

4th International *Hybrid* Conference

Organised by



THE GRACE UZOMA OKONKWO FOUNDATION

in collaboration with

Department of English, Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu
University, Igbariam, Anambra State

THEME:

**DEMOCRACY AND THE RULE OF LAW
IN 21ST CENTURY AFRICA:**

A MULTIDISCIPLINARY REFLECTION

Date: May 10 - 13, 2023

Opening Ceremony: Thursday, May 11, 2023

Time: 10am **Venue:** Jerry Marriot Hotel, Nsukka

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS & BOOK OF ABSTRACT

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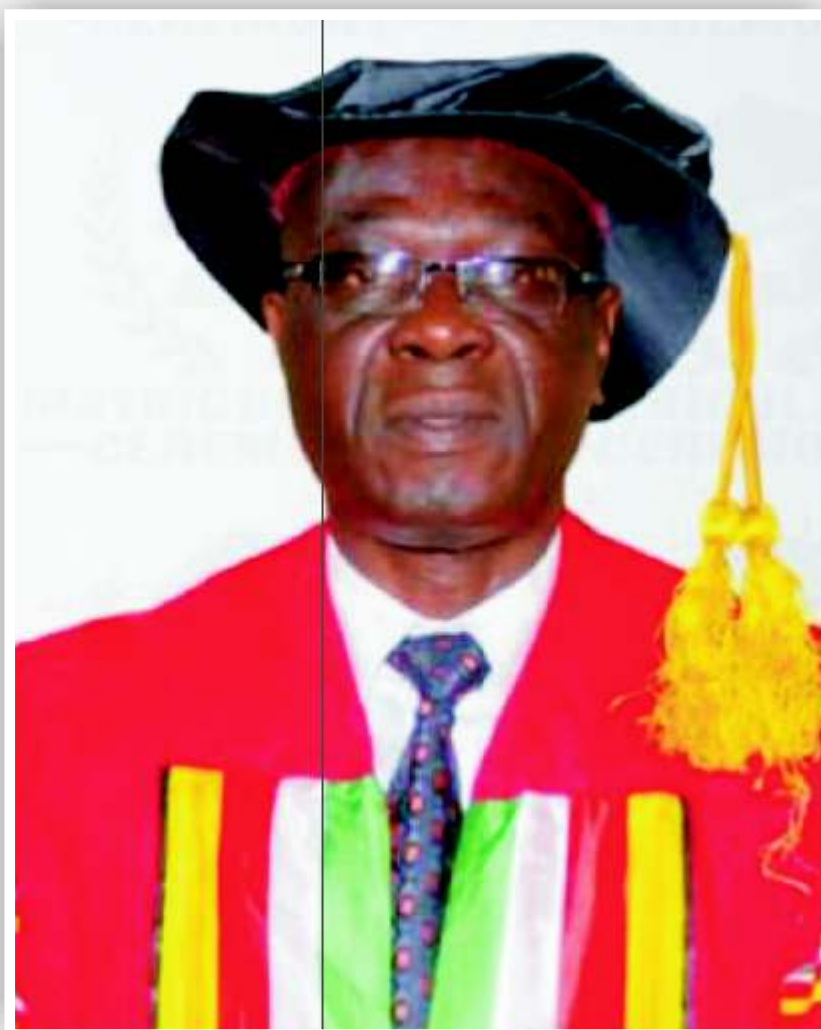
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NATIONAL ANTHEM

Arise oh compatriots!
Nigeria's call obey
To serve our fatherland
With love and strength and faith
The labours of our heroes past
Shall never be in vain
To serve with heart and might
One nation bound in freedom,
Peace and unity.



His Excellency, Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR
President, Federal Republic of Nigeria

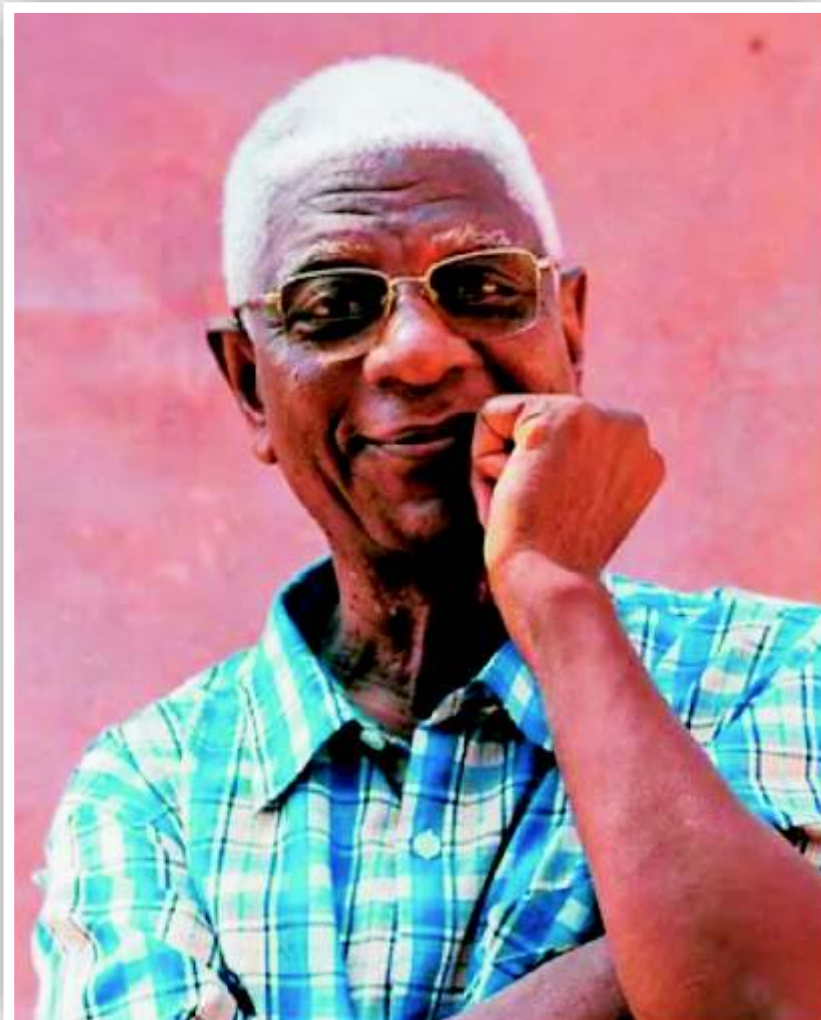


Prof. Greg Chukwudi Nwakoby

Vice Chancellor, Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University
Chief Host



Chief Nnia Nwodo
Chairman of the Event
and Recipient of the Pillar of Peace Award



Emeritus Prof. El Anatsui
Special Guest of Honour
and Recipient of the Pillar of Peace Award



His Royal Majesty, Igwe G. F. O. Asadu,
Okpeudo of Nsukka Asadu
Royal Father of the Day



His Royal Majesty, Igwe Bar. R. S. N. Eze
Ochendo of Obige Obukpa
Royal Father of the Day and Recipient of the Pillar of Peace Award



Prof. Aloysius -Michaels Okolie

Vice Chancellor, Enugu State University of Science and Technology

Keynote Speaker



Prof. Gaji Fatima Dantata

Lead Paper Presenter

and Recipient of the Pillar of Peace Award



Prof. Steve Egbo
Lead Paper Presenter
and Recipient of the Pillar of Peace Award

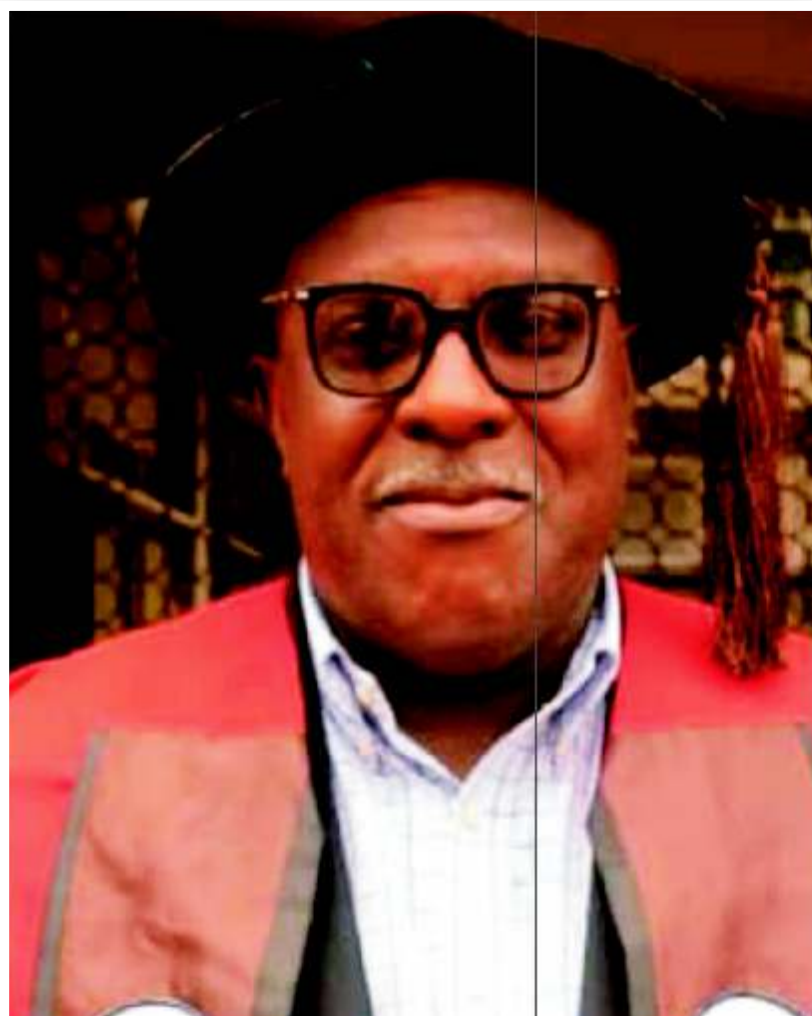


Barr. Mrs Nwanneka Okolo
Lead Paper Presenter
and Recipient of the Pillar of Peace Award



Amb. David Gabriel Enemona

Philanthropist and Recipient of the Pillar of Peace Award



Prof. Victor Ukaogo

LOC Chairman, and Recipient of the Pillar of Peace Award



Mr. Chinedu Agoruo

Philanthropist and Recipient of the Pillar of Peace Award



Engr. Nnaemeka Obiora

Philanthropist and Recipient of the Pillar of Peace Award



Dr. Mrs. Linda Agua-Onyekwelu

Philanthropist and Recipient of the Pillar of Peace Award



Prof. Florence Onyebuchi Orabueze

Convener and Host of the Conference,

Founder and Board Chairman, THE GRACE UZOMA OKONKWO FOUNDATION



Prof. Stella Okoye-Ugwu

Convener and Host of the Conference,
and HOD, Department of English, University of Nigeria, Nsukka



Dr. Felicia A. Okeke

Convener and Host of the Conference,
Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University, Igbariam

Members of the LOC Secretariat



Dr. Uche Okonkwo
Secretary I, LOC



Leo Onyemuche Ejebu
Secretary II, LOC



Godstime Eze
Assistant Secretary, LOC

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

11 May 2023

- 9:00 am Arrival of guests and conference participants
- 10:00am Introduction of Dignitaries
- 10:30am Opening Prayers by **Rev. Fr. Dr. Chidubem Nwaogaidu**
- 10:45am Breaking of kolanuts by the Royal Fathers of the Day -
HRH, Igwe G.F.O. Asadu and HRH, Igwe Barr. R.S.N. Eze
- 11:00am Chairman's Opening Remarks by **Chief Nnia Nwodo**
- 11:15am Welcome Address by the HOD, Department of English, COOU,
Dr Felicia A. Okeke
- 11:30am Address by the Host and Convener of the Conference,
Prof. Mrs. Florence O. Orabueze
- 11:45pm Reading of the Citation of the Keynote Speaker, **Prof. Michael Aloysius Okolie**,
by **Prof. Mrs Stella Okoye-Ugwu**
- 12.00pm Presentation of Keynote Speech by **Prof. Michael Aloysius Okolie**
- 1.00 pm Lead Paper Presentation by **Prof Gaji Fatima Dantata**
- 1.30pm Lead Paper Presentation by **Professor Steve Egbo**
- 2.00pm Lead Paper Presentation by **Barr. Mrs. Nwanneka C. Okolo**
Presentations of PILLAR OF PEACE AWARDS to the recipients
- 2:30pm Goodwill Messages by Dignitaries
- 2:45pm Vote of thanks by the Chairman, LOC, **Prof. Victor Ukaogo**
- 3:00pm Closing Prayer by the Chief Imam of University of Nigeria, Nsukka Mosque,
Dr. Abdulmumuni Isha
- 3:15pm Lunch Break

11 - 12 May, 2023

Panel Sessions (See venue in Panel Sessions Schedule)

Brief Biographical Information on Professor Aloysius-Michaels Okolie

Professor Aloysius-Michaels Okolie is a Professor of Political Science (International Relations). He is the **current Vice Chancellor**, Enugu State University of Science & Technology (ESUT), Enugu. He started his undergraduate programme in the Department of Political/Administrative Studies, University of Port Harcourt, Rivers State in 1988; and graduated in 1992 with Second Class Honours, Upper Division. On completion of his NYSC programme in 1994, the then Mr. Aloysius-Michaels Okolie secured admission to pursue an M.Sc. programme in the Department of Political Science, University of Nigeria. He graduated with a Distinction in 1996 and hence became an expert in international relations with special emphasis on ***Foreign Policy Making and Implementation***. ***On August 16, 2001, he successfully defended and was subsequently awarded a Ph.D in the Department of Political Science (International Relations), University of Nigeria, Nsukka.***

He joined the services of the University of Nigeria, as **Assistant Lecturer on June 20, 1997**. He rose through the ranks, from Assistant Lecturer in 1997 to Senior Lecturer in 2004 and by October 1, 2009, he was promoted to the rank of **Professor of International Relations** in the Department of Political Science, University of Nigeria, Nsukka

Professor Aloysius-Michaels Okolie is the **92nd inaugural lecturer** in the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. The title of his lecture was: **Politics of development and underdevelopment: Different people, same market and glorification of poverty**. **Professor Okolie was a member of the Executive Committee, International Political Science Association (IPSA), September, 2018 –June 2021.** He was also a former **Director of Research**, Nigerian Political Science Association (South East Chapter); shortly he was elected **Director of Research**, Nigerian Political Science Association at the national level; from this glorious position he contested and was elected **National President, Nigerian Political Science Association (NPSA) (2018-2021) – a position he held till June, 2021.** Presently Professor Okolie is the **second Vice President, Social Science Academy of Nigeria.**

As part of his glorious rise to exalted positions, Professor Okolie was the immediate and pioneer **Director**, Joint Universities Preliminary Examinations Board, University of Nigeria, Nsukka; a position he held for four years and 7 months. Indeed, Prof Okolie served as the **Dean**, Faculty of the Social Sciences. **He was the immediate past Chairman of the Governing Board, Enugu State College of Education Technical.** Among other critical assignments and community service he has executed, include the **South East Coordinator**, Household Survey on Small Arms and Light Weapons, coordinated by the Presidential Committee on Small Arms and Light Weapons Proliferation in Nigeria (PRESCOM); and INEC-appointed Coordinator, Voter education among secondary school students in the South East geo-political zone. Professor Okolie was a **2004 Fulbright Scholar** on American Foreign Policy Analysis; and equally holds **2019 Diploma in Management of Higher Education at the Galilee Institute, Israel** as well as a fellow of several Professional Associations such as **Fellow, Academy of Politics** and **Fellow**, Institute of Corporate Administration of Nigeria; **an Academic Noble International Award recipient** from the Institute of Industrial Administration; editor of reputable journals; and member of several Professional Associations. Moreover, Professor Okolie was a

resource person at the **African Leadership Forum**, Ota Ogun State; a **guest lecturer** in the **National Defense College, Abuja**, and a member of the Federal Government NEEDS Assessment Committee. He has held several administrative positions in the University of Nigeria, Nsukka and beyond. He is also a resource person and external examiner of over 15 reputable institutions including the **National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS)**. He was **2018 Guest Lecturer at the Merit House for National Laurates selected for National Merit Award**, Abuja and **Distinguished 2022 Annual Lecturer for the National Institute for Security Studies**. **Currently, Prof Okolie serves as a member of Project Implementation Committee (PIC) of the State University of Medical and Applied Sciences (SUMAS) Igbo Eno, Nsukka.** So far our guest lecturer has successfully produced 39 Ph.D candidates and over 94 M.Sc holders. He has also assessed over 38 Professorial candidates from various Universities across the world.

Professor Okolie is a veteran of several local and international conferences/workshops, and presently has **112 publications** to his credit. On the socio-cultural front, Professor Aloysius-Michaels Okolie is a Worthy Knight of St Mulumba. He remains a consultant to several National and International Agencies and Institutions. His research interests are in the following areas: International Relations, Conflict Analysis, International Political Economy, Foreign Policy Analysis, Research Methodology, Peace Studies, Development and Regional Studies.

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n appreciation of his valuable contributions to community development, industry and land-breaking accomplishments, Professor Aloysius-Michaels Okolie was conferred with a traditional title of 'Ezesinachi 1' of Ugwuleshi- Awgu. He is happily married to Mrs Uchenna Lawrence Okolie (nee Udeji). The marriage is blessed with four great children.

Professor Aloysius-Michaels Okolie

Vice Chancellor

Brief Biographical Information on Professor Gaji Fatima Dantata

Professor Gaji Fatima Dantata was born on October 28th 1957 to the famous Alhaji Alhassan Dantata family in Kano State. After completing her secondary education in 1974, she got married, temporarily suspended her formal education and had 5 children. After the death of her husband, she decided to continue with formal education and obtained an Interim Joint Matriculation Board (IJMB) Certificate with Grade B, which she used in securing admission into Bayero University, Kano. She equally obtained her Masters degree in special education from the same Bayero University Kano in 1994.

In 1995, she began her journey as a lecturer in the Faculty of Education, Bayero University, Kano. While she was in the system, she went further in her career, obtained her Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) in 2000 and gained a Senior African Research Scholars Programme Fellowship (Fulbright, USA) in 2003.

Professor Dantata has numerous publications, articles in journals and has presented series of papers in conferences and seminars. She was in 1994/95 a member, Teaching Practice Committee; in 1995/97 was the Level Coordinator, B.SC (ED); and from 1997 to date, she is B. A. (Ed) Special Education Level I Coordinator at the Bayero University, Kano.

Professor Dantata was also the Post Graduate Programme Coordinator in 1999/2000; Member, Faculty Examination Malpractice 1999/2000; Member, University Endowment Fund 2000 to date; Ag. Head of Department of Special Education Aug 2003; Faculty Representative, University Consultancy Services – Nov 2003 to date; Head, Department of Special Needs Education 2011- 2015; Moderator, Federal Technical College, Bichi 2014 to date; Senate representative, University Monitoring and Budget Committee 2018 to date; and Senate representative, University Academic Development Committee 2019 to date.

Professor has also rendered the following services:- Member, National Council for Exceptional Children; Member, Rehabilitation International; Member, Africa Network for the Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse and Neglect; conducted a Situation Analysis Research on Children in Need of Special Protection Measures in the Northern Part of Nigeria; Member, World Association of Infant Mental Health; Member, International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual Disabilities; Honorable Commissioner, Kano State Ministry Of Women Affairs & Social Development; Facilitator/ Chairperson, UNFPA Fistula Fort Night Campaign, with 2000 successful operations for women with Vesico Vaginal Fistula in Nigeria (2005, Kano 410 VVF and 33 RVF).

She also served as Member, Ejeyes Charity, USA based International Charitable Organisation; Chairperson, Agency for Mass Agency Education in Kano, 2009; Member, Kano Youth Promotion Council; Member, Kano State Golden Jubilee Anniversary, 2017 to date; Member, Equal Opportunity and Access Group, JAMB 2018 to date; Consultant, Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption (a British Council Project); and Consultant, Sir. Ahmadu Bello Sardauna Educational Foundation.

The life Professor Gaji chose, is a great one and worthy of emulation. She is a highly successful woman who built a firm foundation with the bricks others have thrown at her. Professor Gaji is a daughter, wife mother and grandmother.



An Abridged Resume of Professor Steve Egbo

Date of Birth: 17 - 12 - 67

Marital status: Married with children.

Place of Birth: Eziga - Onicha, Onicha LGA, Ebonyi State.

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND and QUALIFICATIONS

1. First School Leaving Certificate
2. WAEC - GCE
3. BSc Political Science. (University of Lagos.)
4. MSc IAD (Abia State University, Uturu.)
5. PhD Public Administration (University of Nigeria, Nsukka.)
6. PhD Business Administration, London Bridge Business School, Middlesex, UK (Honorary)
7. Professor of Political Science and International Relations, British-American Business School, New Jersey, United States
8. West African Civil Society Institute, Accra, Ghana.
9. Administrative and Staff College of Nigeria, ASCON.
10. Academy for International Business Officials, AIBO, Beijing.
11. Nigerian Institute of Management, NIM.
12. Seminars, Workshops, Conferences & Training Sessions

Brief Biographical Information on Barr. Nwanneka Cecilia Okolo

Nwanneka Cecilia Okolo is a lawyer cum banker with education, skills and experience in law, business, finance, and human resource management. A corporate lawyer and banker of note for over 25 years, she has served variously as a mentor, trainer and counsellor at the work place, professional associations to which she belongs and other social organizations.

To hone her skills, she has attended local and international Executive Certificate Programmes at various Institutions including, Harvard University, University of Stanford, London Business School, IMD - Switzerland, Wharton Business School and Lagos Business School. She has been ardently involved in human development, especially through empowerment of the less privileged. She is actively involved in several youth and women empowerment programs. Her passion for human development led to the establishment of Lift Saxum Ltd/Gte, a not-for-profit organisation with the objective to transform the lives of women and youth in Nigeria through entrepreneurship. She sits on the board of several for-profit organisations and non-profit organisations. She is a 2016-2017 Empower Women (UN Women) Champion for Change on women empowerment.

Nwanneka has an avid interest in the Christian formation of youths and women. She is a pioneer fellow of the Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace and a member of Enugu State chapter of the National Peace Committee. She is the immediate past National President of Catholic Women Organisation Nigeria and represents Nigeria Catholic women on the Board of the World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations (WUCWO). She also represents WUCWO on the Environment Co-ordination Team of SECAM (Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and the Madagascar) Nwanneka is married with children.

Brief Biographical Information on HRH Igwe Barr Raphael S. N. Ezeh

HRH Igwe Barr Raphael S.N. Ezeh is a graduate of Faculty of Law UNN. He was a Lecturer in Faculty of Law, UNEC and holds the following Educational Qualifications: LL.B. (Hons); LL.M.; BL.

Leadership Positions held:

- (a) Traditional Ruler of Obige Obukpa as Ochendo I
- (b) Vice Chairman, Nsukka LGA Trad. Rulers Council from Aug. 2007 to Dec. 2010
- (c) Chairman, Nsukka LGA Trad Rulers Council from Jan 2011 to 5/12/2013
- (d) Chairman Enugu North Zonal Council of Traditional Rulers from 5/12/2013 to 26/3/2023
- (e) First Vice Chairman, Enugu State Council of Traditional Rulers from 5/12/2013 to 26/3/2023
- (f) Founder, Obige Obukpa Widows Care Foundation - Community Based Human Rights Registered with CAC and takes care of the Needs/Rights of Women/Widows in Obige Obukpa in Collaboration with WACOL. From Igwe Barr Raphael S.N. Ezeh



Brief Profile of Mr Chigozie Aguruo, Philanthropist and Recipient of Pillar of Peace Award

Mr Chigozie Aguruo of Umuabali Amaigbo in Nwangele LGA of Imo State Nigeria was born over four decades ago. Through the distinct of hard work he represents the new face of philanthropy. He has sponsored over 12 graduates some from UNN, FUTO, UNIZIK. In capacity building, he has established over 10 people in the publishing industry who are doing very well. A strong believer of family as the bedrock of the society has made peace to over 10 failed marriages. He had provided shelter to many by building house to those who couldn't afford it. Many students in federal government college are currently his scholarship. He is equally a pillar in Catholic Church in his home town and Lagos. As a good community leader, he supports the less privileged. Till date, he represents over 10 top publishing companies whose philosophy is that every Nigerian child who pass through University must read a book imported by Epp Educational Printing And Publishing Nigeria Limited

Brief Biography of Barr. Obiora Nnaemeka Anthony-Jude

Recounting the life history of a great man is like opening an archive that contains treasures of great value; treasures that are hidden in the testimonies of many whose life were touched by their encounter with the individual concerned. Such is the case with Mr. Nnaemeka Anthony Obiora– Jude whose biography is nothing but an abridged documentation of the testimony of heroic life of faith recounted by many whose lives s touched in different ways.

EARLY LIFE AND EDUCATION

Nnaemeka was born in the year 1980 to the family of late Anene and Ifeoma Obiora of Uru Umudim, Nnewi of Nnewi North Local Government in Anambra State. As the sixth child, young Nnaemeka attended his primary education in 1986 to 1991 at the University Primary School, he proceeded to do his post primary education 1992 to 1997 at the Marist Comprehensive Academy, Uturu Okigwe. During his education career at Uturu Okigwe, Nnaemeka lost his Dad at the age of 17 years on the 15th April, 1997. He proceeded to do his University education at the Federal University of Technology Owerri (1999 to 2004) where he graduated with 2nd class upper. After graduation Nnaemeka sought the employment at IT firm then at sonafem. In sonafem he saw the need to further education at the prestigious Lagos Business School of the PAN Atlantic University where he obtained Master in Business Administration in 2010 Nnaemeka returned to Enugu and continue his as the General Manager of sonafem agencies limited. In 2019 Nnaemeka furthered his education to obtain M.Sc. in the electronic department of the prestigious University of Nigeria Nsukka

PROFESSIONAL LIFE

Nnaemeka did his intern at the Lagos Business School as the process improvement personnel in 2009, he then proceeded to work with Anene Obiora Enterprises and today he is the General Manager of sonafem agencies limited, He has served in the capacity since 2011 and has grown the business. Sonafem is a limited liability company whose business scope include Private security services, cleaning and janitorial services, potter services, fumigation services and beautification services employing over 500 person in the discharge of these services.

Nnaemeka have served humanity as the state chairman of the association of Private Security Practitioners of Nigeria in 2011 to 2016, he also served as the president of Rotary club of Enugu Independence layout in 2013 to 2014 year, as the Chairman of the Chorus of Angels Choir 2018 to 2021. He has also served as the vice chairman class of AGMP 17 of the Lagos business school

Nnaemeka is married to Mrs. Adanma Obiora and blessed with three children Miss Chidiomimi Obiora (Daughter), Mr. Nnaemeka Kelvin Obiora (Son) and Mr. Chidile Obiora (Son).

A Brief Citation of HRH Dr. Mrs. Linda Agua-Onyekwelu

Born in 1966 to the family of Late Elder Hart Elewamba Agua and Late Deaconess Esther Ekaette Agua in Abia state, Nigeria. She completed her primary education in 1972, she went to secondary school the same year and came out in 1977 with one of the best West African School Certificate Examination (WASC) results in her school. Her secondary education was on a scholarship.

She proceeded to the Institute of Management and Technology, IMT Enugu where she sat for her Higher School Certificate Examinations. From there, she went to the University of Nigeria, Nsukka where she studied Zoology, again on a scholarship. After her Youth Service, she ventured into business as an Entrepreneur, a vocation she has practiced till date.

She is the CEO of five companies and popularly known for her Linda Farms Ltd which is a household name in Ogun State and some parts of Lagos.

She got married to Mr. Okezie Onyekwelu and the marriage is blessed with three lovely children. After marriage, she proceeded for a Masters degree in Environmental Resources Management and came out with an excellent result, a distinction. She still explored knowledge in the Lagos Business School where an American interest called Goldman Sachs gave her scholarship to study Entrepreneurship. With that, she got a better understanding of how successful businesses are ran. Some years back, she went back to the university to try to cap up her educational history with a Ph.D, a feat which she will soon accomplish God so willing.

Just last year, she was awarded an honorary doctorate degree by the prestigious European-American University, Panama, South America.

Traditionally, she is crowned Her Royal Highness, The Ezenwanyi 1 of Ado-Odo/Ota LGA in Ogun State.

She holds many awards both locally and internationally. She is at the helm of affairs of different professional bodies and organizations. In fact, she is the first female National President of the University of Nigeria Alumni Association amongst such other feats.

She practices Christianity to the best of her ability. She is an astute believer in equity and fair play and does not belong to where things are done wrongly. She is politically active, a loving mother and wife, a born philanthropist, above all very humble and approachable.

PANEL SESSIONS

(11th May, 2023)

Panel 1: Literature, Democracy and the Rule of Law

Chair: Professor Sam Onuigbo

Rapporteur: Henrietta Okafor

Venue: Jerry Marriot Hotel, Nsukka

Time: 2:00 pm

No.	Paper title	Name
1.	Diplomatic Language As A Tool For Harmonious Democracy in Nigeria	Confidence Ogwutum Dikeh
2.	Revolution against Democracy: An Appraisal of Tess Onwueme's The Broken Calabash	Okpala, Victory Ogochukwu Okpala, Arinze ThankGod
3	Voter Education on Social Media	Somtochukwu Victor Okeke, Alozie Christian Ogbonna, Chinyere Christiana Ugwulor-Onyinyechi and Ukamaka C. M. Akata
4	Anthills of the Savannah and the Question of the Rule of Law.	Dorothy Ogochukwu Eze (PhD)
5	Disillusionment and Rebellion: Causal Effects of Democratic backsliding in Florence Orabueze's Men Behind the Masks	Ndidi Obele O.

Panel 2: Resistance and the Rule of Law

Chair: Amb. Prof Ifeanyi Abada

Rapporteur: Nnamdi Uzodigwe Chigbu

Venue: Jerry Marriot Hotel, Nsukka

Time: 2pm

No.	Paper title	Name
1.	Literature and Resistance: A Study of Watson's <i>Tiny Sunbirds Faraway</i> and Chuma-Udeh's <i>Forlorn Fate</i>	Obiorah L. Ijeoma & Ndu O. Augustina
2	The Violation of The Rule of Law in Emeka Nwabueze's <i>A Parliament of Vultures</i> and Ihedigbo Lucky's "I Be Senator"	Ihedigbo, Ruth Eberé & Ihedigbo, Lucky Nnaemeka

3	Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and the Conundrum of BVAS in 2023 General Elections in Nigeria	Nebeife, Chigozie Joseph & Okafor, Celestine Ogechukwu
4	Corruption and Democracy in New Nigerian Poetry: A Marxist-Dialogic Reading of Halima Amali's <i>I Want to Join Them</i> and <i>Faces of Shame</i>	Onyebuchi Nwosu (PhD) & Chika Ose-agbo (PhD)
5	Indigenous People of Biafra sit-at-home order and Human Rights in South East Nigeria	Ikpechukwuka E. Ibenekwu & Ijeoma P. Ogbenne



12 MAY 2023
(Parallel Sessions Continues)

Panel 3: Rule of Law, Media and Technology

Chair: Prof. Florence Orabueze

Rappateur: Dr. Cindy Ezeugwu

Venue: Jerry Marriot Hotel, Nsukka

Time: 10.00am

No.	Paper title	Name
1	Duse Mohamed Ali and Transformation of Lagos Youth Movement (LYM) Into Nigerian Youth Movement (NYM)	Murtala Mustapha PhD
2	Stance and Appraisal in Media Reactions to INEC Declaration of 2023 Nigerian Presidential Election Winner	Udumoh, Onyinyechi Blessing
3	The Rule of Law in Nigerian Communities: Manifestations in Land Cases Of Okpuje Community In Nsukka LGA	Ezesinachi, Juliet Ngozika, Ihedigbo, Ruth Ebere & Ihedigbo, Lucky Nnaemeka
4	The Link Between the Electoral Act 2022, Blockchain Technology, and Credible Elections in Nigeria	Fochi Amabilis Nwodo
5	Effect of stress management techniques on employee Job performance in manufacturing firms in Nigeria.	Adaora Chinelo Uzochukwu Ernest Chukwuebuka Nwankwo Umeh Anthony Chinedu Chinda Chimkamma Collins

Panel 4: Politics, Terrorism and Rule of Law

Chair: Prof. Victor Ukaogo

Rapporteur: Dr. Robert Ezeanwu

Venue: Jerry Marriot Hotel, Nsukka

Time: 10am

No.	Paper title	Name
1	Political Impunity and Challenges of Political Development in Nigeria's Incipient Democracy	Olojede, Ibukunoluwa Bose, Ph.D & Nebeife Chigozie Joseph
2	Politics and Democracy in Literature :Reechoing Achebe's Prophetic Voice in <i>A Man of the People</i>	Samuel Enudi & Abdul'azizBako
3	Global Tourism Perceptions and Legal Issues in the 21 st Century in Africa: Nigeria in Perspective.	Joy Nneka Uchenye Ejikeme
4	The Fight Against Corruption In Nigeria, An Appraisal of The Speeches of Past and Present Heads of Government To Assess If Words Are Matched With Action	Ngwoke Festus Uwakwe & Ifeabunike Uchenna Carolyn
5	Speech Act and Insecurity: The Nigerian Experience	Ifeyinwa Pearl Ebenmelu & John Chidubem Nwaogaidu

Panel 5: Ethnicity, Gender Questions and Rule of Law

Chair: Professor S Chair: Prof. Stella Okoye-Ugwu

Rapporteur: Dr. Emmanuella Asadu

Venue: Jerry Marriot Hotel, Nsukka

Time: 10:00 am

No.	Paper title	Name
1	Ethicizing Politics: Does Nigeria Have A Different Democracy?	Uju Peace Okeke, Akachi Lynda Nwogu-Ikojo and Portia Ozioma Chigbu
2	Depravity in Ifeanyi Ajaegbo's <i>Sarah House</i>	Uche Nnyagu Ph.D & Ngozi Jacinta Ozoh, Ph.D
3	Women, Democracy and the Rule of Law in Nigeria: Challenges and Prospects	Maureen Nwando Onyejegbu, Ph.D
4	Democracy, Nigeria's electoral acts and 2023 presidential election: A semiotic interrogation	Ifeyinwa David-Ojukwu Florence O. Orabueze, & Chika Kate Ojukwu
5	Interrogating Violations of the Rule of Law in Nigeria using Emeka Nwabueze's <i>A Parliament of Vultures</i>	Obiorah Ekwueme

Panel 6: Philosophy, Rule of Law and Humanities

Chair: Dr. F. A. Okeke

Rapporteur: Dr. Mrs Ifeoma Udoeye

Venue: Jerry Marriot Hotel, Nsukka

Time: 10am

No.	Paper title	Name
1	Satirization of Democracy and The Rule of Law In The 21 st Century African Literature: A Critique of Fidelis Okoro's <i>Quagmire</i> and Emeka Nwabueze's <i>A Parliament of Vultures</i>	Abia, Benjamin Nwabuisi
2	Interrogating the Trajectories of Vulture Mentality in Nigerian Political Milieu: An Appraisal of Nwabueze and Irobi's selected works	Cindy Anene Ezeugwu and Oguejiofor V. Omeje
3	Descent from Democracy to 'Democracy': Interrogating Achebe's <i>A Man of the People</i> and Emeka Nwabueze's <i>A Parliament of Vultures</i>	Stella Okoye-Ugwu, Ph.D
4	The Semantics, Comprehension and Practice of Democracy: A Perspective from Igbo Culture	Basil O. Nwokolo and Chigbu A. Chigbu
6	A Post-Mortem of the Legal and Regulatory Frameworks for the Conduct Of Nigeria's 2023 Presidential Election.	Damian Uche Ajah and Chinweike Anukaenyi Ogbuabor, Ph.D

Panel 7: Democracy Judiciary and the Rule of Law

Chair: Dr Mrs Clara Ochiabutor

Rapporteurs: Dr Obiora Ekwueme, Barr. Chiamaka I. Orabueze

Venue: Jerry Marriot Hotel, Nsukka

Time: 12:00 pm

No.	Paper title	Name
1	The Role of Judiciary on Promoting the Rule of Law in 21 st Century Africa	Muhammed Sultan Ibrahim
2	The Role of the Judiciary in the Sustenance of the Rule of Law and Democracy in Nigeria	C. C. Obi-Ochiabutor, C. A Ogbuabor, C. N. Iyidiobi, B. L. Igwe, and O. Nnamuchi
3	Embodied Simulation Strategies in Selected Legal Comments on 2023 Presidential Election Results in Nigeria	Lateef Iyanda Kugbayi

4	Democracy, the Rule of Law and Development in Africa	Uju Obuka, Ndubuisi Nwafor & Chiamaka Orabueze
5	The Interplay Between Democracy, Rule of Law and Development In 21st Century Africa: Challenges and Prospects	Blessing Chinwendu Arize

Panel 8: Philosophy, Rule of Law and History

Chair: Dr. Uche Uwaezuoke Okonkwo

Rapporteur: Dr. Victor Omeje

Venue: Jerry Marriot Hotel, Nsukka

Time: 12 noon

No.	Paper title	Name
1	Remediating History: Nostalgia, Memory and Hope in Adichie's Americanah	Ikechukwu Emmanuel Asika, PhD
2	Elections and Poor Voter Participation In Nigeria: Insights From Below, 1959-2019.	Eze, Jonas Olisaemeka, PhD
3	A 21st Century Model for Shaping Global Democracy	Igwe, Chinaza Uzoamaka
4	Political Dynasties, Family Entanglements and the Perversion of Politics in Nigeria	Professor Victor Ukaogo, PhD,
5	Historicizing Nigeria's Democracy in the 21 st Century: Umpires and Villains in the African Political Thoroughfare in Goodluck Jonathan's <i>My Transition Hours</i>	Ifeoma Catherine Onwugbufor
6	Gender, Patriarchy and Women Participation in the Democratic Process in Nigeria: Implication for the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals	Chiemezie S. Atama ¹ , Ijeoma J. Ogu ¹ , Cyril O. Ugwuoke ¹ , Ijeoma Ogbonne ² , & Chibuike Ndubuisi Nwoke ¹

Panel 9: Democracy and Rule of Law

Chair: Dr Ikechukwu Asika

Rapporteur: Mrs Nwakaego OBI

Venue: Jerry Marriot Hotel, Nsukka

Time: 12:00 pm

No.	Paper title	Name
1	Revolutionary Struggle and The Militarization of the Political Class in Nigeria: A Theoretical Perspective	Uzodigwe Nnamdi Adolphus Oguche Unekwu Grace, Ogochukwu Agatha Agbo & Akogwu, Chukwunonso Joseph
2	Democracy and the rule of law at variance: A study of Odiniya, <i>Francis' Night at Noon</i>	Mathew Bala
3	The Role of Songs in Governance: Interrogating Fela Anikulapo kuti's "Teacher Don't Teach Me Nonsense "and "Beast of No Nation".	Felicia Onyebuchi Ezeugwu, Ph.D & Chinyere Christiana Ukwueze, Ph.D
4	Subaltern as an Image Variation in Ngugi Wa Thiong'o's <i>Wizard of the Crow</i> and Ngozi Chuma-Udeh's <i>Teachers on Strike</i>	Chiamaka Amalachukwu Ugoka, and Florence O. Orabueze, Ph.D.
5	Political cartoons and the Democratization Process in Nigeria: Reflections on the 2023 Nigeria General Elections	George C. Odoh & Nneka S. Odoh

Panel 10: Literature, Power and the Rule of Law

Chair: Dr. Moses Melefa

Rapporteur: Mrs Ifeyinwa David -Ojukwu

Venue: Jerry Marriot Hotel, Nsukka

Time: 1.00 pm

No.	Paper title	Name
1	The Politics of Power in Chinua Achebe's <i>Anthills of the Savannah</i> and <i>A Man of the People</i>	Jacinta Ndidi Okey-Agbo and Ruth Ebere Ihedigbo
2	Youths as Ploy for Electoral Violence in a Corrupt Political Enclave: Reflection from Abubakar Adam Ibrahim's <i>Season of Crimson Blossom</i>	Ifeoma Cassandra Nebeife
3	Distorted Democracy and Rule of Law in Chinua Achebe's <i>A Man of the People</i> and <i>Anthills of the Savannah</i>	Henrietta Okafor
4	Satiric Dimensions of Power Play in Wole Soyinka's <i>A Play of Giants</i>	Ezennadiri, Chukwudi Samuel

5	Consensus Governance in Akachi Adimora-Ezigbo and NgugiWaThiong'O's Novels	Caroline Olubunmi Nwaka & Anthonia-Greg Nwanekwu Chibuo
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Panel 11: Representations, Rule of Law and Humanities

Chair: Dr. Ifeanyi Iwundu

Rapporteur: Godstime Eze

Venue: Jerry Marriot Hotel, Nsukka

Time: 1pm

No.	Paper title	Name
1	Encontextualisation of Political Corruption in the Lifeworld in Emeka Nwabueze's <i>Parliament of Vultures</i>	Michael Chukwualuka Uyanne & Lauretta Chinyeaka
2	Literature and the Representation of Democracy: A Postcolonial Reading of Helon Habila's <i>Waiting for an Angel</i>	Ijeoma Lena Osita (PhD)
3	Coronavirus Disease (Covid-19), Rule of Law and Traditional Burial Practices Among the People of Aku in IgboEtiti LGA of Enugu State.	Okagu George O., Ph.D
4	Democracy and Popular Pressure in African Fiction: Exploring Ngugi WaThiong's <i>Wizard of the Crow</i> and Adichie's <i>Purple Hibiscus</i>	Eze, Chidiebere Chukwuemeka
5	Language, Power, and Democracy: A Discourse Study of the 2023 Nigerian General Election	Obiageli Christiana Okpala

Panel 12: Representations, Rule of Law and Humanities

Chair: Prof. L. C. Ogenyi

Rapporteur: Dr. Beneth Udeh

Venue: Jerry Marriot Hotel, Nsukka

Time: 1.00 - 2.00pm

No.	Paper title	Name
1	Disability and the Prosthetic Heritages of African Democracy in Tiv Praise Song	Atyev Bem Collins
2	Political Adverts For the February 25, 2023 Presidential Election in Nigeria: A Discourse Analysis of the Linguistic Devices	Rev. Fr. Unigwe, Jude
3	Ritual and Contemporary Politics: in Search of Panacea in Esiaba Irobi's <i>Nwokedi</i>	Iwunze Davidson Chimezie

4	Language and Ideology in Democracy Discourse in Twenty-First Century Africa	Emodi, Livina Nkeiruka (PhD)
5	The Place of Local Government in Political and Economic Transformation in Africa: Nigeria's Experience	I.E. Iwundu, A. C. Emele, Fr. M. I. Eze, P.I. Ogbonne, H. Ogiri and N.E. Iwundu
6	Textual Analysis of selected Social Media Comments on “Yahoo Boys” Reports In Nigeria	Oladipo Abiola Mary & Ume Tracy Ujunwa

Panel 13: Virtual

Panel Chair: Engr Sikiru Salau and Dr. Modesta Ezema

Date: 12 May 2023

Venue: Zoom

Time: 4: 00 pm WAT (West African Time) 11:00 am EST (US and Canada)

No.	Paper title	Name
1	Literature and the Representations of Democracy and the Rule of Law	Ibrahim Muhammad Abdullahi
2	Jacque Maritain's Integral Education For Integral Humanism And Nigeria Democratic Experiment	Lucy Happiness Ohanuma DHS
3	Nigeria and the Government for a Few: A Linguistic Reflection	Solomon Onovwiona

1. Literature and the Representations of Democracy and the Rule of Law

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Abstract

Democracy implies a process of constitutional delegation of the supreme power that is vested in the people and exercised by them through a system of representation usually involving periodic popular elections. However, the rule of law is the political philosophy that all citizens and institutions within a country, regardless of social statuses, are not only equal, but also accountable to the same laws. Literature is simply a cultural reflection of the daily development of a people through time and space which has aesthetic value, historical significance, cultural refinement and the envisioning of future cultural prospects through cultural rejuvenations. In other words, literature imaginatively mirrors the society's socioeconomic and political transformations through time and space while providing encoded solutions to existential problems. This paper, through random references to select African fictions, aims to highlight how literature represents and advocates for liberal democracy in Africa and, in line with the rule of law. It is established that, African literature has consistently critiqued politics, democracy and the act of political governance due to inherently glaring abuse, procedural manipulation and open neglect of the rule of law. The paper concludes that the only feasible route to sustainable democracy and development in Africa is the enunciation of the philosophy of liberal democracy which gives precedence to the rule of law. The paper deploys intertextuality as its theoretical guide and the text-based method as its analytical tool.

Keywords: Literature, Democracy, Rule of law, Representations and Liberal democracy.



2. Revolution against Democracy: An Appraisal of Tess Onwueme's *The Broken Calabash*

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Abstract

Literature mirrors life in both traditional and modern societies with reflections and lessons that powerfully shape social existence, interaction, and outlook. Oftentimes, where there is failure to embody 'the spirit and letter' of an ideal society, it results in anarchy and subversion of law and order. Whilst Tess Onwueme's *The Broken Calabash* has been previously interrogated from the feminist and clash of cultures stances, this study examines the compelling theme of revolution against the ills of democracy in the work through the lens of the

Marxist literary theory. The paper contends that Ona and Diaku stand out as symbolic agents of revolution against the vices of democracy. The duo, through their unflinching decision to marry, breaks the obnoxious and impeding cultures of the land, a phenomenon that connotes a change to humane and acceptable customs. Notably, this practice fits in as a potent tool in tackling the menace confronting democratic norms in the 21st century.

Key words: Literature, Democracy, Vices, Cultures, revolution



3. The Role of the Judiciary in the Sustenance of the Rule of Law and Democracy in Nigeria

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Abstract

The rule of law is an infrangible cord that connects all wings of law, giving meaning to all laws in any political system. The rule of law simply says that laws should be obeyed by everyone- the ruler and the ruled and justice accessible to all. Democracy is government in which power and civic responsibility are exercised by all citizens, directly or indirectly through their freely elected representatives. In Nigeria, the Judiciary plays an important role as enshrined in the Constitution. The Judiciary is a stabilizer in the political system and has the extra duty of the consolidation of the rule of law. The Judiciary is also the bastion of democracy by subjecting governments to the rule of law and ensuring that all citizens receive equal protection under the law and that their rights are protected by the legal system. The thrust of this paper is to x-ray the role of the Judiciary as the bulwark of the rule of law and Nigeria's developing democracy. The paper finds that "access to justice" and the independence of the Judiciary are essential ingredients of the rule of law; and for the rule of law to thrive, the Judiciary must afford persons access to courts without undue technicalities and remedies to enforce their rights in due deference to substantial justice.

Keywords - Independence of the Judiciary, Role of the Judiciary, Rule of Law and Democracy

4. Voter Education on Social Media

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Abstract

With the advent of social media, dissemination of information has come with relative ease. One of the functions of the media before the advent of social media is to educate its audience and such function is seen replicated by the various social media platforms on a range of subjects. It is against this backdrop that the study sets out to find out the influence of social media on voter education. The main objectives of the study are the level of exposure of the audience to voter education on social media and the social media platform that mostly educated users on voting behavior. The study is a survey with 380 students of Enugu State University (ESUT) as the sample size. The multistage sampling technique was used to select respondents. The instrument used for data collation was the questionnaire and data were analyzed quantitatively. Findings from the study revealed that voters were highly exposed to voter education and it had a great influence on voting behaviour with Facebook the platform which mostly educated voters. The study concludes that social media were to a high extent used in educating voters with Facebook ranking top followed by WhatsApp.

Keywords: Voter, Social media, Education, Facebook, Platforms.



5. Anthills of the Savannah and the Question of the Rule of Law.

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Abstract

The Rule of Law is a concept that describes the supreme authority of the law over government action and individual behaviour. It corresponds to a situation where both the government and individuals are bound by the law and comply with it. The antithesis is arbitrary rule which is what holds in Anthills of the Savannah. The

activities of General Sam, Major Ossai, the army, the secret police and some cabinet members manifest arbitrary use of power. Abuse of power is emblematic in General Sam's mode of governance which manifests in torture, intimidation, threats and brutal killings. He inflicts suffering on the people he rules. This paper investigates Anthills of the Savannah as a representation of misrule through the application of A. V. Dicey's concept of the rule of law. This study adopts analytical design, and utilizes close reading technique to establish that the rule of law has been set aside in Kangan, and is a replica of the Nigerian politics and governance.



6. Disillusionment and Rebellion: Causal Effects of Democratic backsliding in Florence Orabueze's Men Behind the Masks

Ndidi Obele O.

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Abstract

In every society democracy is associated with higher economic freedom, a detribalized society and other forms of societal developments. When a society begins to decline in democracy and checks on government, suppression of rule of law, impunity, corruption, machiavellianism and tribalism become the order of the day. This paper sheds light on the effects which democratic backsliding has on the public in Florence Orabueze's Men Behind the Masks. Orabueze's novel portrays different members of the society whose hopes and dreams of living improved lives in a democratic society are dashed by the acts of injustice and impunity of corrupt leaders in the Nigerian society. This study concludes that the causal effect of democratic decline in a society produces a public mind set birthed by hopelessness, disappointments, and lack of trust in the political leaders and what they stand for. Kaelly and his gang, Mr. Okonta and his father are members of the society whose rebellious, criminal and negative actions are a result of the pressure placed on them by the situation of the economy and the Machiavellianism, hypocritical, tribalistic and corrupt actions of leaders. Kaelly justifies his actions by his convictions that the leaders are thieves just like the men behind the masks.

Keywords: democratic-backsliding, disillusionment, public, rebellion.

7. Literature and Resistance: A Study of Watson's *Tiny Sunbirds Faraway* and Chuma-Udeh's *Forlorn Fate*

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Abstract

The Niger-Delta region in recent times has been experiencing the politics of local resistance which has remained decisively violent, and the indigenes as a result, have been compelled to perceive the oil environment as a metaphor for death and no longer as a source of improved life. This research work explored the violent contestation around a historically construed sense of grievance, injustice, and inequality experienced through wanton exploitation and devastating impoverishment by both the government and trans-national oil companies. Using Christie Watson's *Tiny Sunbirds Faraway* and Ngozi-Chuma-Udeh's *Forlorn Fate*, this study further showcased how the degradation and exploitation of the Niger-Delta environment in the course of oil exploration by both the government and oil companies led to the present conflict which has escalated from ethnic minority protests to fully blown insurgency that has attracted worldwide attention. The transition from resistance as mere protests to militancy as represented by attacks on innocent citizens and oil companies, the effects on the female members of the indigene communities and how these women cope are also critically analyzed in the study. The duo of eco-criticism and Marxist feminism are the theoretical frameworks used in the course of this research. The study concludes by recommending that both the government and the oil companies in the region should, as a matter of policy and urgency provide employment and award contracts to the indigenes of the host communities. This way, the youths' restiveness in the region which is mostly caused by joblessness will be nipped in the bud.

Keywords: Resistance, Militancy, Protests, Degradation, Conflicts.

8. The Violation of The Rule of Law In Emeka Nwabueze's *A Parliament of Vultures* and Ihedigbo Lucky's "I Be Senator."

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Abstract

This paper examines the violation of the rule of law in Emeka Nwabueze's *A Parliament of Vultures* and Ihedigbo Lucky's "I Be Senator." The main objectives of the study are to find out if there are instances where the rule of law is upheld in the texts as well as point out situations where it is violated. The study adopts the social conflict theory for data explication. The theory was propounded by Karl Marx and it holds that social order is maintained by domination and power rather than by consensus or conformity. Data is analyzed qualitatively and is primarily gotten from the above texts. After the analysis, it was discovered that there are indeed manifestations of the violation of the rule of law in both texts. Furthermore, the study ascertains that regulatory bodies that should enforce the law also connive with the ruling class to bypass the rule of law. The study also finds that the texts are indeed a representation of what is obtainable in the political space in the contemporary society. This, thus, affirms literature as a mirror that reflects societal happenings. The paper then concludes that it is pertinent that the rule of law is upheld. This would first, act as a check on the excesses of the ruling class, lead to even distribution of the resources of the nation and consequently, lead to a better structured and peaceful nation.

Keywords: Law, Parliament, Rule, Violation.

9. Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and the Conundrum of BVAS in 2023 General Elections in Nigeria

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Abstract

In contemporary democracies, electoral integrity is the mechanism for accountability and good governance. The build up to the 2023 general elections was characterized by promises of fairness and transparency that gave the citizens and global community high hopes that there would be a credible electoral process in the country. This was accentuated by signing of the 2022 Electoral Act into law. Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) introduced the use of Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) for 2023 general elections as a game changer to curb electoral malpractices experienced in previous elections. However, there were obvious indications that INEC negated its own rules and guidelines in the conduct of the 2023 elections with glaring electoral dishonesty and injustice that have continued to be a chronic dent on successive elections in Nigeria. The worrisome scenario seems to have daunted the much touted efficacy of the Bimodal Voters Accreditation System (BVAS) and thus undermined electoral process in the country. Therefore, this paper examined Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and the Conundrum of BVAS in 2023 General Elections in Nigeria. Secondary sources and qualitative discourse analysis anchored on technological determinism theory, as its framework of analysis. The paper posits that electronic transmission was introduced to enhance the transparency and integrity of the electoral processes but its negation by INEC amounts to violation of its own rules and guidelines. The failure to post the results of the 2023 presidential election from the polling units on the INEC Result Viewing Portal (IREV) as promised by the electoral umpire as soon as the polls closed, questions the integrity of INEC and depicts a possible collusion in electoral fraud by the umpire. The study found that under-utilizing the BVAS to transmit results in controlling electoral malpractices will increase the incidences of voter apathy, trust deficit and democratic downturn in future elections. Nevertheless, the paper recommends that innovation should be fully embraced and e-voting be incorporated into Nigeria's electoral system as a panacea for electoral frauds.

Keywords: BVAS, Election, Electoral Process, INEC, Technology.

10. Corruption and Democracy in New Nigerian Poetry: A Marxist-Dialogic Reading of Halima Amali's *I Want to Join Them* and *Faces of Shame*

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Abstract

Democratic practices in contemporary Nigeria is sadly characterised by wanton corruption perpetrated by different people in different forms and dimensions. The result is the utter defeat of democratic visions which are geared towards the betterment of the lives and welfare of the people ultimately leading to the progress and development of the Nigerian State. Deploying the theories of Dialogism and Marxism, our paper discusses the representations of Nigeria's democratic and undemocratic ideals in Halima Amali's poetry collections titled *I Want to Join Them* (2016) and *Faces of Shame* (2020). The paper explores her deployment of poetic instruments to portray her utter revulsion for corrupt political practices; her bold contestation with the Nigerian political elite and her quest for the respect and strict adherence to democratic principles in Nigeria. Her poetry are blistering comments on the inaction of people and her total quest for the annihilation of all that lives that democracy may die in Nigeria. The paper argues that Halima's poetry is both dialogic and confrontational as it depicts a dialogue with self and society intertwined with a clarion call for persistent and calculated actions against anti-democratic agents, forces and personages in Nigeria. It concludes that Halima's poetry is dominated by outbursts and irrepressible effusions ballooned into bags of poignant lampoons directed against those who wrongly wield democratic powers and fan the inimical embers of misrule.



11. Duse Mohamed Ali and Transformation of Lagos Youth Movement (LYM) into Nigerian Youth Movement (NYM)

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Abstract

This study examines the role and contributions of one of the leading Pan-Africanists, Duse Mohamed Ali in promoting Lagos between 1920 and 1945. It places emphasis on how Duse extended the tidings of Pan-Africanism from global to local level particularly on the island of Lagos. It x-rays how Duse used his journalistic experience in influencing Lagos politics, labour unions, Nigerian youths as well as the Lagos religious community. As an Egyptian crusading Pan-Africanist, Duse's ground breaking career in journalism began in London when he launched the famous African Times and Orient Review (ATOR) in 1912. In Nigeria, Duse

embraced his old profession and launched his fire-brand Magazine, The Comet in 1933 in Lagos. Therefore, his West African News-Magazine served as the medium that brought about changes that shaped the destiny of Lagos politics, particularly, in view of his careful engagements with all the warring political elites in Lagos especially his old friend who was the leader of Nigerian National Democratic Party (NNDP) 1920 and 1945. Another noticeable contribution of Duse was on transforming Nigeria's second political party, Lagos Youth Movement (LYM) to Nigerian Youth Movement (NYM) in 1936. This was necessary as Duse realised the implications of parochialism regarding the future of Nigerian youths. In fact, his Magazine had served as a mouth-piece of the NYM. The Comet, had temporarily served as a mouth-piece of the NYM.



12. Stance and Appraisal in Media Reactions to INEC Declaration of 2023 Nigerian Presidential Election Winner

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Abstract

The 2023 Nigerian presidential election was replete with expectations and optimism pertaining the rebirth of a democratic government on the 25th of February, 2023. This has generated several on-line particularized political discourses in Nigeria. The present study appraises the varied elements of stance, engaging the appraisal framework to analyze the discursive features of the media reactions towards the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) declaration of the 2023 Nigerian presidential election winner on Face Book. The study indicates that lexicons which align with the emotive state of the interactants, revealing the appraisal system of attitude, such as, affect, judgement and appreciation predominate the discourse, with affect and judgment, deployed to disapprove and denouncing INEC for the alleged rigging of the election. The study argues that expressions of negative affect and judgement demonstrate the prevailing emotional state of disappointment that some Nigerians have felt towards the conduct of the election.

13. Nigeria and the Government for a Few: A Linguistic Reflection

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Abstract

Nigeria is known as a country that practices democracy. However, certain occurrences during the 2023 general election season question the authenticity of the country's democratic state. The study, therefore, aimed to investigate speeches made by prominent Nigerian politicians and stakeholders to discover if the country practices true democracy. Data for the study were extracted from ten politically related statements made by political, traditional, and religious leaders towards the 2023 Nigerian general election. The statements were sourced in Nigerian national dailies. The data were subjected to qualitative analysis, using the Conceptual Metaphor Theory by Lakoff and Johnson (1980) as the theoretical leaning. This theory postulates that metaphors exist in every communication event and help the audience to understand what is communicated. Hence, this theory formed the framework for analysing the data to discover the meanings communicated in them. Findings revealed that the statements depicted democracy as a government instituted by a few people, a government instituted by a divine force, an autocratic government, and the government for the elites. As a result, it is concluded that Nigeria is yet to practice true democracy and, hence, recommendations were made towards encouraging political education and awareness in the country.

Keywords: democracy in Nigeria, language use, conceptual metaphor, implicature, context



14. The Rule of Law in Nigerian Communities: Manifestations in Land Cases Of Okpuje Community In Nsukka LGA

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Abstract

The research work takes a look at the rule of law in communities as it is manifested in land cases of Okpuje community in Nsukka L.G.A. The objective of the study is to find out the effect of land banning and land trespassing in the community. The theory adopted for the study is the social conflict theory. It is a theory propounded by Karl Marx which holds that social order is maintained by domination and power, rather than by

consensus and conformity. The data for the work was sourced through oral interview and personal observation. The work is a qualitative research. The study finds out that in Okpuje community, every individual is mandated to comply with the dos and don'ts of the community and that anybody that goes contrary to the laws of the community is punishable according to the laws of the land. The study also finds that the community has set aside laws. The study calls the attention of the people especially the people of Okpuje to look back and embrace the culture of the land to avoid unnecessary humiliation and discomfort.

Keywords: Community, Law, Okpuje, Rule.



15. Democracy, the Rule of Law and Development in Africa

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Ndubuisi Nwafor

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&

Chiamaka Orabueze

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Abstract

The evolution and implementation of democracy, rule of law, and development are critical issues facing Africa as a whole. Law interacts with this process in ways that may promote or inhibit it. Law, Democracy & Development addresses this interaction. The rule of law is often seen as a panacea for ensuring a successful, fair and modern democracy which enables sustainable development. However, as can be seen in most African countries, this is not the case. No African country has truly thrown off the shackles of colonial rule and emerged as a truly just nation state – even though many have the rule of law at the heart of their constitutions. This is because the Western concept of the rule of law cannot be simply transplanted to Africa. The concept must be adapted accordingly to take into account the cultural, geographic and economic peculiarities of each state. In order to achieve this, this paper advocates for seven core values which the rule of law must reflect in order to achieve democracy and sustainable development across the continent.

Keywords: Democracy, Rule of Law, Development, Africa

16. The Link Between the Electoral Act 2022, Blockchain Technology, and Credible Elections in Nigeria

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Abstract

Block chain technology has transformed many facets of human life. It is a network of decentralized and distributed ledgers used globally by individuals, governments, and corporate organizations to facilitate the process of recording transactions and tracking operations. It offers an instant and entirely transparent technique for storing and transmitting information electronically. Significantly, its immutability feature makes it incredibly difficult for stored data to be altered, edited, changed, or manipulated. In the light of the 2023 general elections in Nigeria and the issues raised in multiple petitions before different tribunals, this paper examines the extent to which blockchain technology may be deployed to ensure credible elections in Nigeria. It argues that, in order to prevent manipulation of election results and associated information in Nigeria, the Electoral Act, 2022, should be amended to mandate the Independent Electoral Commission (INEC) to utilize this technology to record and track election results.

Keywords: Election, Nigeria, technology and Electoral Act 2022



17. Political Impunity and Challenges of Political Development in Nigeria's Incipient Democracy

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Abstract

This paper examines political impunity and challenges of political development in Nigeria's fourth republic. Political actors seem to be mainly concerned with their parochial interests at the detriment of what constitutes the interests of the state. In this manner, the political leaders manifest a megalomaniac sense of freedom and a license to commit crimes against the state without retribution. This paper argues that political impunity has continued to be a threatening factor to the political development and democratization process in Nigeria since the return to democratic governance in 1999. It further noted that massive youth's unemployment, poverty and rising inequality is a reflection of the growing political impunity exhibited by political leaders in Nigeria. Such a worrisome trajectory is seemingly connected to the political culture of impunity characterized by maladministration, electoral manipulation, corruption, disregard for rule of the law and perpetuation of

poverty and dearth of critical infrastructure. This has led to state crisis manifest in unabated economic recklessness, institutionalized state violence, and suppression of democratic values, insecurity, electoral injustice and the stifling of the media. The paper adopted documentary method for data collection while relying on content analysis anchored on political culture theory as its theoretical framework. It therefore concludes that there is high level of political impunity in Nigeria which leading to poverty, infrastructural decay, ethnic crisis and underdevelopment thereby hindering political development in the country. It therefore recommends the formulating and enforcing mechanisms that will compel politicians to respect the rule of law and be dedicated to observing democratic values and ethos.

Keywords: Democracy, Mal-Administration, Political Impunity, Political development, Poverty.



18. Politics and Democracy in Literature :Reechoing Achebe's Prophetic Voice in *A Man of the People*

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Abstract

Literature, in whatever genre, is a product of the artist who operates at a level higher and deeper than the ordinary mind. The writer, as often believed, is the mirror, conscience, voice of vision and shaper of society. He is a "cultural standard-bearer charged with a peculiar sense of mission" (Ojaide 3). His impact on humanity and society is eternal. The prophecies and ideals encapsulated and projected in his work(s) transcend generations. One such writer who exudes prophetic power and exemplifies social commitment in his art, throughout his creative sojourn is Chinua Achebe. In spite of the time he wrote, his works are still valid and instructive on contemporary realities thus, their centrality lies at the heart of societal regeneration. Achebe's works unarguably offer critical perspectives on democracy, independence, leadership, race, gender and other germane issues which perpetuate over generations and affect everyone. The essence of this essay is to situate Achebe and one of his classics (*A Man of the People* 1966) within the ambits of 21st century democratic ordeals and judicial imbroglios in Nigerian state. The novel has been selected for critical analyses in establishing its artistic flair with the mundane themes of democracy and the rule of law in the 21st century. The study engages the sociological approach to literary interrogation in order to properly explore Achebe's prophetic revelation via imaginative reflection and refraction of modern realities of the post-colony.

Key words: Achebe, Democracy, Rule of Law, Literature, Prophecy, Politics.

19. Global Tourism Perceptions and Legal Issues in the 21st Century in Africa: Nigeria in Perspective.

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Abstract

Tourism is endowed with a specialized long-term project that has a legally binding and a politically guiding character, inspiring the mission of policymakers and facilitating the jurisprudence of tribunals. Life is a journey. Tourism is also a dynamic and vibrant industry involving people from diverse corners, accompanied by travel documentation based on the existing laws and legislations of the country of origin and the country of visit. For any industry to work better, it requires a set of rules, standard processes, and a legal and regulatory framework. In the tourism sector, a lot of laws have emerged from a variety of sources, including state and federal government constitutions and common laws. All the levels contribute to the tourism law. This means that practically all aspects related to tourism should be governed by common tourism legislation, but currently, there are various legislations that directly or indirectly affect and regulate tourism. One of the reasons is misperception about the destination's image. The study examines tourism-related rules and regulations as well as destination perception, particularly in Nigeria. The documentary was applied in the study article using materials from journals, books, newspapers, conference proceedings, and the internet.

Keywords: Global Tourism, Legal Issues, Policy, Nigeria



20. The Fight Against Corruption In Nigeria, An Appraisal of The Speeches of Past and Present Heads of Government To Assess If Words Are Matched With Action

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Abstract

Coup plotters in Nigeria had hinged their reasons for the overthrow of either civilian or military administrations on the corrupt practices of the displaced government. During electioneering campaigns also the fight against corruption comes first in the manifestos of political parties. In this article we intend to introspect corruption fight in Nigeria by past and present Nigerian Heads of government to assess whether or not the bogus promises

actually been matched with actions. This study applied the tools of Critical Discourse Analysis to examine if words are matched with action by successive heads of government in the fight against corruption in Nigeria. The data for this study are sourced from extracts of three selected coup speeches of past military heads of state and two inaugural and campaign speeches of elected presidents, and three high profile corruption case in Nigeria, in 2021. The findings of this study shows that corruption fight in Nigeria had been a half-hearted enterprise by politicians to buy their ways into the heart of Nigerians, either to vote for them as civilians or accept them as military politicians who have come to salvage the county from bad governance. At some point also the corruption fight is one sided and are done with vindictive purposes.

Key words: Corruption, Appraisal, Nigeria, Fight, Assess Critical discourse analysis



21. Ethicizing Politics: Does Nigeria Have A Different Democracy?

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Of the different governmental systems, democracy seems to be the most preferred because it embodies principles that foster unity and development. Democracy enthrones constitutionalism, making national constitutions foundation upon which other laws and policies are built. Even military regime, the worst of undemocratic systems, needs the constitution to legitimize its occupation of government. Nigeria is presently enjoying democracy and has a constitution which specifically declares its supremacy over other laws, authorities and persons with the social order ideals of freedom, equality and justice. It contains flowery provisions on national unity and promotion of national integration through federal character in government composition, residence rights, and prohibition of ethnic discrimination and encouragement of inter-ethnic marriages. This suggests that ethnic discrimination is outlawed. In practice, political ethnic discriminatory agenda seems to exist, causing untold hardship on Nigerians. This work aims at examining the influence of Nigeria's Constitution on the national ethnic political divide threatening Nigeria's democracy. Its key question is seeing that Nigeria is a democracy with the ideals of equality, freedom and progress, is there an urgent need for eradicating ethnic politics? It employs doctrinal methodology from analytical, comparative, expository approaches, using primary and secondary data sources. It found that democracy has the propensity to foster unity and development but these are lacking in Nigeria. Recommending the enactment of ethnic unifying laws by the National Assembly, it concludes that in the face of ethnic politics, development will remain far from Nigeria.

22. Depravity in Ifeanyi Ajaegbo's Sarah House

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Abstract

As living conditions in societies get harder on daily basis with no hope in sight as to the remedies, people in different parts of societies indulge in forms of immoral acts for survival. Young people, against their wishes, are trafficked for the purpose of prostitution and other ignominious reasons. The depravity that societies are thrown into, seriously affects the economic and moral development of the societies negatively. It is pathetic that mainly, prominent politicians elected into strategic positions abet the immoralities for their selfish reasons. The kingpins of the shady deals, see themselves as the owners of the society hence they give impetus to their stooges who operate without fear. Concerned creative writers and other artists decry this ugly trend by mirroring the ill activities in their works in a way that the effects on societies are made obvious. This paper thus, aims to x-ray the various forms of depravity as mirrored by Ifeanyi Ajaegbo in Sarah House, expose those involved in the nefarious acts and as well, explore the consequent effects on societies.

Keywords: Marxism, Prostitution, Depravity, Society, Literature



23. Women, Democracy and the Rule of Law in Nigeria: Challenges and Prospects

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Abstract

The paper examines the place of Nigerian women in democracy and rule of law in the nation. Through the ages, the women have contributed in the development of their families, communities and the nation in a variety of ways. Their productivity and commitment in whatever they are doing has directly and indirectly piloted the affairs of the nation. The paper discussed the challenges they are presently facing in the nation's democracy and rule of law. Result showed that despite their productivity, intellect and commitment, the political sphere has not fully recognized or integrated them in basic decisions that matters in the nation especially when democracy and the rule of law explains fairness and equality irrespective of gender. Secondary data collection which includes books, journals and reports was used in the work. The nature of the paper is qualitative and descriptive. Recommendations suggested proper recognition of Nigerian women in top ranking government jobs and decision making bodies across all government offices.

Keywords: Women, democracy, rule of law, Nigeria, prospects

24. Democracy, Nigeria's electoral acts and 2023 presidential Election: A Semiotic Interrogation

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Abstract

Nigeria's 2023 presidential election offers impressive oeuvres for robust discourse. This paper aims to contribute to the discourse by deploying different analytical tools of semiotics to demonstrate that the Nigeria's Buhari-led administration did not intend to conduct a democratic election of 2023 as enshrined in the country's New Electoral Acts but only interested in enforcing a perpetuation of APC's government. Selected pre and post 2023 election discourses will be collected from online sources, and examined in line with the semiotic frameworks. The paper will interrogate the concept of democracy using Saussure's Dyadic which proposes that a concept is meaningless in the absence of a signifier, to describe a clear demarcation between true democracy and 2023 election in Nigeria. Peircean Triadic will be deployed to interpret how the relationships which the federal government shares with the political parties define Nigeria's democracy, and the 2023 election outcome. Eco's Semiotic Theory which offers that semiotics is the study of everything that can be used to tell lies will be used to strengthen our argument that the election was not meant to be democratic. Finally, Graver's Hidden Affordance will describe the real meaning of democracy in Nigeria's political context, bereft of its meaning and quality as the government of the people, for the people and by the people.

Keywords: Semiotics, democracy, New Electoral Acts, Nigeria's APC government, 2023 election, semiotic theories



25. Interrogating Violations of the Rule of Law in Nigeria using Emeka Nwabueze's *A Parliament of Vultures*

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Abstract

Studies have established that the violation of rule of law undermines the credibility and legitimacy of a given government. It stimulates a breakdown of the social order as well as promotes a culture of impunity, erodes public trust in institutions especially the legal system where those in power can act with impunity. The rule of law is an essential ingredient for a democratic society to function properly as well as ensure that the government is accountable to the people and citizen's human rights protected. Previous studies on the violation of rule of law did not sufficiently interrogate the subject from the prisms of a dramatic literature.

Research has shown that such disregard for the rule of law could take the form of selective enforcement, judicial corruption, political interference, ambiguous laws and human rights violation. However, the study identifies these violations and objectively interrogates them systematically. This qualitative study adopts an interpretative study paradigm in interrogating the subject using Emeka Nwabueze's *A Parliament of Vultures*. Findings reveal that the dramatic literature provides the proper basis for interrogation and analysis of issues relating to the violations of the rule of law within a given society.

Keywords: Rule of Law, Violation, Nigeria, Dramatic literature, Interrogate.



26. Effect of stress management techniques on employee Job performance in manufacturing firms in Nigeria.

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Abstract

The study examined the effect of stress management techniques on employee job performance of manufacturing firms in Nigeria. Specifically, the sought to: ascertain effect of meditation technique on employee effectiveness of manufacturing firms and evaluate effect of relaxation technique on employee job satisfaction of manufacturing firms. The research design was descriptive survey methods. Study Area was Enugu State. Enugu State, South-East of Nigeria. The sample size of 378 respondents was drawn from the population of 657 employee of four manufacturing firms namely Nigeria Breweries 9th mile corner Enugu, Innoson technical and industrial company Ltd Emene Enugu, Juhel pharmaceutical company Emene, Enugu, Aqua Rapha water company 9th mile Corner Enugu. Research questions of the study were answered using mean score and standard deviation. The hypotheses stated were tested using regression analysis which comprises of t-statistic, f-statistic and correlation analysis. The empirical results show that meditation technique has significant effect on employee effectiveness of manufacturing firms in Nigeria (t-statistics = 5.292; P-value = 0.000 < Sig-value 0.005) and relaxation technique has significant effect on employee job satisfaction of manufacturing firms in Nigeria (t-statistics = 6.491; P-value = 0.000 < Sig-value 0.005). The study concluded that

there was positive and significant effect of stress management techniques on performance of employee of manufacturing firms in Nigeria. The study recommends that: management of manufacturing firms in Nigeria should invest in the different stress dimension management strategy such as meditation technique and relaxation technique so as to improve employee performance.

Keywords: Meditation technique, Relaxation techniques, Stress management techniques



**27. Satirization of Democracy and The Rule of Law In The 21st Century
African Literature: A Critique of Fidelis Okoro's *Quagmire* and
Emeka Nwabueze's *A Parliament of Vultures***

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Abstract

Satire is a literary technique that employs mockery or amusement in order to lampoon. It aims at ridiculing the state of affairs and by so doing make the readers or audience to laugh back to their senses. Ultimately, the satirists, in whatever genre they employ their skill, mockingly create something of deeper meaning from the happenings in the society in order to challenge, change or subvert the status quo. In this paper, attempt is made to explore how this technique has been employed in Fidelis Okoro's *Quagmire* and Emeka Nwabueze's *A Parliament of Vultures* to imaginatively engage democracy and the rule of law in contemporary Africa. Essentially, the two dramatic texts from Nigerian play wrights will only serve as point of departure in addressing the question of literature and its representation of democracy and the rule of law in 21st century Africa. Anchoring on the post colonial theory, this paper shall exhume the literary imaginations in the texts as they connect with the ever growing disillusionment of the 21st century post colonial Africa long after the colonial experiment and the subsequent independence. It shall be made obvious, in the end that, based on the findings from these principal texts and their inter-textual kit and kin, satirists have been diligent and imaginative in crafting their arts for the well being of the conscience of the society, thus fulfilling what Wole Soyinka describes as one of the social functions of literature: "a visionary reconstruction of the past for the purpose of social direction".

Key words: Literature, Satire, Democracy, Law

28. Embodied Simulation Strategies in Selected Legal Comments on 2023 Presidential Election Results in Nigeria

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Abstract

Language is central to the behavioural interpretations of most human interactions. This is connected to the strategic roles the concept plays in its users' construction of varied mental experiences as they interact with objects and events in the physical world. Along that line, events like announcement of presidential election results in Nigeria is usually phenomenal, and stakeholders, particularly legal practitioners, usually create varied representations of thoughts on such events to persuade, dissimulate or manipulate the minds of their listeners, using divergent legal perceptions. Interpretation of such perceptions according to the speakers' intention therefore requires the listeners' capacity to work out the processes involved in conjuring simulation of ideologies. Against that background, this study considers it worthwhile to evaluate the embodied simulation strategies employed by legal commentators in selected legal comments on 2023 presidential election results in order to reveal the idiosyncratic mental resources the commentators employ to construct meanings.

Keywords: Embodied Simulation, Mental Imagery, Persuasion, Dissimulation, Manipulation and Legal Comment



29. The Semantics, Comprehension and Practice of Democracy: A Perspective from Igbo Culture

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Abstract

Democracy is a composite, abstract term, which evokes multiple concepts and semantic associations. The simultaneous operationalization of these multiple concepts translates to democracy as a form of government. The concept appears not to have a matching and corresponding term in many African languages. So, the concept is alien to many African cultures, including the Igbo culture, where its sense makes no complete sense. This factor accounts for its seeming failure in African cultures, despite decades of its sojourn on the continent.

The success of democracy in the West lies in its native status in the West. AS such, the totality of its meaning and spirit is imbibed by everyone from infancy. The objective of this study is to show how the alien nature of the concept of democracy is responsible for democracy's seeming failure in Africa. The clarification of this situation, illustrating with the practice of democracy in Nigeria, is anchored on the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis. For better conception of the term democracy, its enculturation, and for proper democratic governance in Nigeria, it is recommended that the national education curriculum be reviewed to accommodate democracy as a subject of study at two levels of education: primary and secondary. Also, the rule of law component of democracy must receive emphasis. The teaching of democracy in school and the practical demonstration of the rule of law will ensure conscious understanding of the concept and subliminal imbibing of its spirit.

Keywords: Comprehension, democracy, Igbo culture, Nigeria, semantics



30. Jacque Maritain's Integral Education For Integral Humanism and Nigeria Democratic Experiment.

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Abstract

This essay explores the integrated education concept of Jacques Maritain and how it relates to Nigeria's democratic experiment. Integral humanism, as practiced by Maritain, is based on the conviction that all people are created with intrinsic worth and dignity and that education should support their growth. The democratic experiment in Nigeria has been hampered by corruption, poor educational standards, and a disdain for human rights. The integrated education concept of Maritain is examined in the paper, along with his emphasis on the growth of the full person, the value of human dignity, and the function of education in advancing social justice. The article also looks at Nigeria's existing educational situation and the difficulties it has in promoting high-quality education for all of its population. The paper makes the case that Maritain's integral education philosophy can guide practices and policies that support education for the full person and deal with issues Nigeria's educational system is currently facing. Based on Maritain's philosophy, the paper suggests specific policy recommendations for Nigerian politicians, including a focus on supporting education that develops the full person, a dedication to universal education, and an emphasis on teacher support and training. The study concludes that Maritain's holistic education philosophy provides insightful information on how education may be used to advance social justice and human dignity in Nigeria's democratic experience. In order to foster a more just and equitable society for all individuals, the paper urges Nigerian politicians to establish laws and procedures that are consistent with Maritain's ideology.

Key Words: integral education, integral humanism, human dignity, democracy, social justice.

31. The Role of Judiciary on Promoting the Rule of Law in 21st Century Africa

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Abstract

The rule of law is a set of principles, or ideals for ensuring an orderly and just society. It is the idea that the law should govern a society, rather than individuals or groups with power. However, in many African countries, the rule of law remains a major concern as many countries within the region face various challenges in ensuring that the legal system is effective, efficient, and transparent. Therefore, this paper examines the role of the judiciary in promoting the rule of law in Africa, with a focus on the challenges facing the judiciary in this regard. The data for the study were collected through secondary sources. The study identified several challenges facing the judiciary, including lack of independence, inadequate funding, and corruption. The study argues that the judiciary can play an important role in promoting and strengthening the rule of law through various means, such as upholding constitutional rights and liberties, providing checks and balances on executive power, and promoting access to justice. The study concludes that the role of the judiciary in promoting the rule of law in Africa is critical to the development of democracy and good governance. The study recommends that there needs to be a concerted effort to strengthen the judiciary, including improving judicial independence, increasing funding and resources, and enhancing the capacity of judges and other judicial officials.

Keywords: Judiciary, Rule of Law, 21st Century, Africa



32. Remediating History: Nostalgia, Memory and Hope in Adichie's *Americanah*

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Abstract

Although several critical dimensions have been employed to read Chimamanda Adichie's *Americanah*, her deployment of nostalgia and memory to chronicle the incredible and engender albeit a utopian vision of her postcolonial homeland has mainly been ignored. Seeking to cover this gap, the paper argues that while Adichie memorably foregrounds the gargantuan postcolonial anomalies to the extent of Temi Olaniyan's postcolonial incredible, she however challenges metanarratives and institutes a new consciousness emblematic of an idealized vision of her country against the backdrop of what John Marx categorized as 'failed-state fiction'. Examining the experiences and actions of her central characters, the paper contends that Adichie's narrative—aided by a confluence of memory, history and longing—engenders hope, and possible triumph through the trope of love, psychic nostalgia, coming of age and terms in postcolonial Nigeria. Deploying Dennis Walder's postcolonial nostalgia in interrogating Adichie's reconstruction of memory and longing, this paper seeks to demonstrate how Adichie's artistic projections rekindle hope and optimism necessary for sustaining and fulfilling the dreams of a nation amidst the mind-boggling antinomies and oddities of life in the postcolony.

Keywords: History, nostalgia, memory, hope, optimism, Nigeria, postcolony



33. The Interplay Between Democracy, Rule of Law and Development In 21st Century Africa: Challenges and Prospects

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Abstract

Africa has undergone significant strides in recent years in the domains of democracy, rule of law and development. While some countries have witnessed commendable success, others have not. However, there are still many challenges to overcome in order to ensure sustainable progress. This paper delves into the interplay between democracy, rule of law and development in Africa. Additionally, the paper draws attention to the challenges that impedes development in Africa, including corruption, poverty, insecurity, lack of access to justice, inequality and inadequate infrastructure. It further investigates the prospects of the democracy, rule of law and development in Africa and how they can reinforce each other to foster progress. The paper argues that democracy and rule of law can be a potent drivers of development but only if they are implemented effectively and consistently. The paper uses the secondary and tertiary sources of data, as well as adopts the qualitative methodology. It concludes that the three factors; democracy, rule of law and development are interdependent and that addressing them requires a comprehensive and holistic approach. It, therefore proposes that with effective policies and strategies, Africa can unlock the full potential of the three factors to drive positive change, achieve sustainable progress and long term prosperity in the continent.

Keywords: Africa, Democracy, Development, Rule of Law.



34. Elections and Poor Voter Participation In Nigeria: Insights From Below, 1959-2019

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Abstract

Nigeria's political leaders are elected by less than half of the registered electorate. The registered voters are often an infinitesimal percentage of the voting age population in the country. In other words, greater percentage of the eligible voting electorates fails to register for elections in the country. Questions have continued to be asked, why do few Nigerian citizens seem interested in showing up to register as voters in elections in the country? Why do many of the registered voters in the country refuse to go out on poll days to exercise their right to vote? Writers that have volunteered to answer these questions seem to have done so

with conflicting opinions. This work is an attempt to answer these questions with perspectives from below. This study also seeks to highlight the implications of such undemocratic behavior to the country's democratic establishment. Primary data was collected by the use of mixed (closed and open-ended) questionnaires as well as oral interviews, while secondary data was collected through review of relevant literature. The findings are that Nigerian electorates fail to turn out to vote because of the personality of most party candidates that contest the elections, mal-distribution of political wards, lack of authenticity and genuineness of voters register, muscles and violence that characterize the elections etc.

Key words: Elections, Democracy, Participation, Rigging, Low Turnout



35. Youths as Ploy for Electoral Violence in a Corrupt Political Enclave: Reflection from Abubakar Adam Ibrahim's Season of Crimson Blossom

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Abstract

Abubakar Adam Ibrahim's debut novel, *Season of Crimson Blossom* has been read variously by scholars as a text on gender discrimination and female subjugation, quest for survival, lust and its attendant sexual escapades, cultural limitations, Oedipus complex, rejection, psychosis, pain, corrupt political structure and so on. While the aforementioned interpretations of this text are illuminating, however, the flagrant manipulation of the youths by political office holders to achieve their selfish gains in the text is yet to get adequate scholarly attention. This is the contribution this paper aims to make to knowledge. Relying on the political culture theory as the tool with which the analysis of the text will be made, the paper adopts a qualitative approach as its research methodology. This paper examines the untoward acts of political office holders who in their selfish, dishonest and deceitful manners, manipulate the minds of the young population, to remain as tools in their hands in settling scores between themselves and their political opponents. Consequently, findings from this study reveal that there is a specific link between the role of education in liberating the minds of the youth from wanton juvenile activities and the conscious effort of the political class to retain these youths in illiteracy and ignorance so as to continually exert their will on the majority of the masses who voted them into power.

Key Words- Youths, Electoral violence, Education, Political manipulation, Corruption

36. Distorted Democracy and Rule of Law in Chinua Achebe's *A Man of the People* and Anthills of the Savannah

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Abstract

This study affirms the distorted representation of democracy in Chinua Achebe's *A Man of the People* and *Anthills of the Savannah*. The two novels present a formidable evaluation of democracy and the Rule of Law in modern day Africa. The implication of this study is that it explores the façade and the reflection of a different version of democracy presented in postcolonial Africa wherein democracy and rule of law are not only misrepresented but outright ignored. This paper argues that the democracy revealed in the works is a satire of the true definition of democracy. Discourse analysis would be used as the theoretical engagement of this work which is predicated on qualitative method of data analysis. Existing scholarship seem to have concentrated more on ethnicity and political reading of the works rather than the outright distortion of democracy and the rule of law which appear to be the point of departure of this work and the gap in scholarship which this study intends to fill.

Keywords: Democracy, Rule of Law, distortion, representation, façade, satire and Africa



37. Revolutionary Struggle and The Militarization of the Political Class in Nigeria: A Theoretical Perspective

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Abstract

The incessant revolutionary struggle by the groups for good governance or total change has become a reoccurring event since the inception of Nigeria's fourth republic. The liberal democratic innovation and experience have not achieved the desired motive of providing the cardinal necessities of livelihood among

Nigerians. Many uprising among groups and civilians has continued to push for the desired change and good governance without any success. The focus of this paper is to investigate why there has been continuous move for revolutionary change by groups and civilians for good governance and why it has not achieved its desired change or aim. The study employed the elite theory of analysis to explain the role and character of the political class in Nigeria towards revolutionary struggle. The study adopted documentary method of data collection and our analyses are described with content description. The paper argues that the formal military class in Nigeria have transmogrified into the present ruling political class without any distinction in suppression, oppression and subjugation of the masses. We concluded that revolutionary struggle or order that will create the desired change in governance is almost impossible to occur in Nigeria.

Keywords: Revolutionary struggle, political class, good governance, groups



38. A 21st Century Model for Shaping Global Democracy

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Abstract

Globally, democracy is under attack and in retreat. Economic crisis, global pandemic, and climate disaster raise questions about the efficacy of democracy and democratic values as guides for political and economic life. There are increasing global disparities of wealth between rich and poor in democratic and nominally democratic states and a growing lack of social mobility. The catastrophic effects of the global COVID pandemic on health, economy, and social solidarity are another global fact of life. The worsening effects of climate change-driven floods, droughts, and crop failure raise questions about the value of democracy. We face common and unavoidable global challenges. These are toxic brews driven by worsening climate change that will lead not just to natural disasters but also to crop failure, epidemics, mass migration of the desperate, failed states, and resource wars. This is combined with deepening inequality as the rich get richer. This is a central feature of 21st century capitalism, where labor is systematically devalued in the world of high-tech production and trading in information. Traditional social democratic measures may work well in Scandinavia, but even there they are challenged by the underlying global social, economic, and ecological imperatives that give rise to anti-democratic and anti-immigrant populism. The challenge is to find ways to share the social product fairly and justly among all in a political economy with a multitude of increasingly casual and insecure workers ruled by a handful of billionaire owners. This is a global challenge, not simply for wealthy social democracies. The challenge to democracy is global and must entail global convergence on sustainable ecological and just norms for all. Democracy in the 21st century must succeed in the pursuit of sustainability and ecological democracy. Success means a global system based on peace, justice, and fairness. This clearly is a hybrid system of 21st century global democracy based on markets embracing ecological limits through new market rules, regulation, and law functioning to make economic growth mean improvement in the context of social and ecological justice. Such a democracy could be called a "radical reform" in the terms of André Gorz. But it is also consistent with the entrepreneurial ideas of Josef Schumpeter for creative destruction, employed for ecological and social ends mediated by social and ecological justice. Failure to build a democratic ecological future is likely to be catastrophic, not just for democracy but for our civilization and the ecosphere. We live in interesting times.

Crucial is taking aggressive steps toward building an ecological democracy that will shape the nature of a just and sustainable future.

Keywords: Democracy, Constitution, Century, Economy and Health



39. Interrogating the Trajectories of Vulture Mentality in Nigerian Political Milieu: An Appraisal of Nwabueze and Irobi's selected works

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Abstract

The incessant underdevelopment and impoverishment of many African countries despite being richly blessed with an abundance of natural resources is informed mainly by corruption and non-accountability. Oftentimes, the masses are denied the rights to ask questions about what affects them, and even when they do, most times, they are ignored, with government often choosing the part of silence, which the paper captures metaphorically as 'off-the-mic.' Although Nigerian playwrights have over the years highlighted the recurrent challenges of bad leadership, not much have been done on the area of probe panels often set up by the government to investigate and probe matters bothering on financial mismanagement and corruption. The researchers isolated two plays to guide the research- Emeka Nwabueze's *A Parliament of Vultures* and Esiaba Irobi's *Hangmen Also Die*. A documentary methodology was used to examine the effectiveness or otherwise of probe panels in Nigeria over the years and the outcome of the reports. Prebendalism was adopted as the guiding theoretical framework. The paper concludes that the problem of leadership in Nigeria can be located in its leaders' penchant for greed and manipulation of data and the fact that not much have been done to deter fingered culprits over the years. The researchers recommend adopting transparent probe panels and timely and appropriate penalties and retributions to deserving culprits, and urges Nigerians to 'on their mic' with a view to salvage the country.

Keyword: Corruption, Off the Mic, Vulture-Metaphor, Probe Panel, Nigeria, Prebendalism.



40. Satiric Dimensions of Power Play in Wole Soyinka's A Play of Giants

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Abstract

Our society of today has come a long way in suffering certain ills, vices and malpractices, which have given rise to violations of standards, ethics, values, norms and codes of conducts, acceptable to all in the society. These aspects of moral decadence and bankruptcy have got to such levels that indiscipline and corruption have become the bane of those in leadership positions. Owing to these adverse situations, this paper sets out to

investigate the satiric dimensions of power play in government circles as explored in Wole Soyinka's *A Play of Giants*. Satire being a literary device in which the foibles, follies or vices of a person, mankind or an institution are held up to ridicule and scorn, and with the intention of correcting, this study looked into how the playwright employed these satiric devices to expose the negative attitudes of the leaders to public ridicule. The theoretical framework adopted is psychoanalysis. The play is subjected to textual analysis with data from diverse opinions and studies of scholars in journals, library texts and the internet. It was discovered that Soyinka ridiculed the evils of dictatorship, tyranny and oppression, suppression and acts of indiscipline among political leaders.

Keywords: Power, Oppression, Tyranny, Satire, Caricature, Corruption



41. Consensus Governance in Akachi Adimora-Ezigbo and Ngugi Wa Thiong'O's Novels

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Abstract

This paper discusses and contributes to debate on critical challenges of governance in postcolonial African states which include bribery and corruption, embezzlement of public funds, lack of democratic and participatory governance, lack of justice and equality before the law. This paper evaluates some fundamental issues raised by Akachi Adimora-Ezeigbo's *The Last of the Strong Ones* and Ngugi wa Thiong'O's *Wizard of the Crow* on how lack of good governance and purposeful leadership remain the clog in the wheel of positive development in the continent. This study is anchored on dialectic aspect of Marxism through which a discovery is made showing that there is need for amalgamation of both Western and African value systems as this is a prerequisite for repositioning of good governance in Africa and this could be achieved through the ideology-based social revolution in overthrowing bad governance.

Keywords: Consensus, governance, dialectics, Marxism, leadership

**42. Democracy and the rule of law at variance: A study of Odiniya, Francis’
*Night at Noon*****Mathew Bala****Abstract**

Democracy and the rule of law on collusion as the result of selection process of leadership in the current Nigeria system, so often our umpire in the process has failed in their ability to conduct free, fair and credible election because of some vested interest, hence, the umpire are put in place to listen to the echoes of their benefactor, therefore, the few selected (elected) failed their electorate in good governance and provision of dividends of democracy.

Key words: Democracy, rule of law, umpire, Nigerian system

**43. The Link Between the Electoral Act 2022, Blockchain Technology,
and Credible Elections in Nigeria****Fochi Amabilis Nwodo**

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Abstract

Blockchain technology has transformed many facets of human life. It is a network of decentralized and distributed ledgers used globally by individuals, governments, and corporate organizations to facilitate the process of recording transactions and tracking operations. It offers an instant and entirely transparent technique for storing and transmitting information electronically. Significantly, its immutability feature makes it incredibly difficult for stored data to be altered, edited, changed, or manipulated. In the light of the 2023 general elections in Nigeria and the issues raised in multiple petitions before different tribunals, this paper examines the extent to which blockchain technology may be deployed to ensure credible elections in Nigeria. It argues that, in order to prevent manipulation of election results and associated information in Nigeria, the Electoral Act, 2022, should be amended to mandate the Independent Electoral Commission (INEC) to utilize this technology to record and track election results.

Keywords: Election, Nigeria, technology and Electoral Act 2022

**44. Subaltern As An Image Variation In Ngugi Wa Thiong'o's
Wizard of the Crow and Ngozi Chuma-Udeh's *Teachers on Strike***

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Abstract

African literary writers have represented the reality of subaltern in their society. In a bid to demonstrate the actuality in their society, these literary writers denote the situation according to their location. Thus, the image of the same embodied state of affairs differs from one literary setting to another. In distancing the study from past research works on Ngugiwa Thiong'o's *Wizard of the Crow* and Ngozi Chuma-Udeh's *Teachers on Strike*, this present study looks at subaltern as an image variation, which serves as dependent variables for the two literary works. The study examines the points of divergence in the depictions of subaltern in the novels adopting disability literary theory. This theory fights for all forms of societal constructed limitations that create both societal and self-rejection of diverse identities in order to achieve a habitable society. The image variation of subaltern in *Wizard of Crow* showcases that disabling of the Ruler's appointees and First Lady of Aburiria by the Ruler through subaltern turns them into rich subaltern that creates social stratification. Then, in *Teachers on Strike*, the disabling of teachers and security man of Umma Province School by His Excellency through subaltern turns them into poor subaltern that creates occupational stratification. However, each of the chosen creative works for the study has shown an evidence that subaltern is dependent on a particular society which makes it socially constructed.

Keywords: disability, comparative literature, African literature, subaltern, and hegemony.



**45. Historicizing Nigeria's Democracy in the 21st Century: Umpires and Villains in the
African Political Thoroughfare in Goodluck Jonathan's *My Transition Hours***

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Abstract

The question of democracy in Africa cannot be adequately expounded without identifying the umpires and villains that challenge the enthronement of the commonwealth principles. Nigeria as one of the multiparty democracies in Africa, has experienced unmitigated political regression in the past eight years or more. It has managed to remain democratic for 24 years, free of infringement by the military after the handover to the democratically-elected president, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo on May 15th, 1999 after a decade and half of four

military regimes. In Goodluck Jonathan's *My Transition Hours*, one of the biggest democracy heist in the history of Nigeria is uncovered. Although most African nations practice participatory democracy, Nigerian politicians for self-gratification run a dictatorship informally, stalling Nigeria's socio-political and economic progression in many ways. Reviewing the scuttling of democracy through Exclusion, Disenfranchisement, Sectionalism, Capitalism, and Ethnic bigotry, this work attempts to review the major factors impeding the growth of democracy in Nigeria in brutal terms. Also, using the Democratic Peace theory and Intersectionality theory, the electorate expectations, the albatrosses of African leaders, and how these pave way for the rape of democracy in the African region, will be brought to the fore to chart a new course and the journey back home, to democracy.

Keywords: Participatory Democracy, Sectionalism, Disenfranchisement, Capitalism, Intersectionalism



46. Encontextualisation of Political Corruption in the Lifeworld in Emeka Nwabueze's *A Parliament of Vultures*

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Abstract

The political sphere in Nigeria is immersed or neck-deep in corruption, so, there is gross social malaise that contravenes the social order and conventional morality. Elections are rigged brazenly to enthrone mediocrity without recourse to the fate of the future, and the kind of social construction it can provoke and the impact on the collective psyche of the people. This has conventionalized corruption at the brink of being a norm, thus undermining the growth and the development of Nigeria's vast potential economic prosperity. Thus, the text creates or reflects a social construct sentenced to produce a vile political culture, which is being controlled by "gutter" politicians, and also it entextualises the experiential ideation of the political and leadership stance in postcolonial Africa to its empirical description. The visioning of the writer symbolizes the common conceptual realities perpetuated by these political misfits driven by the passion of mediocrity. This paper, therefore, reifies the emi lo kan syndrome obsession of the perception of the political jobbers who have hijacked, and thus, adorned the political field of Africa, with their inordinate craze to service their avarice, using their well-rehearsed lexical cacophonies to reinforce their unrealizable and deceptive campaign promises, and political ambition. In the analysis of the subtextual implicature of the text, the paper employs resemitisation as the theory to offer critical lexical explanations or interpretations to this raging perceptible political obsession. These will conscientise the political minds of the led, and thereby, stimulating their political consciousness that midwives the expected organic change.

Keywords: resemitisation, emi lo kan, entextualisation, corruption

47. Literature and the Representation of Democracy: A Postcolonial Reading of Helon Habila's *Waiting for an Angel*

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Abstract

The military regime in postcolonial Nigerian politics is an era characterized by oppression, repression, brutality, unimaginable human right abuse, corruption, greed and corruption. This paper beams its light on the representation of politics in Nigeria during the military era. It explores the ruinous consequences of corruption, human right abuse, political killings and oppression. This paper equally explores the role of the writer as the conscience of his society and at the same time it critically examines the state of writers and Journalists in a society where there is no democracy and rule of law as seen in *Waiting for an Angel* by Helon Habila. To this end, this research paper critically evaluates the role of literature in capturing the political irregularities of our society.

Keywords: Military, Postcolonial, Politics, Oppression and Corruption.



48. Coronavirus Disease (Covid-19), Rule of Law and Traditional Burial Practices Among the People of Aku in Igbo Etiti LGA of Enugu State.

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Abstract

Covid-19 pandemic disease has been defined by many authors in many ways. Coronavirus disease(covid-19) is an infectious disease caused by the SARS covid-2 virus. It is also defined as illness caused by a novel corona virus called severe acute respiratory syndrome and was discovered in December 2019 in Wuhan China. It is very contagious and has quickly spread all over the world. The Covid-19 pandemic also known as the corona virus pandemic is an on going pandemic of coronavirus disease 2019. This pandemic disease affects different people in different ways. It affected the Traditional Burial practices of the people of Aku in all ramifications. Aku people are traditionally religious by nature. 'Death' to the people is not the end of life. To them, it is rather a transition from this present earthly life to another life in the land of the spirits. They believe equally that death is a journey which man must make in order to reach the life beyond and continue to live as an ancestor. Tradition for the people is a means of communication between the dead and the living as it represents 'word' of the ancestors. The people have such a notion, that there is man-spirit link or tie between the dead and the living. The various ceremonies performed by the living for the dead emphasized the unbroken family relationship between the living and the dead. The people believe that both the living and dead have certain obligation to fulfil in order to maintain this relationship. However, it is the responsibility of the living to give the dead befitting burials and offer them sacrifices and give them food and drinks as signs of remembrance, on the other hand it is the duty of the dead to protect and direct the living family. Thus, there is a continuous unity and

communion between the dead and living members of the family in the attainment of social solidarity and spiritual protection. It is an abomination and taboo for the people not giving the dead a befitting burial rites as the consequences of denial burial rites can be very dangerously, devastating and detrimental to the living. Without ritual ceremonies at the transition stage, the dead is assumed to roam about in the streets instead of leaving for the spirit world. With the denial of burial rites to dead, the living are no longer protected against the grievances of the spirit of the dead as well as the unfortunate apparition of familiar ghost of both the deceased and his dead colleagues. The aids and protections expected of the dead towards pre-creation, fertility, prosperity and progress becomes impossible. The spirit of a deceased whose burial rites are denied continues to cause havoc to the members of his family in particular and every other person(s) in general till all the burial rites and rituals are performed. In Aku during the Covid-19 pandemic disease all social activities were paralyzed and attentions were focused mainly on the total lockdown principle for the disease, practices of social distancing, covering faces, always washing hands, No shaking of hands, and stay home for the disease preventive measure. During this period in Aku, every dead was given equal lockdown treatment and followed according to the global rules and orders guiding the Covid-19 pandemic disease. Therefore, this work sets out to examine the consequences, effects and the impacts of Covid-19 pandemic disease on the traditional burial practices of the people of Aku as well as the responses and attitude made by the people towards this pandemic disease.



49. Democracy and Popular Pressure in African Fiction: Exploring Ngugi Wa Thiong's *Wizard of the Crow* and Adichie's *Purple Hibiscus*

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Abstract

From the times of ancient Greece and Rome to the contemporary period, democracy has been adjudged to be among the best systems of government in spite of its perceived inadequacies. In the constitution of an ideal democracy, respect for basic human rights, citizen participation, respect for the rule of law and equitable distribution of the dividends accruing from the system are entrenched. But most of the time, especially in the third world countries, the promises of these dividends become mere mirages as a result of the leaders' selfishness, administrative incompetence or sheer mindlessness. In a situation like this, popular pressure becomes imperative to wake the leaders up to their political responsibilities. But if not well coordinated, popular pressure can give in to chaos and anarchy as the steamed-up masses may be pushed to revolt against the government. The aim of this study is to explore the representation of African democracy using Ngugi WaThiong's *Wizard of the Crow* and Adichie's *Purple Hibiscus*, deploying Ted Robert Gurr's theory of collective political violence. The texts have been studied extensively by different scholars, but none of such studies has engaged the novels in the light of democracy and popular pressure in African fiction. The study discovers, among other things, that some African countries are still far behind in the practice of true democracy and that the dispossessed, the frustrated and the aggrieved are easily prone to violence or revolution. The paper recommends picketing, industrial actions and other peaceful cum awakening strategies to keep the non-performing leaders focused on their responsibilities, and ultimately, revolution, to oust despots from offices.

Key Words: Democracy, popular pressure, African fiction, collective political violence, relative deprivation

50. Language, Power, and Democracy: A Discourse Study of the 2023 Nigerian General Election

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Abstract

Language is an important aspect of human life. Language and man are inseparable, a society in human terms cannot be conceived of without the presence of language. Language is the medium through which politicians, leaders, and members of society express their thoughts, solicit power, make promises, and narrate their achievements, especially in democratic governance. The power of language, to an extent, depends on the ability of the user to know the way it is used to shape ideas and convince the addressee or the audience. This study investigates the tactical use of linguistic features in some political interviews and speeches in the 2023 Nigerian general election. The data is sourced from some Nigerian national newspapers, to see how the linguistic features reflect various forms of political rhetoric and persuasive strategies. The texts were analyzed using approaches from discourse analysis and systemic functional linguistics. The study found out how content and form are managed to influence the attitudes and beliefs of the audience and readers. It shows how the deployments of various rhetorical and persuasive strategies serve as powerful weapons for the sustenance of democracy in twenty-first-century Africa. It, therefore, recommends more studies on the use of language in Nigerian politics and how it can be used to sustain democracy.

Keywords: Language, power, democracy, Nigeria, general election.



51. Political Adverts for the February 25, 2023 Presidential Election in Nigeria: A Discourse Analysis of the Linguistic Devices

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Abstract

The human thought process or habits of thought is expressed through language, which transmutes into discourse. Consequently, a discourse implies language use in the various context of interaction, business transaction, political campaign, letter writing, phatic communion and so on. The basic drive of thought processes and language is the achievement of a meaningful and/or comprehensible expression drawn from the utterance exchange between the speaker/writer, listener/reader and the text of discourse. The interplay of the textual environment with the participants (speaker/reader) and the situational context produces a complete communicative event. This explains why the writers of political campaign adverts make creative choices of explosive, attractive and persuasive lexical words with deviations from the normal grammatical and lexico-semantic rules to effect a convincing impression on the target audience. Many analytical studies have been carried out on the speeches and campaign manifestos of candidates vying for or occupying a political post

in the democratic dispensation of the country, but little attention has been paid to the political adverts. The current paper fills the gap by taking on the mood, transitivity and theme constructs of Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) as a framework to underscore the linguistic devices embedded in the distinguished five (5) advert samples from the population of study for this research drawn from the different online newspaper party adverts for the February 25 2023 presidential election. The study proceeds along the lexical and semantic levels of discourse analysis in order to relish the enormity of linguistic devices in the campaign adverts that achieve different foregrounding, eye-catching and persuasive effects which elicit the desired supportive response from the target electorate. Significantly, the work achieves an enlightenment on the creative style of public sensitisation demonstrated by the producers of campaign adverts and adds to scholarship the idea of using lexico-semantic deviations and attention-seeking linguistic devices to catch the interest of the reading and listening audience.

Keywords: Politics, advertisement, linguistic devices, discourse



52. Ritual and Contemporary Politics: in Search of Panacea in Esiaba Irobi's *Nwokedi*

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Abstract

Most of the critical orientations employed in appraising Esiaba Irobi's *Nwokedi* which is deeply ritualized in Igbo cosmology, have been interrogated through various critical lens particularly Marxists–revolutionary tempers. This is understandable given the fact that the dramatist is wholly disenchanted with the fraudulent socio-political and economic structures that have dislocated his immediate environment. This work, however, engages the role of ritual in contemporary Nigerian drama. In the pre-colonial era, Africans worshipped and interacted with their gods with dramatic performances like ritual activities, festivals, cultural music, singing, incantations, chanting, drumming and dances among others with the aim of sacrificing and purifying their land in order to find solution during crisis periods. Given their sacred functions then, these ritual activities proved efficacious and accomplished the purpose of resolution in a calamity ridden society. However, after many generations of continued practice of ritual by the African forebears, as well as the influence of foreign religion like Christianity, ritual still plays a significant role of bringing solution in a postcolonial society that is riddled with crisis in contemporary Nigerian drama as Irobi advanced in his play *Nwokedi*.

Keywords: Ritual, Nigerian drama, Esiaba Irobi, *Nwokedi*.

53. Language and Ideology in Democracy Discourse in Twenty-First Century Africa

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Abstract

The aim of the study is to investigate language and ideology in democratic discourse. The objectives of the study are to investigate if Peter Obi shows some sign of democratic leadership in his speeches. Second is to point out some of his political ideologies from his speeches. Two speeches of labour party presidential candidate are chosen as primary data. The study is anchored on systemic functional linguistics as it concerns discourse choices. His sense of democratic leadership is shown in his belief in the efficacy of the electorate voting, decisions are made by the majority, opposition activities are taken into account, negotiation competence, government is ruled by law, provision of basic rights and provision of correct information. Some of Peter Obi's ideologies include frugality, economic production rather than the ostentatious consumerism and waste, and resourceful management and investment in key sectors, for economic growth and development. From all these, one can frankly say that Obi if given opportunity to rule Nigeria can be a democratic leader and that his ideologies represent those that can repair the lost glory of a failed country like Nigeria. This could be the reason why he receives massive votes during the just concluded and rigged election.

Keywords: language, ideology, democracy, 21st century, systemic functional linguistics, speeches



54. A Post-Mortem of the Legal and Regulatory Frameworks for the Conduct of Nigeria's 2023 Presidential Election.

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Abstract

When Nigeria's National Assembly passed the 2022 Electoral Bill and it was subsequently signed into law by President Mohammad Buhari, the majority of Nigerians and, indeed, other interested watchers from all over the world, believed that the proposed 2023 elections in Nigeria were going to be free, fair and credible. When the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) complimented the Electoral Act 2022 with Electoral Guidelines which gave the promise of properly conducted elections that would meet all international democratic standards, even the cynics in Nigeria were hopeful that Nigeria was on the path to greater democratic heights. The elections have been conducted. Can it be really said that the conduct of those elections (particularly the Presidential Election) met the hopes and aspirations of Nigerians? This paper does a post-mortem of the 2023 Presidential Election with a view to finding out whether the legal and regulatory frameworks for the conduct of that election were adequate to achieve a fair and credible election. The paper is

of the view that although the legal and regulatory frameworks were strongly fortified (much better than the previous ones) to ensure a free, fair and credible election, some in-built pitfalls of the frameworks and, to a larger extent, human (implementation) factors worked heavily against the desired realization of a free, fair and credible election. The paper then makes suggestions for improvement.



55. Political Dynasties, Family Entanglements and the Perversion of Politics in Nigeria

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Abstract

This study examines the rise of political dynasties and the danger it portends for democracy in Nigeria. As Nigeria struggles with her 2023 post-election nightmares, there are mixed concerns of hope and despair; indeed a worrisome trend about the emergence of offspring and spouses of powerful politicians as candidates for different electoral offices. What started in the late 1950s in trickles has become a veritable flood as numerous families tend to tilt towards politics as a profession. The study relying on participant-observer methods of historical methodology affirm that the tendency towards professionalizing politics by the rich and their relations may have been without adverse impact in other climes as exemplified by the trio American families of Bush, Kennedy and Clinton but the Nigerian variant has come with capacity to pervert the country's nascent democracy. The study establishes a curious nexus between corruption, 'hereditary democracy' and 'sexually transmitted democracy' translated to represent government dominated by children, wives of the rich and strengthened by corruption. Using primary and secondary sources of data, the study interrogates and seek explanation(s) why politicians foist their children and family members on the people on account of the people's docility. In conclusion, the study held that political dynasties have harmed Nigeria and suggests a legislative-legal intervention to curb dynastic excesses and dominance in the country.

Keywords: political dynasty, monarchy, hereditary democracy, sexually-transmitted democracy, corruption



56. Disability and the Prosthetic Heritages of African Democracy in Tiv Praise Song

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Abstract

Democracy is a Eurocentric baggage whose foot prints have never gained conversance with the soil of leadership in Africa. It has rather become the anvil and hammer that has forged new molds for disabilities in postcolonial society. What could be described as neo-democracy; a strange and monstrous government and judicial procedure that uses the people to its advantage without favouring them – possessing the voice of Jacob

with the touch of Esau. A system that is a government of the elite, for the elite, and by the elite instead of the people; a semi-monarchic proceeding that usurps power and injures the will of the vast majority. There is no true democracy or inclusive government system in most African countries. What is practiced is “African democracy”; where power rotation is by selection and imposition instead of a free and fair election that is based on constitution and in favour of the people's rights and voices. Those living with disabilities (including the poor/less privileged and the minority tribes/groups) are marginalized under this democracy mal-practice. This study aims at assessing from post-colonial lenses, disability and the prosthetic heritages of African democracy in Sam Joi's “Destiny can only Delay”. The findings yield that; those living with disability host sufficient stature and destiny stamina, not just for self-capacity development but for communal and national transformation. Therefore, in order to practice true democracy, people with “disabilities” should be empowered by their “kinsmen”, instead of being maligned. Else, a domesticated or indigenous approach to democracy should be adopted. Key Words: Disability, Africa, Democracy, Tiv, Praise Song, Post-colonialism



57. Diplomatic Language As A Tool For Harmonious Democracy in Nigeria

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Abstract

The paper discussed diplomatic language as a tool for harmonious democracy in Nigeria. The concept was identified as needful in everyday communication as well as main thrust democratic diplomacy. The paper explored types of English for Diplomatic Purpose to include ability to identify common ground for those who speak different languages, international synthetic, artificial language, interpreter skills for the purpose of democratic harmony. The paper concluded that diplomatic language (or diplomatic linguistics as used interchangeably in the paper) should be a valuable guide for language for all actors in the democratic scene to enable harmonious relationship in politics. The language for use in everyday communication in families, media, offices or workplace. English for diplomatic use aids relationship harmony and peaceful co-existence. It suggested among others that English for diplomatic purpose should form major training concept for would be diplomats and general users of language.

Keywords: Diplomatic language, Communication, Democracy, Harmony, Tool, Nigeria

**58. The Role of Songs in Governance: Interrogating Fela Anikulapo kuti's
"Teacher Don't Teach Me Nonsense" and "Beast of No Nation"****Felicia Onyebuchi Ezeugwu, Ph.D**Department of Music University of Nigeria Nuskka
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Chinyere Christiana Ukwueze, Ph.DDepartment of Music University of Nigeria Nuskka
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Nigeria has undergone various challenges since the return to civilian rule in 1979. Many policies have also been made by the government aimed at improving the lives of the citizenry. Unfortunately, those in government usually make policies that benefit them alone and even provide immunity for themselves. Many a time, the governed, out of fear of the unknown, find it difficult to speak out on issue that negatively affect them.. Nigeria popular musicians have been trying to bridge this gap. Relying on Fela Anikulapo Kuti's "Teacher Don't Teach me Nonsense" and "Beast of No Nation, we argue that songs are powerful mediums through which that which cannot be spoken of, or kept silent can be brought in the open.

**59. Language Deficiency, Rule of Law Questions and the Relevance of the 1999
Constitution for A Democratizing Nigeria****Uche Uwaezuoke Okonkwo, Ph.D**Department of History and International Studies
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Confidence Ogwutum DikehSchool of foundation and General Studies
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The constitution is a determinant factor for the success of any constitution. In most cases, a constitution does not guarantee justice, equity and fairness. The apartheid regime in South Africa and even the USA during the Ku Klux Klan had constitutions which was repugnant to fairness and equity. Parts of the 1999 constitution is written in coercive language, unambiguous and deceitful terms that made the pursuit of rule of law and democracy unattainable. The 1999 constitution as critically examined in this paper as the greatest menace to genuine democracy. This paper concludes from the position of the total re-visitation of the 1999 constitution in a manner to convey language of hope and contents that will guarantee nation building

Keywords: Rule of Law, Democracy, constitution, Language, Revisitation

60. The Politics of Power in Chinua Achebe's *Anthills of the Savannah* and *A Man of the People*

**Jacinta Ndidi Okey-Agbo
&
Ruth Ebere Ihedigbo**

Abstract

Power is mythic in its relation to humanity for it permeates and gives intelligibility to a totality of human actions. What we do and aspire towards are underlain by that thirst to dominate and control. In the select novels of Chinua Achebe namely *Anthills of the Savannah* and *A Man of the People*, the politics of power is not exclusive to the political figures in the stories. Majority of the characters in one way or the other get provoked into action by either the longing to possess power or to wrest it from others. The essay will therefore investigate the above dynamics of power in the novels including the gendered perspective and also hint at divinity's role to force moderation on humanity.

Key words: Power, Politics, Achebe



61. The Place of Local Government in Political and Economic Transformation in Africa: Nigeria's Experience

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Political and economic transformations are systemic processes that emanate from the people and maintained by them in a bottom-top approach. Local governments in Nigeria and elsewhere in the world becomes the starting point of sustained economic and political transformation. The sustained transformation began with the rural. This was known as people oriented programme and emerged best for the society. The 'option A four' used for the selection of leaders during the INEC chairmanship of Professor Humphery Nwosu was attested to be the best selection process in Nigeria, even though the election was quashed mid-way by the military. This study was a survey. Two major objectives were: to ascertain the role local government played in enhancing economic and political transformation; and determine the factors responsible for failures in economic and political transformation in Nigeria. Interview and literature were the major sources of data collected. Data was analysed using content analysis. The study found that economic and political transformation in Nigeria remained skewed to prebendalism in politics and 'turn by turn syndrome'.

Keywords: Local Government, Political, Economic, Transformation and prebendalism.

62. Descent from Democracy to 'Democracy': Interrogating Achebe's *A Man of the People* and Emeka Nwabueze's *A Parliament of Vultures***Stella Okoye-Ugwu, Ph.D**

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Abstract

This paper sets out to interrogate Chinua Achebe's *A Man of the People* and Emeka Nwabueze's *A Parliament of Vultures* as prophetic literary texts that foretold the sham and quagmire playing out in current Nigeria's democracy. These literary texts have been critically engaged by several scholars and critics from varying perspectives. Some of these literary critics have viewed these texts, independently, as portraying interplay of absolute power in politics, greed, avarice, and avid corruption, among others. This study critically interrogates the principal characters who have launched a descent from democracy to democracy in both texts. The thematic thrust of this paper is firmly anchored on post-colonial theory. Post-colonialism is a critical prism through which literature that is set in previously colonized countries or deals with post-colonial issues, and depicts the effects of colonization and imperialism on people and nations is studied.

Keywords: Politics, Democracy, Democracy, Achebe, Nwabueze**63. Indigenous People of Biafra sit-at-home order and Human Rights in South East Nigeria****Ikpechukwuka E. Ibenekwu**

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Abstract

Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) is the separatist agitation group that has over the years demanded for the secession of the South East states of Nigeria to form Biafra. The core areas of IPOB and its activities is the South East region of Nigeria. The activities of the group remained relatively peaceful until the abduction in Kenya, forceful return to Nigeria and incarceration of its leader Mazi Nnamdi Kanu by Nigerian government in 2021. IPOB though a non state actor first declared sit-at-home order in the South East Nigeria each time Mazi Nnamdi Kanu is to appear in court over allegations brought against him by government from July 2021. It later extended this order to include Mondays of every week. Several attempts by governments to put an end to the compliance to this order have not succeeded in many parts of the South East. This is due to the multiple attacks, some resulting in deaths and the destructions of property of non complying persons and communities by the IPOB sit-at-home enforcers. The enforcement of the order instilled fear into many, thereby hampering movements and activities in South East Nigeria on Mondays unmindful of the fundamental rights of people to

movement, association etc. This paper examined this order and its import on human rights. It concluded that the IPOB sit-at-home order clearly violates the fundamental rights of the people and equates the inability of government to protect her citizens as proof of state failure.

Key words: Separatist group, agitation, sits at home order, enforcement and human rights



64. Political cartoons and the Democratization Process in Nigeria: Reflections on the 2023 Nigeria General Elections

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Abstract

In Nigeria's democratic journey, political cartoons have been used as an activist tool to challenge the status quo and also to draw attention to societal ills. This paper focuses on how political cartoons critiqued the 2023 general elections in Nigeria. Using compositional analysis of select cartoons that address pre-election, election, and post-election experiences of the 2023 general elections, it examines how cartoons use verbal-visual messages masked in metaphor to humorously address democratic challenges in Nigeria. Analysis of the cartoons showed that corruption, violence, electoral malpractice, deception, voter suppression, weak and compromised public institutions, bad governance, trust deficit, and political subterfuge, constitute the major factors that affected the 2023 general elections in Nigeria. Also, caricature, symbolism, colour, gesture, and punchline functioned as dominant narrative devices used in the cartoons to humorously communicate the public's perception of politicians, public institutions and the electoral process. As a mediated filtering system, political cartoons on the 2023 Nigeria general elections not only show how socio-political experiences in Nigeria domesticate the verbal-visual messages employed in cartoons, they also underscore the important roles that cartoons play in setting social agenda and also in framing power relations between the political class and the masses.

Keywords: 2023 Nigeria General Elections, democratization process, humour, political cartoons, verbal-visual messages.

65. Textual Analysis of selected Social Media Comments on “Yahoo Boys” Reports In Nigeria

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Abstract

This study explored the use of social media platforms, as a method of disseminating information, and how social media users employ linguistics to influence the masses. Social media has been a channel for revealing acts of SMS and internet fraud. In the same way, these fraudsters have used social media platforms to perpetuate their dastardly acts of theft. This study employed the use of sentimental analysis to explore the profiling encountered in our day to day activities. An in-depth analysis of data collected from social media shows that there is a significant relationship between social media comments and user emotions. This research found out that there is a relationship between social media use and its linguistics impact on “Yahoo Yahoo” crimes in Nigeria. The study also found out that there is a relationship between social media comments, and how users perceive information.

Key words: Yahoo boys, Social Media, Internet Fraud, Textual Analysis



66. Speech Act and Insecurity: The Nigerian Experience

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Abstract

In and out of election periods, Nigeria's political figures express their views and dispositions through speech acts. From June 2022 to April 2023, following the events that led to the Nigeria's February 2023 Presidential Election and the events that ensued after the election, the political leaders of the APC, PDP and LP have continued to use speech acts to sustain the solidarity of their loyal supporters and perceived dominated groups. Literature suggested that illocutionary acts inform perlocutionary acts. The paper examines the connexion between speech acts of political leaders and insecurity. The purpose of the study was to determine whether the perlocutionary acts of insecurity in Nigeria were caused by the illocutionary acts of political leaders in the APC, PDP, and LP. The study deployed the critical discourse analysis in evaluating some selected speech acts of political figures and found that the audience to whom an illocutionary act is performed

determines whether a perlocutionary act of insecurity will ensue.

Keywords: Speech acts, Insecurity, Critical Discourse Analysis, Illocutionary acts, Perlocutionary acts



67. Gender, Patriarchy and Women Participation in the Democratic Process in Nigeria: Implication for the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals

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Abstract

Gender, patriarchy, and violence have been persistent in Nigerian democratic process. In Nigeria there is an unequal power relation between women and men whereby women face major drawbacks in various social institutions. The patriarchal system in Nigeria has resulted in gender-based discrimination and violence against women which affects the political participation of women in the democratic process, leading to underrepresentation of women in political positions. This underrepresentation has led to policies that do not adequately address the needs and concerns of women. The Nigerian political system is dominated by men who control the political parties, institutions, and resources. This has made it difficult for women to participate in politics and gain access to political power. Violence against women is also prevalent in Nigerian politics. Women who attempt to participate in politics are often subjected to physical and verbal abuse; intimidation, and harassment. This violence is used as a tool to discourage women from participating in politics and maintaining the status quo of male dominance. Efforts have been made to address these issues, including the passage of laws which criminalizes various forms of violence against women. Additionally, there have been campaigns to increase women's participation in politics and create a more gender-inclusive political environment. However, progress has been slow, and more needs to be done to address these issues fully. Leveraging a review of existing literature, this paper contend that it is essential to challenge patriarchal norms that perpetuate gender-based discrimination and violence against women in Nigerian politics and concludes that gender, patriarchy, and violence are significant challenges facing the democratic process in Nigeria and addressing these issues are crucial for the achievement of the sustainable development goals.

Keywords: Gender, patriarchy, violence, democracy, Nigeria