

The Sweet and Sour Aspect of Integration as Exemplified in Yorùbá Poetry

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ABSTRACT The incessant conflicts among the various ethnic groups in the Nigerian society have been a thing of concern for both the national and international communities. The Yoruba poets, being a part of the larger Nigerian society, have depended on their creative ability to offer some probable and viable solutions to the problems. This paper therefore examines how some Yoruba poets have depicted, in their works, the problems of ethnicity in the Nigerian society. The paper reveals that the main cause of ethnic and social conflict in Nigeria is the forceful integration policy being adopted in the Nigerian political system. It is also argued that the bid to express ethnicity, self-determination, self-affirmation and ethnic-identity has encouraged disintegration in the Nigerian federation. The paper concludes that Nigerian citizens have suffered degradation as a result of tribalism, ethnicity and cut-throat social conflict. Therefore, some of the poets have recommended a 'win-win' approach to conflict resolution, if, indeed, the Nigerian nation wants to enjoy the gains of integration.