

UNTRANSLATABILITY FALLACY OF URHOB0 KOLANUT PRESENTATION RITUAL POWER SYMBOLS+

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ABSTRACT

A strong untranslatability claim exists in the Urhobo public consensus that English as a communication medium is incapable of recapturing and retransmitting the meanings conceptualized in Urhobo kola-nut presentation ritual power symbols. In line with the Urhobo public consensus, heterogeneous sociocultural gatherings within the Urhobo homeland, which involve kola-nut presentation often depict disregard for the multi-lingual and –ethnic nature of the get-togethers. The problematic of the disregard, which is apparent at the inception stage, is the exclusion of participants who have neither competence nor performance in the language from contributing and benefiting from the discourse, because the presentation must happen in Urhobo. This engenders social disharmony. Twenty seven (27) heterogeneous sociocultural gatherings wherein kola-nut presentation occurred were attended within the Urhobo homeland. Five (5) select recurrent clichés were sieved out and subjected to descriptive analysis using translational resemblance as tertium comparationis and the Hallidayan systemic functional grammar as a linguistic model. Findings indicate that English could be bent to carry the ideational, interpersonal and textual functions of the Urhobo kola-nut presentation ritual power symbols. The notion of untranslatability of the Urhobo kola-nut presentation ritual power symbols is fallacious. It spontaneously emerged out of appeal to tradition and patriotism which link to the prejudice of the Urhobo public consensus.

Keywords: Kola-nut presentation ritual power symbols, participants' exclusion, select recurrent clichés, translational resemblance and untranslatability fallacy.