

Introduction

Julius-Adeoye 'Rantimi Jays PhD
Department of Theatre and Film Studies,
Redeemer's University (RUN), Ede, Osun
State, Nigeria

The role of senior editorship of a new journal is daunting in many ways. It is unnerving not just in relation to piloting the journal but also moving it through a notable direction that will guarantee the publications' sustenance. It is important to work hard along with the Board to make the journal essential in academic inquiries as well as make it one, required by serious researchers at the cutting edge of research breakthrough. The responsibility of editing the inaugural issue of a journal which parades highly cerebral and professional individuals on the Editorial Board is for me one great honour. It is demoralizing when you have to make the unenviable decision concerning the rejection of some good articles because the articles cannot be accommodated in the particular Issue they are submitted to, and some for lack of meeting the criteria. Of course it is not problematic to reject a badly written or poorly prepared articles.

Having to introduce the journal that covers global discussion on humanistic and social issues, affords me the great opportunity of reading through many well-researched and finely written essays by serious scholars from diverse academic backgrounds. Nevertheless, all the articles received for this issue, are from the humanities – history, philosophy, theatre studies, literature and religious studies. Since the editorial team decided to keep the number of articles per issue of the journal at a minimal level for a start, therefore, we have to drop many papers, although, I have waitlisted some of them

for future Issues. The articles published in this inaugural edition of *EDE: Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences* critically address issues that are in the forefront of discussion in the writers' societies.

This maiden Issue of the journal edited by the Board is unthemed, however, we find collection of articles in the area of performance studies. The essays cover diverse thematic subjects, conversely, we have endeavored to select six articles that overlap in some areas, especially in the analysis of topics that reverberate around interdisciplinary field. The journal dares to be different with the aim of publishing at least one strikingly written and unpublished short story, play and a performance review to complement other articles. This action is in keeping with the mandate of this journal as a platform for multidisciplinary academic discourse. Conversely, there is no short story, play, and performance review in this issue.

Oyewo's essay is the first in this collection. The paper looks at the functionality of dance in the society by underpinning it with the narrative of a famed Yoruba dancer who lived probably in the nineteenth century – a time of incessant internecine wars - that characterized the lives of the Southwestern people of Nigeria. He was reported to have escaped from his captors by dancing quick-wittedly to their pleasure until he danced his way out of the reach of the warmongers to safety on two separate occasions.

Bello's article explores the historical trajectory; socio-cultural and moral significance of Ebira Echeori – the festival of maidens – associated with the Ebira people of Kogi State in Nigeria. He argues that Echeori is the celebration of young female adults before marriage, especially those who are able to keep their chastity. The article's main focus is on historicizing the festival, the pattern of the performance of traditional ritual and its unification essence in the life of the people.

The article by Alade looks at the importance of music in the learning of French language in Nigeria. The paper is based on her personal experience with undergraduate students in the university where she has been working as lecturer of French language for over a decade. Alade is of the opinion that language is the composition of phonology, semantics, morphology and syntax – elements that music also appropriate. In her argument, music has to do with organization of sounds, that is, phonology; the lyrics of the songs deal with arrangement of morphemes and words into structures, (morphology and syntax). Since tunes and emotions expressed through words inform the meaning of the lyric of a song (semantics), it is believed that singing the words in French and its meaning in the students language goes a long way in the acquisition of the former language. Alade concludes that the students she experimented with were very receptive and enthusiastic to learn French through songs as majority of them later proved that they could participate more in the learning process.

Adebayo's paper discusses the significance of the empirical philosophy of the biblical Thomas Didymus – one of Jesus Christ disciples – who insisted on the body evidence of the risen Messiah before he could acquiesce the resurrection story. He argues that instead of maligning Thomas as a doubter, Africans, should appropriate his episteme in the validation of inter-personal dealing with people. Adebayo insists that, Africans need the culture of doubt and of proof in order to instill discipline and propriety in its socio-political and cultural practices. This he believes will make the followers question the truth and fact of whatever the leaders claim to be doing for the people.

The paper by Emmanuel-Olowonubi and Mbu Dora Nyuykighan takes a critical look at the construction of female gender and domestic violence in selected dramatic texts from Nigeria. Their

opinion departs markedly from the established position of most feminists that the female gender is the oppressed by arguing that both male and female are at the receiving end of domestic violence. This according to them is premised on their finding that tactics used by victimizers to inflict violence on their victims such as physical, verbal, emotional and psychological, intimidation and economic coercion can be possessed by any of the two biologically and genetically constructed sexes.

The article by Adesina takes a historical look at the effect of globalization and the culture of consumerism on Yoruba youths of Nigeria. She argues that the youths lack the understanding of cultural citizenship in relation to the norm and values associated with their Yoruba ethnicity. Adesina believes that factors responsible for this erosion of the Yoruba culture are myriad to include the formation of the Nigerian nation that demands a non-existent national identity, alongside its many problems like the power equation economic situation, political and economic circumstances which play significantly in the peoples' consumption pattern, and the ever-rising expectations of the younger generation. Adesina advocates for pragmatic approach by parents, intellectuals and political elders to reverse the trend of cultural erosion currently being experienced by the Yorubas by merging rhetoric with action.

It is my opinion that the articles in this volume aim to provoke intellectual debates in the academic and the research communities, therefore, the authors have painstakingly conducted their researches with the thought of this fact in mind.