Table of Contents

Chapter One Introduction	1
1.1. Theoretical Framework	j
1.2. Feminist Ideologies	1
1.3. Sociological Theory of Literature	11
1.4. Cultural Theory of Binary Complementarities	12
1.5. Emancipation of Yorùbá Women	15
1.6. Image of Women in Yorùbá Proverbs	19
 1.7. Women's Rites and Rights – Yorùbá Women in the Traditional Religious Cults 	24
Chapter Two Marriage, Women and Yorùbá Nuptial Poetry	29
2.1. Marriage in the Yorùbá World-view: An Overview	29
2.2. Sexual Perversions / Otherness	33
2.3. A Survey of Yorùbá Nuptial Poetry	38
2.3.1. Yorùbá Land and their Dialects	39
2.3.2. Yorùbá Nuptial Poetry: A Definition	39
2.3.3. Classification of Yorùbá Nuptial Poetry	44
2.4. Comparison of Different Yorùbá Nuptial Genre	46
Chapter Three The Context and Extra-Text of Yorùbá Nuptia Poetry	i 49
3.1. Contexts of its Performance	49
3.2. Trainings of the Chanters	54
3.3. The Bride's Maids / Friends	56
3.4. Cosmetics and Apparel, Visual and Beauty in Epithalamium	58
3.5. Ifá Divination in the Traditional Marriage	62
3.6. Rituals to Esù and Clan Deities	63
3.7. The Potency of Prayers and Parental Blessings in Marriage	66
3.8. Fears and Tears: Ritualising Parting with Relatives and Friends	76
3.9. Rituals of Marriage Mates' Selection among the Yorùbá, Arigíyà Festival in Ìkàré-Àkókó	77



3.9.1. Brides' Ritual	79	
3.9.2. Grooms' Selection Ritual – Wrestling	82	
3.10. Wedding, Women, and Polity: Èkà in Sàó and Obitun in Ondó	83	
3.10.1. Èkà in Sàó	83	
3.10.2. Obitun Performance in Ondó	85	
3.11. Factors Affecting the Survival of Epithalamium among the Yorùbá	97	
Chapter Four The Content and Meaning of Yorùbá Nuptial Poetry		
4.1. Introduction	101	
4.2. Epithalamium as a Pivot of Group Solidarity	102	
4.2.1. Binary Creation of Men and Women Folks	116	
4.3. Image of Children and Motherhood in Yorùbá Nuptial Poetry	119	
4.3.1. Images of Children	120	
4.3.2. Images of Motherhood (Abiyamo)	123	
4.3.3. Children's Role to Mothers at Old Age	129	
4.4. Yorùbá Women in Procreation - Vitality and Fertility	132	
4.5. Image of Men in Yorùbá Nuptial Poetry	136	
4.6. Virginity Rites and Rituals: A Patriarchal Concept and Cultural Implications for HIV/AIDS Prevention	139	
4.7. Oríkì: A Tool of Construction and Reconstruction of Social History in Yorùbá Nuptial Poetry	146	
4.8. The Centrality of Orí Eni (Personal Head) in Vitality: Evidences from Yorùbá Nuptial Poetry	152	
4.9. Kinship Terms and its Use in Yorùbá Nuptial Poetry	158	
4.10. A Socio-cultural Appraisal of Yorùbá Housewives' Songs (Orin Obìnrin Ilé)	177	
4.10.1. The Social and Cultural Contexts of Yorùbá Housewives' Songs	178	
4.10.2. Domestic Violence in Verbal Artistry	180	
4.10.3. Ceremonial / Festive Songs	184	

	XV
Chapter Five Stylistic Features of Yorùbá Nuptial Poetry (Epithalamium)	197
5.1. Introduction	197
 The Aesthetics and Cultural Relevance of Humour and Satire in Yorùbá Nuptial Poetry 	197
5.3. Allusion and Metaphor in Yorùbá Nuptial Poetry	201
Chapter Six Yorùbá Epithalamium in a Changing Society	205
6.1. Sitting and Standing, Voicing Yorùbá Epithalamium in the Context of Change	205
6.1.1. Sitting and Standing Chairpersons' Role in Yorùbá Marriage	206
6.1.2. Performance of Epithalamium in the Pre-Colonial Era	207
6.1.3. Epithalamium in the Contemporary Society	208
6.1.4. The Yorùbá Traditional Songs	209
6.2. Factors Affecting Variability and Creativity of Yorùbá Epithalamium	223
Chapter Seven Conclusion	227
Bibliography	229
Illustrations	245
Index	246