

## ANALYSING ABLEIST LANGUAGE USE IN IGBO ORAL LITERATURE

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### ABSTRACT

45 Igbo proverbs, selected through criteria sampling from experiential knowledge, oral interviews and print, were subjected to analysis with the objectives to identify ableist language use in them as well as critically analyse the attitude of the Igbo towards people with disabilities reflected in them. Thematic and sociological approaches were used. 13 categories of Igbo disability proverbs emerged - categories A-M, which covered 13 themes of disability including blindness, deafness, leprosy, hunch, dwarfism, madness etc. The findings showed that majority of the Igbo disability proverbs used were ableist much as a few were non ableist. Among them were found a few animal metaphors. The research established that, generally speaking, the ableist language used in the proverbs equated disability to something negative and undesirable deserving to be discriminated against, marginalized, stigmatized and possibly excluded. One could infer the tendency of the Igbo in real life to treat people with disabilities as requiring fixing and so limited and inferior to able-bodied members of the community. The researchers suggested that the Igbo people's negative attitude to individuals with disabilities should be changed for a positive and healthier one.

**KEYWORDS:** Ableist, Language Use, Igbo Oral Literature

### RÉSUMÉ

45 proverbes igbo, dont le selectionnement était à base critère - la réflexion dans chacun d'eux d'un incapacitisme ou d'un handicap - ont été soumis à l'analyse critique ayant l'objectif d'identifier l'expression d'un langage ableist qui y résidait et de plus l'attitude des Igbo vis-à-vis des handicaps. L'étude a eu à sa disposition les approches thématique et sociologique. Nous avons évolué 13 catégories de proverbes igbo sur le handicap - catégories A-M, qui ont recouvert 13 thèmes sur le handicap y inclus: l'aveuglement, la sourdit , la l prose, la bosse, le nanisme, la folie etc. Selon les constatations de l' tude, la majorit  des proverbes igbo sur le handicap soumis   notre  tude  tait ableist malgr  qu'il y existait un peu d'eux qui n' taient pas ableist. Un nombre minime de ces proverbes igbo apparaissait sous forme de m taphores animales. Il a  t   tabli que, de mani re g n ral, le langage ableist reflet  dans les proverbes  tudi s qualifiait le handicap d'une chose n gative et ind sirable m ritant donc la discrimination, la marginalization, la stigmatization, et si possible, l'exclusion. On pourrait insinuer la tendance chez les Igbo, dans la vie r elle,   traiter les handicaps comme des individus ayant besoin de fixing, et donc sont limit s et inf rieurs aux membres sains de la communaut . Les chercheurs ont sugg r  que les Igbo changent leur attitude n gative vis   vis des handicaps.

**MOTS-CL S:** Ableist, Usage Du Langage, Litt rature Orale Igbo