Contents

Acknowledgements vii

Part I: Introduction

1 Background to the West African novel 3
Literacy and the broadening of consciousness 3
The spread of mass media 7
The literate middle class and the rise of the novel 8
Cultural nationalism 14
Foreign novelists on West Africa 17
Oral tradition 25

Part II: Domestication of the novel in West Africa

- Oral and literary traditions in West Africa 31
- /3 Nature, music and art 42
- 4 Characterization 82
- /5 Space and time 122
 - 6 Setting 140
 - 7 Language 155

Part III: The changing scene

- 8 Culture contact and culture conflict 201
- 9 Conclusion 260

Notes and references 267

Bibliography 279

Index 285