

EDITORIAL

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We are pleased to release Volume 34 of *Marang: Journal of Language and Literature* despite the tumultuous year we have had. The journal has a long and rich history of publishing on a variety of academic issues for a global readership. It provides a stage for the scholar in Africa to share the latest knowledge on issues around language and literature. Volume 34 maintains this tradition by presenting an eclectic mix of authors from across the continent. It provides fresh ways of viewing familiar topics and bold interpretations of unfamiliar ones.

The volume opens with a paper by Abisola Felicia Aiyeola, with a paper entitled *Yoruba teachers of English language as models for English phrasal stress assignment* in which she argues that Yoruba English language teachers are not acceptable models of spoken English in Nigeria, based on their assignment of stress. Her assertion is based on a study that involved fifty language teachers randomly selected from five local government areas in Ibadan. The paper recommends ways in which Yoruba teachers of English language can be assisted to become models of spoken English for their students. Sambulo Ndlovu's paper on transphonological toponymic distortions in the context of Zimbabwe presents new and interesting ideas. He argues that distorting toponyms compromises one's cultural identity. The study uses a functional linguistics approach to address issues related to power in toponomastic transphonologies. In this paper, an observation is made that transphonologies achieve onomastic erasure through meaning alterations that are either done through meaningless renditions or alteration in meaning towards a different lexeme. Progress Dube and Sithokozile Sibanda discuss the morphophonology of demonstrative copulatives in Ndebele. Specifically, the authors look at the internal structure of demonstrative copulatives and the phonological processes that are involved in the formation of demonstrative copulatives. The paper asserts that Ndebele demonstrative copulatives consist of four morphemes: the demonstrative copulative base *na-*, the copula *-n(i)-*, the subject marker, and the positional morpheme.

This year's edition of *Marang* contains two engaging articles on literature. The first of these is by Nhlanhla Dube who explores the fascinating world of pornography in early Modern Caribbean literature. The writer uses Orlando Patterson's *The Children of Sisyphus* to determine whether the sex scenes therein could be labelled as 'pornographic'. Finally, Debbie T. Marman and Peter Mwikisa visit a familiar author, Bessie Head, by looking at two of her short stories: *Life and The Collector of Treasures*. Though issues of masculinity and paternity are nothing new here, the writers use a combination of Lacan's psychoanalysis and Fredric Jameson's critique of late capitalism,

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to relate the protagonists' unrequited desire for a father figure to the broader issues of the articulation of power and the circulation of commodities under late capitalism. This article enables the reader to understand how Head's own personal journey with an absent father resonates in the characters of her work here.

We hope you derive new insights from these articles, and we look forward to your patronage in the next edition of Marang.