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Sony-Ciano Soyinka, Two of a Kind: A Stylo-Linguistic Analysis of Selected Works of Wole Soyinka and Sony Labou Tansi

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ABSTRACT This paper establishes the level of influence of Wole Soyinka's literary works on Sony Labou Tansi's. The two writers, separated by their colonial and linguistic backgrounds, Anglophone and Francophone, have many things in common. They are both African writers. They share the same experience of colonialism and especially post-colonial Africa which is characterized by corruption, dictatorship, poverty, struggle, revolt and incarceration. They are both playwrights, novelists, poets and human rights activists. This paper examines some works of the two writers with a view to bringing out the similarities in their literary creations. The article concludes that what constitutes Soyinka's literary ingenuity is not only his thematic preoccupation but his language use, and it is indeed this unique way of linguistic manipulation and thematic creativity that endeared him and his literary works to a relatively younger writer like Sony Labou Tansi