

THE CHANGING PATTERN OF IGBO TRADITIONAL MARRIAGE COSTUMES

ABSTRACT

This research is made to investigate the changing patterns of the Igbo traditional marriage costume till date. From the pre- colonial period, Igbo man was known for his plethora of materials and intelligence by making good use of his brain especially in harnessing materials around him creatively to achieve various useful purposes. Observably, there might not be specifically a particular attire or costume set aside for marriage ceremonies. In other words, they made use of the available materials that was within their reach at the time and explored them into their traditional wears such as the Ufa, Ukaw and the Akwete materials .They also produced other adornments which they complimented the costumes with such as jigida, leg and wrist bracelets and beads which were mainly made of natural objects around them like animal bones and seeds from fruits, cowries and ivories. This had been the nature of the Igbo traditional costumes until the coming of civilization which led to the abandonments of these ancient materials that led to the increase of the patronage of foreign materials and acculturation of other cultures into the Igbo culture. This study therefore, tends to study the historical changes of Igbo marriage costumes from the pre-colonial period to the present and also critically examine if those costumes are still in use in the contemporary period or not. The research also studies the effect of the changes if any to the Igbo culture, marriageable youths and the Igbo society at large. The theoretical framework adopted in this study is the interactionist theory. The methodology used to test the reliability of this research include the use of Library mode, Internet based method, interview schedules, focus group discussion method, field research and the observational research method. Through, the researchers findings, it is discovered that civilization has dwindled most Igbo traditional attire especially those used for traditional marriages and this has created lapses in the culture of the people and their identity. Socially, there is delay in marriage as people tend to accumulate enough wealth in other to shoulder the financial expectations of marriage which includes the high cost of marriage costumes. However, the economic growth of the Igbo is also negatively affected especially in the area of performing marriage rites which involves the purchase of costly recent and mostly foreign costumes that are being used in the contemporary period. There is also an amalgamation of various cultural outfits and ornamental adornment both from within Nigeria and outside the nation that the use of marriage costume as a means of cultural and indigenous identity is gradually going down the drain. Furthermore, it is recommended that for the reincarnation and preservation of the Igbo marriagecostumes to take place, parents, schools, age grades and associations, traditional rulers and the government will have to play a major role in reviving the Igbo traditional marriage costumes especially in the face of modernization and the present high level technological advancement which is on the increase on daily bases.

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THIS IS 137 PAGES DOCUMENT (Introduction to Conclusion)

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