

SOCIO-DRAMATIC TRANSITION OF LANGUAGE USE IN THE PLAYS OF OLA ROTIMI

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Abstract

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Literary language in African writing makes for interesting study because of the linguistic nuances and flavour of the indigenous African language of its author that finds creative expression in English. How language is used in dramatic communication is a subject of serious intellectual debate. This study, through the textual analysis of some play-texts, which are constructed on the didactic and eclectic nature of theatre and the society, is a reflection on the socio-dramatic transition of language use in the plays of Ola Rotimi. The discussion will identify, conceptualise and re-think some major forms, styles and patterns of language use in the plays of Ola Rotimi. Given the theatrical, dramatic, literary dividends and effectiveness of Rotimi's works, this study concludes by calling on budding playwrights and dramatists in Africa to emulate/imitate/learn from re-thought language forms, styles and "linguistic possibilities" in the plays of Ola Rotimi as they experiment with language use in the African theatre.

Keywords: African theatre, language use, Ola Rotimi, play directing, socio-dramatic, transition

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Published

2015-10-07

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[Vol 26 \(2015\)](#)

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Rotimi spent the second half of his last creative decade reworking two of his plays – Man Talk, Woman Talk and also Tororo, Tororo, Roro – and the result, unpublished at the time of his death in 2002, have now been published under the title The Epilogue. were probably meant as an epilogue to both Rotimi's theatrical and comic careers, which span the entire. spectrum of his career.[10]. Rotimi is sure to be remembered as a model in the literary genre whose views have shaped the conduct of the theatre and whose plays have demonstrated the power of drama to shape the thinking of the society and attempted to solve some of the problems encountered in everyday living.[11]. Plays[edit]. "Language use in ola rotimi's'The gods are not to blame'." Plays are written to mirror human society and a satire like Ola Rotimi's Our Husband Has Gone Mad Again does more to expose some sources of conflicts in the African political terrain, part of which boils down to language use. This study applies the speech act theory to the analysis of language use in the selected text, the analysis of speech function was done on the selected passage of the text using Searle's (1962) speech functions. Date uploaded. Jul 31, 2019. Olawale Gladstone Emmanuel Rotimi, best known as Ola Rotimi (13 April 1938 – 18 August 2000), was one of Nigeria's leading playwrights and theatre directors. He has been called "a complete man of the theatre – an actor, director, choreographer and designer – who created performance spaces, influenced by traditional architectural forms.". Rotimi was the son of Samuel Gladstone Enitan Rotimi a Yoruba steam-launch engineer (a successful director and producer of amateur theatricals) and Dorcas Adolae