

# Critical Engagements on African Literature:

*An Offering to Professor  
Isidore Diala*

Edited by

Abba A. Abba

and Benedictus C. Nwachukwu

Cambridge  
Scholars  
Publishing



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreword .....	xi
Dan Izevbaye	
Acknowledgements .....	xv
Introduction .....	xvii
Abba A. Abba	
<b>Part One: Isidore Diala: The Suppliant and His Muse</b>	
Chapter One.....	2
Diala's <i>Lure of Ash</i> and the History of a Nation	
Cajetan Iheka, University of Alabama	
Chapter Two .....	17
A Post-Jungian Reading of Isidore Diala's <i>The Lure of Ash</i>	
Sola Ogunbayo, University of Lagos	
Chapter Three .....	33
Hermeneutical Dialectics in Isidore Diala's <i>The Pyre</i>	
Mishael C. Nwaiwu, Federal Polytechnic, Nekede, Owerri	
<b>Part Two: Interrogating the Critical Altar</b>	
Chapter Four.....	42
The Dramatic Legacy of Sonny Oti	
J.O.J. Nwachukwu-Agbada, Abia State University, Uturu	
Chapter Five .....	58
Affirmation, Denial, and Ambivalence of Coloured Identity in Four	
Post-1994 South African Auto/Biographies	
Hein Willemse, University of Pretoria	

Chapter Six .....	73
The Development and Significance of Akachi Adimora-Ezeigbo's Poetry	
Tanure Ojaide, The University of North Carolina at Charlotte	
Chapter Seven.....	85
The "Prison Novels" of Ken Saro-Wiwa	
Chinyere Nwahunanya, Abia State University, Uturu	
<b>Part Three: Culture and the Oxymoronic</b>	
Chapter Eight.....	102
The Inscriptions of the Vulture in Proverbial Lore and Implications	
of Their Appropriations in Contemporary Social Discourse in Nigeria	
Damian U. Opata, University of Nigeria, Nsukka	
Chapter Nine.....	118
In Praise of Resistance and Counter-hegemony: Isidore Okpewho	
and the Alternative Discourse in African (Oral) Literature	
James Tar Tsaaior, Pan-Atlantic University, Lagos	
<b>Part Four: Libation at the Altar of Resistance</b>	
Chapter Ten .....	132
Exile and the Trope of Dispersal in Recent Nigerian Poetry	
Sule Emmanuel Egya, IBB University, Lapai	
Chapter Eleven .....	148
Exile, Migration, and Homecoming in Nigerian and South African	
Fictional Narratives	
Enajite Eseoghene Ojaruega, Delta State University, Abraka	
Chapter Twelve .....	161
African Poets' Engagement with Poetic Truth	
Otu John, Federal University, Ndufu-Alaibe	
Chapter Thirteen.....	179
Individuation in Nnedi-Okorafor Mbachu's <i>Zahrah the Windseeker</i>	
Chibuzo Onunkwo, University of Nigeria, Nsukka	

Chapter Fourteen .....	190
A Semiotic Study of Christopher Okigbo's <i>Labyrinths with Path of Thunder</i>	
Joseph-Kenneth Kelechi Nzerem, Imo State University, Owerri	

### **Part Five: The Suppliant and His Habit of Thoughts**

Chapter Fifteen .....	200
Discursive Representations of Social Meaning in Ben Okri's <i>Abiku Fiction</i>	
Ikenna Kamalu, University of Port Harcourt, Port Harcourt	

Chapter Sixteen .....	217
Semioticizing the Travails of the Igbo Woman: A Text-Linguistic Reading of Selected Poems by Catherine Acholonu	
Kenneth Uche Chukwu, Federal University of Technology, Owerri and Chris Chinemerem Onyema, Federal University, Otuoke	

Chapter Seventeen .....	227
Unmasking the Undertone of Gender Inequality in Achebe's <i>Anthills of the Savannah</i>	
Nkiru Doris Onyemachi, Edwin Clark University, Kiagbodo	

Chapter Eighteen .....	240
From Anti-Colonial Revolutions to Postcolonial Implosions: Oil Politics, Discontent and Militancy in Niger Delta Drama	
Oyeh Otu, University of Port Harcourt, Port Harcourt and Obumneme F. Anasi, Ebonyi State University, Abakaliki	

### **Part Six: Altar of Discontent**

Chapter Nineteen .....	254
Fictional Illustrations of Sociopolitical Restlessness and Temperaments in Nigeria	
Psalms Chinaka, University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria	

Chapter Twenty .....	269
Representations of War in Twenty-First Century African Drama: Femi Osofisan's <i>Women of Owu</i> and Sam Ukala's <i>Iredi War</i>	
Augustine Uche Emela, Imo State University, Owerri	

Chapter Twenty-One .....	282
The Temper of Discontent in Ngugi wa Thiong'o's <i>Wizard of the Crow</i>	
Benedictus Nwachukwu, Federal Polytechnic, Nekede	
Chapter Twenty-Two.....	300
Orara as a Symbol of Feminine Beauty and Meekness in Select Novels of Igbo Female Writers	
Perp' St. Remy Asiegbu, University of Port Harcourt	
Chapter Twenty-Three.....	315
Interrogating the Counterdiscursive Ideation in Achebe's Postcolonial Writing	
Abba A. Abba, Edwin Clark University, Kiagbodo	
Chapter Twenty-Four .....	332
Subaltern Communication: Ecological Dis/Contents and Discourse Stratagems in Ojaide's <i>Waiting</i>	
Chris Onyema, Federal University, Otuoke	
Chapter Twenty-Five.....	353
Redemptive Ritual and Tragic Ethos in Selected Plays by Esiaba Irobi and Isidore Diala	
Leon Osu, Imo State University, Owerri	
<b>Part Seven: Creative Renditions at the Feet of the Suppliant</b>	
Short Story: <i>Poolside Rapture</i> .....	370
Henry Akubuiro, The Daily Sun Newspapers, Lagos	
Poetry.....	382
"Watch the Wolves"	
Gloria Ernest-Samuel, Imo State University, Owerri	
Isidore Diala: Selected Publications .....	383
Contributors.....	388
Index.....	394