

# CULTURAL QUIZ

*FOR*

NIGER STATE PUPILS AND STUDENTS



Foreword By

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## **NIGER STATE PUPILS AND STUDENTS**

(WITH A FOREWORD BY PROF. A. K. ADAMU  
VICE-CHANCELLOR IBBU)

*(An Encyclopaedia of Nigeria's Cultural Diversity  
for Peace and Unity)*

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## FOREWORD

*Cultural Quiz for Niger State Pupils* by Professor S. J. Timothy Asobele of the Department of French, Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida University is a welcome addition to the growing list of scholarly works to come out of the *Faculty of Languages and Communication Studies*, especially the several issue off a humanities based journals of *Art Education Management Science*: Vol No 1 2012, of which Prof. Timothy is a member of the editorial board, *Lapai Journal of Language and Literature and Communication Studies*. *Lapai Research in the Humanities, Cultural Quiz for Niger State Pupils* is unique, in the sense that, it seeks to make the Late Sir Ahmadu Bello, The Sardauna of Sokoto and Premier of Northern Nigeria (1954-1960) wise saying - "*Let us try to understand our differences so that we can live in peace with one another*"; with his slogan: "*One people, One Nation, One destiny*", its bed rock.

It is true that Niger State pupils will in future have dealings with their counterparts from all the 36 states and FCT of Nigeria, hence the saying that the unity of Nigeria is based on *unity in diversity*.

*Cultural Quiz for Niger State Pupils* is an open treasure of 2000 years of *Tsoede Nupe* and *NOK Terra cotta* cultures, that made *Dakar 1966 Black and African cultural festival*, to name *Nigeria the Greece of Africa*: with several cultural landmarks. As readers go through this well researched book, they will discover that it is what unite us as a nation that the author dwells on. Apart from the geography of Niger State, the power state, with 3 hydro electric dams, Kainji National Park, Languages of Niger State, the cultural influence of

Nupe Gboya, called Igunuko in Isale-Eko, where it is now part and parcel of Lagos State cultural heritage, is given visibility. I am excited by the fact that this is an important follow up to Prof. Timothy Asobebe authoritative book, *Nigeria's Cultural Diplomacy in the 20th Century*.

The influence of Nupe Culture in Kogi and Kwara States as well as the kaleidoscope of cultural Quiz of member states of the federating units, that make up the federation of Nigeria, were search lighted by the author. This knowledge of our differences, I believe will have a salutary influence on our way forward to the growth and development of our Nation: Nigeria.

It is gratifying to note that Pro. S. J. Timothy-Asobebe has applied his academic energy during the Corona Virus lockdown (COVID-19, pandemic) to produce a work that strikes universal cord. I have no doubt that our pupils in primary and secondary schools, as well as our tertiary institutions all over Nigeria will find the book a useful companion in the knowledge of who we all are as Nigerians. I therefore recommend *Niger State Cultural Quiz* to both academic and public spirited Nigerians determined to keep a copy in their private libraries, municipal libraries, as well as state libraries, because books link people to people, state to states and nation to nations.

**Prof. A. K. Adamu**

Vice-Chancellor

IBBU Lapai, Niger State, Nigeria.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like first and foremost to acknowledge the Vice Chancellor, Prof. A.K. Adamu for granting me a conducive environment to work on this state and national research, by way of office and *home away from home accommodation*, with loving neighbours; the head of the Department of French, Dr. Ebine and the Doyen of translation in Nigeria, Prof. A.A Ihenacho and a cohort of lecturers in the faculty, chief among whom is the Dean, Prof. David Ker, Mrs. Margeret Agwu as well as the HOD of Arabic Study.

I acknowledge the National population Commission, UNO World conversation center, Premium Times Nigeria, Maryam Isa, Damilola Oyedele, Sun Tang, Williams, Lizzie, FAO Wetland wildlife resources of Nigeria, *the University Librarian*, Dr. N.U Abubakar, the university chancellor of the Exchequer, Alhaji Abdullahi Garuba, the authors of *Babel of Niger State Nigeria*, Ihenacho A.A; Jamiu A.M, Agu M.N., Ebine S.A., S.A. Adelabu and Obi E.F and the authors of the *Situation of Arabic, English, French and Major languages of Niger State*, the Bible society of Nigeria for access into 2008 edition of Nupe version of the bible (*Labari Wangi*) Alikawoli Gabko to Alikawoli Woro nya Soko, Langbasa my book on (*the cultural history of Lagos State people*), Gamji 1992 play on the life and times of Sir Ahmadu Bello, the Sardauna of Sokoto and Premier of Northern Nigeria (1909 – 1966), Mr. O.O. Oluniyi: *Social Darwinian, Circular logic Dehumanization in British Northern Nigeria*, Mr. Isah Baruwa, Baba Alhaji Umar Katcha, MS Bayero for giving me a gleeful version of Nupe humanity, which made me more resolute in

keeping interest in this research, Malam Abdullahi Aliyu of Gupa for giving me a means of keeping deadline with my typists and Alhaji Hammid Taju.

- (1) IBBUL Academic, A Humanities based Journal of Art, Education, Management Science. Vol 1 No.1 2012.
- (2) JOLAE, December 2014. Vol. 7; No. 1
- (3) LAJOLLACS Lapai Journal of Languages and Literature and Communication Studies. Vol. 2: No. 2: 2015.
- (4) Lapai Research in Humanities, Vol. 4: No. 2: 2017
- (5) Humanities. Vol. 5: No. 1: 2018.

I want to acknowledge Senator George Akume; Benue State Former Governor, who on 1<sup>st</sup> of August, 2020 sent me this message:

"May the blessing of the season abide with you and your families. We are one, one indivisible nation, our unity is our strength."

I am sure it is because we belong to the same community of believers in a strong and great Nigeria that made you to show solidarity with my many Newspapers interventions in that direction: One Nation, One people, One Destiny. Bravo to men of courage and vision.

I say thank you to you all for your support for this laudable project.

## DEDICATION (Abubakar Gimba)

This authoritative work on the life of the peoples of Niger State is dedicated to my late outstanding NYSC cohort member of August 1974 to July 1975, Mallam Abubakar Gimba who served with me in what was then South Eastern State, in Calabar College of Technology camp through August 1974 – July 1975. He was a committed Youth Corper and showed admirable leadership qualities in camp and in the local languages: Efik and Ibibio classes. We all enjoyed Prof. Essien Udom insightful orientation lecture where, the Ibadan University and Captain Essien the military Governor showed to our delight that the *pen is mightier than the sword*.

It is true we parted ways from the University of Calabar's new site on the Airport Road to our various states. He, to the Northwestern State, with the capital in Sokoto, where he served out his civil service initiation and I, to Lagos, to resume duty in the Nigerian Foreign Affairs Ministry Marina on the 5<sup>th</sup> of August 1975, as a young recruit into the vibrant post-civil war diplomatic mainstreaming.

I was later to leave for M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D at the French Prestigious (SORBONNE NOUVELLE), University of Paris III from the 30<sup>th</sup> September, 1975 to 9<sup>th</sup> November 1979. We never met until I started work in the Department of Modern European Languages of University of Lagos from April 6 1981 – 2019 August. But as luck will have it, I met him in early 1990s at Union Bank Marina Lagos, where he and Alhaji Hammid Taju, my classmate at Kabba Provincial Secondary School

Okene 1963 -67, worked as directors. I was working on my Authoritative play on the life and times of Sir Ahmadu Bello the Sarduna of Sokoto and Premier of Northern Nigeria, titled *Gamji*. I gave him and Hamid Taju a copy each of the manuscript, which in his usual eclectic manner he was happy to go through and wrote his comment, which gladdens still my heart till today. What surprised me a little is: "*Did Dankabba really play such role in the life of the Northern Civil service of Sardauna Era?*" I responded that yes. The likes of Ambassador M.M Toluhi, newly arrived from Fourah Bay College Sierra Leone, S.B. Awoniyi, Daniyan, Osha, Waziri. Abdul etc. held sway in the newly independent Northern Nigeria (1959).

We reviewed and renewed our NYSC Calabar Camaraderie which made me to introduce him to the IJOKO OTA WRITERS RESORT in Ogun State, where he read some of his poems and we discussed his artistry, with me, as the Critic-in-Residence on that occasion. It is important to state that I had earlier on invited my classmate for a reading session at the same venue. Thus the three of us became an articulate Arewa literary presence among the Lagos literati. That exposure I gave him fired his imagination to keep on producing works of very high literary qualities, to the point that he mounted the coveted chair of *Association of Nigerian Authors* (ANA) chairmanship. His chairmanship led to making Minna, Capital of Niger State a vibrant, center of literary activities in Nigeria.

Now convinced of his literary ascendancy, I dedicated the Hausa version of *Gamji* to him: a great Area Novelist.

This cultural Quizzes for Niger State pupils, I am happy to say, I published, in recognition of our literary camaraderie in Lagos in the 1990s and it is an indelible stamp of our friendship, friendship that made me to gladly assume lectureship duty in the department of French, Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida University (IBBU) Lapai in the Month of January 2020.

The chapter dedicated to Malam Abubakar Gimba works is a loud testimony to our friendship. He, being a foundation Pro-chancellor and Chairman of council, who laid the academic foundation of IBBUL in 2006 and I, a friend indeed, intent in showing the world that his absence in the body does not mean I have forgotten him. No to out of sight out of mind syndrome. He was a literary giant of all time. Hence, this work of large academic scope and breath on his people, the Niger State people. May God bless the family and children he gleefully wrote letters to in his life time.

Au – revoir: Hasta luego, so long.  
Guten mangel, Lapai  
July, 2020.

## BOOK ONE

## INTRODUCTION

*Let us try to understand our differences so as to live in peace with one another. Sir Ahmadu Bello (1909 - 1966).*

I must from the on set give a rounding *Merci beaucoup*, thank you sir, to our Amiable Vice – Chancellor, Prof A.K. Adamu, who has granted me an opening in the department of Fench of our prestigious University: Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida University (IBBU) Lapai, since January 20<sup>th</sup> 2020. This is so because, the history of Kogi State, old Kabba Province to which I belong, in general and Kabba Kingdom and Nupe Empire is so intimately link, both in substance, governance, language and cultural borrowing. I must say I am welcome home, because the Bawa Salka, the Jeremiah Gana, Garuba Kuta and many more Nupe pupils were my school mates at Kabba Provincial secondary school Okene in the 1960s.

We studied together, played games together and what is more, Bawa Salka held the Northern Nigeria sprint record during Our Arewa Athletic Jamboree at Ahmadu Bello Stadium in Unity Schools in Northern Nigeria, for cross pollination of ideas among the youths in the north.

This *Cultural Quiz* is a continuation of Sir Ahmadu Bello's spirit of building large scale community in which no man is oppressed. This *cultural Quiz* is a follow up to my 2007 *Cultural Quiz for Kogi State Pupils*. The cover of this work show-case the

## About The Author

**S**amuel Jide Timothy-Asobele is one in a million. He waltzed through Government Secondary School, Okene (1963-1967), federal Government College, Sokoto (1968-1969), University of Nigeria, Nsukka (1970-1974), University of Dakar (1972-1973), The Sorbonne University of Paris (1975-1979), and scooped up distinctions with the ease of a ballet dancer in training for *Les Sylphides*.

He stands on the pedestal of the following impressive accomplishments: BA (Hons) Languages (UNN); Diploma (Dakar); CES, MA, DEA, Doctoratde 3 Cycle (Paris); Scholarship by AUPELF-UREF in April 1997; Esteemed Member of the New York Academy of Science, Nigerian Institute of International Affairs, Nigerian Folklore Society; Chairman - Lagos State Library Board; Board Member - University of Lagos Centre for Cultural Studies.

Samuel Jide Timothy-Asobele is a Specialist in the field of Literary Translation and African and Comparative Literature. he is a Lecturer and the Chairman and Coordinator of the Department of European Languages, University of Lagos; likewise for the Post-Graduate Committee and professional Degree in Translation respectively.

In 1988 Samuel Jide Timothy-Asobele conceived the Voice of Nigeria (VON) French programme in African Literary Masterpieces, in which he demonstrated his passion for the works of Amos Tutuola. In 1990 he conceived the Community Theatre for Mass-Mobilization for DFFRI and MAMSER. He was Chairman of the Reception Committee for Nelson Mandela at CBAAC, where he was Assistant-Director of Research, and Editor of *Journal of Black and African Arts and Civilization*.

Samuel Jide Timothy-Asobele is the author of *Ogu Umunwanyi*, a drama devoted to the historical Aba Women's Riots of 1928; *Kaaba*, another drama; *Gbanyi*, a play devoted to the career of Sir Ahmadu Bello, the late Premier of Norther Nigeria. There were collections of poems to his name, namely - *Tree of Trinity*, *Lion Head*, *Diaspora*, *Brotherhood of Cain*, *Langbasa*.

As an accomplished linguist, Samuel Jide Timothy-Asobele published the works *Le Francais au Nigeria* and *Une Cartographie Dynamique*. He later wrote and published *New Perspectives in the Training of Translators and Interpreters in Nigeria*, *The Essentials of French Grammar for Predominantly English-Speaking Learners*, *Top Tve Comedians and Operas*, *Yoruba Cinema of Nigeria*, *Historical Trends in Nigerian Indigenous and Contemporary Music*, *Contemporary Arts and Artists: a Modern Guide*, *Essays in World Theatre*.

Samuel Jide Timothy-Asobele translated into French the OAU and ECOWAS Summit Cultural Programmes held in Abuja in June and July 1991. As a seasoned translator and researcher in the field of terminology, he believes terminologists, translators and interpreters can help to build the AU, ECOWAS and UNO. He was a Rapporteur in July 2003 during the Leon Sullivan Summit held in Abuja, Nigeria. In July 2006 he was invited by the African Union (AU) to the Conference of Intellectuals of Africa and the Diaspora to present a paper on African languages in the educational systems worldwide, which took place in the city of Salvador, Brazil.

Samuel Jide Timothy-Asobele used to lecture at the Nigerian Foreign Academy, Marina, Lagos, on topics that embraced Cultural Diplomacy. He is a Patron of the Association of West African Young Writers, located in Ebute-Metta, Lagos, and Chairman of the Department of European Languages Consultancy Committee of the University of Lagos.

Outside the frenetic demands of lecture halls, Samuel Jide Timothy-Asobele maintains physical and mental health through the recreation of lawn-tennis and hockey. His greatest source of relaxation comes by 5.00a.m. every morning, when he wakes up to read The Bible. Family and parental duties have been significantly minimised by the employed adulthood of his two sons Dare and Tobe, and daughter Ayomide.

It is a striking fact that no other educationist or man-of-letters has patronised the unique story-telling skills of Amos Tutuola with the same passion of zeal as Samuel Jide Timothy-Asobele. For this reason, *inter alia*, it is only right and fitting that he should be conferred, and he is hereby conferred, with *The Tutuola Palm for Poetry*.

