

# Journal of Humanities

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## Introduction

This issue of *Journal of Humanities* has five articles that cut across various topics in the context of humanities. In the article, "Rhetorical and Philosophical *Paideia* in Lucian", Matthew Keil engages with the work of Lucian of Samosata (120 – 192 AD) considered one of the enigmatic figures for scholars of the Second Sophistic. The author's main point in the article is that, while Lucian's critique of rhetoric is considered as based on his interest of eloquence, his critique that ridicules philosophy is apparently influenced by the fact that Lucian "cared little for, and thought little of the subject (despite his objections to the contrary)". He further argues that, Lucian preferred being involved with "the uncomplicated principles of common sense and practical virtue," rather than serious philosophical ratiocination.

Atikonda Akuzike Mtenje-Mkochi's "A comparative analysis of the nominal class marking systems of Cisukwa, Cindali and Cilambya," compares "nominal class marking systems of three Bantu languages, namely, Cisukwa (M202), Cindali (M301) and Cilambya (M201B), which are spoken in Malawi, Tanzania and Zambia, and are labelled SuNdaLa in this paper. The author argues that some of the similarities include the claim that they have a lot of values, V shaped augments and the use of the class 5 prefix *-li-* which alternates with zero, they have 19 noun classes, 'express diminutive and augmentative meaning through noun classes and nouns take locative and infinitive prefixes.' According to the author, the indicated parameters do not accommodate the micro-variation of details present in these languages, hence she calls for refinement of parameters.

In the "Terms for Cardinal Directions in Eastern Bantu Languages," Amani Kusekelo, argues that "there are gaps in studies on nomenclatures for cardinal directions in African languages." Therefore, the author attempts to correct this gap through a detailed study of terms for cardinal directions in Eastern Bantu languages. It is argued that, there are seven mechanisms in creating terms for cardinal direction as discovered by the author. These include, names of ethnic groups, names of body-parts, direction of sunrise and sunset, water-bodies (oceans and lakes), terrain (uphill and downhill), winds and lexical borrowing. Having analysed the value of these mechanisms, the author further argues that 'contrary to previous studies, the study found that in Eastern Bantu north/south cardinal terms are more prominent than terms for east and west.'

In the next article, "Rape, war and the abject in Halima Bashir's *Tears of the Desert: A Memoir of Survival in Darfur*," Nick Mdika Tembo examines the "use of wartime rape as a weapon for ethnic cleansing in Sudan". Using Julia Kristeva's concept of the "abject" and discourse on wartime rape by such critics as Catharine MacKinnon and Ruth Seifert, Tembo examines the insecurity of women and girls in warzones,

'highlighting the ways in which the maternal (and feminine) body is used as a site/sight of group struggles.'

The last article, "La représentation des femmes dans *Les soleils des indépendances* d'Ahmadou Kourouma et *C'est le soleil qui m'a brûlée* de Calixthe Beyala," by Boniface Dokotala and Max Chilembwe, explores the depiction of male and female subjects in the two texts. There are two contrasting depictions that are discussed by the authors, firstly, where women are portrayed "in depressing images, as victims of cultural and traditional practices," that are a consequence of the patriarchal system. Secondly, there is a positive perspective of the female character that denies the victimisation of women. The authors claim that the portrayal of women in these novels is a conscious move by the authors who want to redefine the status of women in the society.