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The Editor

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Editorial Policy

Lagos Notes and Records is an annual, interdisciplinary journal of the humanities. It is devoted to the publication of well researched articles in all the subjects in the Arts, Social Sciences, and Law. In addition to original articles, the journal publishes review articles, brief accounts of work in progress, notes and comments on issues arising out of recent publications.

EDITORIAL

This issue of the *Lagos Notes and Records* is a bumper harvest of scholarly articles which focus on issues of language, identity and development from diverse disciplinary perspectives. It opens with a set of five papers focused on the acquisition and use of language in the West African and comparative contexts. In the first article, Professor Emmanuel Kwofie examines the sociolinguistic conditions under which the adult learner of French grapples with the subject in Anglophone West Africa. Based upon a representative Nigerian case study, he underscores the challenges posed by the existence of indigenous languages and English, and the fact that French is not employed in everyday life as a medium of communication though it is a medium of instruction at the tertiary level. The theme of language use is further explored in Professor Mabel Osakwe's consideration of the Tag Question problem in Nigerian English language usage. She attributes the problem to the disparity in the grammars of some Nigeria LI and English, and proffers solutions to the "habitual problem of acceptability." In the next paper on Yoruba count nouns, Dr. Oladiipo Ajiboye relates the discussion to the problem encountered by native Yoruba speakers learning English in an L2 situation. He proposes that Yoruba count nouns should be analyzed as noun phrases embedded in a determiner phrase headed by a null determiner. In a cross-cultural, trans-continental linguistic case-study, Dr. Friday Ude applies the "associative" experiment to the study of the image of Africa and Africans in Russian linguistic consciousness. The article makes a useful contribution to inter-linguistic and inter-cultural research and scholarship. This is taken further in Dr. Oko Okoro's methodic contrastive study of the conditional clause in Igbo and English. The article demonstrates that the conditional clause in Igbo shares semantic and syntactic versatility and other characteristics with its English counterpart.

The remaining papers in this issue examine various dimensions of the subject of culture, identity and development from the perspectives of literature and history. The section begins with two papers dealing with lifestyles and identity. First, Dr. Mariam Konate Deme examines the practice of voluntary

pigmentation among Continental Africans, otherwise known as skin bleaching. She tackles generalisations and misrepresentations of this phenomenon, which could be interpreted as either an aesthetic revolution or post-colonial traumatism. Next, Dr. Onuora Nweke follows up with an examination of the issue of homosexuality in the work of a leading African female writer, Ghana's Ama Ata Aidoo. He tackles what is often a forbidden subject by attempting a Lacanian reading of her *Our Sister Killjoy: Reflections from a Black-eyed Squint*. The next three papers focus on group identity, experiences and cultural practices. While Dr. Iwu Ikwubuzo's analysis of *Obiefuna*, authored by the notable Igbo writer, F.C. Ogbalu, demonstrates the projection of Igbo culture and identity through rites of passage, diaspora identities and experiences are examined from the disciplinary perspectives of Literature and History in two articles by Dr. Chris Anyokwu and Omon Osiki. Anyokwu approaches his subject through the aperture of *Call Me By My Rightful Name*, a novel by the celebrated Nigerian academic and writer, Professor Isidore Okpewho. The article highlights the crisis of identity of African-Americans and Africans in the West in the face of racism and limited opportunities. Osiki's piece on the plight of the Nigerian labour diasporas in Liberia during the 1920s and early 1930s speaks to the challenges of intra-West African migrations in the colonial context and the limits of racial solidarity in the conditions of inter-war economic crisis and oppressive labour practices. The last three articles focus on history, literature and development. Dr. Kingdom Orji's examination of the plight of the much traumatised Niger Delta region of Nigeria makes a case for developing historical consciousness to promote sustainable development. The irony of Nigeria's fatal romance with under-achievement and its global and continental literary accomplishments provides the background to Dr. Sunny

Awhefeada's analysis of Nigerian poetry since 1990. This is a critical celebration of the flowering of literary talent in a country shackled by misrule and state-led underdevelopment. This article dovetails with Professor Akachi Ezeigbo's engagement with the role of the humanities in national development from a literary perspective. It makes a case for adequate funding of humanities research and scholarship for the country to cope with the challenges of the current century.

This rich offering of scholarly articles is heartily recommended to the scholarly and general readership for showcasing the immense possibilities of humanities scholarship in facilitating a clearer understanding of issues of identity and development. The contributions of our manuscript reviewers and editorial team to the production of this volume are duly acknowledged.

Ayodeji Olukoju, PhD
Professor of History and Dean of Arts
Editor-in-Chief
July 2009

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