

## **IFÁ DIVINATION POETRY AMONG THE YORÙBÁ OF SOUTHWESTERN NIGERIA: AN ARCHETYPE OF CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY**

**OGUNLOLA, Oṃṃlayo Durotade (Ph.D) (Male)**  
**Department of Linguistics and Nigerian Languages**  
**University of Ilorin, Nigeria**  
**E-mail: layoogunlola@gmail.com**

### **ABSTRACT**

*Ifá* divination poetry is one of the most popular genres among the Yorùbá of Southwestern Nigeria. A careful exploration of the *Ifá* Literary corpus reveals that quite a lot can be understood about the philosophy of the world. This study intends to seek for an alternative ways in *Ifá* poetic verses to address some socio-political problems. The study employs the literariness and functionality of *Ifá* literary corpus as an archetype of contemporary society. The paper is targeted towards identifying the archetypal elements in selected *Ifá* literary corpus, to analyze how archetypal characters in *Ifá* divination poems can be used to tackle contemporary social crisis among others. The objectives of the study include the examination of selected *Ifá* poems to proof that it has universal appeals and archetypes. Our methodology is descriptive using selected *Ifá* literary verses and adopting George Frazer's (1992) mythological tenets (the Golden Bough) which stipulates that societal values and norms are the pivot of both oral and written literature and Carl Jung's (1967) archetypal images and symbols for our analysis. The study concludes that *Ifá* divination poetry contains archetypal potentials that have universal appeal to contemporary society and can be used as better alternative for societal growth and development.

**Keywords:** Divination, Poetry, Archetype, Contemporary, Ifá, Society.