

**Historical Realities and the Postcolonial Discourse
in Selected Plays of Ahmed Yerima**

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Certification

This is to certify that Olumuyiwa Paul OLAYINKA with Matriculation Number LCU/PG/001597 carried out this research titled ‘Historical Realities and the Postcolonial Discourse in Selected Plays of Ahmed Yerima in the Department of Languages and Literature, Faculty of Arts, Lead City University, Ibadan, Oyo State, for the award of Doctor of Philosophy Degree (PhD) in Literature and that it has not been previously submitted.

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Date

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Dedication

This research is dedicated to the Most High God.

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Abstract

The thematic thrust of dramatic oeuvre among most African playwrights usually highlights historical realities of Africa. Therefore, the theatre space provides the avenue where such lived experiences are re-enacted, and challenged. Ahmed Yerima's theatrical endeavour follows in this pursuit, with creative dimensions. His selected plays *are* examined in this thesis to provide an ethnocultural perspective to the historical realities of leadership, governance, socio-economic and communal engagements that depict the plays enactment of history as prevalent in contemporary Nigeria. New Historicism, which argues essentially that every literary text is a product, reflection and refraction of actual historical realities and Postcolonialism, which seeks to explore among other things the effects of colonialism on both the colonised and the coloniser, are utilised to critically situate the plays in context, with thematic discourse, characterisation and dramatic techniques deployed for elucidation. The study accentuates play-texts, as veritable tools for historical reconstruction and development that depict leadership assertion, conflicts of tradition, religion, identity, power and economic sustenance of the past and present, in contemporary Nigeria.

Keywords: Coloniser, Colonised, Historical Realities, ethnocultural, Postcolonial theory, New Historicism

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