

A pragmatic analysis of some selected poems in osundare s

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Exploring the Art of Poetry with Niyi Osundare**

Introduction: Niyi Osundare, a renowned Nigerian poet, has crafted a distinctive voice within the literary landscape. His poetic explorations delve into the intricacies of language, culture, and societal dynamics.

What is Poetry According to Niyi Osundare? Osundare defines poetry as "a gesture of the soul, a song of the spirit." He believes that poetry should transcend linguistic boundaries and resonate with the human experience.

Pragmatic Analysis: A Tool for Literary Interpretation

Pragmatic Analysts: Pragmatic analysts are specialists who examine the relationship between language and its context of use.

Pragmatic Approach in Literary Analysis: The pragmatic approach in literary analysis focuses on understanding the intended meaning of the text based on its context, audience, and purpose.

Aspects of Pragmatic Analysis: Pragmatic analysis encompasses four key areas:

- **Speech Act Theory:** Studying the act of speaking and its intended effects.
- **Conversational Implicature:** Inferring unstated meanings from the context of a conversation.
- **Presupposition:** Identifying assumptions and beliefs that underlie the text.
- **Deixis:** Analyzing words that refer to specific times, places, or individuals.

Example of Pragmatics Analysis: In the poem "The Marketplace," Osundare uses the metaphor of a marketplace to criticize social inequality. The poet's choice of words, such as "barter of souls" and "tissue-paper promises," implies the commodification of human existence.

Niyi Osundare's Style and Thematic Preoccupations: Osundare's style is characterized by its lyrical beauty, use of allegory, and sharp social commentary. His poetry often explores themes of justice, freedom, and the plight of the marginalized.

Main Message of Osundare's Poetry: Osundare's works strive to expose societal ills, provoke reflection, and inspire social change.

Link to Sani Abacha: Osundare was a vocal critic of the military dictatorship of Sani Abacha in Nigeria. His poems, such as "Midnight Hotel" and "Abiku," expressed his opposition to oppression and human rights violations.

Beliefs of Niyi Osundare: Osundare believed in the transformative power of art and literature. He advocated for a just and equitable society where all voices could be heard.

Other Definitions of Poetry According to Poets:

- **Samuel Taylor Coleridge:** Poetry is "the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings."
- **William Hazlitt:** Poetry is "the language of the imagination and the passions."

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