

**AN ANALYSIS OF NEW ENGLISH IN CHINA
ACHEBE'S THE AFRICAN TRILOGY**

PhD DISSERTATION

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ABSTRACT

New Englishes both as national varieties and as creative writings are gaining popularity and influence. This research is carried out to provide the necessary knowledge on new Englishes and shows how Chinua Achebe (1930-), a famous Nigerian novelist, created a new English by nativising or appropriating English in a respectable way and at the same time retaining international intelligibility. The research also intends to display how Functional Grammar (Halliday, 1994) could be employed in analysing fictional language. In this dissertation, the new English of Chinua Achebe in his masterpieces, *Things Fall Apart* (1958); *No Longer at Ease* (1960); and *Arrow of God* (1962), which are collectively published as *The African Trilogy* (1988), is analysed through the application of Functional Grammar and compared with the English of George Orwell (1903 - 1950), a British writer, in his novel, *Burmese Days* (1934) which is about colonized people, to identify the extraordinary features of Achebe's new English. Through the dissertation, knowledge about new Englishes can be provided to those involved in English language teaching and learning field, those who use English for communicative purposes and those who write in English for informative or literary purposes. The researcher believes that the detailed features of Chinua Achebe's new English found out after the analysis will benefit those who would like to take these features as models in their own writing or study them as teachers or learners of English. Consequently, they will become familiar with the nativisation or appropriation processes of a non-native writer, writing in English which in turn will enable them to make their own nativisation and appropriation of English. The application of Functional Grammar in the analysis can serve as a model for those who would like to use Functional Grammar in their own analyses.