

J. P. Clark and the Decolonization of the Colonial and Postcolonial African Modernity



Editors
Hope Eghagha
Solomon Omatsola Azumurana

**J. P. CLARK AND THE
DECOLONIZATION OF THE
COLONIAL AND POSTCOLONIAL
AFRICAN MODERNITY**

ONIPEDÉ FESTUS
MOSES

EDITORS

**HOPE EGHAGHA
SOLOMON OMATSOLA AZUMURANA**



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CHAPTER EIGHT

Eco-Discourse and Advocacy in J.P Clark's Selected Poems through the Transitivity System

By

Festus Moses ONIPEDE

&

Babatunji Hezekiah ADEPOJU, Ph.D.

Department of English

University of Lagos, Akoka, Lagos, Nigeria

Introduction

African literature uses language elements, especially those that pertain to transitivity, to help portray and promote environmental issues. Even though ecological issues are getting more attention in the genre, the fact remains that the systematic investigation of how ecological themes and advocacy are linguistically constructed through the transitivity system, particularly the preponderance of material processes, has been largely ignored by previous discourse analyses of J.P. Clark's works. This has left a critical gap in the understanding of the interaction between linguistic choices and environmental discourse in Clark's poetry. Yet, it is crucial to establish how J.P. Clark reflects and promotes ecological consciousness in his poetry through linguistic choices in light of Nigeria's environmental issues. Identifying how the transitivity system discloses ecological themes and advocacy; analyzing the eco-debate in a selection of Clark's poems; and discussing his poems' relevance to current environmental discourse are the three main objectives of this study. In this respect, this study uses the transitivity technique to analyze advocacy and eco-discourse in some of J.P. Clark's poetry. The study focuses on two poems - "Night Rain" and "The Casualties" - with the aim to examine how