



**NSO AND MBUM ORAL TRADITION AND THE CONCEPT OF DEVELOPMENT:  
THE STUDY OF PROVERBS**



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**ABSTRACT**

*The paper sets out to illustrate how oral literature of Nso and Mbum can be exploited as an instrument for development in a multicultural context. The study contends that, “Lamnso” and “Limbum” which are the languages spoken by Nso and Mbum people of the North West Region of Cameroon transport cultural values that respond to the needs of the people in this global context. The rich culture that is lodged by Nso and Mbum oral tradition is threatened by neo-colonialism, globalism and modernism. It is for this reason that this study considers the collection and exploration of Nso and Mbum proverbs in relation to the concept of development crucial to the survival and existence of the Nso and Mbum people. Since oral art forms anchor on the culture and natural environment of the people, proverbs collected are analyzed using the ecocritical and new historicist lenses in order to attain the objectives of the study. The paper emphasizes that oral literature which generally consists of materials that are not only several generations old, but*

*are also transmitted by word of mouth is relevant in a modern society that is visibly assaulted by enormous scientific and technological forces. It is in this light that the collected proverbs are examined as instruments of education in relation to development. The findings reveal that the local knowledge that is brought to light during performance can be exploited in complementarity with innovative and modern scientific methods to foster development in the ever evolving Nso and Mbum oral communities. The conclusion here is that since every development efforts begin with the right mind and good ideas, Nso and Mbum proverbs studied in relation to development is a worthwhile venture. The study therefore assumes that in the present dispensation relevant development can be attained if we think locally and act globally.*

**KEYWORDS :**

*Nso and Mbum Oral Tradition, Proverbs, education, communities*