

## Examples of Orality

### **Feature #1: heavily rhythmic, balanced patterns, in repetitions or antithesis, in alliterations and assonances**

"He had the power, he had the wealth, he was popular, he had dalilu" (Sunjata 22)

But she has not married.  
If you do not marry her,  
She will never be married.  
Anyone who marries her,  
Something special will be at her breast.  
You must marry her, you the Sharifu. (Sunjata 306-311)

Lines 470-472 Manden would not have been sweet.  
    If Manden had not been sweet,  
    The Mande people would not have known themselves.

### **Feature #2: Additive rather than analytic. Oral structures "add" thought together rather than coordinate or synthesize expression**

When they had passed through the land of Konfara,  
When they crossed into the land of the Conde  
When they heard the pounding of the mortars and pestles of Do ni Kiri  
They met Do Kamissa herself. (Sunjata 64-68)

Example from Gilgamesh (also redundant and copious)  
"Give me your blessing, that I may go on my journey,  
That I may indeed see your face safely again,  
That I may indeed reenter to hold the festival for the new year,  
That I may indeed return to hold the festival for the new year,  
That I may indeed celebrate the festival for the new year twice over" (Tablet III, 29-33).

### **Feature #3: Aggregate rather than analytic. expressions in epithetic or other formulaic expressions, "clusters of integers." Including proverbs.**

Dala Kombo Kamba:  
Conde drinker of big lake water,  
Those who drank the big lake water,  
They did not stop to clean it.  
Those who clean the big lake,  
They did not drink its big water." (Sunjata 498-503)

Abu Kassimu said, "Little brother,  
When somebody knows something, let him do it."  
He said, "I was the first born,..." (Sunjata 437-439)

Example from the Iliad:  
"Son of Atreus, most glorious Agamenon" (IX, 167).

"Followed by Ajax and brilliant Achilles" (IX, 173)

Example from Gilgamesh (of a proverb-like expression)  
"Enkidu said to him, to Gilgamesh:  
My friend, catch the bird and where will the chicks go?  
Let us search out the glories later," (Tablet V 80-81).

#### **Feature #4: Redundant or "copious"--redundancy, repetition of the just said**

1. Lines 150-153: copious of "this buffalo had".  
This buffalo had now made widows of many women.  
This buffalo had now caused many men to lose their wives.  
This buffalo had caused many family heads to lose their children.  
This buffalo had killed all the sisters.

3. Lines 415-418: "She put her hand in the storage basket,  
she took out the small distaff,  
she took out the small staff that usually holds the thread.  
she took it and gave it to them"

Example from Gilgamesh (repeated) (Could also be called "additive")  
"Gilgamesh said to her, to the tavern keeper:  
I am Gilgamesh, who killed the guardian,  
Who seized and killed the bull that came down from heaven,  
Who felled Humbaba who dwelt in the forest of cedars,  
Who killed lions at the mountain passes.

The tavern keeper said to him, to Gilgamesh:  
If you are indeed Gilgamesh, who killed the guardian,  
Who felled Humbaba who dwelt in the forest of cedars,  
Who killed lions at the mountain passes,  
Who seized and killed the bull that came down from heaven,  
Why are your cheeks emaciated, your face cast down,  
Your hear wretched, your features wasted,  
Woe is in your vitals,  
Your face like a traveler's from afar"(Tablex X, 22-34)