

**ANALYSIS OF SENSUAL AND SENSUOUS IMAGERY AS VEHICLE FOR THE
MESSAGES IN NIYI OSUNDARE'S NATURE POEMS IN *THE EYE OF THE EARTH***

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ABSTRACT

In the wake of recent calls to address the parlous depletion of the ozone layer as well as other environmental concerns, Niyi Osundare's nature poems (especially the nature poems in the 1986 Commonwealth Prize winning collection *The Eye of the Earth*) have gained greater significance. Several international conferences on the state of the environment and climate change such as the Kyoto and the recent Copenhagen summits have all been aimed at formulating some workable agreement among first, second and third world countries to tackle the problem of environmental degradation and global warming, but all these attempts have, so far, not yielded the expected results. At the national level, numerous workshops and seminars have also been held with the aim of sensitizing people towards the imminent destruction of the earth through pollution by forces such as industrialization, but these have also yielded little result. In the nature poems of Osundare, one finds an exciting and effective means of bringing the state of nature to our awareness. This he does by representing nature in such a way that human beings are made to empathize with it, and subsequently, to be inspired by its indomitable spirit, and to seek solutions to the myriad of problems confronting it. Osundare's unique manner of presenting nature in this light proves to be successful in exposing the problems of nature to us.

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