

A SOCIOLINGUISTIC STUDY OF APPELLATIVE EXPRESSIONS IN AN AKAN CONCEPT OF GOD (NYAME) IN CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

Abstract

The use of appellative expressions has become a very common communicative mode in every facet of Akan society. Such mode of expressions is often made to reflect the socio-cultural values of the people and their religious lives as a whole. The nature of the study seeks to examine the sociolinguistic development of appellative expressions in an Akan concept of God (Nyame) in Christian worship. A case study approach was adopted with its data being derived from three different assemblies of The Church of Pentecost in Takoradi Area. In all, twenty-five different forms of appellative expressions were identified under various assemblies designated for the study. Sharifan's Cultural Conceptualisation theory and Goddard's Ethnopragmatic theory were employed as the theoretical framework for the study. At the end, it was realised that the worshippers from different assemblies of the church had common appellative expressions (such as 'Nyame Obaatanpa', 'Nyame bako pe', 'efiritete Nyame', 'Nyame tumfo', 'Nyame kokroko' among others) that ran through their praises and worships' sessions in order to give focus to their deferential attitude towards the greatness of God (Nyame).

Keywords: sociolinguistic study, appellative expressions, Akan concept of God, Christian worship