

A Discourse Analysis of Language use in Femi Osofisan's *The Midnight Blackout*

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Abstract- *This study critically examines the language use of Femi Osofisan's characters/casts as portrayed in The Midnight Blackout and how such usage is affected and determined by situations and contexts. Analysis of discourse in the play is premised on a model adaptation of Discourse Analysis presented in Hyme's (1962) Ethnography of Communication and Grice's Conversational Maxim. The study employs Hyme's Ethnography of Communication model which is encapsulated in the SPEAKING acronym, and Conversational Maxims by Grice which engages the maxim of quantity, quality, relation and manner. This critical analysis reveals language as an indispensable and instinctive medium in human communication. Analysis also reveals the linguistic and social surrounding or environment of Femi Osofisan's The Midnight Blackout and foregrounds language as the spectrum through which the society can be appreciated.*

Keywords- *Ethnography of Communication; Conversational Maxims; Discourse Analysis*

1. INTRODUCTION

Language is generally known as the medium of communication, but it goes beyond that extent; it is a reflection of culture and society. Femi Osofisan's *The Midnight Blackout* is a conventional play that centres on the issue of morals, politics, educational status and business. The play is in narrative form, containing songs and poems that criticize societal ills. It deals with the issue of marriage and matters of trust and deceit. It is also satirical and hilarious and serves as a reaction to a political phase in the history of Nigeria during the regime of Babangida. It exposes the ills of the Structural Adjustment Programme (S.A.P), one of the gimmicks of the corrupt government of Nigeria.

The play begins with an argument between Juokwu and his wife, Obioma. Obioma is convinced that her husband is involved in an extra-marital affair and Juokwu who is a respected Professor of Medicine tries to explain things to her, and we are immediately taken to the picture of Obioma's ex-husband on the wall of the house. It is brought to our notice that Obioma's ex-husband was involved in extra-marital affairs, a condition which makes her spy on Juokwu at every slightest opportunity. Juokwu claims that he is a faithful man and will never cheat on his wife but in the course of the play we soon see Juokwu's trick of getting out of the house to meet his mistress, Akumbundu's wife for as long as he wants by putting his wife to sleep. This trick is a scientific discovery that is made by Professor Juokwu and this is what Osofisan

names "The Midnight Blackout." Iberibe is a friend to Obioma's ex-husband and he flies from Rio into the country, pretending to have come to sympathize with Obioma for the death of her ex-husband and he is welcomed by Juokwu who refuses to let him go back to Rio. Iberibe finally decides to stay and he consistently makes advances at Obioma who bluntly refuses the offer. In the course of the play, Juokwu tells Iberibe about his scientific discovery of getting his wife to sleep; he then performs his trick on Obioma in order to accomplish his adulterous mission with his mistress. While he is gone, Iberibe sneaks into the house through the window and he tries waking Obioma by the same process in order to seduce her. Obioma eventually wakes up and while still wondering how she sleeps off and also trying to avoid Iberibe, Juokwu's voice is heard and Iberibe finds it difficult to get Obioma back to sleep so he begs her to pretend to be asleep until Juokwu comes to wake her up and she obeys. Juokwu rushes into the house with his mistress's husband who happens to be Akumbundu, a politician and business man. He confronts Juokwu and so the secret of his scientific trick coupled with his marital unfaithfulness is revealed unknown to his wife until now.

Although, many studies have been carried out on Femi Osofisan's *The Midnight Blackout* both literarily and linguistically, but none to the best of our knowledge has carried out any discursive analysis on the play text using the Ethnography of Communication and the Conversational Maxims.

Use Of Myths In Femi Osofisan S Moruntodun

Rosina Ehmann



Use Of Myths In Femi Osofisan S Moruntodun:

The Revolutionary Drama and Theatre of Femi Osofisan Chima Osakwe,2018-11-07 This book is an extensive and captivating study of the work of Femi Osofisan one of Nigeria s most important dramatists and postcolonial playwrights It explores a variety of his plays to gather together insights on the role of art in social change and discusses the relationship between literature and politics **New Theatre Quarterly 47: Volume 12, Part 3** Clive Barker,Simon

Trussler,1996-10-03 One of a series discussing topics of interest in theatre studies from theoretical methodological philosophical and historical perspectives The books are aimed at drama and theatre teachers advanced students in schools and colleges arts authorities actors playwrights critics and directors *The Drama of Femi Osofisan* Muiyiwa P.

Awodiya,1995 **Pragmatics, Discourse and Society, Volume 2** Niyi Osunbade,Foluke Unuabonah,Ayo Osisanwo,Akin Adetunji,Funke Oni,2021-09-14 This two volume work speaks to the entire scope of Professor Odebunmi s research concerns in general pragmatics medical clinical pragmatics literary discourse critical discourse analysis applied linguistics and language sociology Its 52 chapters across both volumes 24 chapters in the first volume and 28 chapters in this volume written by established scholars such as Jacob Mey Paul Hopper Joyce Mathangwane and Ming Yu Tseng in addition to the honoree explore the dynamics of the interplay of spatial temporal agential and non institutional factors that drive discourse textual constructions negotiations and interpretations and sometimes influence human cognition and actions Due to the richness authority and wide applicability of both volumes the book will appeal to all academics researchers and students interested in the interface of context and meaning in human communication **Nation, power and dissidence in third**

generation Nigerian poetry in English Egaya, Sule E.,2019-04-15 *Nation Power and Dissidence in Third Generation Nigerian Poetry in English* is a theoretical and analytical survey of the poetry that emerged in Nigeria in the 1980s Hurt into poetry the poets collectively raise aesthetics of resistance that dramatises the nationalist imagination bridging the gap between poetry and politics in Nigeria The emerging generation of poetic voices raises an outcry against the repressive military regimes of the 1980s and 1990s Ingrained in the tradition of protest literature in Africa the third generation poetry is presented here as part of the cultural struggles that unseat military despotism and envisage a democratic society Not only does Egaya place emphasis on the poetry s interaction with the culture and history of military oppression in Nigeria an interaction that sees the poetry not only feeding from the history but also feeding it he also contextualises the generational consciousness of these poets Scholars of Nigerian literature African literature and researchers interested in world literatures will welcome *Nation Power and Dissidence in Third Generation Nigerian Poetry in English* as an invaluable contribution to indigenous knowledge critical studies in Africa and the rehabilitation and production of an African aesthetic

Re-imagining Africa African Studies Association of Australasia and the Pacific. Annual Conference,2001 This book provides a plethora of insights and perspectives that take up and challenge prevailing points of view about today s Africa The

chapters examine a number of different media and topics from African theatre to poetry from accounts of personal history to South Africa's language policy and publishing practices Their unifying theme is a search for tomorrow's cultural trends in an ever changing Africa

Some Notes and Explanations on Morountodun, to Aid Students, Teachers and General Readers

Femi Osofisan, 2001 *African Discourse in Islam, Oral Traditions, and Performance* Abdul-Rasheed Na'Allah, 2010-09-13

This work develops an African indigenous discourse paradigm for interpreting and understanding literary and cultural materials By returning the African knowledge system back to its roots and placing it side by side with Western paradigms Na Allah has produced a text that will be required reading for scholars and students of African culture and literature

Portrayals of Masculinity in Nigerian Plays Beatrice Nwawuloke Onuoha, 2023-10-16 Portrayals of Masculinity in Nigerian Plays explores Nigerian people's notions of masculinity as portrayed in twelve Nigerian plays written by three generations of Nigerian playwrights She argues that hegemonic masculinity and other forms which are referred to as alternative masculinities exist in traditional Nigerian society By analyzing plays written by first second and third generation Nigerian playwrights Onuoha tracks how notions about masculinity have evolved over the years Further she discusses the malleability of masculinity by exploring how women manifest qualities associated with masculinity within Nigerian plays Through a review of critical studies on gender constructions Onuoha examines not only the negative experiences of women within an African patriarchal system but also the negative experiences of the men who are also direct or indirect victims of such a system

Africa Writing Europe Maria Olaussen, Christina Angelfors, 2009 Africa Writing Europe offers critical readings of the meaning and presence of Europe in a variety of African literary texts Authors discussed include Leila Aboulela

Tatamkhulu Afrika Alice Solomon Bowen Ken Bugul and Tayeb Salih *World Literature, Non-Synchronism, and the Politics*

of Time Filippo Menozzi, 2020-06-06 Drawing on a Marxist concept of world literature this book is a study of the manipulations of time in contemporary anglophone fiction from Africa and South Asia Through critical work and literary reading this research explores the times other than the present that seem to haunt an era of capitalist globalisation nostalgic feelings about bygone ideals of identity and community appeals to Golden Ages returns of the repressed and anxious anticipations of global extinction and catastrophe The term non synchronism explored in this book captures these dislocations of the present while offering a critical lens to grasp the politics of time of an era marked by the continuing expansion of capitalist modernity Most importantly non synchronism is a dialectical paradigm charged with antagonistic political valences The literary analysis presented in the volume hence connects the literary manipulation of time to discourses on extinction accumulation nostalgia modernity and survival in global politics and literature

Okike, 1988

Vision of Change in African Drama Sola Adeyemi, 2019-08-05 Femi Osofisan is a major dramatist from Nigeria who experiments with forms and theatrical traditions This book focuses on his development as a dramatist and his contribution to world drama as a postcolonial African writer whose major preoccupation has been to question the colonial and postcolonial

issues of identity in theatre literature and performance The volume explores how sifan exploits his Yorub heritage in his drama and the performances of his plays by reading new meanings into popular mythology and by re-writing history to comment on contemporary social and political issues sifan has often introduced new motifs and narratives to energise dramatic performances in Nigeria and globally and this text discusses developments in his theatre practices in the context of changing cultural trends *The Question of Language in African Literature Today* Eldred D. Jones, 1991 **Pre-colonial and Post-colonial Drama and Theatre in Africa** Lokangaka Losambe, Devi Sarinjeive, 2001 In this collection of essays written from different critical perspectives African playwrights demonstrate through their art that they are not only witnesses but also consciences of their societies **Classics in Post-Colonial Worlds** Lorna Hardwick, Carol Gillespie, 2010-07-29 Classical material was traditionally used to express colonial authority but it was also appropriated by imperial subjects to become first a means of challenging colonialism and then a rich field for creating cultural identities that blend the old and the new Nobel prize winners such as Derek Walcott and Seamus Heaney have rewritten classical material in their own cultural idioms while public sculpture in southern Africa draws on Greek and Roman motifs to represent histories of African resistance and liberation These developments are explored in this collection of essays by international scholars who debate the relationship between the culture of Greece and Rome and the changes that have followed the end of colonial empires Literature, History and Identity in Northern Nigeria Tsiga, Ismaila A., Bhadmus, M.O., 2016-02-22 This unique collection of articles on literature in northern Nigeria is in three parts Part one presents an overview of the running theme in which Na Allah explores the theoretical relationship between literature history and identity in northern Nigeria using the proverbial story of the blind man who holds a lamp while walking alone in the night Similarly Tsiga undertakes in a long bibliographical essay a notable survey of the relationship between literature history and identity in northern Nigeria chronicling the development of life writing in the region dating back three hundred years Part two focuses on the relationship between literature and history in northern Nigeria and begins with the article in which Illah investigates the theme He uses the image of the bus to underscore the point he makes concerning the uniqueness of northern Nigerian literature which continues its journey even without a spare tyre Equally in this part Balogun discusses Yerima s Attahiru Ameh Oboni The Great as theatres of colonial resistance just as Methuselah also examines the heroism celebrated in Ahmed Yerima s Attahiru Adamu revisits the trans-fictional use of the Grimm Brothers tale in the early published Hausa written narratives while Yunusa and Malumfashi examine similar historical concerns in Abubakar Imam and Sa'adu Zungur respectively This part concludes with Garba assessing the transformation of the written Hausa prose narratives into radio broadcasts while Abiodun examines in a historiographic survey the various forms and composition of Ilorin music In what might have been the scholar s last conference article before his sudden death Nasidi in Part three opens the debate on literature and identity in northern Nigeria eloquently theorising on the relationship with Foucault his favourite philosopher

AbdulRaheem illustrates how the literature of the people of Ilorin is their identity marker while Kazaure investigates the split character in Labo Yari's *Man of the Moment* Ibrahim explores identity in marriage between migrants and natives in Kanchana Ugbabe's *Soul Mates* while Aondofa investigates globalisation and indigenous television Using Tiv film typology like Aondofa Sulaiman examines the use of diction in characterisation in the film industry The third of the contributors on the film industry AbdulBaqi uses films shown on DSTV's African Magic channels to investigate matrimonial harmony in North Central Nigeria Jaji revisits the antecedents and prospects in the relationship between prose and identity in northern Nigeria Giwa offers a detailed investigation of Zaynab Alkali's *The Initiates* on gender politics Similarly Muhammad and Muhammad are concerned with identity and the gender politics in Bilkisu Abubakar's *To Live Again* and *The Woman in Me* The last article in the book jointly written by Yusuf Anwonmeh and Agulonye offers the only viewpoint on children's literature in northern Nigeria

Perspectives on Mythology Esi Sutherland-Addy, 1999

Impacts of Violent Conflicts on Resource Control and Sustainability Nyam, Esther Akumbo, Tunde, Asiru Hameed, 2018-08-03 The rise of violent conflicts in developing countries in recent years has attracted concerns from scholars from all fields of study The significance of the issue calls for an expansion of current research on the various dimensions of violent conflicts and how they impact resource control and sustainability *Impacts of Violent Conflicts on Resource Control and Sustainability* provides innovative insights into the dimensions and ramifications of violent conflicts how they are managed and how resolution efforts contribute to resource control and sustainability The content within this publication includes information on media coverage of conflict religious ideology conflict and global development This book is a vital reference source for academicians researchers policy makers government functionaries and individuals seeking current research on the cause and management of violent conflicts

The COVID-19 Pandemic and Memory Orli Fridman, Sarah Gensburger, 2023-12-14 This book offers a platform for the analysis of commemorative and archiving practices as they were shaped expanded and developed during the Covid 19 lockdown periods in 2020 and the years that followed By offering an extensive global view of these changes as well as of the continuities that went with them the book enters a dialogue with what has emerged as an initial response to the pandemic and the ways in which it has affected memory and commemoration The book aims to critically and empirically engage with this abundance of memory to understand both memorialization of the pandemic and commemoration during the pandemic what happened then to commemorative practices and rituals around the world How has the Covid 19 pandemic been archived and remembered What will remembering it actually entail and what will it mean in the future Where did the Covid memory boom come from Who was behind it how did it emerge and in what social configurations did it evolve

Reviewing **Use Of Myths In Femi Osofisan S Moruntodun**: Unlocking the Spellbinding Force of Linguistics

In a fast-paced world fueled by information and interconnectivity, the spellbinding force of linguistics has acquired newfound prominence. Its capacity to evoke emotions, stimulate contemplation, and stimulate metamorphosis is really astonishing. Within the pages of "**Use Of Myths In Femi Osofisan S Moruntodun**," an enthralling opus penned by a very acclaimed wordsmith, readers embark on an immersive expedition to unravel the intricate significance of language and its indelible imprint on our lives. Throughout this assessment, we shall delve in to the book is central motifs, appraise its distinctive narrative style, and gauge its overarching influence on the minds of its readers.

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