

## REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: 54182

Title: Women Empowerment in Nigerian Society: An Exploration of Dangerous Love

### Recommendation:

Accept after minor revision

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality	✓			
Techn. Quality		✓		
Clarity		✓		
Significance	✓			

Reviewer Name: Dr Abdul Haseeb Mir  
2025

Date: 06-10-

### Detailed Reviewer's Report

The article provides a compelling feminist reading of Ben Okri's *Dangerous Love*, highlighting its nuanced portrayal of women's struggles against entrenched patriarchal systems in Nigeria. At its core, the article underscores Ifeyiwa's journey as symbolic of the wider condition of Nigerian women—denied autonomy, forced into early marriage, subjected to domestic abuse, and restricted from education. By tracing her narrative, the author convincingly illustrates how patriarchal norms suppress women's identities while simultaneously exposing their potential for resistance.

One of the article's strengths lies in its contextual grounding. The discussion of Nigeria's socio-political history, including the Biafran War, military rule, and ethnic divisions, situates Okri's narrative within a broader canvas of instability and corruption. Lagos, depicted as polluted, violent, and disorganized, becomes an allegory for the systemic challenges women endure. This layered reading enriches the argument that women's empowerment in the novel is not just personal but deeply tied to national and cultural struggles.

The analysis of Omovo, the male protagonist, is also significant. His role as an artist who resists colonial influence through authentic African art provides a parallel struggle to Ifeyiwa's quest for autonomy. Yet, the paper carefully maintains its focus on women, emphasizing that empowerment is often achieved not through direct confrontation but through resilience, education, and quiet defiance. For instance, Ifeyiwa's persistence in seeking learning opportunities against her husband's restrictions reflects how education is framed as both a personal liberation and a social equalizer.

The paper also excels in drawing attention to structural issues such as child marriage, lack of sanitation facilities for schoolgirls, and gender discrimination in employment. These real-world concerns reinforce the relevance of Okri's fictional narrative, linking literature with lived experiences of African women. Moreover, the article's conclusion, which identifies women as "the cornerstone of society," aligns with feminist theories that foreground women's agency in transforming socio-political structures.

However, there are areas where the article could be strengthened. First, while it emphasizes Ifeyiwa's struggles, it underexplores the intersectional dimensions of empowerment, such as how ethnicity, class,

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or religion shape women's experiences differently. Secondly, the analysis tends to position women primarily as victims of patriarchy, occasionally underplaying their active roles in shaping resistance movements beyond individual acts of defiance. A deeper engagement with feminist literary theory (such as African womanism or postcolonial feminism) could provide a richer interpretive framework. Additionally, the article would benefit from comparative insights, for example, by situating Okri's portrayal alongside other Nigerian writers like Buchi Emecheta or Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, who foreground women's resistance in similar contexts.

### Recommendations:

Incorporate intersectional perspectives to highlight how multiple identities influence women's empowerment.

Engage more explicitly with feminist theoretical frameworks such as womanism or postcolonial feminism.

Expand comparative analysis with other African literary works to strengthen contextual depth.

Highlight collective resistance movements, not just individual resilience, to provide a fuller picture of empowerment.

Include contemporary policy implications, linking literary insights to ongoing gender equality initiatives in Nigeria.