

Ethnicity, conflicts and peace strategies in African post-colonial theatre: a reading of Femi Osofisan's Women of owu

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Ethnicity, conflicts and peace strategies in African post-colonial theatre: a reading of Femi Osofisan's Women of owu

Damlègue LARE

Résumé

Abstract—One of the particularities of the post-colonial African societies is their multi-ethnic dimensions and their pluralistic-religious groupings. This article investigates the extent to which Femi Osofisan in Women of Owu explores ethnic conflicts to envision peace strategies in Nigeria. Diversities of ethnic and religious identities are contingent upon multiple intersecting factors, ethnic, linguistic, historical, demographic, politico-economic and ideological that, if badly handled, sometimes trouble peace and put into peril years' efforts of socio-economic development. The present study analyses how Femi Osofisan uses drama to explore ethnic conflicts and envisage perspectives for peaceful settlement and social cohesion. The article studies how Femi Osofisan uses theatrical art to explore the consequences of ethnic conflicts, religiosity and economic disparities as potential sources of conflicts in Africa, to call for their peaceful settlement, and to project his literary message that mediation and dialogue are sustainable peace strategies in African settings.

Key Words: Ethnicity, conflicts, mediation, religion, inter-tribal war, peace strategies, social cohesion

Résumé—L'une des particularités des sociétés africaines postcoloniales est leurs dimensions multiethniques et leurs regroupements pluriconfessionnels. Cet article fait une investigation de la manière dont Femi Osofisan explore les conflits ethniques pour envisager la paix au Nigeria. Les diversités identitaires ethniques et religieuses pour la plupart dépendent du croisement de facteurs multiples, notamment ethniques, linguistiques, historiques, démographiques, politicoéconomiques et idéologiques qui, s'ils sont mal gérés, troublent dès fois la paix et mettent en péril des efforts de tant d'années de développement socio-économique. L'article étudie comment Femi Osofisan utilise l'art théâtral pour explorer les conséquences des conflits ethniques tribaux et religieux pour envisager les perspectives des règlements pacifiques des conflits en Afrique et diffuser le message littéraire que la médiation et le dialogue sont des stratégies durables de paix en Afrique.

Mots clés: Ethnicité, conflits, médiation, religion, guerres intertribales, stratégies de paix, cohésion sociale

Texte intégral :

[PDF \(FRANÇAIS \(CANADA\)\)](#)

Renvois

- Il n'y a présentement aucun renvoi.

@inproceedings{Osofisan2006WomenOO, title={Women of Owu}, author={Femi Osofisan}, year={2006} }. Femi Osofisan. Published 2006. Art. Table of content . . . 1 Editions of this work . . . 1 livres (1) . . . 1 Documents about this work . . . Ethnicity, conflicts and peace strategies in African post-colonial theatre: a reading of Femi Osofisan's Women of owu. D. Lare. Sociology. 2016. Save. Alert. Research Feed. Women of Owu book. Read 11 reviews from the world's largest community for readers. This is an African retelling of Euripides: an unnervingly topical stor... However, Osofisan's play is also quite political, critiquing colonialism, the Nigerian civil war/Biafran war, and the war in Iraq. Osofisan takes issue with continuing histories of violence, destruction, and conquest used to feed the greed for power and wealth. Femi Osofisan studied in Ibadan, Dakar and Paris and taught theatre and comparative literature at the University of Ibadan for 34 years, a post from which he recently retired. Osofisan's professional experience is manifold—he is an award-winning poet, writer, actor, company director, journalist and scholar. Women of Owu is a 2006 book written by Femi Osofisan and published through University Press PLC. Adapted from Euripides' The Trojan Women, the book uses the combination of choruses, songs and dance to depict the history of the people of Owu kingdom after a combined military force of Ife, Oyo and Ijebu invaded the city of Owu for seven years killing all of its male inhabitants and children. It discusses the centrality of metaphors as a dominant literary device consciously deployed by Femi Osofisan to project the theme of oppression, dehumanization, social injustice and poverty in his plays. The paper focuses on the use of animal and predatory metaphors in Osofisan's plays to launch an offensive literary attack on the rich and the ruling elite in the society who use their privileged positions to brazenly oppress and brutalize the poor and the downtrodden. Finally, the paper discusses the settings and the titles of Osofisan's plays, the quest motif and the traditional modes as metaphors for oppression. Women of Owu. Ibadan: University Press Plc. [20].

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