

Title of Article: The Literary Artist as a Visionary: Festus Iyayi and the Literature of Change.

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Abstract: Festus Iyayi's literary aesthetics and social vision illustrate the complex task of the literary artist in quest of social change in a modern materialist society. His critical realism depicts the exploitation and humiliation of the Nigerian worker and proposes social ideals for his social and economic emancipation. Iyayi belongs to the literature of post-colonial experience also known as the "literature of disillusionment." But rather than passively report the Nigerian socio-economic malaise, he proposes a revolutionary alternative that is people-oriented. His use of language in the novels *Violence* and *The Contract* towards achieving social change is what I call the "discourse of the praxis". This paper examines language use in the two novels to see how language in literature is saddled with social realism. This illustrates the interaction of language and social context as opposed to theoretical linguistics. This paper concludes that modern literature must be praxis-oriented in order to be relevant. The novels, *Violence* and *The Contract* indeed depict a world of oppression in its realism and suggest a hope of transcending capitalist exploitation.