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Niger Delta Research Digests (ISSN: 2141-1468)

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The Niger Delta Research Digest (NDRD) publishes feature articles/papers, essays and book reviews on issues in development, peace and conflict resolution, environment and sustainable development, agriculture, language, culture and history. The focus of the journal is on the Niger Delta and it is published twice a year.

Articles, essays and book reviews that are submitted for consideration may not have been published previously and may not currently be under review for possible publication elsewhere. Manuscripts undergo a peer review process to ensure that they are appropriate for publication and of outstanding quality. Authors are informed whether submissions have been accepted for publication, require revision prior to possible publication, or are iv rejected. Copyright of contributions appearing in the journal is vested in the Institute for Niger Delta Studies, Niger Delta University, Nigeria. Contribution should be sent in electronic format in MS Word. Complete details of the author(s), including title, preferred name and surname, designation, organisation, postal and electronic mail address are also required. Unsolicited papers can be submitted any time of the year.

Contribution length and presentation

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Newspaper and Magazines: Surname, Initials (year), "Title of Article", name of newspaper/magazine, place of publication, pages. For example, Fabiyi, O. &

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Editorial

Culture, tradition and the environment continues to attract ascholarly attention in Nigeria, but particularly in the Niger Delta. The reasons are not far fetched:. First, culture and tradition are the identity of a people and no group of people are prepared to willing sacrifice and abandon them. Second, the natural environment is what sustains lives and livelihood, and so, people are prepared to preserve and sustain both their cultures and the environment. This edition of the journal is predominantly inundated with research reports on cultures, language and environmental sustainability of the Niger Delta apart from a lone paper on security.To begin with, the first paper is on language and lisguistic which is an conceyor of culture. In it, Dr DoutimiyeAgunza and Professor Odingowei Kwokwo examines the adjectival functions of numerals and ordinals in Izón, a central Delta Niger-Congo language, with a focus on their syntactic integration, morphological derivation, and semantic scope

Steve Ibuomo Larry and Associate Professor in the Department of History and Diplomacy, Niger Delta University interrogates insecurity in the Niger Delta and the role of the Ijaw Youth Council (IYC) in his paper entitled "Interrogating Insecurity in Nigeria's Niger Delta: the Role of The Ijaw Youth Council". Dr Larry argues that the IYC which was originally founded as a civil rights group to defend the rights and interests of the Ijo people has lost most of its fundamental values in recent years and has ironically turned into doing the same thing it seeks to defend..

Dr Egule and Angaware are concerned with the environmental health of the Niger Delta in their article "Rethinking Environmental Sustainability in the Niger Delta". The paper is espouses the idea of applying Schweitzer's philosophy, "Ethics of Respect For Life" in efforts towards environmental sustainability in the Niger Delta, highlighting the need for a holistic and compassionate approach to human-nature relationships. This proposition is based on the devastating impacts on local ecosystems and communities. He argues that application of Schweitzer's philosophy may salvage the biodiversity and rich natural resources the Niger Delta, a region from continuous environmental degradation and exploitation.

Dr Ernest Jackson Weridonghan writes on the cultural and historical of the war boat traditions of the Ebedebiri people of the Niger Delta. The paper examines the origins, functions, and symbolic meanings of war boats within Ebedebiri society. The study reveals that the war boats not only served as instruments of defence political territory and authority, it has blossomed into an entertainment performative rich in the elements of music, dance, costume, coordinated paddling and more.

Dr Jonathan Diseyei Kiapene in his paper entitled "Eco-Enslavement and the Environmentalism of the "Other" in Ifeoma's *Oil Cemetery* and Chuma-Udeh's *Forlorn Fate"* extends the discourse on the predicaments of the Niger Delta environment arising from oil and gas exploration and exploitation by

multinational oil and gas companies. These concerns have become a common theme in literary works emerging from the Niger Delta and beyond. In this article, Kiapene delves into two literary texts to, excavate Ifeoma's *Oil Cemetery* and Chuma-Udeh's *Forlorn Fate"* to excavate environmental issues and the impact on the people.

Baimane Ephraim Amange's paper is on "Evaluating the Distinctive Features of the Oki Social Masquerade of Otuobhi Community". As the title announces, the paper examines the distinctive features of the Oki masquerade of Otuoghi community in Bayelsa State of Nigeria. The paper aims at assessing the distinctive features that distinguish the Oki masquerade against the ritualistic and other social masquerades in Nigeria with regards to its secular characteristics. The author reveals that although the masquerade may have had ritualistic vestiges, it is now a social masquerade characterised by the dramatisation of an historical event with secular costumes, music and dance, and openness of participation of men, women and children.

Augustine I. Aboho continues the discourse of the crises of the Niger Delta environment in his essay "Environmental Degradation and the Crisis of Identity in Contemporary Niger Delta Narratives". He examines the intersection of ecological crisis and identity displacement in two contemporary Niger Delta novels: Tanure Ojaide's The Activist (2006) and May Ifeoma Nwoye's Oil Cemetery (2015). Drawing on ecocritical theory, postcolonial studies, and the sociology of displacement, the study argues that the systematic degradation of the Niger Delta environment by multinational oil corporations precipitates not merely the physical relocation of communities, but a profound dislocation of cultural and moral identity.

Professor Ebi Yeibo, Drs Godfrey NgoziOgbonna and Cynthia Adaeze Onuegwunwoke in a collaborative research examined the linguistic encoding of political satire in Emeka Nwabueze's *A Parliament of Vultures* through the lens of M.A.K. Halliday's Systemic Functional Grammar, with particular focus on the transitivity system of the ideational metafunction

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Editor-in-Chief

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