

Between the Divine and the Demonic: Interrogating Nigerian Pentecostalism, Christian Myths, and the Susceptibility of Female Characters in Selected Nigerian Video Films

By

Victoria O. Adeniyi (Ph.D)
Department of Dramatic Arts,
Obafemi Awolowo University,
Ile-Ife, Nigeria.
E-mail: vicadeniyi2k4@yahoo.com

Abstract

African Pentecostal theological vision is characterised by the conceptualisation of the Christian myths that demonstrate the worlds of the divine and the demonic interacting with, influencing, and defining the reality of the human world. This paper focused on the Christian myths that illustrated how the transcendent shaped and defined the temporal, and how these myths had been strategically infused into the theological vision of the Nigerian Pentecostals to lend an edge over female characters. Using a combination of the myth and functionalist theories, the paper analysed female characters in selected Nigerian video films and showed how they were either conformists or non-conformists of the expectations of the transcendent beings and how they bore the consequences of their actions. The paper revealed that the Christian myths that portrayed the control of the worlds of the divine and the demonic over the human world appeared potent in Nigerian Pentecostalism and were convincingly projected in the selected Nigerian film narratives. The paper concluded by establishing that although there were negative female characters that were symptomatic of the success of the influence of the demonic world, the portrayal of the positive ones showed the precautions to take to avoid their continuity.

Keywords: Pentecostalism, Christian Myths, Divine, Demonic, Susceptibility, Female characters