



ISSN NO. 2320-5407

ISSN(O): 2320-5407 | ISSN(P): 3107-4928

International Journal of Advanced Research

Publisher's Name: Jana Publication and Research LLP

www.journalijar.com

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-55659

Title: Attacking Power Abuse as a Socio-Political Activism in Frank Ogodo Ogbeche's Harvest of Corruption

Recommendation:

Accept as it is
Accept after minor revision
Accept after major revision
Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

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

Reviewer Name: Dr. Ishrat Fatima

Detailed Reviewer's Report

The paper titled “Attacking Power Abuse as a Socio-Political Activism in Frank Ogodo Ogbeche’s Harvest of Corruption” undertakes a substantial and thematically important analysis of power abuse in postcolonial African societies through the lens of Nigerian drama. The study is timely and relevant, as it addresses the persistent problem of corruption, leadership failure, and institutional decay in post-independence Africa. By focusing on Ogbeche’s Harvest of Corruption, the paper aligns itself with a strong tradition of African literary activism that views literature as a tool for social criticism and political consciousness.

Conceptually, the paper demonstrates a clear understanding of power abuse as a socio-political phenomenon rooted in both colonial legacies and postcolonial governance failures. The introductory discussion effectively situates African leadership crises within a broader historical context, linking neo-colonial structures, authoritarian leadership, and misuse of power. The author successfully establishes that African literature, particularly drama, has consistently functioned as a platform for interrogating political malpractice. This framing provides a solid rationale for examining Ogbeche’s play through a postcolonial critical lens.

The literature review section is extensive and reflects wide engagement with scholarship on power abuse, African leadership, and postcolonial literary criticism. The author draws on political theorists, literary critics, and social commentators to demonstrate that abuse of power is a recurring concern across disciplines. The references to Achebe, Armah, Soyinka, Osofisan, and Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o effectively situate Ogbeche within a broader canon of African writers committed to social critique. However, the review at times becomes overly descriptive, listing studies and opinions without sufficiently synthesizing them into a focused critical argument. Greater analytical cohesion and clearer connections between reviewed works and the present study would strengthen this section.

The methodological framework of the paper is appropriate and clearly stated. The use of a qualitative research method is justified, given the textual and interpretive nature of the data, and the application of postcolonial theory is relevant to the thematic concerns of the play. The explanation of postcolonial criticism is detailed and demonstrates familiarity with key theorists such as Edward Said, Frantz Fanon, and Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o. Nevertheless, the theoretical section is somewhat lengthy and occasionally digressive. Condensing theoretical explanations and directly linking them to the analysis of Harvest of Corruption would improve focus and readability.

The core analytical sections of the paper are its strongest components. The discussion of corruption as a central form of power abuse is well developed and supported by textual evidence from the play. The analysis of characters such as Chief Ade-Amaka, the Commissioner, and Justice Odili convincingly illustrates how political elites manipulate institutions meant to uphold justice. The use of extended dialogue excerpts from the play enhances the credibility of the analysis and allows readers to directly engage with Ogbeche’s dramatic techniques, particularly his use of realism and satire to expose moral decay. The paper further succeeds in highlighting how corruption

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permeates all levels of the administrative system, extending from top political figures to lower-ranking officials such as clerks. The analysis of Ayo's character is particularly effective in showing how economic hardship and systemic injustice contribute to moral compromise among junior civil servants. This nuanced reading avoids simplistic moral judgment and instead situates individual actions within broader structural failures, which strengthens the paper's critical depth.

The discussion of drug trafficking as another manifestation of power abuse is insightful and adds an important dimension to the analysis. The author convincingly argues that corruption enables more dangerous crimes to flourish by weakening law enforcement and judicial accountability. The examination of Aloho's exploitation demonstrates how powerful elites victimize innocent individuals, particularly young women, to further their criminal enterprises. This section effectively underscores the human cost of power abuse and enhances the paper's ethical and emotional impact.

The treatment of sexual immorality as a form of power abuse is another significant strength of the paper. The analysis shows how sexual exploitation in the workplace operates as a tool of domination and control, especially against vulnerable female employees. By examining Chief Ade-Amaka's abuse of authority and Aloho's tragic fate, the paper highlights the intersection of power, gender, and exploitation. This discussion adds depth to the study and aligns well with feminist and postcolonial critiques of patriarchal power structures, although these theoretical connections could be made more explicit.

Despite its many strengths, the paper has certain limitations. The argument occasionally suffers from repetition, particularly in restating the destructive effects of corruption and power abuse. While the points are valid, tighter editing and consolidation of ideas would enhance clarity and conciseness. Additionally, the paper largely adopts a confirmatory stance, reinforcing well-established views about African leadership and corruption. Introducing moments of critical questioning or alternative interpretations would further enhance scholarly rigor. Overall, the paper is a well-researched and thematically rich study that makes a meaningful contribution to the understanding of power abuse in African drama. Its detailed textual analysis, strong engagement with African literary traditions, and clear socio-political commitment make it a valuable scholarly work.