Igbo Fowl's Wellerism and the Consensus of other Animals: the Issue of Literature Begetting Culture
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Abstract

Wellerism, the figurative expression that quotes the character in the course of communicating by the proverb is part of the Igbo people's linguistic ornaments. In their wellerisms, there are various characters like the old woman, Swallow, Lizard, Fowl, etc. Igbo Fowl's wellerism is the one which a goat used in giving a reason for the permission of his absence at an important meeting of animals. The wellerism was that Igbo Fowl pledged that whatever consensus other animals reached at the meeting he was absent, he would accept. So it was by the wellerism that he was selected the worst victim of ritual sacrifices in Igbo custom. It is this expression of literature that resulted to the culture of using Fowl for various ritual sacrifices. This work, which its data were sourced from the library and interviews, showed that literature is part of culture. The work is interested in the culture implications only and does not have interest in profound biology or animal husbandry. It is discovered that one of the culture implications is sacrificing of Fowl at ritual ceremonies.

Introduction

When people of common interest especially in Igbo communities, have issues to discuss and take decisions, they normally schedule meetings to enable every member air his or her views. All the points raised by each of the members are studied to find out how much reasonable they are. The plausible reasons backing them must always determine their acceptance in arriving at a consensus.

So it is very important that every member attends the meeting because people have different ideas given their nature and nurture. Senses of understanding differ from one person to another. So everybody has to help to achieve the set goals, especially in difficult situations. That is why Igbo people have the proverb that takes that “Knowledge is like the goat skin bag and everybody slings his own”. The English man says: “All hands on deck” meaning that everybody has to contribute and the Igbo people of Nigeria also have the same belief for they say: “Onye puta onye puta,