Translation in post-colonial Africa has sometimes been deeply implicated in one political project or another within a broader context of unequal power relations. The process itself manifests certain continuities between colonial and postcolonial politics of cultural production and reception as they emerge in contemporary controversies over such ideas as nationhood, national identity and national destiny. To the extent that it creates a space for the appropriation by and sometimes assimilation into the target culture, translation in some African contexts has also served counter-hegemonic functions, inscribing new meanings and sensibilities to materials emanating from the imperial centres or of articulating contending political agendas. It is some of these themes of (post)colonial dynamics and counter-dynamics in the trans-cultural politics of translation that this presentation will explore drawing primarily on Swahili translated material from the colonial period to the present. I argue in the final analysis that in the process of this migration of texts even the conceptual boundaries of the literature of the translating language can be made more permeable if, through that transformation, it can better allow the subaltern “to speak.”