

## Interrogating Femi Osofisan's *Twingle-Twangle: A Twynning Tayle* as a Philosophical Commentary on the Contemporary African Society

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### **Abstract**

This paper is a critique of Femi Osofisan's *Twingle-Twangle: A Twynning Tayle*, as a socio-cultural commentary on the contemporary African society. The paper countenances the political and the philosophical essence of the play using the dream and the quest motif. The paper examines the play's themes of power versus wisdom, peace versus war and the supremacy of the power of the pen above the might of the sword. The theoretical framework of the paper is postcolonial criticism. The paper also looks at the revolutionary disposition of the playwright to obstructive, disruptive and barbaric African deities and traditions that are inimical to human existence and to the development of the society without necessarily portraying the playwright as an iconoclast and a religious chauvinist. The paper also looks at Osofisan's diagnosis of the recurrent African's socio-political problems and his philosophical prognosis to the intractable problems bedevilling the African continent among which is the need to shun fables, superstition and fear and the readiness to fight in order to be free from oppression. The paper captures Osofisan's juxtaposition of the place of the military and the civilian in the play and their abilities or otherwise in creating an enabling democratic environment that is conducive for the survival for the masses. The paper concludes by recapturing Osofisan's view in the play on the power of wisdom as ennobling and the only humanistic and humane way to bring transformation, peace and development devoid of acrimony and bloodshed to our contemporary society rather than toeing the path of violence.

**Keywords:** Drama, Criticism, Femi Osofisan, *Twingle-Twangle: A Twynning Tayle*, Philosophy, Postcolonial Criticism, African Society