

**CURRENT ISSUES IN LINGUISTICS,
LANGUAGE AND GENDER
STUDIES:
A FESTSCHRIFT IN HONOUR OF PROFESSOR
CECILIA AMAOGE EME**

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Edited by: Linda Chinelo Nkamigbo
Felicia Oluchukwu Asadu

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**To
Professor Clara I. Ikekeonwu**

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PREFACE

Festschrift is a German word that is usually used to describe a celebratory writing in honour of a deserving individual. That individual in this case is no less a person than Cecilia Amaoge Eme – a Professor of Linguistics; Former Head, Department of Linguistics and Associate Dean, Faculty of Arts, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Nigeria. For the Academics, the major criteria for qualification for that honour should be the degree to which an individual has contributed to knowledge in a specific field of study as well as the extent to which that individual has succeeded in mentoring others. I daresay that on both counts, Professor Cecilia Amaoge Eme has acquitted herself creditably. Not only has she been in the vanguard of academic leadership in her department, she also boasts a most robust creative/critical output and has capped it with an Inaugural Lecture – the 27th, since the foundation of the university.

This festschrift is in a class of its own. Parading fifty-four well researched papers, that are grouped under four sections. They make a rich soup of intellectual feast. The work, titled *CURRENT ISSUES IN LINGUISTICS, LANGUAGE AND GENDER STUDIES* is an encyclopedia of trending issues in the area of Linguistics, Language and Gender discourse in Africa. The place of Linguistics in Language development as well as Gender dimensions to the Sociology of Language cannot be overemphasized. The duo of Drs. Linda Nkamigbo and Felicia Asadu have proven themselves astute academics and perceptive scholars through their painstaking editorial exertions in this compilation.

The privilege of writing this preface is to me, an honour most cherished. Not only did I join the services of this university together with the celebrant in 1999, our career paths have continued and maintained a uniform progression since then. To the celebrant, the honour is double! Not only is she being celebrated at the golden age of fifty! It has for Professor Cecilia Amaoge Eme, been a most eventful fifty years! It has for her been a time she can look back at with a chuckle and gratitude to God for his benevolence. Indeed, one can say that Professor Cecilia Amaoge Eme blazed the trail for her fellow women here in this university. Not only did she attain her Professorship in record time, she has, unlike some professors, continued to profess and impart knowledge.

It is therefore with a heart full of joy and pride that I call on all to join us in celebrating this academic Matriach and trail blazer even as I recommend this Festschrift to the reading public. It is a goldmine of information and a collector's delight. I thank the Editors most profoundly for embarking on this worthy cause.

Professor Alex Chinwuba Asigbo, Ph.D. FACLS, FAHP, FCAI

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