

Voiced/voiceless children in Chris Abani's *Song for Night*

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Civil War (1967-70) has become a recurrent topic in Nigerian Literature as it has allowed the writers –from different ethnic realities and generations- to explain the situation of a territory in which borders has been blurred by the colonial European forces. Many are the voices describing the causes and the consequences of the conflict, exposing the experiences of a lived (Soyinka, Amadi, Ike, Emecheta, and so on) or told (Adichie, Abani) war. In general, most of these texts are very personal and reflect everyday life as much as the personal consequences the conflict had in their lives or in the life of the others.

Among contemporary Nigerian Writers reviewing the conflict has also helped them to develop a complete canvas of the postcolonial reality of the country. In this particular case, I will focus my attention on Chris Abani (1966-) who has written *Song for Night* in 2007. Abani has elaborated a powerful narration of the Nigerian war throughout the voiceless speech of a child-soldier, My Luck. Using the child's thoughts, he elaborates a portrait of the war from the perspective of a child. Stuck in the middle of a tropical forest, living haunted by his violent past, My Luck revises the three years of the struggle in a journey between reality and desire. While he is looking for the members of his platoon, he narrates the limits of life and death and the atrocities of the war (cf. Goyal, 2014). Among the aspects I will attempt to develop I want to include the language used and the anthropological condition of the main protagonist of the story, My Luck.

References

Abani, Chris 2007. *Song for Night*. New York: Akhasic Books

Goyal, Yogita 2014. "A Deep Humanness, a Deep Grace: Interview with Chris Abani" *Research in African Literatures*, 45/3, 227-240.