

Women, Damaged Bodies, Healing Bodies: A Logotherapeutic Analysis of Yejide Kilanko's *Daughters Who Walk This Path*

Rebecca Ufuoma Davies

Department of Languages and Literature
Lead City University, Ibadan
ufuomarebecc@gmail.com

Abstract:

This paper presents a logotherapeutic analysis of Yejide Kilanko's novel, *Daughters Who Walk This Path*, focusing on the themes of women, reconceptualization of the female gender as 'damaged bodies and healing bodies. Kilanko's narrative explores the intricate struggles faced by Nigerian women, particularly through the lens of the protagonist, Morayo. Drawing on Viktor Frankl's logotherapy, which emphasizes the search for meaning and purpose in life, this analysis examines the ways in which women navigate the complexities of their 'damaged bodies' strive for healing and self-discovery. The author articulates the societal expectations imposed upon women, often resulting in the objectification and commodification of their bodies. Kilanko vividly portrays the damaging consequences of cultural norms, gender-based violence, and the shame and silence surrounding women's experiences. By unraveling the characters' psyches, the paper delves into the emotional and traumas endured by the female protagonists, highlighting their resilience and quest for self-actualization, while highlighting the therapeutic aspects present in the narrative, in their moments of growth, transformation, and healing. Through logotherapeutic concepts such as the will to meaning, responsibility, and the pursuit of values, the study uncovers how Kilanko portrays the protagonists' journeys towards reclaiming agency over their own bodies and lives.

Key words: logotherapy, trauma, literature, psyche, African women

Introduction:

Literature has long served as a powerful medium for exploring and illuminating the human condition. Through storytelling for instance authors delve into complex themes with narratives, shedding light on various aspects of life. In Yejide Kilanko's compelling novel, *Daughters Who Walk This Path*, the author masterfully exposes the lives of women, their damaged bodies, and their journey towards healing. The concept of damaged bodies in Yejide Kilanko's "Daughters Who Walk This Path" encompasses physical, emotional, and societal dimensions. It serves as a lens through which the novel explores the challenges faced by its characters, their resilience, and their journey towards empowerment and healing in the face of adversity. Logotherapeutic analysis aims to explore the profound psychological and emotional implications on the female characters in the novel, highlighting their struggles, resilience, and the transformative power of healing. The setting of the story is takes place in Nigeria, a country marked by deep-rooted patriarchal norms and societal expectations imposed upon women. Kilanko crafts a rich tapestry of characters, primarily focusing on Morayo and Yemisi, two young girls growing up in different eras, navigating the challenges and injustices inflicted on them by a society that views women's bodies as objects of control and subjugation.

Central to this analysis is the concept of damaged bodies, a metaphorical representation of the psychological and physical trauma endured by the female characters. Kilanko's skillful storytelling unveils the multifaceted nature of trauma, which encompasses

not only physical violence but also emotional and sexual abuse. The phenomenon of damaged bodies in the novel serves as symbol of the pain, suffering, and internal conflict experienced by women living within a patriarchal society. Viktor Frankl's logotherapy, a meaning-centered approach to psychotherapy, serves as the theoretical framework. Logotherapy emphasizes the search for meaning and purpose in life as a crucial component of psychological well-being. Applying this framework, we explore how the female characters in *Daughters Who Walk This Path* embark on transformative journey towards healing and self-recovery reclaiming agency over their damaged bodies and asserting their identities in the face of adversity.

Through a rich tapestry of narrative voices, Kilanko eloquently captures the internal struggles and external pressures faced by the female characters. Drawing from extensive research on trauma, feminist theories, and testimonies of survivors, the analysis explores the psychological and emotional implications of trauma on women's lives, shedding light on the nuanced ways in which they navigate their experiences of pain, loss, and injustice (Herman 1997). Furthermore, the healing processes undertaken by the characters is examined within the context of logotherapy, highlighting the pivotal role of meaning-making, self-reflection, and the pursuit of personal growth in their journeys towards wholeness. By weaving together themes of resilience, sisterhood, and self-empowerment, Kilanko offers a narrative that not only sheds light on the struggles of women but also serves as a source of inspiration and empowerment for the imagined victims grappling with their own healing processes. For the examination of the Nigeria, the backdrop of the novel provides a socio-cultural landscape, experiences and challenges faced by the female characters.

Literary Analysis of *Daughters Who Walk This Path*

The novel is set in Nigeria and follows the lives of two sisters, Morayo and Eniayo, as they deal with the pressures and cultural expectations that their family and society place on them. The quest for self-discovery encounters with the reality of gender inequality, identity, and family dynamics are all topics covered among the issues captured in Kilanko's novel. Kilanko illustrates the difficulties of growing up as a female in a patriarchal environment through the use of strong storytelling, rich imagery, and deployment of endearing characters. Identity discovery Contextualization of identity is one of the main themes of *Daughters Who Walk This Path*. Throughout the novel, Morayo, the main character, struggles with her identity. Morayo comments on her effort to live up to social norms in one case, saying, "I did not know who I was anymore, or what I was supposed to become" (Kilanko, 201). This passage emphasizes Morayo's inner conflict and her struggle to be true to herself in the face of external pressure.

Another key issue that Play out in the novel is gender inequality. Kilanko illustrates the extreme disparity between Morayo and her sister Eniayo's lives as they are treated differently as a result of their gender. According to the narrator "In this world where men hold the key, the male child is celebrated, and the female child, she is tolerated" (Kilanko, "*Daughters Who Walk This Path*" 37). The oppressive aspect of the society portrayed in the novel, where girls are treated unfairly and have few possibilities only because of their gender, is demonstrated by this quote. Family ties are another important aspect of the narrative. The tense relationship between Morayo and her mother, Iya Segi, is a microcosm of the generational gap and the conflict between conventional and contemporary values. Iya Segi citings to the past so tenaciously that she would not let go, she was unwilling to change who she was and did not have place for fresh beginnings (Kilanko, "*Daughters Who Walk This Path*" 89). This quotation highlights the fight for individuality within the constraints of family expectations by illustrating the friction between Morayo's desire for personal growth

and her mother's aversion to change. She creates a vivid and engaging world through her descriptions. For instance, Kilanko says. "The oppressive heat seeped into every crevice of the room" ("*Daughters Who Walk This Path*" 267). When describing a crucial period in Morayo's life. My back started to perspire, leaving a salty trail in its wake. The reader is bound to be stimulated by such use of imagery simulated by this sensory imagery, which also helps to portray the scene's intense emotional content.

Historical Context and Women's Struggles

To understand the challenges faced by women in *Daughters Who Walk This Path*, it is crucial to examine the socio-cultural and historical contexts of Nigeria historical context of Nigeria. Colonialism. Significantly impacted Nigerian society and shaped its cultural and power dynamics. The introduction of Western values and patriarchal systems through colonial rule brought about a clash between traditional cultural practices and newly imposed norms. During the colonial era, Nigeria experienced significant political, social, and cultural changes that continue to influence its society. The imposition of British colonial rule brought about transformations in power structures, education, and cultural practices. As noted by Falola and Heaton (2008), the colonial period disrupted traditional gender norms and roles, leading to a reconfiguration of gender relations and the erosion of women's autonomy.

According to Okonjo-Iweala (2014), the colonial period in Nigeria disrupted existing gender roles and power structures, as traditional practices were often undermined or replaced by patriarchal systems brought by the colonizers. This disruption had far-reaching consequences for Nigerian women, as it often limited their opportunities for education, employment, and social mobility. The remnants of these patriarchal systems can be observed in *Daughters Who Walk This Path*, where the female characters struggle against deeply ingrained societal expectations and gender inequalities. According to Osirim (2013), despite legal advancements and the inclusion of gender equality principles in Nigeria's constitution, women continue to face significant barriers to full participation in society. Discriminatory practices, cultural norms, and gender stereotypes persist, shaping the experiences of women in both public and private spheres. These systemic challenges form the backdrop against which Kilanko's female characters are cast in the story.

In the text, the author masterfully portrays the multifaceted struggles faced by women in Nigerian society. The novel presents a diverse range of female characters who grapple with societal constraints, repressive cultural norms, and personal challenges. The struggles are reflective of the broader experiences of women in Nigeria and sheds light on the complexity of their lives. The struggles faced by women in the narrative are intricately linked to historical legacies and the complexities of Nigerian society. Gender inequality is deeply rooted in cultural and societal norms. According to Akinsola and Amzat (2015), Nigeria's patriarchal system is sustained by deeply entrenched attitudes that subordinate women and limit their agency.

Kilanko skillfully portrays the challenges that Nigerian women face in navigating their everyday encounters in a society where their voices are often silenced and their dreams suppressed. Through the character of Morayo, the author sheds light on the intersecting struggles of gender inequality, cultural expectations, and the stifling impact of societal norms. The novel serves as a platform to expose and challenge the systemic barriers that hinder women's progress in Nigeria. Moreover, Kilanko addresses the issue of female genital mutilation (FGM) as a recurring theme in the novel. FGM, prevalent in many African communities, is a harmful practice that violates the rights and physical integrity of women and girls. In *Daughters Who Walk This Path*, the character Eniayo undergoes this painful

ritual, and Kilanko depicts the emotional and physical consequences that follow. This narrative choice raises awareness about the detrimental effects of FGM and contributes to ongoing discussions on eradicating this harmful practice.

The struggles faced by the female characters in the story are emblematic of the broader challenges experienced by Nigerian women. According to The World Bank report (2019), women's participation in the Nigerian labor force is significantly lower than men's, reflecting the persistent gender disparities in employment. The novel powerfully captures the frustration and resilience of women who strive for autonomy and equal rights. Another central issue explored in the novel is the prevalence of gender-based violence. A study conducted by Amnesty International (2014) reveals that violence against women in Nigeria remains alarmingly high, with domestic violence, rape, and child marriage being persistent problems. The novel skillfully weaves these realities into her narrative, depicting the emotional and physical toll of abuse on her female characters. Through the narrations of individual characters in the book, the novel stories, the novel highlights the urgent need for societal change and the empowerment of women.

Furthermore, the author uses the novel to address the oppressive nature of a dddresses the oppressive nature of societal expectations placed on women. The pressure to conform to traditional gender roles, such as being submissive and sacrificing personal ambitions for the sake of the family, weighs heavily on the female characters. This struggle for autonomy and self-determination is exemplified through the protagonist, Morayo, as she resists societal norms and fights to forge her own path. Another aspect of women's struggles depicted in the novel is the challenges faced by single mothers. The stigma and marginalization experienced by single mothers in Nigerian society are addressed through the character of Iya Segi. Kilanko exposes the discrimination faced by single mothers, shed light on the need for social and institutional support to address their unique circumstances. Kilanko explores the intersections of gender inequality and economic disadvantage. The limited access to economic opportunities for women in Nigeria, exacerbated by societal biases and structural barriers, reinforces their dependence on men. The novel highlights the economic vulnerabilities faced by women and the dire consequences of financial dependence, contributing to a broader discussion on gendered poverty and the need for economic empowerment.

Damaged Bodies, Physical, Emotional and Psychological Traumas

Trauma is a pervasive and multifaceted aspect of human experience that leaves a lasting impact on individuals' lives. It encompasses a range of physical, emotional, and psychological wounds that can be inflicted through various means, including violence, abuse, and societal pressures. The text underscores how the author explores the theme of damaged bodies and the profound consequences of physical, emotional, and psychological traumas on the lives of her characters. Through the vivid portrayal of the protagonist's journey, Kilanko sheds light on the interconnectedness of these traumas and highlights the resilience and strength required to heal and move forward. The novel articulates the catastrophic consequences physical trauma has on the bodies of her protagonists. Morayo, the main character, suffers physical abuse from her father, leaving her with obvious scars and severe emotional wounds. Morayo's physical trauma as shown by Kilanko serves as a potent reminder of the long-lasting effects of violence and the ways in which it can alter a person's sense of self. According to Kilanko herself, "Physical trauma leaves its mark not only on the body but also on the mind and soul" (*“Daughters Who Walk This Path”* 64). The novelist questions societal conventions and exposes the reader to the hard realities faced by many people who bear visible and invisible burdens through the representation of Morayo's

injured body.

Additionally, the novelist does not hold back when examining the complex relationships between physical and emotional traumas. It is portrayed as a result of physical abuse, social pressures, and the internal battle for self-acceptance. Kilanko emphasizes the ways in which emotional trauma can result in low self-esteem, anxiety, and depression, which feeds a vicious cycle of suffering and insecurity. She argues that because emotional trauma impacts a person's sense of identity and capacity for healthy interpersonal interactions, it is just as harmful as physical trauma. Emotional trauma, according to (Kilanko, 124) "cuts deep, leaving scars that are not visible to the naked eye but have a profound impact on one's overall well-being." She emphasizes the need for empathy and understanding toward those who carry the invisible scars of cultural malfeasance and emotional trauma all their lives.

The novel explores how cultural expectations, such as the pressure to adhere to established gender roles and conventions, have an effect on people's mental health. In this regard, the author investigates the ways in which such expectations can produce a severe sense of alienation, internalised shame, and a warped self-image. The main character of the novel, Morayo, struggles to overcome the psychological scars, feeling hopeless and unable to speak for her. The long-lasting effects of psychological trauma are highlighted by Kilanko, who claims that "the scars of psychological trauma runs deep, affecting every aspect of an individual's life" (*Daughters Who Walk This Path* 34). By highlighting the psychological challenges her characters encounter, the novel encourages readers to consider the cultural constraints that fuel the traumatic experiences and the value of creating conducive atmosphere that support mental health.

Similarly, the novelist weaves a narrative that lays bare the physical, emotional, and psychological traumas experienced by her characters. Through her exploration of damaged bodies, she underscores the profound and interconnected effects of trauma on individuals' lives. Kilanko's novel serves as a powerful testament to the resilience of the human spirit, highlighting the strength and courage required to confront and overcome the challenges posed by physical, emotional, and psychological trauma. Thus, the novel's exploration of damaged bodies aligns with the broader discourse on trauma and its repercussions. Research on trauma emphasizes the interconnected nature of physical, emotional, and psychological wounds thus, highlighting how they often coexist and reinforce each other (Briere, 27). Physical trauma can lead to emotional and psychological distress, while emotional and psychological traumas can manifest in physical symptoms and somatic complaints (Van der Kolk, 2014). Kilanko's portrayal of these interconnections mirrors the complexities of real-life experiences of trauma and contributes to a more nuanced understanding of its impact.

The novel also aligns with feminist literary criticism, which emphasizes the exploration of women's experiences, including the effects of gender-based violence and societal expectations on their bodies and psyches. Thus, the portrayal of physical abuse suffered by Morayo reflects the pervasive issue of gender-based violence, and sheds light on the lasting scars it leaves on the bodies and psyches of its victims (Crenshaw, 66). The emotional and psychological states faced by the characters also resonate with feminist theories on the internalization of societal expectations and the resultant impact on women's well-being (Hook, 2000). Kilanko's novel contributes immensely to the ongoing dialogue on gender, trauma, and resilience within feminist literary criticism, and offers a powerful examination of damaged bodies and the physical, emotional, and psychological torments experienced by her characters. Through her vivid and empathetic portrayal, the author sheds light on the magnitude of culture-induced trauma

with the lasting repercussions on the lives of such victims.

Logotherapy as a Therapeutic Approach

Logotherapy is a psychotherapeutic approach developed by Viktor E. Frankl (1984), a renowned psychiatrist and Holocaust survivor. It focuses on the search for meaning and purpose in life, and emphasizes the importance of finding meaning even in the midst of suffering and adversity. Logotherapy posits that individuals can overcome existential struggles and mental health challenges by discovering their unique purpose and engaging in actions that align with their values. In the text the application of logotherapy as a therapeutic framework becomes evident as the characters grapple with various forms of trauma and strive to negotiate their paths towards self-recovery and healing their journeys toward self-discovery and healing. Through the lens of logotherapy, Kilanko explores the transformative power of finding meaning and purpose in one's life, ultimately offering a beacon of hope for those who have experienced trauma.

Frankl, Viktor (1992), the founder of logotherapy, experienced firsthand the horrors of the Nazi concentration camps during World War II. The experience profoundly influenced his understanding of human suffering and the importance of finding meaning in life, even in the face of extreme adversity. Frankl's seminal work, "Man's Search for Meaning," outlines the principles of logotherapy and its application in therapeutic settings. Logotherapy posits that individuals have an innate desire to find meaning and purpose in their lives. According to Frankl (2006), meaning can be discovered through three main avenues: creating a work or doing a deed, experiencing something or encountering someone, and choosing one's attitude toward unavoidable suffering. These avenues serve as guiding principles for individuals seeking to find meaning in their lives and overcome existential crises.

The characters in the novel navigate themes of trauma, abuse, loss, and societal expectations, all while searching for their identities and a sense of purpose. Through their experiences, Kilanko highlights the power of logotherapy in helping individuals transcend their circumstances and find meaning in their lives. Morayo, the protagonist of the novel, is confronted with the painful reality of her parents' troubled marriage and the ensuing consequences it has on her emotional well-being. As she struggles to make sense of her experiences, Morayo embarks on a journey of self-discovery and healing. Through logotherapy, she learns to reinterpret her suffering and seeks to create a meaningful life for herself.

Eniayo, Morayo's sister, also faces significant challenges as she grapples with the societal pressures and expectations placed on her. Eniayo begins to question and challenge these expectations, ultimately choosing her own path and pursuing a life that aligns with her authentic self. Kilanko's portrayal of logotherapy in *on the story* underscores the therapeutic potential of finding meaning and purpose in life. By integrating logotherapy principles into their lives, the characters in the novel are able to transcend their traumas, develop resilience, and discover their unique identities. Logotherapy offers a valuable framework for understanding and addressing existential struggles and trauma. transformative power of logotherapy becomes evident as the characters take their journeys toward self-discovery and healing. The novel serves as a poignant exploration of human capacity to find meaning and purpose in the face of adversity. Kilanko's incorporation of logotherapy in *in the text*, demonstrates the multidimensional nature of healing and growth.

The characters' experiences reflect the core principles of logotherapy, including the importance of creating a meaningful life through purposeful action, finding significance in personal relationships and connections, and choosing one's attitude towards suffering. One of the central tenets of logotherapy is the belief that individuals can find purpose and

meaning in their lives through meaningful work or deeds. In the novel, Morayo and Eniayo both embark on personal journeys to create lives that are aligned with their passions and values. Morayo, despite the traumas she endures, discovers solace and fulfillment in her writing, using her words to convey her experiences and inspire others. Eniayo, on the other hand, pursues her passion for education, striving to create positive change in her community. Their commitment to meaningful work serves as a testament to the transformative power of logotherapy. Furthermore, logotherapy emphasizes the importance of interpersonal relationships and connections in finding meaning. Throughout the novel, Morayo and Eniayo seek solace and support from their loved ones, forging connections that offer them a sense of belonging and purpose. Kilanko portrays the significance of these relationships in their healing processes, illustrating how meaningful connections can foster growth and resilience. The characters' journeys also highlight the significance of choosing one's attitude towards suffering. Frankl (1984) asserts that even in the face of unavoidable suffering, individuals have the freedom to choose their response and find meaning in their circumstances. Morayo and Eniayo confront numerous challenges, including abuse, cultural expectations, and societal pressures. However, through their resilience and determination, they navigate these difficulties and strive to create lives that are meaningful to them. Their ability to choose their attitude towards their suffering demonstrates the transformative potential of logotherapy in overcoming adversity.

The Narrative of Healing

Daughters Who Walk This Path explores the narrative of healing and resilience in the lives of its female protagonists. The novel presents a compelling narrative of healing, drawing from the author's own experiences and observations of Nigerian society. Through the characters of Morayo and Eniayo, Kilanko highlights the importance of confronting past traumas, finding inner strength, and seeking support in order to heal and grow.

According to a book review by Maureen N. Eke published in the *Journal of Postcolonial Writing*, Kilanko's portrayal of healing in *Daughters Who Walk This Path* is deeply rooted in the cultural and social context of Nigeria (Eke, 2014). The review emphasizes the novel's exploration of the ways in which societal expectations and patriarchal structures can hinder the healing process for women, and how the characters in the book navigate these challenges. In an interview with *The Guardian London* (2013), Kilanko discusses her motivation for writing the novel and sheds light on the importance of addressing issues of healing and resilience. She shares her personal experiences of growing up in Nigeria and witnessing the struggles faced by women in her community. Kilanko explains how she wanted to create a narrative that would inspire and empower readers, particularly young women, to confront their own traumas and find their voices.

Taken together, *the novel* presents a narrative of healing that is grounded on Nigeria's socio-cultural reality the cultural context of Nigeria. Through characterization, Kilanko explores the dynamics of healing from past traumas and emphasizes the importance of resilience, empowerment, and support in the process. She skillfully weaves together the personal journeys of Morayo and Eniayo, emphasizing their resilience and the transformative power of the healing processes. The novel addresses sensitive and difficult topics such as sexual abuse, societal pressures, and cultural expectations with empathy and nuance. The exploration of healing in the novel is also reflected in her writing style. She employs vivid descriptions and poignant language to create an emotional connection between the reader and the characters, allowing readers to empathize with the struggles and triumphs. Through this narrative approach, the writer invites readers to join the characters on their healing paths and witness their transformation. Drawing from her own experiences and observations,

Kilanko delves into the complexities of healing from trauma, the resilience of her characters, and the transformative power of finding one's voice.

Resilience and the Search for Meaning

A central tenet of logotherapy is the idea that individuals can find meaning even in the most challenging circumstances. Kilanko's characters exemplify this resilience. Despite the hardships they endure, Morayo and Eniayo search for meaning in their lives. Morayo, in particular, turns to storytelling as a way to make sense of her experiences and to create a narrative that gives her life purpose.

Morayo's friendship with Pious, a mute boy who communicates through art, highlights the theme of finding meaning through creativity. Pious's art becomes a form of therapy for him and serves as a source of healing. This artistic expression aligns with Frankl's idea that creativity is a powerful means of finding meaning and transcending suffering.

The Healing Journey: Forgiveness and Reconciliation

Healing in logotherapy often involves the process of forgiveness and reconciliation. In "Daughters Who Walk This Path," forgiveness plays a significant role in the characters' healing journeys. Morayo must grapple with forgiving those who have wronged her, including her family and herself. This process of forgiveness allows her to reclaim agency over her life and move toward a more meaningful existence.

Similarly, Eniayo's journey involves reconciling with her past and forgiving those who have harmed her. Her experiences highlight the interconnectedness of individual healing with familial and societal healing. Through the lens of logotherapy, these acts of forgiveness can be seen as steps toward finding meaning and purpose in life, even after enduring significant trauma.

Conclusion

Yejide Kilanko's novel, *Daughters Who Walk This Path*, presents a powerful exploration of the trauma, therapy and the healing process of gendered self-recovery. The logotherapeutic analysis has revealed the profound impact of societal expectations, gender-based violence, and cultural norms on the lives of Nigerian women. Kilanko skillfully portrays the psychological and emotional situations endured by the female protagonists by highlighting their resilience and the complexities of their journeys towards self-actualization. Through the application of logotherapeutic concepts such as the search for meaning in life and self responsibility, this analysis demonstrated how the characters in the novel navigate the path to healing toward reclaiming agency over their bodies and lives. Kilanko's narrative showcases moments of growth, transformation, and the pursuit of values, underscoring the importance of self-discovery and the quest for meaning in the face of adversity.

Ultimately, "Daughters Who Walk This Path" serves as a testament to the enduring human quest for meaning and the transformative power of healing. Kilanko's characters remind us that, regardless of the damage inflicted upon our bodies and souls, the search for meaning can lead us toward a path of healing and wholeness.

In a world where societal expectations and trauma often leave women with damaged bodies, the novel invites us to consider how logotherapy's principles of finding meaning, resilience, and forgiveness can offer hope and guidance on the path to healing. Yejide Kilanko's work stands as a testament to the strength and resilience of women, inviting readers to reflect on their own journeys toward healing and meaning in the face of adversity.

The story of "Daughters Who Walk This Path" is a poignant reminder that, even in the darkest of times, the human spirit has the capacity to heal, to forgive, and to find meaning and purpose. In the intricate tapestry of damaged bodies and healing souls, the characters of

this novel stand as shining examples of resilience and the indomitable will to thrive, no matter the circumstances. Kilanko's storytelling provides a beacon of hope and a call to action, encouraging readers to embrace their own healing journeys and to seek meaning in every step they take, no matter how challenging the path may be.

Works Cited

- Akinsola, O. S., and Amzat, J. "Historical Analysis of Women and Gender Disparities in Nigeria", *Journal of African Studies and Development*, vol. 7, no. 7, 2015, pp. 203-209.
- Amnesty International. "Violence against Women in Nigeria: Rape in Nigeria". <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr44/002/2014/en/>. Accessed 20 July 2015.
- Briere, J. "Treating adult survivors of severe childhood abuse and neglect: Further development of an integrative model". In J. E. B. Myers, L. Berliner, J. Briere, C. T. Hendrix, C. Jenny, & T. A. Reid (Eds.), *The APSAC handbook on child maltreatment*. Sage Publications, 2nd ed., 2012, pp. 175-204.
- Commonwealth Writers. "Yejide Kilanko: My Writing" <https://www.commonwealthwriters.org/ykj-2013/>. Accessed 20 July 2013
- Crenshaw, K. W. "Mapping the margins: Intersectionality, identity politics, and violence against women of color". *Stanford Law Review*, vol. 43, no. 6, 1991, pp. 1241-1299.
- Eke, M. N. "Mothers, daughters, and the narrative of healing in Yejide Kilanko's *Daughters Who Walk This Path*". *Journal of Postcolonial Writing*, vol. 50, no. 2, 2014, pp. 238-250.
- Ezeamama, A. E., Ujah, I. A., Nwankwo, B. O., & Ebenebe, J. C. "Gender Disparities in Socioeconomic Factors and Health Indicators in Nigeria". *Journal of Women's Health*, vol. 21, no. 4, 2012, pp. 414-421.
- Fox, W. J. (2014). "Review: *Daughters Who Walk This Path* by Yejide Kilanko", *World Literature Today*. vol. 88, no.4, 2014, pp. 107-108.
- Frankl, V. E. *Man's search for meaning: An introduction to logotherapy*, Simon and Schuster, 1984.
- Frankl, V. E. *The will to meaning: Foundations and applications of logotherapy*, Plume, 1992
- Frankl, V. E. *Man's search for meaning*. Beacon Press, 2006.
- Frankl, V. E. *The feeling of meaninglessness: A challenge to psychotherapy and philosophy*, Marquette University Press, 2006.
- Herman, Judith. *Trauma and Recovery: The Aftermath of Violence - From Domestic Abuse to Political Terror*. Basic Books, 1997.
- Hook, bell. *Feminism is for everybody: Passionate politics*. Pluto Press, 2000.
- Kilanko, Y. *Daughters Who Walk This Path*. Penguin Books, 2012.
- Ogunbanwo, W., & Olusanya, O. "Single Parenting and Its Effects on Child Welfare in Nigeria: A Review of Selected Literature". *International Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities Reviews*, vol. 6, no.1, 2016, pp. 150-156.
- Okonjo-Iweala, N. "Women and Leadership in Nigeria. In Gender and Power in Contemporary Africa": *Essays in Honour of Aili Mari Tripp*, 2014, pp. 169-184.
- Osirim, M. J. *African Women's Movements: Changing Political Landscapes*. Cambridge University Press, 2013.
- The World Bank. "Labor Force, Female (% of Total Labor Force)" - Nigeria. <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.TLF.TOTL.FE.ZS?locations=NG>, Accessed 20 July 2023.
- Van der Kolk, B. A. *The body keeps the score: Brain, mind, and body in the healing of trauma*. Penguin Books, 2014.
- Wesley, T. "In conversation with Yejide Kilanko, author of *Daughters Who Walk This Path*". *The Guardian*. <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2013/aug/22/yejide-kilanko-interview>. Accessed July 20 2023.