

**A DISCOURSE - ONOMASTICS OF CONTEMPORARY YORUBA AND
ENGLISH CHRISTIAN NAMES**

BY

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DECLARATION

I, Feyisitan Adebukunola, declare that this research titled “A Discourse Onomastics of Contemporary Yoruba and English Christian Names” was undertaken by me under the supervision of Professor Taiwo Abioye in the Department of Languages, Covenant University. The research project has not been presented, either wholly or partly for any degree elsewhere before.

The sources of scholarly information and all the opinions of others used in this project have been duly acknowledged.

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Feyisitan Adebukunola

DEDICATION

TO GOD

THE COVENANT KEEPER

AND

MY YOKE DESTROYER

CERTIFICATION

I certify that this research was conducted by Feyisitan, Adebukunola Oluwatomiisin of the Department of Languages and General Studies, Covenant University. I approve this research as adequate in scope and quality for the partial fulfillment of the award of Masters of Art degree in English Language, Covenant University.

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Supervisor

Signature & Date

DR. S.T. OWOEYE
Head of department

Signature & Date

External examiner

Signature & Date

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ABSTRACT

The study examines the ideologies that motivate the giving of Yoruba and English names to children at these contemporary times. The one hundred (100) names used as data for this study were harvested from the admission registers of nursery school pupils of the Federal Polytechnic Staff School, Ilaro (Yewa South Local Government) and Kingdom Heritage School, Canaanland, Ota, (Ado-Odo Ota Local Government) both in Ogun State, southwest Nigeria where Yoruba is the main language of communication between the 6th and 10th of November 2017. The study shows that proper names are used by parents to express their religious beliefs which used to bear allegiance to the traditional deities. However, this is no longer the case as names are now bestowed on children to express their present worldview which are Pentecostal and modern. These contemporary names are sometimes sentential as parents try to express themselves in every possible way. The study used van Dijk's Socio- cognitive approach to Critical Discourse Analysis as its theoretical framework. The findings revealed that Contemporary Yoruba and English Christian names are categorized thematically based on the ideologies they expressed and these are: positivism, gratitude to God, expression of their life experiences, dedication to God, expression of expectations and supremacy of God. These thematic categorisation are as a result of Pentecostalism and modernisation. The study concludes that names not only give unique identities to the personality of the bearers but are also linked to the totality of the bearers. Among others, the study recommends that parents should endeavour to give names that their origins and meanings are known to them.

