

A close-up portrait of Prof. Adebola Adebileje, a Black woman with dark, curly hair, smiling warmly. She is wearing a brown lace top with a large, clear, faceted button at the collar. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light color.

A Festschrift in Honour of  
*Prof. Adebola Adebileje*

## **Edited By**

Femi Adebayo  
Rotimi Oladipupo  
Samuel Babatunde

MULTIDISCIPLINARY THEORIES  
ON LANGUAGE, LITERATURE  
AND CULTURE:

**A Contemporary Reference Book**

# **MULTIDISCIPLINARY THEORIES ON LANGUAGE, LITERATURE AND CULTURE**

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A Contemporary Reference Book

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Femi Adebayo  
Rotimi Oladipupo  
Samuel Babatunde



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Multidisciplinary theories on language, literature and culture: A Contemporary Reference Book

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# Acknowledgements

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First and foremost, we would like to express our deepest gratitude to the Almighty God who in His infinite mercy has made this project titled *Multidisciplinary Theories on Language, Literature and Culture: A Contemporary Reference Book* possible. May all glory, honour and adoration be unto His holy name. Amen. The conception of this noble project was birthed by Dr. Femi Adebayo (The current Head of the English Department, Redeemer's University, Ede), who approached the honouree and expressed the idea of honouring her with a Festschrift during the honouree's tenure as the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Redeemer's University (2019-2023) having served as the Dean, Faculty of Humanities (2016-2019). Incidentally, she was the first female to hold these positions in the history of Redeemer's University. A formidable team which comprises Dr. Rotimi Oladipupo (the immediate past HOD, English Department) and Dr. Samuel Babatunde (also from the same Department) was formed to join Dr. Femi Adebayo in delivering the project. The team worked hard and committedly till the project's successful completion. We are deeply grateful to you all and we pray sincerely that God will greatly honour everyone too in Jesus' name.

We must also acknowledge the distinguished all-time great mentors for adding credibility and academic colour to this work through their invaluable contributions: Prof. Adeleke Fakoya of Lagos State University, who wrote the *Introduction* and Prof.

Anthony Akinlo (immediate past Vice-Chancellor, who wrote the *Testimony*).

We are deeply grateful to Prof. Olusegun Adekoya of Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife; Prof. Ademola Dasylva, University of Ibadan; Prof. Ayo Kehinde, University of Ibadan, Ibadan; Prof. Joel Ayodabo, Ajayi Crowther University, Oyo; Prof. Foluke Unuabonah, Redeemer's University, Ede and all our esteemed colleagues who are the Commissioned Writers. Thank you very much and may God bless you all.

We say a big thank you to all the current honouree's PhD students who voluntarily contributed financially to the project because they wanted to see it published as soon as possible: Dr. Samuel Babatunde, Ms Clara Tosan, Mrs. Damilola Oyeyipo, Mrs. Shodunke Aderinsola, Miss. Oluyemi Adedoyin, Mrs. Ademola and Mr. Tayo Aremu. Thank you all.

*Femi Adebayo*

*Rotimi Oladipupo*

*Samuel Babatunde*

Department of English  
Redeemers University Ede  
Osun State Nigeria  
April 2025.

# Introduction

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The state of Nigeria's education seems to be at a crossroad, what with the myriads of pathologies among teachers (or lecturers) and pupils (or students) at every level of teaching and learning. While the technologies of the 21<sup>st</sup> century offer numerous strategies to align teachers' (or lecturers') teaching styles with students' dissimilar learning styles, the layers of stumbling blocks in teaching and learning seem somewhat insurmountable. This undesirable state of affairs in our educational system raises some questions in regard to such pathologies as teachers' poor pedagogic content knowledge, teachers' narcissism in view of their non-collaborative research, teachers' disinclination to apply technology to their teaching, and teachers' inadequate familiarity with current arguments and conclusions in their avowed fields.

These pathologies are matched, as it were, by students' own worrisome aversion to learning – owing to their bibliophobia or simply put, aversion to meaningful, instructive reading; students' penchant to memorise details of classroom instruction and regurgitate same to the teachers in examinations and tests; students' misuse of 21<sup>st</sup> century technologies; and students' general apathy to education and whatsoever it stands for. In a few words, it is a situation in which students struggle to enter the university but are unwilling to abide by the requirements that are used to award degrees.

In view of this troublesome multidimensional development in most of our tertiary institutions, the text *Multidisciplinary Theories on Language, Literature and Culture* emergence seems to be highly on time. In a few words, this compilation of academic energies is a potential catalyst to bond teachers' positive teaching and research vigour with students' dynamic learning vitality. What's more, it's an inclusive effort that harnesses the intricate details of the

interrelationships between three essential elements of the humanities: language, literature, and culture.

These three are complexly interconnected aspects of human life and living. While language serves as a means of communication, literature reflects the creative expression of human experiences, and culture embraces the beliefs, values, and practices of a society. Following those facts, five basic questions are answered by this festschrift in honour of one of Nigeria's leading female researchers, scholars and academics:

- i. How does language reflect culture?
- ii. How does literature mirror society?
- iii. How does culture influence literature?
- iv. How do language and literature engender cultural change?
- v. What theories exist that underscore these inquiries?

From the arrangement of the hand-picked articles in the collection, there is enough justification that the entire compendium is truly a “contemporary reference book.” From section to section, the book bears sufficient rationale for its production. Also, a focused study would reveal the book's global appeal and applicability as it deals with issues of relevance in the 21<sup>st</sup> century: language empowerment and the expressive potential of English in Africa; fighting COVID 19; Westernism, globalisation and the modernist shift in African literature; sexual violence; gender inequality in millennial Africa; postcolonial culture and financial institutions; African cultural ethics; queer orientations, etc.

In terms of anticipated academic and literary vibrancy, there's a convincing proof that the chapters were not written by self-focused individuals with biased opinions presented as scholarly findings. In many of the contributions, one finds compelling insights borne out of collaborative strengths – an essential feature of candid 21<sup>st</sup> century scholarship. Furthermore, the prose across the pages of the book is simple, clear and illustrative of educational materials meant to reorient errant learners. While technical language is unavoidable in such books as this, it is,

happily, kept to the minimum, and that certainly guarantees that the authors understand how to cure today's students' phobia for printed matter.

All told, this is a book that methodically discusses the multilayered interrelationships between language, literature, and culture. The authors of the insightful chapters carefully describe and analyse the values and worldviews of diverse cultures, while they also validate how literature serves as a mirror that reflects society's beliefs and experiences. Using relevant data and illustrations, they also establish the various ways in which culture, in turn, inspires the themes, the styles, and the perspectives found in written literature. Perhaps the book's selling point is its responsiveness to the dearth of up-to-date reference material on the areas covered by its authors.

*Prof. Adeleke A. Fakoya*

Department of English  
Lagos State University, Nigeria  
April 2025.

# Testimony

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Professor (Mrs.) A. O. Adebileje is a professionally accomplished academic who has seen it all in her chosen career. She has produced many graduates at both the undergraduate and postgraduate levels since she has been teaching for over twenty-five years in English Language Education, her area of specialization. Her administrative expertise is highly commendable as she served in many leadership positions within the Redeemer's University at different times as Head of Department of English, Director, General Studies Programme, Dean of Faculty of Humanities, and Deputy Vice-Chancellor. She is an External Examiner and External Assessor to many other universities across and beyond Nigeria. She has published over forty-five articles in reputable local and international journals and she is also a Reviewer for some journals too. The terrain of her research activities is extensive demonstrating her zeal and meticulousness at work.

Professor (Mrs.) Adebileje certainly displays great maturity in outlook about life generally, even as she navigates successfully through her academic training and self-development. She is endowed with inquiring, inspiring and creative talents which definitely place her tall. She has an unusual ability to cope with the pressure of work and at the same time showing a strong flair for details. Professor Adebileje is very critical, well-organized, highly motivated and disciplined. She bears ideas and objective criticisms perhaps better than most other people I have been privileged to know and work with in life.

She is a virtuous woman with an excellent human disposition. She is amiable, peaceful, accommodating, and God-fearing. She is trustworthy to the core and gifted with measured judgement. Indeed, Professor (Mrs.) Adebileje is a woman of Spartan integrity.

*Professor Anthony Enisan Akinlo*

Former Vice-Chancellor,  
Redeemer's University  
April 2025.

*Adebola Omolara Adebileje:*

The Journey So Far

**ADEBILEJE**, Adebola Omolara was born in May 30, 1963. She attended St. Luke's Demonstration Primary School, Molete, Ibadan between 1968 and 1974, and then proceeded to Yejide Girls' Grammar School, Ibadan between 1974 and 1979. Because of her deep interest in teaching, she attended the Divisional Teachers' Training College, Ijebu-Jesa in 1980. With her GII Teacher's Certificate, she had a short stint at teaching in the primary and secondary schools after which she proceeded to the College of Education, Ila-Orangun, Osun State in 1983 to study English/CRS and graduated in 1986. After her successful completion of the College of Education programme, she gained admission immediately into the University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria in 1986 where she continued her study of English Language Education to bag the BA (Ed) Eng (1989), MEd Eng (1995) and PhD (2002) degrees respectively. She joined the services of Redeemer's University in 2005 and rose through the ranks to become a full Professor of Applied Linguistics and English Language Education 2016 in the Department of English, Faculty of Humanities, Redeemer's University, Ede, Osun State.

Her teaching career in higher education started in 2000 at the Institute of Education, University of Ilorin, and at the General Studies Unit of the same University between 2000 and 2005 as a part-time lecturer. She later joined Redeemer's University in September 2005 as Lecturer II and was later appointed as LI in 2006. She held the positions of the pioneer Coordinator of the

English Department (2005-2006), pioneer Sub-Dean, Faculty of Humanities (2006-2007), pioneer Coordinator, General Studies Programme (2007-2010); Assistant Director, Directorate of General Studies Programme (2013-2014); Acting Director, GSP (2014-2016); Dean, Faculty of Humanities, (2017-2019); and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, (2019- 2023).

She won many awards such as Redeemer's University *Best Senior Staff of the Year (2007)*, Redeemer's University Students' Association's (RUNSA) *Lecturer of the Year (2009)*, Redeemer's University English Students' Association (RUNESA) *Best Lecturer of the Year, (2015)*, Redeemer's University Students' Association's (RUNSA) *Award of Excellence (2015/2016)*, *Meritorious Service Award (2017)*.

She has published over forty-five articles in reputable national and international journals. She updates herself regularly by attending local and international workshops and conferences, the most current at the time of writing this bio-data was the one organized by London Management and Business Academy themed “Relevance and Value of Universities to Future Society: Strategic Finance Thinking in Challenging Times” held at Hilton Cambridge City Centre, Cambridge, United Kingdom between 11<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> September 2022. On the local scene, she was a panelist on “A Special Plenary Session on Female Junior Faculty/Graduate Students Mentoring Platform” at the Prof Bolanle Awe at 90 Conference held at Lady Bank-Anthony Hall, University of Ibadan on 13 February 2023. She currently has postgraduate students (7 PhD and 3 Master) under her supervision. She currently teaches Advanced English Grammar (ENG 803), Advanced Applied Linguistics (ENG 902), Studies in Nigerian English (ENG 808), Advanced Bi/Multilingualism (ENG 903), Bi/Multilingualism (ENG 405) and Psycholinguistics (ENG 408).

She was a co-researcher with Prof Ademola Dasyuva in the production of **GST e-textbooks** and **e-lectures**, a project sponsored by Redeemer's University in 2014. She was also a co-beneficiary of the Redeemer's University Grant (URG) in 2017 for a collaborative project titled “Diachronic Evolution of

English in Nigeria: A Corpus-based Study.” She also won a grant sponsored by Austria-Africa UniNet (OeAD) (2022) collaborating with Debre Markos University, Ethiopia, and the University of Innsbruck, Austria on designing and implementing digitized English language learning system for secondary school education in Africa. Her membership in professional bodies includes English Scholars Association of Nigeria (ESAN); American Association of Applied Linguistics (AAAL); Linguistic Society of America (LSA); and Corpus Linguistics Association of Nigeria (CLAN); etc. She instituted the Redeemer’s University Female Academics Association (RUNAFA) to create a platform for female academic colleagues where hand on trainings and workshops, seminars and updates are shared among both senior and junior colleagues.

She successfully chaired many key Committees of the University such as the: University Research Grant and Staff Development Committee (URG&SDC), University Undergraduate Admission Committee, University Ceremonial Committee, University Health Service Management Committee, University Affiliation Committee, University Bulk Purchase Committee, and University Ranking Committee.

In her quest to know more about God, she attended the Redeemed Christian Bible College where she bagged a Postgraduate Diploma (PGD) in Theology (2011), and a Master’s degree in Systematic Theology (2014). She is a Pastor in the Redeemed Christian Church of God and she is happily married to Pastor Segun Adebileje and both are blessed with beautiful children and grandchildren.

April, 2025.

# DEDICATION

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*This book is dedicated to the Department of English, Redeemer's University  
Ede*

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