

COMMUNICATING REALITY THROUGH POETRY: A REVIEW OF ZAKARI SULE MUSA'S *ECHOES FROM THE THEATRE*

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ABSTRACT

This work reviews the anthology of Zakari Musa Sule, Echoes from the Theatre, with special focus on the ideology, concepts and messages communicated through literary tools to convey issues of contemporary concerns to Nigeria, Africa and the world at large. The poems are 142 in all, running through the 249 pages of the collections. Textual analysis was used as the instrument for assessment and conclusion in the work. The review takes a look at communication in literary terms, techniques and dictions that convey creative use of language, use of imagery, application of didactic expressions and use of emphatic and sound devices. As it is expected of an ideal review, I also pointed out the strengths of the work, which include economy of words and achievement of musicality through literary elements; and the attainment of clear communication through poetic language. One of the weak points in the collections is the one-sided criticism of the then ruling Peoples Democratic Party, instead of a balanced composition with at least a poem on the present government of the 2-year old All Progressives Congress. The critical observations were meant to allow for improvement in subsequent editions.

Key words: Poetry, Communication, Poetic Licence, Literary Elements, Poetic Language.