**GROUP 11 ELS PRESENTATION**

**BRAVE CRAB BY AkACHIADIMORA-EZEIGBO**

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**INDRODUCTION:**

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**BACKGROUND OF THE POET:**

**Ogbebor Ehizogie Sussy 19/law01/173**

**BACKGROUND OF THE PORM:**

**Omoyajowo Ayobami 19/law01/216**

**THEME:**

**Aganabanimisin 19/lawo1/014**

**Ugbor favour19/law01/256**

**Ofokansi Anthony Nonso 19/law01/172**

**POETIC DEVICE**

**Okparaji-Philip Nyimenka Favour19/law01/199**

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**Ladeinde oluwatamilore kofoworola 19/law01/135**

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**4Ladeinde oluwatamilore kofoworola 19/ law01/135**

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**6 Mgbemena ifunanya precious19/law01/146**

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**18 Ojo Abiola Christianah 19/law01/187**

**21 Akhabue Favour Oseremen 19/law01/020**

**20 Walter Dedelolia Ibibia 19/law01/266**

**GROUP LEADERS**

**Omoyajowo ayobami 19/law01/216**

**Ogbebor Ehizogie Sussy 19/law01/173**

**BACKGROUND OF THE POEM**

The poem BRAVE STAB by AkachiAdimora-ezeigbo talks about the abuse of women in the Africa country. The poem is set in a country nigeria which kicks of with a newscaster in the studio talking about how the government have planned to stop woman abuse but AkachiAdimoralmakes us to understand this politician are also one of the problem of woman abuse she tells us how this politician leave there various wives and then carry young girl around , they waste the money given my the government to help this young girl,they use it to take them out and distrust must of there future by sleeping with them all in the name of prostitution .

The government is try to stop woman traffic where by the are the cause of woman traffic

Another thing we need to know about the peom BRAVE STAB by AkachiAdimora-ezeigbo she explain must of the politicians who are give the money to care of this girl rather take care of them self my spending this money on irrelevant thing then because of this the girl have to look for other means to study so must of them get trafficked for prostitution.

**BACKGROUND OF THE POET**

AkachiAdimora-Ezeigbo was born in Eastern Nigeria, gaining a BA and MA in English from the university of Lagos and a PHD from university of Ibadan. She started teaching at university of Lagos in 1981 and became a professor of English in 1999.

She is an Author an Educator, whose published works include novels, poetry, short stories, books for children, essays and journalism. She is a writer of several awards in Nigeria including the Nigeria prize of literature. Her novel ‘Roses and Bullets’ has been regarded as one of the most captivating and realistic of Biafra war literature. Amongst her poems written is the BRAVE STAB of which is our utmost concern.

**INTRODUCTION**

Poetry is one of the genres of literature and has over the years, found its best application and usage as a weapon and as a tool for criticism with which poets mock and satirize societal actions, values and attitudes in the hopes of correcting and instilling in the people the right and ethical moral values which in no small measure will institute a more harmonious, idyllic and tension free society as well as engineering a more appreciable peaceful co- existence among individuals in the society. This in turn will lead to a higher degree of productivity and growth in all spheres of human endeavors. Typical of every society is the presence of all forms of vices, problems and evil peculiar to the society which militate against her growth. Writers have continued to use the gains of literature to decry all forms of evil and dehumanizing practices as a way of fulfilling their calling and duty to society as writers. This paper examined how poetry, a peculiar genre of literature, serves as a weapon for social criticism and reformation in the quest to free and purge the society of certain forms of vices and evils which militate against her peace and highly expected progress. The study of the selected poem out of the collection of poetry by AkachiAdimora-Ezeigbo “A brave stab”. How the poet blended and weaved her lines of poetry; harnessed her fountain of poetic ingenuity to criticize, satirize and mock with the hope of reforming her society and her visions of a new future as a prophetic poet is the crux of the study. In “Brave Stab” the poet mocks the intrigues and political hypocrisies perpetuated by our politicians who holds the bible in one hand and a gun in the other. According to the poet, these politicians profess love and oneness but give hatred and dichotomy in return.

**ANALYSIS OF THE POEM BRAVE STAB**

The need to take seriously the issues of corporate and moral responsibility among Nigerian politicians is the main preoccupation in “Brave Stab” by Akachi Adioma-Ezeigbo. The poem calls for a close reading of criticism of corruption and idleness of Nigerian politician, who fittingly situated against the backdrop of postcolonial African political struggles in which the language of inequality continues to revolve around the metaphor of eating { cannibalistic consumption}. Eating symbolizes economic exploitation.

The poem within the context of political realities in the Nigerian society, provides an overview of the moral recklessness of the politicians, who are irredeemably indulging in sexual proclivities rather than getting preoccupied with their commitment to governance.

The poet mocks the intrigues and political hypocrisies perpetuated by our politicians who hold the bible in one hand and a gun in the other. According to poet, these politicians profess love and oneness but give hatred and dichotomy in return. The poet also talks about their involvement with women as well as unchecked excesses.

**THEME OF THE POEM**

**Theme of Hypocrisy**:

 “News in brief\official news, of course/…House of Reps condemns this attitude in our women/ hanging around should be discouraged”. “News behind the scene/ unofficial news of course/…These men errantly stand for erections/ Rather than elections.

 These two stanzas in the poem contradict each other it is used as a means to expose the hypocrisy of those in power. The politicians openly condemn women and accuse them of being idle (Incidence of Idleness/On/The part of/Young women). To the public eye they discourage these women from “hanging around” (Governors/And/And members of/House of Reps/Condemn this)

 Moving on to the next stanza, these same men go to these women who they call “idle” to satisfy their sexual desires (These men permantly stand for erections/ Rather than elections). They put their desires before the main purpose of their work.

 Due to their misplaced priorities they are not able to perform their duties efficiently and they end up worsen the matters of the state.

These corrupt leaders also use their positions of affluence to silence the press from exposing them by use of force or threats. At the end the masses are left in the dark to contemplate on the integrity of these men all by themselves.

 Women in the poem may symbolize a lot of corrupt practices which may include embezzling, mismanagement of public funds, abuse of power etc.

**Theme of Laxity by the Press**:

 The press generally is granted freedom to convey information in the state. Members of the press are independent of any unit in a country but in the poem we discover that this is not so. “If the press sniffs fresh scandal/It is silenced”

 The press display a general attitude of laxity towards their jobs. They allow themselves to be influence by the politicians and they do not do their jobs effectively. A member of the press must be able to pass useful and accurate information to the people at all time. They are supposed to act as a watchdog for the people towards the government, instead they allow themselves to be denied their freedom of speech due to threats. This leads the people into the dark and make them unaware of the happen.

**Mockery** - the poem mocks the intrigues and political hypocrisy perpetuated by our politicians who hold the bible in one hand and a gun in the other.

According to the poet, these politicians profess love, oneness but give hatred In return. In the poem, the poet mocks their involvement with women as well as other unchecked excesses

POETIC DEVICES

1) Alliteration: The repetition of a consonant sound at the start of 2 or more consecutive words.

Examples in the poem: Line 36(some, skeptics), Line 59(two, times), line 98(bliss blistered), line 99(hope hacked).

2) Anaphora: The repeated use of word at the start of two or more consecutive lines. An example in the poem: Lines 40-41.

3) Consonance: The repetition of a consonant sound in a sentence. It can be at the beginning, middle or end of the word.

Examples in the poem: Line 17, 37, 72, 73, 74, 81, etc

4) Enjambment: This is when a sentence continues into two or more lines in a poem. Enjambment can be found in; lines 3-13, lines 16-19, lines 20-24, lines 25-33, lines 36-37, lines 47-49, lines 50-52, lines 53-55, lines 56-59....ETC

5) Irony: As a literary device, irony is a contrast or incongruity between expectations for a situation and what is reality. This can be a difference between the surface meaning of something that is said and the underlying meaning. It can also be a difference between what might be expected to happen and what actually occurs. Situational irony is used in this poem.

The poem in an acerbic, derisive tone, points out the ironical recklessness nature of the politicians, where:

Sex pushed

High up

The agenda

In place of

National agenda (95)

Here, serious business of governance is juxtaposed with the debauched style of hopping from one woman to the other in a mad rush to enjoy passion and pleas-

DECRYING SHIFTING NORMS: TOWARDS A CODIFICATION OF SOCIETAL ETHOS 163 The poem evokes a notion of triviality in administering governance, and reminds one of frivolity and levity with which the apparatchiks entrusted with the destiny of the nation compromise standards of governance

6 Allusion: The poet borrowed her allusion from the oral tradition of the igbo community which has a proverb that 'whoever eats the genitals of a ram, owes elephantitis of the scrotum a debt'

This proverb has been applied for thr poet to achieve her mockery and satirical stance.

The genitals eaten by these men were their activism and decision to stand what is right.

**LANGUAGE STYLES**

The language of the poem is satire because it talks about the ill vices of the society. We see in the poem that the poet talks about the hypocrisy of the political, he talks about the upper and lower houses.The Language of AkachiAdimora-Ezeigbo is plain and has the simplicity of every day speech. She expresses ideas briefly and sharply. The language is rousing, inquisitive and suggestive. The poem is recited in third person.

**Conclusion**

In conclusion, we have seen how AkachiAdimora used her poetry as a tool for social criticism. She criticized and mocked several facets of human lives but with the sole aim of correcting and reforming our society. Just like the Igbo proverb, the poet wishes in her poems that ‘the monkey’s hand in our soup pot’, should be removed before it turns to a ‘human’s hand’. In other words it is a situation that implies that we should remedy our ugly conditions and corrupt state of affairs before they degenerate and deteriorate to an uncontrollable level and all would be lost. This could only be done when we embrace her message; when our leaders will act aright, and salvage the poor masses and the downtrodden who look up to them for survival. This can only be fully realized when the wealth of the nation will be evenly distributed among the people and when our actions and inactions are all geared towards reformation and rehabilitation of our fallen walls and ugly images. With the new dawn in our mind, we shall nurture it and this poem with its urgent message can lead to a change of attitude, perception and outlook to life and together with zealous hearts and unwavering spirits, we shall bring forth a new dawn on earth and all the people shall rejoice. When this is done no matter what it will take us, history and posterity will remember our efforts and sacrifices and writers, poets and artists all can indulge in dalliance aware that their labours have yielded a rich and bountiful harvest, a harvest our generations yet unborn will feast on and will never go hungry again. This is possible and could be done if only we shall hearken to the voice of the poet, like the voice in the wilderness crying, praying and hoping.