**Professor Akwanya, Amechi Nicholas**



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**Brief Biography**

**Rev. Fr Professor Amechi Nicholas Akwanya** (FNAL, FIIA) has served as the Dean of the School of Postgraduate Studies, University of Nigeria, Nsukka and several times as Head, Department of English and Literary Studies of the University. He is a Professor of English and Literary Studies. After his Bachelor of Divinity (Urban University, Rome, 1980), he studied in the Republic of Ireland, where he obtained a Bachelor of Arts (1985), M.A. (1986), and Ph.D. (1989) and joined the University of Nigeria in 1991, attaining the rank of a Professor in 1999. His research interests include comparative literature, African literature, literary discourse analysis and literary theory, and the phenomenology of language; and he has made major contributions in these areas through full-length books like *Semantics and Discourse: Theories of Meaning and Textual Analysis; Verbal Structures: Studies in the Nature and Organisational Patterns of Literary Language; Discourse Analysis and Dramatic Literature; Language and Habits of Thought; Literary Criticism: From Formal to Questions of Method; Fifty Years of the Nigerian Novel 1952-2001* under joint authorship with Dr Virgy Anohu, as well as numerous journal articles in international journals. He teaches courses related to these research areas at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels and supervises Doctorate students. He is also the author of several creative works, including *Orimili*, a novel in the Heinemann African Writers Series (1991), which was shortlisted for the Commonwealth Best First Book Award (1992), and three collections of poems. He gave the 17th Professorial Inaugural Lecture of the University of Nigeria on 28 February 2007, entitled *English Language Learning in Nigeria: In Search of an Enabling Principle.* Rev. Fr Professor Akwanya is an active researcher and writer, with more than 120 items to his name. He is the founder of *Africa and World Literature: University of Nigeria Journal of Literary Studies* and presently the editor of *Okike: An African Journal of New Writing* founded by the renowned Chinua Achebe.

**Area of Specialization**

Discourse theory/ discourse studies, literary theory and criticism, phenomenology of language, African & European literatures, Semantics.

**Courses Taught**

* European Continental Literature
* Studies in Drama
* Modern Literary Theory
* African Poetry
* History of Theatre: Aeschylus to Shakespeare
* European Theatre since Ibsen
* English Literature Survey: the Beginnings
* Semantics
* History of the English Language
* History of Criticism
* Modern Discourse Analysis
* Greek and Roman Literatures
* Linguistics and the Teaching of Literature
* Major Strands in Literary Criticism
* Issues in Comparative Literature
* Discourse Theory
* English Poetry
* English Drama
* Modern British Literature
* Comparative Studies in Poetry
* Comparative Studies in Drama
* Studies in African Drama
* Philosophy of Literature

**Other Scholarly Activities**

* Dean of the School of Postgraduate Studies, University of Nigeria, Nsukka Head, Department of English & Literary Studies, University of Nigeria 2011-2013
* Head, Department of English & Literary Studies, University of Nigeria 2002-2005
* Coordinator, Sub-Department of Dramatic Arts, 1998-2000
* Editor, *Okike: An African Journal of New Writing*
* Editor, Book of Readings, Faculty of Arts, University of Nigeria Chinua Achebe Annual Lecture Member, 2012
* Guest Editor, Nsukka Journal of the Humanities, vol 24, No. 1, 2016 Edition
* Member, Nigerian Association for Semiotic Studies;
* Fellow of the Institute of Industrial Administration;
* Fellow, Nigerian Academy of Letters
* Member, Publications Committee, Nigerian Academy of Letters
* Fellow, Nigerian Academy of Letters
* Chairman, University of Nigeria Senate Calendar Editorial Board
* Reviewer, Journal of Languages and Culture
* <http://www.academicjournals.org>, 2013 -
* Reviewer, ***International Journal of Scientific Research*** [**http://www.ijsrpub.com/ijsrk 2013**](http://www.ijsrpub.com/ijsrk%202013) **-**
* Editor, *AWL: Africa and World Literature – University of Nigeria Journal of Literary Studies*, Nsukka, 2000 – 2012
* Also served two terms as University of Nigeria Orator;
* Crafted the Current Academic Programme, Department of English and Literary Studies, approved by UNN Senate in 2012.

**Current Research and Publications**

# **Book Project:** Currently work is ongoing on a new book to be entitled,‘Very Busy Pathway to the Stream: Chinua Achebe’s Literary Legacy’

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* A.N. Akwanya. *Literary Criticism: From Formal to Questions of Method.* Nsukka, Nigeria: University of Nigeria Press, 2007.
* Akwanya, Amechi N. ‘Eros, Thanatos, and Captive Lives in Federico Garcia Lorca’s *Blood Wedding’. The Criterion: An International Journal in English*, Volume 7, Issue 2 (April 2016). 374-384. [www.the-criterion.com](http://www.the-criterion.com).
* Akwanya, Amechi N. ‘The Wind’s Talk: Spectres in T.S. Eliot’s *The Family Reunion.* *IOSR Journal Of Humanities And Social Science (IOSR-JHSS*). Volume 21, Issue 2, Ver. VII (February 2016). 62-70. [www.iosrjournals.org](http://www.iosrjournals.org). DOI: 10.9790/0837-21276270
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* [Akwanya, Amechi N. ‘Poetry’s Two Estates and Shared Meanings: the Grounds of Comparative Literature’. *Journal of Studies in Social Sciences*. Volume 13, Number 1 (2015): 35-53](http://infinitypress.info/index.php/jsss/article/view/1197). http://infinitypress.info/index.php/jsss/article/view/1197/537
* [Amechi N. Akwanya. ‘The Self as a Linguistic Event: Discourse Functions in the Poetry of Fernando Pessoa’.](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Amechi_Akwanya/publication/280805208_The_Self_as_a_Linguistic_Event_Discourse_Functions_in_the_Poetry_of_Fernando_Pessoa/links/55c7bc1908aeb9756746e49f.pdf) *[IOSR Journal Of Humanities And Social Science (IOSR-JHSS](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Amechi_Akwanya/publication/280805208_The_Self_as_a_Linguistic_Event_Discourse_Functions_in_the_Poetry_of_Fernando_Pessoa/links/55c7bc1908aeb9756746e49f.pdf)*[). Volume 20, Issue 8, Ver. I (August. 2015). 44-50. www.iosrjournals.org. DOI: 10.9790/0837-20814450.](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Amechi_Akwanya/publication/280805208_The_Self_as_a_Linguistic_Event_Discourse_Functions_in_the_Poetry_of_Fernando_Pessoa/links/55c7bc1908aeb9756746e49f.pdf)
* [Amechi N. Akwanya. ‘Literature and the Possibilities of Language Function’](http://www.infinitypress.info/index.php/jsss/article/view/1133)*[. Journal of Studies in Social Sciences.](http://www.infinitypress.info/index.php/jsss/article/view/1133)* [Volume 11, Number 2 (2015) 233-254](http://www.infinitypress.info/index.php/jsss/article/view/1133)
* [Amechi N. Akwanya. ‘A View of Tragedy: The Mythological Image in the Poetry of Paul Celan’.](http://www.academia.edu/download/36976782/A_View_of_Tragedy._The_Mythological_Image_in_the_Poetry_of_Paul_Celan.pdf) *[IOSR Journal Of Humanities And Social Science (IOSR-JHSS](http://www.academia.edu/download/36976782/A_View_of_Tragedy._The_Mythological_Image_in_the_Poetry_of_Paul_Celan.pdf)*[). Volume 20, Issue 3, Ver. III (Mar. 2015). 102-109. www.iosrjournals.org. DOI: 10.9790/0837-2033102109.](http://www.academia.edu/download/36976782/A_View_of_Tragedy._The_Mythological_Image_in_the_Poetry_of_Paul_Celan.pdf)
* [A.N. Akwanya. ‘African Languages, Translation and Expansion of Language Functions: The Case of Igbo’. *Journal of Tourism and Heritage Studies.* Vol. 3, No.1 (2014): 1-17.](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Amechi_Akwanya/publication/281410613_African_Languages_Translation_and_Expansion_of_Language_Functions_The_Case_of_Igbo/links/55e60d4e08aecb1a7ccd63e6/African-Languages-Translation-and-Expansion-of-Language-Functions-The-Case-of-Igbo.pdf)
* [Amechi N. Akwanya. ‘The Interpreted World’s Resistance to Perishing in Wole Soyinka’s](http://www.academia.edu/download/35537756/Amechi_N._Akwanya_-The_Interpreted_Worlds_Resistance_to_Perishing_in_Wole_Soyinkas_Ake-.pdf) *[Aké’. BEST: International Journal of Humanities, Arts, Medicine and Sciences (BEST:IJHAMS).](http://www.academia.edu/download/35537756/Amechi_N._Akwanya_-The_Interpreted_Worlds_Resistance_to_Perishing_in_Wole_Soyinkas_Ake-.pdf)* [Volume 2, Issue 11. November 2014. 11-22. www.bestjournals.](http://www.academia.edu/download/35537756/Amechi_N._Akwanya_-The_Interpreted_Worlds_Resistance_to_Perishing_in_Wole_Soyinkas_Ake-.pdf)
* [A.N. Akwanya. ‘Function, Deliberative Action, and Struggle in](http://www.academia.edu/download/37011862/Function__Deliberative_Action__and_Struggle_in_Things_Fall_Apart_and_Arrow_of_God.pdf) *[Things Fall Apart](http://www.academia.edu/download/37011862/Function__Deliberative_Action__and_Struggle_in_Things_Fall_Apart_and_Arrow_of_God.pdf)* [and](http://www.academia.edu/download/37011862/Function__Deliberative_Action__and_Struggle_in_Things_Fall_Apart_and_Arrow_of_God.pdf) *[Arrow of God’. Okike: An African Journal of New Writing](http://www.academia.edu/download/37011862/Function__Deliberative_Action__and_Struggle_in_Things_Fall_Apart_and_Arrow_of_God.pdf)* [52 (2014): 104-123. http://okikeafricanjournal.org.](http://www.academia.edu/download/37011862/Function__Deliberative_Action__and_Struggle_in_Things_Fall_Apart_and_Arrow_of_God.pdf)
* [Amechi N. Akwanya. ‘The World’s Far Side: Being and It’s Other in the Poetry of Boleslaw Lesmian’. *IOSR Journal Of Humanities And Social Science*](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Amechi_Akwanya/publication/264493162_The_World's_Far_Side_Being_and_It's_other_in_the_Poetry_of_Boleslaw_Lesmian/links/53e11d7f0cf2235f35272fd2.pdf) *(IOSR-JHSS).* Volume 19, Issue 7, Ver. VII (July. 2014), PP 88-96[*www.iosrjournals.org*](http://www.iosrjournals.org)*.* DOI: 10.9790/0837-19778896
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* [Akwanya, Amechi Nicholas. ‘Duty and Freedom in T. Obinkaram Echewa’s *The Land’s Lord*: A Sartrean Assessment’. *Journal of Studies in Social Sciences.* Volume 6, Number 2 (2014). 13-33.](http://www.infinitypress.info/index.php/jsss/article/view/553) <http://infinitypress.info/index.php/jsss/index>.
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**Membership of Professional Bodies**

Fellow, Nigerian Academy of Letters;

Fellow of the Institute of Industrial Administration;

Member, Nigerian Association for Semiotic Studies;

Google Scholar, a ResearchGate Scholar, with a record of nearly 11,000 downloads of his online publications from all over the world, which are yielding scholarly citations;

Member, Academia.edu Scholar network.