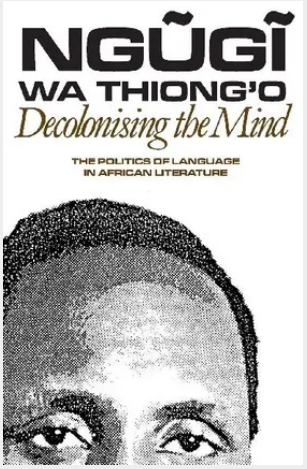
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# Decolonising the Mind

A collection of essays about language and its constructive role in national culture, history, and identity, that advocates for linguistic decolonization. 'The language of literature', Ngugi writes, 'cannot be discussed meaningfully outside the context of those social forces which have made it both an issue demanding our attention, and a problem calling for a resolution.' First published in 1986, Decolonising the Mind is one of Ngugi's best-known and most-cited non-fiction publications, helping to cement him as a pre-eminent voice theorizing the 'language debate' in postcolonial studies. Ngugi wrote his first novels and plays in English but was determined, even before his detention without trial in 1978, to move to writing in Gikuyu. He describes the book as 'a summary of some of the issues in which I have been passionately involved for the last twenty years of my practice in fiction, theatre, criticism, and in teaching of literature.'. Split into four essays - 'The Language of African Literature', 'The Language of African Theatre', 'The Language of African Fiction', and 'The Quest for Relevance' - the book offers an anti-imperialist perspective on the destiny of Africa and the role of languages in combatting and perpetrating imperialism and neo-colonialism in African nations. East Africa [Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Rwanda]: EAEP

Ngugi describes this book as 'a summary of some of the issues in which I have been passionately involved for the last twenty years of my practice in fiction, theatre, criticism and in teaching of literature.North America: Heinemann; Kenya: EAEP




**32,50 €**
32,50 € (zzgl. MwSt.)

*sofort versandfertig, Lieferfrist: 1-3 Werktage*

**Artikelnummer:** 9780852555019
**Medium:** Buch
**ISBN:** 978-0-85255-501-9
**Verlag:** Boydell & Brewer Ltd.
**Erscheinungstermin:** 01.01.2011
**Sprache(n):** Englisch
**Auflage:** Erscheinungsjahr 2011
**Serie:** Studies in African Literature
**Produktform:** Kartoniert
**Gewicht:** 180 g
**Seiten:** 128
**Format (B x H):** 140 x 216 mm



**Kundenservice Verlag Dr. Otto Schmidt KG**
Neumannstraße 10, 40235 Düsseldorf | kundenservice@otto-schmidt.de | 0221-93738-997 (Inland)