

UTUENIKANG

**Ibom Journal of Language
and Literary Review**

VOLUME 1 2021

**A JOURNAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
AKWA IBOM STATE UNIVERSITY, NIGERIA**
www.aksu.edu.ng/journal

UTUENIKANG: Ibom Journal of Language and Literary Review, a publication of the Department of English, Akwa Ibom State University, Nigeria publishes peer-reviewed articles; both empirical and original in the areas of language(s) and linguistics, literary enquiries, gender and cultural studies, as well as in digital literatures, archival and auto/biographical studies.

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ISSN: 2811-2385

Subscription Information

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Printed in Nigeria by:
MIDA COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES
08023746111, 07038009650

Editorial Preface

This volume is the maiden edition of **Utuenikang: Ibom Journal of Language and Literary Review** and marks an exciting moment in the continued quest for the cross-fertilization of critical ideas and articulation of evolving issues in knowledge production and development in the areas of language, creative writing and literary scholarship. 'Utuenikang' and 'Ibom' that form part of the name of the journal in the Ibibio/Annag/Efik, and indeed, in most of the local dialects of Akwa Ibom State, South-South, Nigeria, where the university is located, simply means 'lantern'. The illuminating value of 'Utuenikang' (or 'lantern' in English) is understandable for a journal like this. 'Ibom' as part of the name of the state, just as it is part of the name of the University itself, means 'a great land' or universe. The Department of English, Akwa Ibom State University is in tune with the developing trends in the global knowledge arena and has continued to strive towards bringing excellence to bear on the drive for the actualization of mission and vision of this university in terms of research and scholarship. It is this drive that has given birth to *Utuenikang*. This journal is the second title published in the department. The first title; **AKSU Journal of English** has been rolling in its volumes since its first edition in 2017.

Credit must be given to the concourse of contributors from within and outside Nigeria, especially for the token they have contributed towards easing the burden of getting the publication out of the printing press. The intellectual contributions of eminent scholars and critics across the realm are humbly acknowledged. Special appreciation goes to Professor Ayo Kehinde of the University of Ibadan, Professor Gbemisola Adeoti of Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Professor James Tar Tsaiior of University of Potsdam, Germany, Professor Omobolande Sotunsa of Babcock University, Ilesan-Remo, Ogun State, and Professor Mark Ighile of Benson Idahosa University, Benin City for their scholarly counsels, creative ideas, articles and reviews that have added to enrich the content of this volume. *Utuenikang* is indeed, a bumper harvest!

David Ekanem Udoinwang, PhD
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