

Editorial

A nebula is celebratory of several concatenations, ranging from those that are purely aesthetic, political, cultural, philosophical and historical to contemporary concerns. The articles in this present issue of *African Nebula* aptly reflect these linkages. As usual with *African Nebula*, the contributors to this edition are drawn from five countries – Ghana, Ethiopia, Nigeria, the United States and Zimbabwe. The multidisciplinary horizon of the journal is also further broadened given the various disciplinary and ideological backgrounds of the contributors, hence the variety of methodologies, styles and approaches.

From a historical perspective, Simeon Maravanyika, in the first article, examines the series of local responses to colonial evictions, conservation and commodity policies among Shangwe communities in Gokwe, Northwestern Zimbabwe between 1963 and 1980. Since the eviction also coincided with the introduction of cotton in Gokwe in 1962, the author is of the opinion that Shangwe responses was also an anti-commodity response, or to put it more succinctly, an anti-cotton expression on one hand and a fight for the preservation of their old ways of life on the other.

K.O.O. Armah in the second article analyses three folklore-based plays meant for children. The three plays are Kofi Anyidoho's *Akpokplo*, Joe Manu Amponsah's *Gates to Mother*, and Sebastian Kumuar's *The Perpetual Stone-Mill*. Armah's analysis and exploration is with a view to underscoring the potential contributions of the dramatization of African folklores to cultural preservation and the rejuvenation of the study and practice of African folklores.

In the third article, Bose Okuntola, provides a lucid analysis of the restructuring of the Nigerian economy during the regime of General Ibrahim Babangida. Essentially, the paper examines the dynamics of private sector initiatives for the restructuring of the Nigerian economy under Babangida administration between 1985 and 1993.

Temitayo Amao, in the fourth article examines the place of Nigerian Pidgin among a section of Nigerian undergraduates with a view to drawing some generalizable conclusions regarding the use of pidgin among Nigerian university students. The study represents a major addition to the burgeoning literature on the use of pidgin among students of Nigerian tertiary institutions.

The history of education in Ethiopia and the pivotal role of education in engendering sustainable socio-economic development is the thematic preference of Alemayehu Bishaw and Jon Lasser in the last article. The authors trace the massive efforts by successive Ethiopian governments to bolster its educational system in the last 100 years. The article reviews the emerging trends in the growth and development of education in Ethiopia with emphasis on its historical trends and patterns. It concludes with recommendations for current efforts to improve the country's educational system.

Interestingly, this fifth issue of *African Nebula* also radiates that sense of amorphousness that is vintage nebula mainly because it reflects intellectual diversity at its best and showcases the varied human systems of thoughts and theories of knowledge. I, therefore, wish to congratulate and thank all the contributors, reviewers and editors that have made this present package of *African Nebula* possible.

Happy reading!

Olukoya Ogen.