

# Review of: "Nigerian Postcolonial Comedy, Religious Shamanism and Modernity: Soyinka, Osofisan and Kalejaiye"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Your piece is a very interesting and makes an intervention on a new area. But I think you would need to do more in the area of reconceptualising what shamanism means. I would like to dwell on the implications of this quote you made in my suggestion: "He draws from the wealth of Yoruba myths, traditions, and folk-cultures, not only in his tragic plays but even in his comic plays, especially the Brother Jero plays, such that 'Wole Soyinka's Jero plays are based on the motif of the trickster tortoise, the Yoruba *ajakpa*'" (Ojaide 2012, p. 15). The term animism should be qualified, because it is a word laden with negative or derogatory echoes.

From above, you made it sufficiently clear that Soyinka, Osofisan and Kalejaiye drew from their cultural backgrounds in their comedic works. I would have loved you to go a step further to dig out what the Yoruba shaman, the interpretive thread in this essay, means. The shaman in the Yoruba world is certainly going to be different to term you offered us in your piece. Defining African objects and experiences from within will always open up limitations in the usage of similar terms by nonAfricans. I know there is the pressure to align with global nomenclatures, but doing so without rigorous qualifications will lead to eliding important facets of indigenous knowledge that ought to contribute to fresh understanding of the African world.

I believe there is a Yoruba name for it – which I prefer to be used, and this should be distinguished from the term shaman. You could expatiate on its ontological grounds and functions in Yoruba cosmology, while tracing its history of function. This way, the author updates the term. He could also mention its authentic African name which could then be used in throughout the essay for his critical pursuits. If this is done, the essay will be making a very significant impact.