20

The Politics of Environmental Degredation in Tanure Ojaide's *TheActivist*

Godson, Zephaniah John
zephgodson@gmail.com 070631501718

Yakubu, Patience Vintse
ypvintse@gmail.com 08032121736
Department of English
Faculty of Arts
Nasarwa State University, Keffi
and
Idris Muhammad Ladan
Department of English
Nasarawa State University, Keffi
Idrisladan2020@gmail.com
07035515550

Abstract
The Niger-Delta issue has been one of the major concerns of contemporary Nigerian writers and critics for sometimes now, in most of works, both poetry and prose, they reflect the socio-political and socio-economic realities of present day society. They also depict the plundering of the land by the leaders as well as the political and economic marginalization of the down trodden. It is these realities that Tanure Ojaide's *The Activist* explores. This paper explores environmental issues as well as socio-political agitations as depicted in the novel, using ecocritical literary theory. The paper also draws attention to the effect of politics of of environmental degradation, government and leaders actions and inactions over the affairs of the people in the oil rich region.
Keywords: Politics, Environmental degradation and Eco-criticism

Introduction

Man cannot be separated from his environment because his perception and interaction with his surroundings make up his being. Lamentably, the destruction of the natural things that surroundman is caused by man himself. Thus, this study engages the theory of ecocriticism because of its commitment to the natural environment and her inhabitants .Ecocriticism is the study of representations of nature in literary works and of the relationship between literature and the environment. The neglect of the Niger Delta region has led to environmental degradation, pollution, loss of traditional occupations like farming and fishing, a general rise in social vices like gun-running, kidnapping, militancy, oil theft as well as health hazards to mention a few. This trend is prevalent in the Niger/Delta area of Nigeria. Commenting in *The Agony of the Ogoni* , Amanye explains that:

> Oil exploration has turned Ogoni into a wasteland; lands, streams, and creeks are totally and continually polluted; the atmosphere has been poisoned, charged as it is with hydrocarbon vapors, methane, carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide and soot emitted by gas which had been flared 24 hours a day for 35 years in very close

proximity to human habitation. Acid rain, oil spillage and oil blowouts have devastated Ogoni territory (11).

Environmental degradation and pollution have caused untold harm and hardship to the Niger Delta region. It becomes clear that man is a threat to nature and theconsequences of human actions are damaging the planet's basic life support system. It is therefore pertinent for humansto change their ways or face global catastrophe.

It is against this background that this research examines literature as a mirror or tool that greatly helps in shaping the society by portraying and reflecting the happening in the society. The aim of literature is to bring positive change(s) in the society. Thepaper therefore, dwells on the effects of politics of environmental degradation in the Niger-Delta regionand how Ojaide tries to correct these societal ills in Nigeria and Africa through literature.

Politics and Environmental Degradation in the Novel

Tanure Ojaide's *The Activist*portrays the disillusionment anddespondency of the marginalised NigerDeltans arising from the decay of their environment. This is a story of oil politics, ethnic marginalisation and environmental predation. The leaders manipulate with the wealth of the region hence agitating for their fair share. The protagonist in the novel simply called the Activist represents the average elite of the region with a vision and zeal to liberate their land from economic and political domination. He says: "all I care for is the Niger Delta state. I want us to have our soil, water and air as healthy as itused to be. We have to douse the fire that is threatening our existence" (341). The Activistreturns from his sojourn in the US to witness the wake of destructive hurricane as far as the environment is concerned.He feels the anguish of his people and thinks of how to make their environmentconducive for them. He observes further that"so many people are convicted for crimes they do notcommit... too many hungry people going to bed at night...even as rich, childless couples livein ten-room mansion...many helpless women killed by psychotic men...so many despotshold down large populations by rulers of aimed coercion' (58).He is aware that if people cannot have access to the simplest of things like water,then there is a big problem especially when the region that inhabits these people contributesto the wealth of the nation.

The Activist leaves his home townfor the United States, being a beneficiary of a scholarship given to him by Nigeria'sAmbassador to America. But he returns to his country not just because he wants to teach inhis own state university, but because "he thought for a longtime about what needed to be addressed" (14). Regarding the despoliation of the environment and the collapse of moral rectitude in society. 'He had pastedto his bedroom wall photos of starving children and those of raped and battered women. Hekeeps the file with newspaper cuttings of various forms of pollution, clouds of smoke envelopinghuman beings in their homes, women fetching water from a greenish stream'(24). TheActivist cannot believe the sorry state of the Niger Delta he has returned to. The succinct words of the narrator provides an illuminating perception

> The Niger Delta the Activist returned to has changed so much from what it used to be, even as it remained the same land mass. It has been seriously scarred bythe Bell Oil company whose emblem of a red-rimmed shell of yellow flameswas seen all over the area. In the company's inordinate hunger for morebarrels of oil to ship out to increase yearly record profits, the landscape wasgradually turning into a wasteland. Residents of the oil-producing areas hadbecome helpless before the monstrous power of their overlords; the oilcompany and the military governments. (45)

The environmental pollution of the coastal waters has affected all the people in the Niger Delta in the same way corruption has ravaged the country. The environment is as contaminated as

the conscience of the people, as they cheerfully aid and abate corruption. The chiefs in the region who are supposed to protect and fight for the rights of their people, used their position to enrich themselves. They betray their people by collecting money from the oil companies. Corruption has become accepted as inevitable in the region.The Niger Delta is so corrupt that it fails to notice that the money given to them as bribe is their rightful money.However, as other chiefs stain their royal garments with corruption, Chief Tobi has singled out himself. He is one Chief that refuses bribes from Bell Oil and other Oil Companies in order to betray his people. The point is stated as follows:

> Not all the Local Chiefs were captives of corruption. Nor were they all partners and friends of Bell Oil and O & G. The Oil Companies, to silence the local population from demanding compensations for their despoiled environment, built palaces for local monarchs. They not only paid the monarchs and chiefs monthly stipends but also catered for their luxuries that included big cars and jeeps. The Multinational Oil Company directors expected the elderly chiefs to keep a strong hold on their people because the well-fed dogs would not bite the hands that fed them. But some dogs refused to be distracted and fiercely kept their sentinel duty. Tobi Ishaka was an exceptional chief. (136)

According tothe narrator of the story, "you could count on Chief Ishaka to tell the truth and for knowing thathis people were being short changed in the oil wealth" (137). Chief Tobi Ishaka is aware ofthe subjugation of his people. Initially his people cultivate and produce most of their foods,but all of a sudden they travel far and wide to buy fish, cassava, yam, among others. At a timewhen other Chiefs in the region are busy filling their pockets with money they collect from oilcompanies, Tobi Ishaka however, stands out as he challenges the other monarchs about the bad example they set for the youths. 'To silence the local populationfrom demanding compensation for their decayed environment, oil companies build palacesfor local monarchs. They not only paid the monarchs and Chiefs monthly stipends but alsocared for their luxuries that included big cars and jeeps' (132). In return, the Chiefs areexpected to stop the people from protesting against the oil companies. He condemns theactions of his fellow Chiefs when he says that 'the white robe of chieftaincy and the coralbeads we wear sets us apart. But we seem not to know our responsibilities. We are supposedto be the clean ones but I am afraid we even stink. We secretly eat forbidden food and wipeour mouths, we cannot deceive our ancestors and they will surely not forgive us' (137). Heknows that the situation they find themselves in will come to an end someday. Thus, he joinsin steering the wheel of change that will make the new Niger Delta a reality.

Chief Tobi is not soiled by corruption and he continues tokick against the activities of his fellow Chiefs who only bother about the collection of brown envelops from oil companies. On the contrary, Chief Tobi Ishaka preaches that something better should be done with the money given as bribe to benefit every individual in the community and protect the risk that surrounds the Niger Delta environment. His desire is conveyed in the following words:

> Chief Tobi Ishaka wanted the local roads tarred, drainage done in the towns so that whenever there was a heavy downpour, as often happened, they would not be flooded. These fresh ideas fell on the deaf ears of those who always smiled broadly whenever they saw the money bags from the Oil Companies. The other Chiefs dismissed his concerns about development and always had ready answers to counter his complaints (139).

These are Ishaka's ideas but he is rather disappointed as oil wealth from his land is used in the development of other sections of the country leaving his land, the main source, languishing in penury and environmental pollution.

Again, when Tobi Ishaka's hopes get dampened and the expected transformation of his ruralplace into a city failed, when he cannot have access to the oil in his farmland and family'sland, he commences a long term plan of solving the problem. His solution this time is toembark on education and enlightment of his children so that they will not just have good jobs, but penetratethe oil companies as "he saw outsiders occupying all the key positions in the oilcompanies, while most of their children remained unemployed"(160). His success intraining Dennis who eventually graduates with first class honours degree in PetroleumEngineering from University of Lagos get a senior staff job with the oil company through Mr. Van Hoortsaid whom his father approached, is an indication that if other indigenes workhard, they would achieve success too.

Betrayal

The activist soon discovers the unsafe atmosphere within the University environment. Corruption and betrayal is pervasive on campus and in society. He is misinterpreted as a rebel and suffers persecution on campus. He is not trusted by his colleagues like Prof. Tobore Ede, Dr. Mukoro, Prof. Kokoba and even the Vice Chancellor. They see his ideas as nothing but a way of dismissing food from their tables. The dirty food from O and G, Sina and Brotal at the detriment of their people's lives. Okoroegbe describes this corrupt elites as "imperialist oil grabbers responsible for environmental pollution and degradation in their Niger Delta" (186).

When as a result of oil spillage, fire takes over Roko Village and the students plan a protest attack on Bell Oil Company, Prof, Ede, a Bell Oil Consultant is used to suppress the students' planned protest against the company's insensitivity to the community. He gives a false report:

> The villagers set their village on fire because they wanted to extort money from Bell Oil Company. People have become lazy and want an easy way to make money. None of those villagers has a farm as they used to; none of them carry (sic) out fishing in waters proverbially rich with all kinds of fresh and salt water fishes. The villagers only sit at home drinking illegal gin and playing both draft and eko games (178).

Professor Ede typifies the morally deficient and corrupt elite class in the Niger Delta region. His false statement about his people eventually led to his death.The shamelessness of the intellectual class in fanning the embers of corruption and above all,their complicity in encouraging oil politics, which relegates the minorities to the backburner, is amazing and unacceptable to the Activist. Even the Vice-Chancellor ofNiger Delta State University is involved in this ugly system, as are some of the famousuniversity lecturers.The establishment and creation of new offices to replace the old ones as a way of communitydevelopment office and Community Liaising Office (CLO) is not the solution to the problem ofDelta. Employment of people like Retired Colonel Dudu is not a remedy. He offered teato the delegates from Roko village in place of shelter which they needed most. The Activistmonitors the life of his people. He "was acting against poisonous methane gas from gasflares, leaking old oil pipes, blowouts, and spillages in the area that had rendered theevergreen wetlands poisoned; the wildlife dead, the aquatic life also dead, and humans inthese areas suffering from undiagnosed diseases." (205)

Area Boys

From the perspective of Area Boys, ''they were fighters attempting not only to reclaimwhat had been robbed from them but also holding firmly to what was theirs that others wereattempting to snatch away'' (56). The area boys have watched their homeland boom with oilbut this oil boom has turned into doom for them. The money realized from the Niger Deltaregion is used to develop other states while their indigenous states in the Niger Delta suffer. Thekidnapping of expatriates working in the oil companies became a lucrative trade for theArea

Boys. They build up personal wealth from the proceeds of ransoms, which thecompanies paid secretly even though they publicly deny dealing with armed gangs andterrorists. They believe that their people deserve justice and equity for their wealth that is beingused to cater for others. The lackadaisical attitude put up by oil companies and thegovernment is what most times trigger the anger and frustration of the *Area Boys*, who arealso part of the resistance fighters recruited by the Activist in the cause for a new Niger Delta.The *Area Boys* are also aware that:

> Charity in the form of tidbits thrown about to a desperate crowd should nottake the place of justice and fairness. They also knew that among them thatshould fight for them, such as the academics and the chiefs, were interested inlining their individual pockets. They wanted a formal share to develop theirarea and compensate the people for their occupations destroyed by the oilprospectingactivities. They also wanted the oil companies to return a fractionof their profit to restore the environment that had been devastated by variousforms of pollution. In their minds, that was not too much to ask for (79).

The Activist's first point of connection is Pere Ighogboja, who is the chairman of the*Area Boys*. To become the head of the *Area Boys*, he has witnessed various forms of injusticemeted out to his environment by those in authority. Pere is aware that ''outsiders were notallowing him and his group to live and so he would make life hard for them in their paradise,his hell. He would force them to concede that he and his people had a right to live on theirGod-given resources'' (81). The Activist teams up with Pere to establish the *Delta Cartel*, apipeline vandalism business which will aid in milking the Bell Oil company dry and alwaysmake it count its losses. This shows the Activist quest for positive change in his environment, Ojaide pairs these characters because of the positive results theirresistant work will generate. Pere agrees with the Activist that their people need fish andwater that have sustained them from the beginning of time but they have been marginalized and robbed them of their natural resources. As the narrator puts it:

> They needed farmlands to cultivate cassava, yams and other subsistent crops tolive on. They also had to grow much needed vegetables, and of course, theyhad to live a healthy life. The air used to be cool because of constant rain andthe luxuriant forest, but oil slicks, blowouts, and gas flares had destroyed thatlife. Even the rain that fell was so soot-black that no more did anybody drinkrainwater, which of all waters, uses to be described as God-given water. Thepeople have lost their green refuge as well. Their forest used to be deep andhave green andlush foliage, the pride of the tropics, but that had changed since fire oftenfollowed oil and gas accidents. (82)

Pere believes that the Niger Delta can be transformed from the ramshackle it has become intoa region that will not only boost the economy of the nation, but will be a healthy environmentfor its inhabitants. He has great respect for the Activist, whom he realizes can help liberatetheir people from the bondage that enslaves them. He gives all the support the Activist needsin his resistance stride which will see all the enemies of the Niger Delta eliminated. TheActivist and Pere aim to push out the outsiders or to be accepted and treated respectfully bythe oil company owners as the owners of the resources that are being carted away byoutsiders. The constant looting of oil in the Niger Delta has made its indigenes becomedespondent because outsiders gain more from the exploration of oil from their region. Theindigenes become recipients of charities from their children in the cities because there is noway of getting enough money to live in their rural homes.

The Activist partners with Pere Ighogboja to form the '*Delta Cartel*' and joins the Army Generals in lucrative business of bunkering. Activist's involvement in oil bunkering is not for any real desire to steal, but with the target to gain popularity within and outside the university community, so as to aspire for the seat of governorship and hopes that, with his eventual status as

governor of the Niger Delta, he would resist from the economic sabotage and reform his partners into responsible citizens. This idea comes from the fact that most political elites of the region often use the youths to gain political prominence and abandon them thereafter. Having won the hearts of the students in the community with his periodic public lectures denouncing oppression in all its ramifications, the Activist leads many protests against Bell Oil, O&G, Sina and Brotal for their exploitative practices and environmental hazard in the Niger Delta.

With Dennis Ishaka'seducation, Tobi expects that his son will open doors for other indigenes from the region.Dennis is eventually employed by the Bell Oil Company but he is kept away from anythingthat involves the drilling of oil. According to the narrator, ''Dennis's bosses placed him wherehe would never need to soil his hands. He was placed in the corporate hospitality section ofthe company and was one of the officers that received important foreign dignitaries,International Oil Exporters, State Governors, and other visitors classified as importantpersonalities'' (303). The foreigners are scared of the educated indigenes. They know that ifthey find out the rudiments of oil digging, drilling and extraction, their help will no longer beneeded. They will no longer have to connive with the government to loot the people dry.

In order to fight for the rights of the Niger Delta against environmental degradation, the Activist findshis way again into the heart of theNiger Delta university students. This time the Activist chooses Omagbemi Mukoro tospearhead this ecoactivism and resistance from an academic environment. As a former cultist,Omagbemi uses his wealth of experience gathered during his days of cultism in school to fight against exploitation and degradation of the environment. Just like the other ecoactivists in the text, hebelieves that the major problem of their community is corruption. He watches helplessly ashis region falls apart. In the Niger Delta University, money continues tochange hands, lazy female students continue with their lecturers, even as some lecturerscontinue to force some female students to have sex with them. The environment is not evenconducive for learning because most of the equipments and materials that are supposed to beused in the university for the attainment of academic excellence are not made available forstudents. Omagbemi and other students, decide to use one voice to speak against the injusticemeted out to their people. As the Students' Union president, Omagbemi extends a hand to thevillagers to help in their fight for a new Niger Delta. He sees for himself the callousness ofboth the oil company whose pipes leakage cause the fire outbreak in Ekakpamre town andenvirons and the federal government that refused to be responsible for the life of its citizens and theirenvironment. The negligence of the Bell Oil Company sometimes gets to a bile level. Theway it always turn its eyes away from the pollution caused by their companies isnauseating. Most times when oil blowouts occur, the natives are thrown into a state ofquagmire. Blowouts continue to destroy villagers, and demolish not only their properties, buttheir sources of livelihood. The narrator describes a scene of blowouts due to gas flares andoil spillage in this way:

> An oil blowout, exacerbated by a pipe leakage and fuelled by gas flares, threwEkakpamre and its people into an unprecedented state of anxiety. The blazewas savage. At first children ran out to watch it but soon parents ran tophysically drag them from endangering their lives. With strong winds blowing,anybody nearby could be engulfed by the flames. Bell OilCompany knew very well that there was a blow out but did not ask its firefightingteam to put out the fire. The Uto River was literarily burning.Evergreen plants, dry leaves, and shrubs that stood by the river all becamecombustible material. The poisonous methane gas fumes engulfed plants,wildlife and humans around for days. (260)

As the Activist and his team prepare for the restoration of the Niger Delta, there is also negative activism perpetrated by some characters who wish that the greasing of their palmsby the Bell Oil Company will continue. These oppositionists help to fan the embers of decay,injustice

and corruption in the Niger Delta environment. They include Professor Tobore Ede,who once serves as the Community Development Officer. While addressing the students of theNiger Delta University, he says that "the villagers set their village on fire because they wantedto extort money from Bell Oil Company" (202). His utterances are a far cry from what isobtainable in the region. Another intellectual who toils with the emotions of the people isProfessor Kokoba, who betrays his people. He plays on their gullibility and rides on the wingof his intellectualism to deceive them. Before the Roko village fire incident, the villagers seethe need to protest because of a blowout in the village. Prof. Kokoba, as the spokesman of Bell Oil Company tries to assuage the feelings of the villagers by telling them the villagewas safe. And since Prof. Kokoba is educated, they believehim. They also believe himbecause "he is their son and they contributed to send him to England to study Law" (186).Prof Kokoba chooses to thank his benefactors by sapping them of their last penny. He worksagainst them by taking the bribe offered to him by the Bell Oil Company. Deception andbetrayal rear their heads through these characters who sell the trust of their people so thattheir hands will be greased by the crisp money of the Bell Oil Company.

Activism

Thereare organisations and groups that help to promote the positive cause of the Niger Delta.Theseorganisations include the 'Women of the Niger Delta Forum' (WODEFOR) and the UnitedNations Organisation (UNO).Ebi and some other women form an organization called 'Women of the Niger Delta Forum' (WODEFOR) in order to channel the predicaments of the Niger Delta women to the officials of Bell Oil. Their farmland is polluted as a result of oil activities so they decide to carry out a 'nude' protest against oil spillage and fire outbreak that ravaged Ekakpamre village but their secret protest is soon discovered and sabotaged by the company workers and hungry partners. The relationship between the Activist and Ebi Emasheyi andtheir eventual marriage help to intensify their common goal of liberating their people. Ebihelps to start up the 'Women of the Delta Forum, (WODEFOR) where she is its secretary.Ebi teams up with Mrs Timi to work for the Niger Delta environment. Women in differentoccupations in life are invited to be part of WODEFOR when it is formed; women farmers,traders, priestesses, chiefs, lawyers, lecturers, doctors were aii part of the organization.

The Activist wages a vigorous campaign. He uses the 'fish' as a symbol for his campaign.Fish is well known to the people and will not be easily forgotten. Fishing and farming havebeen part of the Niger Deltans for a long time. Using fish as a campaign symbol restores thefaith of his people, making them realise that they can be unchained from the manacles thathave held them bondage. This speech by the Activist further reveals another shade to thebondage he wants to disentangle his people from:

> If you give me your vote, I will ask the oil companies to clean our creeks,streams, and rivers so that the fish population can return to the waters. Mygovernment will provide boats to travel around in the riverine area. We havethe resources to help ourselves live better than we now live in the area. (341)

After the Activist wins the election, he restructures many abandoned projects and effects major changes in the state. He creates a Ministry of Environmental and MineralMatters to deal with the numerous problems of the Niger Delta, "to harness its naturalresources and also to clean the polluted soil, water and air and put out fires from gas flaresand oil blowout...The newly elected governor brought back Dennis Ishaka from Amsterdamand made him the commissioner of the new Ministry" (344). He succeeds in restoring the lostglory of the Niger Delta.

Conclusion

What Ojaide has portrays in *The Activist* is a utopian state. He wants a Niger Deltathat is not marred by avarice, corruption and betrayal. He creates a state where the charactersrally round to fight and condemn those who subjugate them. Human beings move to seek solution rather than waiting endlessly for it and then all perish. If theindigenes are guilty of bunkering, then the government and the oil multinationals that taptheir natural resources, pollute the entire area, make the land infertile, and yet fail to cater forthe indigenes of Delta, are also guilty. Water that is meant to give life gives death in returndue to pollution. The scourge of hunger, poverty and death set the ball rolling for quest forsurvival among the people. No wonder Ojaide describes bunkering as "a semi-officiallucrative business..." (137)The Delta indigenes qualified to handle issues concerning crude oil should be given access toit. It is high time Nigeria waved off the slavery of colonialism and be herself. The oilproducing states should be entitled to a reasonable percentage of the money that accrues fromoil being the direct recipient of the oil spillage, soil infertility for agriculture, pollution andother numerous problems of the same sort.

For Ojaide therefore, man is a destroyer of the environment and for that reason he is guilty. Man is also guilty to the extent that all his activities in the Niger Delta are anchored largely on deceit, betrayal, mischief and a total collusion with evil.

Works Cited

Aba, AndrewAme-Odini, "Environment as Primum Mobile": A Reading of Isidore Okpewho's *Tides. Isala: Ife Studies in African Literature and the Arts*.No.6.July, 2011. Print.

Agbo, Anayochukwu. "The Dying Delta" in Tell Magazine, April 7th, 2003.

Amanye, Vincent. *The Agony of Ogonis in the Niger Delta: A Case Study*. Port Harcourt: Horizon Concepts, 2001. Print

Asso, Ferdinand. "*The Niger Delta in Prose Fiction: A Study of Isidore Okpewho's Tides*". The Ker Review 3.1, 2007. Print

Buell. *The Environmental Imagination: Thoreau, Nature Writing, and the Formation of American Culture*. Cambridge: M.A. Harvard UP, 1995. Print.

Caminero-Santangelo, Byron. Different Shades of Greens: Ecocriticism and African Literature". *African Literature: An Anthology of Criticism and Criticism and Theory.* Eds. Tejumola Olaniyan and Ato Quayson. Oxford: Blackwell, 2007. (698-706).

Eagleton, Terry. *Literary Theory. An Introduction.* USA: Blackwell Publishing, 1996. Print.

Evaristo, Bernadine. *Oil on Water* by Helon Habila: "Topical and Urgent Tale of Environment in the Niger Delta" The Guardian 25 September, 2010.

Glotfelty, Cheryll. "Introduction: Literary Studies in an Age of Environmental Crisis". *The Ecocriticism Reader: Landmarks in Literary Ecology.* Ed. Cheryll Glotfelly.Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1996: xvii – xx Print

Glotfelty, Cheryll. *A Taxonomy of Nature Writing.* Athens: University of Geogia Press,2003. Print.

Glotfelty, Cheryll and Fromm, Harod. Ed. *Ecocritical Reader.* Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1996.

Gomides, Camilo. "Putting a New Definition of Ecocriticism to Test: The Case of Burning Season, A Film" (Mal) Adaptation (ISLS 13:1, 2006). Print.

Izevbaye, Dan. "Criticism and Literature in Africa". Perspectives on African Literature. Ed Christopher Haywood. London: Heinemann, 1974. (25-30).

Murphy Patrick. *Ecocriticism Exploration in Literary and Cultural Studies*. Plymouth Loxington Books, 2010. Print.

Ngugi wa Thiong'o. Writers in Politics. London: Heinemann, 1986. Print.

Ojaide, Tanure. *The Activist.* Lagos: Farafina. 2006. Print.

Okoroegbe, Fedelis Ndubuis. "Postcolonial Oil Politics Literature and the Niger Delta Question" Tanure Ojaide's *The Activist* in ANA Review, a Journal of Association of Nigerian Authors, Oct., 2012.

Olorode, Omotoye. "The Crises in the Oil Producing Communities in Nigeria" in Boiling Point eds. Raji Wumi et al. Lagos: CDHR, 2000. Print

Onukaogu, Allwell Abalogu and Ezechi Onyerionwu. *21st Century Nigerian Literature: An Introductory Text.* Ibadan: Kraft, 2009. Print.

---------- "Crisis and the Literature of the Niger Delta: The Dual Aethetics of the Lachrymal and The Revolutionary". *From Boom to Doom:Protest and Conflict Resolution in the Literature of the Niger Delta.* Ed.C. Nwahunanaya. Owerri: Spring field Publishers. 2011: 50 – 70 Print

Osaghae, "The Ogoni Uprising: Oil Politics, Minority Agitation and the Rueckert, William "Literature and Ecology: An Experiment on Ecocriticism". *Iowa Review* 9.1. (Winter, 1978): 71 – 86. Print

Saro – Wiwa, Ken. *Genocide in Nigeria: The Ogoni Tragedy* London: SarosInternational Publishers, 1992. Print

Tamuna, Takena. Oil Wars in the Niger Delta 1849-2009. Ibadan: Starling Horden Publishers Ltd, 2011. Print.