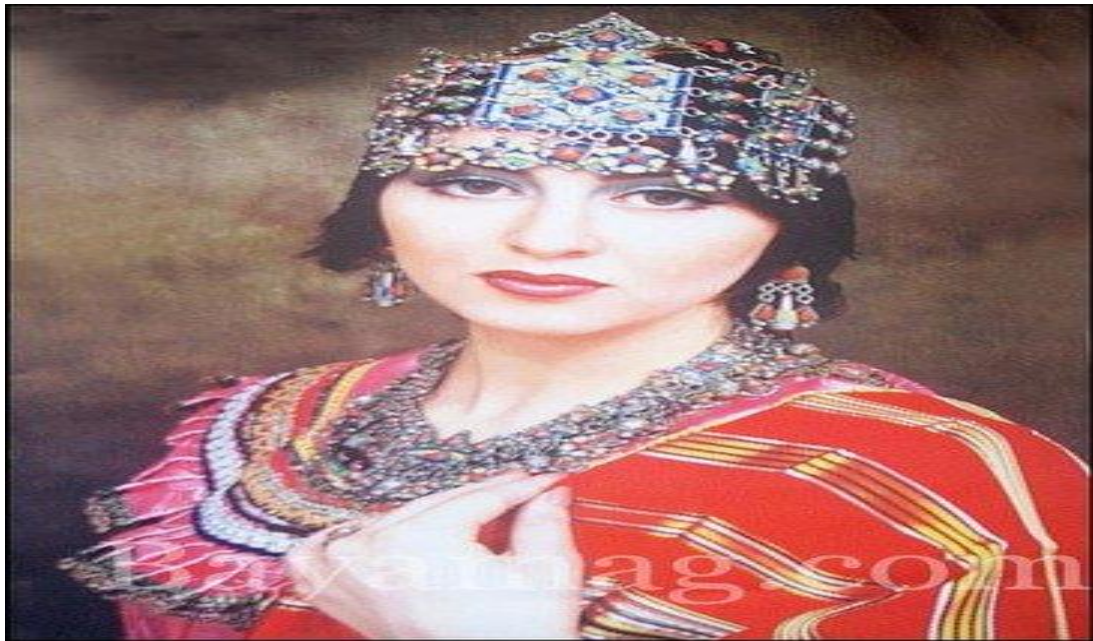


Figure 05: The transition from oppression and resilience to liberation and release. Retrieved from: <http://cuisineetcontes.canalblog.com/archives/2013/05/25/27236143.ht>

IV- Analysis

1- Thematic Analysis: The thematic analysis of historical and contemporary sources provides a structured approach to identifying patterns and themes related to Kabyle women's expressions and empowerment. This analysis involves examining both traditional and modern forms of expression, such as oral literature, music, dance, literature, art, and activism, to uncover recurring themes and shifts in the nature of Kabyle women's voices. By categorizing and interpreting these themes, the study reveals how Kabyle women have preserved and transformed their cultural expressions in response to changing socio-political contexts (Braun, Using Thematic Analysis in Psychology. , 2006). Themes such as cultural resilience, adaptation to modernity, and resistance to oppression are highlighted, demonstrating the complex interplay between tradition and contemporary challenges.

2- Comparative Analysis: The comparative analysis with other indigenous and minority groups contextualizes the Kabyle women's experiences within a broader framework. This comparison involves examining similarities and differences in the strategies employed by Kabyle women relative to other marginalized communities facing similar socio-political challenges. The comparative approach provides insights into common resistance tactics, empowerment strategies, and the impact of globalization on cultural preservation. By situating Kabyle women's experiences within a global context, the analysis enhances the understanding of their unique and shared struggles (Maddy-Weitzman, 2011) (Silverstein, 2004).

3- Historical and Contemporary Context: The analysis also incorporates a detailed examination of how historical factors, such as colonialism and post-independence policies, have shaped Kabyle women's roles and expressions. It assesses how these historical contexts have influenced contemporary forms of empowerment and resistance. This component of the analysis

reveals the continuity and change in Kabyle women's strategies and expressions, illustrating how historical experiences have informed their modern practices (Goodman, 2005); (Chaker, 1990).

4- Intersectionality and Resistance: A critical aspect of the analysis is the exploration of intersectionality in the resistance strategies of Kabyle women. This includes examining how gender, culture, and political factors intersect to influence their empowerment efforts. The analysis highlights how Kabyle women navigate the complexities of multiple forms of oppression, utilizing both traditional and contemporary methods to assert their rights and identities (Braun, Using Thematic Analysis in Psychology. , 2006). This intersectional approach provides a nuanced understanding of the challenges and strategies employed in their ongoing journey toward empowerment.

5- Influence of Modern Factors: The impact of modern factors, such as education, globalization, and digital platforms, on Kabyle women's empowerment is also analyzed. This includes assessing how these factors have facilitated new forms of expression and advocacy, enabling Kabyle women to reach broader audiences and engage in global dialogues about their rights and cultural preservation (Maddy-Weitzman, 2011). The analysis demonstrates how modern technologies and global networks have transformed traditional practices and enhanced opportunities for empowerment.

Through this detailed analysis, the study provides a comprehensive understanding of the evolution of Kabyle women's expressions and the broader implications for cultural preservation and empowerment.

V- Discussion

1- Interpretation of Results

The discussion integrates historical and contemporary findings to construct a comprehensive narrative on the evolution of Kabyle women's expressions. This narrative captures how traditional forms of cultural expression encompassing oral literature, music, and dance have evolved in response to changing socio-political contexts. Historical sources reveal that these traditional forms were central to Kabyle women's social roles and cultural transmission, while contemporary sources highlight how these forms have been adapted to address modern challenges (Touati & Traxler, 2019). By juxtaposing historical documents with modern expressions in literature, art, and activism, the discussion elucidates the interplay between preserving cultural heritage and engaging with contemporary socio-political realities (Makilam, 2007).

The analysis further explores the resilience and adaptability of Kabyle women as they confront evolving socio-political landscapes. It examines how these women have navigated and resisted colonial legacies, post-independence socio-political shifts, and the pressures of globalization (Silverstein, 2004). For instance, while colonial and post-colonial policies imposed restrictions on cultural practices, Kabyle women have continued to use traditional forms creatively to assert their identities and advocate for their rights. The advent of globalization and digital media has introduced new platforms for expression, enabling Kabyle women to blend traditional practices with modern advocacy methods (Sahnoun, 2015). This section highlights how Kabyle women's expressions reflect a dynamic process of adaptation and resistance, illustrating their ability to maintain cultural continuity while embracing modernity.

The integration of these findings provides a nuanced understanding of how Kabyle women have managed to preserve their cultural heritage while engaging with contemporary forms of expression and empowerment. It underscores their ongoing efforts to balance traditional practices with modern advocacy, showcasing their resilience in the face of systemic marginalization and evolving cultural pressures.

2- Implications

The insights from this study underscore the potential for cultural heritage and modern empowerment efforts to coexist and reinforce each other. The findings illustrate that preserving traditional cultural practices and embracing contemporary methods of advocacy are not mutually exclusive. Rather, these elements can synergistically enhance each other, leading to a more robust and adaptive cultural identity (Hiswara et al., 2023). The study highlights how Kabyle women have successfully integrated traditional forms of expression with modern empowerment strategies, demonstrating that cultural preservation can coexist with progressive advocacy.

3- Policy Recommendations

Based on the study's findings, several policy recommendations are proposed to support women's rights and cultural preservation within indigenous and minority communities. Firstly, it is crucial for policies to recognize and safeguard cultural heritage while simultaneously advancing gender equality and empowerment. This dual approach ensures that cultural practices are not lost in the pursuit of modernization but are instead used as a foundation for empowering women and fostering social progress (Smith & Akagawa, 2008)

Policies should encourage initiatives that merge traditional cultural practices with contemporary empowerment strategies. For instance, supporting programs that use digital platforms to promote traditional arts while also advocating for women's rights can enhance the visibility and impact of both cultural preservation and empowerment efforts (Brown & Nicholas, 2012). Additionally, integrating cultural education into broader empowerment initiatives can provide a holistic approach that respects cultural traditions while addressing modern challenges.

Furthermore, policies should aim to create supportive environments that facilitate women's participation in cultural and public spheres. This includes funding for cultural projects led by women, creating spaces for cultural expression within educational and social programs, and fostering collaborations between local communities and international organizations (O'Neil & Domingo, 2016). By implementing such measures, policies can effectively support the dual goals of cultural preservation and women's empowerment.

These recommendations advocate for a nuanced approach that values and leverages cultural heritage as a vital component of modern empowerment efforts, thus contributing to both cultural continuity and social advancement.

4- Limitations

The study acknowledges several key limitations that impact the interpretation and generalizability of its findings.

Biases in Historical Sources and Interviews: One significant limitation is the potential biases inherent in historical sources and interviews. Historical documents and personal narratives used in the study may reflect partial or subjective perspectives influenced by the historical context in which they were produced. These sources can be subject to selective representation or interpretative biases, which may affect the accuracy and completeness of the historical account (Kendall, 2017). Additionally, interviews with contemporary Kabyle women, while valuable, are also subject to individual biases and may not fully capture the diversity of experiences within the community.

Scope of Study: The study's focus on Kabyle women as a specific cultural group limits the generalizability of its findings to other indigenous or minority groups. While the Kabyle experience provides rich insights into the evolution of cultural expressions and empowerment, the unique historical, social, and cultural factors influencing Kabyle women may not be directly applicable to other contexts (Mead, 2016). This focus necessitates caution in drawing broader conclusions about the experiences of other marginalized communities without considering their distinct cultural and historical circumstances.

Contextual Specificity: The study's results are deeply rooted in the specific cultural and historical context of Kabyle women. While this contextual specificity enriches the understanding of their unique experiences, it also means that the findings are closely tied to the particular socio-political and cultural dynamics of Kabyle society. This limitation underscores the importance of recognizing and accounting for the specific cultural and historical contexts when interpreting the study's findings and applying them to other settings (Miller, 2021).

Recommendations for Further Research:

These limitations highlight the need for further research to address these gaps. Future studies could incorporate a broader range of cultural contexts to enhance the generalizability of the findings. Additionally, employing methodologies that mitigate biases, such as triangulating sources and incorporating diverse perspectives, could improve the robustness of historical and qualitative analyses.

In summary, while this study provides valuable insights into the cultural evolution and empowerment of Kabyle women, it is essential to acknowledge and address these limitations to ensure a more nuanced and accurate interpretation of the findings.

5- Future Research

Future research should focus on further examining the interplay between cultural heritage and women's empowerment across a range of indigenous and minority communities. This expanded inquiry could involve comparative studies that explore how diverse cultural groups manage the dual objectives of preserving traditional practices and pursuing modern empowerment initiatives. Such research could reveal valuable insights into how various communities navigate the tension between maintaining cultural identity and embracing contemporary advancements (Thobani, 2005b) ;(Smith,2014).

Comparative Studies

Comparative studies are particularly useful for understanding how different cultural groups address the balance between heritage preservation and modern empowerment. By analyzing how other indigenous and minority groups achieve this balance, researchers can identify common strategies and challenges that may be applicable across different contexts. This approach would provide a broader perspective on cultural resilience and adaptation, highlighting successful practices and potential areas for improvement in supporting marginalized communities (Rao, 2019). For example, examining how the Sámi people in Scandinavia or the Ainu in Japan engage with modernity while preserving their cultural heritage could offer comparative insights relevant to the Kabyle experience.

Contextual Dynamics

Investigating these dynamics in various contexts would contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of how cultural heritage and modernity intersect globally. This includes exploring how different socio-political environments influence the strategies employed by marginalized groups to preserve their cultural practices while advocating for their rights. Such research could also examine the role of technology and globalization in shaping these strategies, providing a nuanced view of how modern tools are utilized to support traditional practice(Labadi & Long, 2010).

Inclusive Approaches

The insights gained from these studies would inform more effective and inclusive approaches to supporting marginalized communities. By understanding how different groups manage the intersection of culture and empowerment, policymakers, activists, and researchers can develop tailored strategies that respect cultural traditions while promoting social and gender equality. This

approach ensures that empowerment efforts do not erode cultural identities but rather build on them to foster sustainable development and social progress (Smith,2014).

In summary, future research should broaden the scope of inquiry to include various cultural contexts, providing deeper insights into the challenges and strategies involved in balancing heritage preservation with modern empowerment. This will contribute to a richer understanding of cultural adaptation and resilience, ultimately supporting more effective and inclusive practices for marginalized communities.

VI- CONCLUSION

This study offers a thorough exploration of how Kabyle women's expressions have evolved from traditional practices to contemporary forms of empowerment. Key findings reveal that traditional cultural expressions such as oral literature, music, and dance have not only persisted but have also adapted over time to reflect significant socio-political changes. These traditional forms have been both preserved and transformed in response to historical challenges, including colonial influences, post-independence policies, and the pressures of globalization. The study demonstrates how modern Kabyle women's voices have emerged in various forms, including literature, art, and activism, showcasing a dynamic fusion of maintaining cultural heritage while embracing new methods of advocacy and empowerment. This evolution highlights the resilience and adaptability of Kabyle women as they navigate these changing landscapes, effectively blending traditional practices with contemporary strategies to assert their identities and advocate for their rights.

The significance of this study lies in its ability to illuminate the ways in which cultural heritage and modern empowerment efforts can coexist and enhance one another. By shedding light on the evolution of Kabyle women's expressions, the research underscores the importance of acknowledging and supporting the diverse ways in which marginalized groups manage their cultural and socio-political challenges. The findings emphasize that preserving traditional cultural practices does not exclude engaging with modern advocacy; rather, it enriches the cultural identity and resilience of these communities. Recognizing this interplay between heritage and modernity is crucial for developing policies and initiatives that both respect cultural traditions and promote gender equality and social progress.

In conclusion, this study advocates for continued research and advocacy further to support the rights and cultural preservation of Kabyle women. Ongoing research is essential for deepening the understanding of how various indigenous and minority communities balance cultural heritage with modern empowerment efforts. Policymakers and advocates are encouraged to create supportive environments that value cultural traditions while also advancing contemporary empowerment initiatives. Such efforts will contribute to more inclusive and effective strategies that address the specific needs and challenges of marginalized communities. This commitment to preserving cultural heritage and advancing women's rights will enrich the global discourse on cultural resilience and empowerment, supporting the ongoing journey of Kabyle women and similar communities worldwide.

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