

CHALLENGES OF SEMANTIC EXTENSIONS OF JIHAD POWER SYMBOLS VIS-À-VIS BOKO HARAM

Emeka C. IFESIEH, Ph. D¹.

Department of Languages and Linguistics
Delta State University, Abraka, Delta State, NIGERIA

ABSTRACT

The Jihad power symbols conceptually encapsulate global imperialistic ambition of Islam and simultaneously serve as a non-stop inspirational source of Islamic collective group consciousness whereby committed Muslims are obliged to carry out ‘holy war’ on those in the ‘Abode of War’. Consequently, Boko Haram, an Islamist sect engages in massive extermination and destruction of both the non-adherents and their belongings with the intention to Islamise Nigeria. Inquires into religious extremism have been largely carried out from sociological, philosophical and doctrinal angles. However, beyond those domains this article conceptually investigates the interconnections between the Jihad power symbols as stipulated in the Qur’an and how their meanings expand via the Islamic collective effervescence, which consequences are noticeable in the activities of Boko Haram. Four texts, clauses and clause complexes associated with Boko Haram’s activities are purposively selected from print media publications, predominantly *TELL* magazine and subjected to intertextual analysis. The intertextual analysis bears the burden of demonstrating how the activities of Boko Haram serve as the vehicle for both own semantic extensions and that of Jihad, albeit negatively. Therefore, there is an acme need to re-interpret the Jihad power symbols to enable Muslims develop patterns of interaction that will guarantee the right of non-adherents to believe or do otherwise.

Keywords: Jihad power symbols, Islamic collective effervescence, Boko Haram, intertextuality, patterns of interaction.

¹ Emeka C. IFESIEH, Ph.D teaches applied Linguistics and German in the Department of Languages and Linguistics, Delta State University, Abraka.