

**ITUPALE EWI AJEMOKUU LAARIN AWON
EGBA ATI IJEBU
(A CRITICAL APPRAISAL OF FUNERAL DIRGES
AMONG THE EGBA AND IJEBU)**

BY

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ABSTRACT

The study examined dirges among the Egba and Ijebu of Ogun State. It analysed their contents and examined the use of language in the genre, with a view to highlighting their aesthetic qualities and thematic preoccupations.

Oral interviews were conducted with five purposively selected dirge chanters from each of the Egba and Ijebu communities. The chanted dirges were recorded, transcribed and analysed. The five Egba communities included Ake, Oke-ona, Gbagura, Owu, Ibara, while the five Ijebu communities included Ikene, Ilisan, Ijebu-Ode, Ipara and Ode-Remo. Sociological and hermeneutic methods were used in the analysis of the data.

The study identified the following funeral dirges in the two communities. Igbala, Bolojo, Ege, Etutu, Apepe, Atoto, Agbe, Ekute and Iremoje. The dirges expressed in poetic form, homage to the ancestors, warning to the living and prayers for the audience. The language was found to be replete with poetic devices such as repetition, personification, metaphor, simile and allusions.

The study concluded that dirges were a vital form of oral literature among the Egba and Ijebu Yoruba as it revealed their philosophy about life and about life after death. This was evident in their use of poetry as a means of sending messages through the deceased to the ancestors and of warning the living to live a virtuous life in order to make heaven.

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ASAMO

Ise yii se atupale ewi ajemokuu laarin awon Egba ati Ijebu ni Ipinle Ogun. O si tun se atupale akoonu ati ayewo isowolo-ede ise ona alawomo litireso pelu erongba ona ati ewa won han.

A se iforowowanilenuwo pelu awon apohun ibile marun un marun un ti a dindi yan lati agbegbe kookan. Awon ipohun ajemokuu ni a gba sinu fonran, se adako won, a si se itupale won. Awon agbegbe Egba marun un ti a yewo ni Ake, Oke-ona, Gbagura, Owu ati ibara, nigba ti ti Ijebu je Ikenne, Ilisan. Ijebu-Ode, Ipara ati Ode-Remo. Ilana ibara-eni-gbe-po ati ifiwadiisotumo ni a mu lo lati se atupale gbogbo abo iwadii ti a gba jo.

Ise yii toka si awon ewi ajemokuu bii igbala, Bolojo, Ege, Etutu, Apepe, Atoto. Agbe. Ekute ati Irewoje. Ewi Ajemokuu wonyii tun fi han pe lara akoonu ewi yii ni a ti ri ijuba fun Awon oku orun, ikilo fun awon alaye ati sadura awon olugbo ni ilana ewi. Lara awon ona ede to hande ju lo ninu ewi yii ni awitunwi, ifohunpeniyan, afiwe taara, afiwe eleloo ati iyanrefeere.

Ise yii wa so asoyan pe ewi ajemokuu se pataki laarin Awon Egba ati ijebu Yoruba to eyi se afihan ero ijinle won nipa aye ati nipa aye ati nipa iye lehin iku. Eyi je jade ninu ise won nipa lilo ewi yii lati ran oku nise si awon ara orun ati fifi se ikilo fun awon to wa laaye lati gbe igbe aye to wuyi, ti o le muni de orun rere.

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