

Rivers State University Anthem: A Historico-Philosophical Analysis

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Abstract

Rivers State University (formerly Rivers State University of Science and Technology), Port Harcourt, is a great and vibrant institution with a clear purpose. As one of the treasured symbols of the institution, the University Anthem is a reflection of the motto, ideals, core values, vision and mission of the Institution. The University Anthem is not just a mere musical composition. It serves as a symbol of identification amongst students and alumni to demonstrate their shared heritage of the unique educational opportunity provided by the institution. This paper seeks to give an in-depth analysis of the wordings of the anthem with the aim of highlighting its significance.

Keywords: *Institution, University, Anthem, Analysis, Education, Knowledge*

Introduction

The term analysis has been defined by diverse authors. Merriam-Webster defines analysis as 'a detailed examination of anything complex in order to understand its nature or to determine its essential features.'¹ Analysis is the process of breaking a complex topic or substance into smaller parts in order to gain a better understanding of it. The Merriam Webster Online Dictionary further defines analysis as the separation of a whole into its component parts; the identification of separation of ingredients of a substance; a statement of the constituents of a mixture; proof of a mathematical proposition by assuming the result and deducing a valid statement by a series of reversible steps; an examination of a complex, its elements, and their relations; a statement of such an analysis; a method in philosophy of resolving complex expressions into simpler or more basic ones; clarification of an expression by an elucidation of its use in discourse and the use of function words instead of inflectional forms as a characteristic device of a language. In summary, analysis is a breakdown of whole components into smaller component; it is an x-ray of the entirety of a work with a view to highlighting its strength and weaknesses and providing a workable theory for further improvement if any.²

A historico-philosophical analysis is the application of philosophical conceptions and analysis to history in both senses, the study of the past and the past itself. A historio-philosophical analysis of the Rivers State University anthem in this context is an

¹ Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary, s.v. "analysis," accessed October 25, 2022, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/analysis>.

² Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary, s.v. "analysis," accessed October 25, 2022, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/analysis>.

overview of the key features and the philosophy of the anthem, taken from a historical perspective. It is, thus, a study of the history and philosophy of the anthem.

Anthems play an important role in showcasing the identity, mission as well as ideology of any given institution or people. It is the image maker for the country or institution. Every institution and organization (such as universities), has an anthem as a symbol of the institution's identity. Every reputable educational institution has its unique identity; the anthem is one of such identity, which its students and alumni sing with utmost pride, joy and glee. Staff and students who sing their university anthems usually identify with the words in the anthem. In the university context, anthems are usually easy to remember, partly because of sounds, words, or phrases, which are often repeated.

The term 'anthem' originates from a Greek lexicon, antiphora - a song performed in a responsorial fashion. Fornäs observes that:

An anthem as well as a hymn is a song of praise made for communal singing. It should preferably be reasonably easy to remember and to sing, making it tempting or even irresistible to join in singing, and this activity of participation is intended to spill over into some level of identification with what the anthem stands for. In this way, anthems are constructed to emotionally boost collective identification, through the medium of voice and sound.³

An anthem is a type of music composition usually for a full chorus with or without an orchestral accompaniment. The combined effort of the performers makes it glamorous that nations, institutions, clubs and associations desire their philosophies and uniqueness to be embedded in this kind of music. The regular singing of anthems in events, reminds members of their identity and responsibilities within the group.

An anthem can be classified as a type of poetry sung by a group of people to identify with their school, establishment, or organization. Generally, a group of people sing an anthem in a formal gathering. The values, beliefs and hopes of an institution or a country are reflected in the words in them. For the university, students and staff sing the anthems during formal occasions such as matriculations, graduation ceremonies and inaugural lectures.

Mwinwelle defines institutional anthems as lyrical and rhythmic renditions that are symbolic and also portray the uniqueness and identity of the institutions.⁴ A university anthem is a form of institutional anthem, and therefore is a sub-genre of anthems in general. Mwinwelle *et al.* explain university anthems as patriotic songs recognized by the people of the university community and are granted privileges and recognition by the laws of the university.⁵

Mwinwelle, Amoakohene and Agyekum explain that the rendition of these anthems have a major emotional effect upon the masses in the sense that it enhances and reinforces institutional commitment and bonding. The singing of the anthems take place during official ceremonies of the universities such as graduations, matriculations,

³ J. Fornäs. *Signifying Europe*. Bristols, UK: Intellect. 2012. P.150

⁴ P. Mwinwelle. (2020). "Institutional Symbolism and Solidarity: A Stylo-Linguistic Exploration of the Anthem of the University of Education", *Winneba. International Journal of Art, Language & Linguistics*.2 (2). 2020. Pp. 15-33

⁵ P. Mwinwelle, J. Adukpoo, & R. Mwinwelle. "The Use of Lexical Cohesive Devices in Selected Ghanaian University Anthems". *International Journal of Social, Politics & Humanities*.4 (2). 2019. Pp. 161-172

conferences, and other university programmes.⁶ According to Mwinwelle, these anthems represent the universities' identity by indicating the names of the universities, their core mandates, their visions and missions as well as their ideologies.⁷

Thus, staff and students at universities are always enthusiastic whenever their universities' anthem is being sung on any occasion as a way of identifying with their universities. In the words of Alabi, "A university anthem often gives information about the university: its name; the city where it is located; its motto, vision, and mission; and, sometimes, the qualities that position it as an enviable institution of learning."⁸

There have been very few studies on anthems. Some of them have largely examined language use in the anthems of some countries or regions. Cusack has examined the anthems of various African nations.⁹ There are also those that have analyzed anthems of individual countries like Nigeria like Mohammed and Ayeni.¹⁰ This study serves to add to the literature on the subject.

The Function and Impact of the Rivers State University Anthem

The Rivers State University anthem is used in many ways to achieve various institutional and motivational goals. Thus, it has positive direct and indirect impact on the University community.

There are several benefits derived from singing the Rivers State University anthem. Some of them are:

- a. The anthem is a veritable means of identity. For instance, singing or playing the Rivers State University anthem announces the presence of Rivers State University staff, students or alumni.
- b. Indicator of university protocol – it helps to endorse and create an atmosphere that typifies events or occasions as official.
- c. It serves as a signature for starting or ending any university event/occasion. The university anthem endorses the commencement and end of an event, and stimulates attendees toward paying attention to the order of activities.
- d. It arouses attendees with psychological attitude of oneness. This is because everyone in the gathering has shared in the singing of a common university anthem that portrays homogeneity of purpose and faith.
- e. It helps to encourage one's desire to uphold the good name of the Institution.
- f. Human beings naturally respect what they value. Respect and value are associated with the singing of the University anthem. The willingness of students to sing the

⁶ P. Mwinwelle, B. Amoakohene & O. Agyekum. "Creating Institutional Solidarity: A Transitivity Analysis of Anthems of Selected Ghanaian Universities". *Advances in Language and Literary Studies*. 2020. www.all.s.aia.org.au

⁷ P. Mwinwelle. (2020). "Institutional Symbolism and Solidarity: A Stylo-Linguistic Exploration of the Anthem of the University of Education", *Winneba. International Journal of Art, Language & Linguistics*.2 (2). 2020. Pp. 15-33

⁸ V. T. Alabi. "A Stylistic Analysis of the Anthems of Five Nigerian Universities". *Marang: Journal of Language and Literature*. 33. 2020. P. 154.

⁹ I. Cusack. 'African National Anthems: "Beat the Drums, the Red Lion has roared"'. *Journal of African Cultural Studies*, 17 (2). 2005. 235-251.

¹⁰ I. B. Mohammed, I. B. & E. O. Ayeni. "Political Leadership in Nigeria: Our National Anthem and National Pledge". *Africology: The Journal of Pan African Studies*, 12 (1). 2018. 310-324.

University anthem imparts a degree of love, faith, trust, respect and value for the Institution.

- g. The University anthem plays the role of re-orientating students about obligations to the Institution. Thus, the anthem is a constant reminder to students of their basic duties.

History and Evolution of the Anthem

The Rivers State University, established in 1980, is the first State-owned University, the Premier Science and Technology University and the foremost e-varsity in Nigeria. At its inception, it was named the Rivers State University of Science and Technology.

In Africa, the first son or daughter of the family has the heavy responsibility of leadership. The dream of the founding fathers was that this University became the engine turning “the wheel of socio-economic and techno-cultural evolution” of Rivers State, Niger Delta Region and Nigeria as a whole.¹¹

With its heritage, status and pedigree, it was pertinent for the University to have a befitting anthem. Prof. S.I. Duruoha composed the lyrics of the first anthem in the early 1980s when the University was established as the premier University of Science and Technology.

When the Rivers State University of Science and Technology (RSUST or UST), Port Harcourt was established in 1980, it was conceived as a unique and uncommon University that should be structurally and philosophically oriented to solving practical and peculiar problems of Rivers State. This clear-cut vision informed the decision to adopt the first Anthem of the University.

Ukelabuchi described Duruoha as a renowned literary author whose works cannot only be categorized as literature, but as living shadows that follow his readers about.¹² According to Ukelabuchi, Duruoha has written many remarkable literary works consisting of poems and prose fiction.¹³

The original text was put in tonic solfa notation by a foremost music scholar in the country, Dr. Adam Dagogo Fiberesima. Fiofori described Fiberesima as an enigma.¹⁴ An accomplished artiste, Dr. Fiberesima successfully staged an opera, *Ibini Ukpabi*, which was performed nationwide. His predilection for the operatic genre dates back to his college days – the period during which he wrote *The Rascals*.¹⁵ According to Omojola, Fiberesima is mostly known for his two operas, *Opu Jaja* and *Orukoro*.¹⁶ Adam Fiberesima had the honour of being the Guest Composer to the Guild of Composers of

¹¹Rivers State University, *RiSU Department of History and International Diplomacy Handbook*. Port Harcourt, Rivers State University Press, 2021. P. 7.

¹² E. L. Ukelabuchi, “Perspectives on the Nigerian Civil War in Duruoha’s ‘Eaters of Dust’ and Adichie’s ‘Half of a Yellow Sun’”. *International Journal of Innovative Language, Literature & Art Studies*. 8(4).2020. Pp. 1-14

¹³ E. L. Ukelabuchi, “Perspectives on the Nigerian Civil War in Duruoha’s ‘Eaters of Dust’ and Adichie’s ‘Half of a Yellow Sun’”. *International Journal of Innovative Language, Literature & Art Studies*. 8(4).2020. Pp. 1-14

¹⁴ T. Fiofori. “The Four Pillars of Nigerian Music”. BookArtVille. 2020. <https://bookartville.com/the-four-pillars-of-nigerian-music/> (accessed 6 August 2023)

¹⁵ B. Omojola. *Nigerian Art Music: With an Introduction Study of Ghanaian Art Music*. Ibadan: IFRA-Nigeria.1995. Pp. 39 -78.

¹⁶ B. Omojola. *Nigerian Art Music: With an Introduction Study of Ghanaian Art Music*. Ibadan: IFRA-Nigeria.1995. Pp. 39 -78.

the former USSR, Poland, Italy, Hungary and Britain. He was a Special Arranger of the National Anthems of Tanzania, Uganda, Malawi, Kenya, Ghana and Sierra Leone.¹⁷

The combined efforts of Prof. Sunday I. Duruoha and the musicologist of Dr. Adam Fiberesima produced the original University anthem. With the combination of skills and talents from these intellectual heavyweights, it is not surprising that they produced a masterpiece. The anthem reads:

UST, UST we sing of thee
Flower of Knowledge and Peace
In the Garden City stands a tree
From whence inspiration comes
Worlds and peoples of many a tongue
Come and search and find the Golden Fleece
All for a simple and humble song
All for excellence and creativity

UST, UST we sing of thee
Flower of Knowledge and Peace
Busy we toil much as the bee
Fruitful science and tech we grow
Keeping in motion the wheel of truth
Waters of the rivers always flow
To build a state and nation in truth
All for excellence and creativity

In 2017, Rivers State University of Science and Technology was renamed Rivers State University (RSU). Governor Ezenwo Nyesom Wike, the Visitor of the University, desirous for an all-inclusive University that would be the pride of Rivers State, facilitated its upgrade from a specialized institution to a conventional institution catering for all areas of study and professions. It was envisioned that the upgrade would make the University better prepared to generate manpower and training for the people of Rivers State who are sometimes discriminated against in other institutions.

This event necessitated a change in the University enabling law and anthem in line with the new name and the additional responsibilities foisted on the Institution. The Senate in its meeting with its members, saddled the Institute of Foundation Studies (IFS), where two scholars, instrumental to the composition of various aspects of the anthem worked, with the mandate of providing a befitting anthem for the University. Two months later, some aspects of the anthem were altered to reflect the new perspective. At a special meeting of Senate in 2018, the new anthem was approved for use in the University. The new anthem reads:

RSU, RSU we sing of thee

¹⁷ T. Fiofori. Trinity College of Music and the Four Pillars of Nigerian Music Part 2. Africamusiconline. 2020. <https://africamusiconline.com/2020/05/17/trinity-college-of-music-and-the-four-pillars-of-nigerian-music-part-2/#> (accessed 6 August 2023)

Flower of Knowledge and Peace
In the Garden City stands a tree
From whence inspiration comes
The peoples of many a tongue
Come and search and find the Golden Fleece
All for a simple and humble song
All for excellence and creativity

RSU, RSU we sing of thee
Flower of Knowledge and Peace
Busy we toil much as the bee
Fruitful science and tech we grow
Keeping in motion the wheel of truth
Waters of the rivers always flow
To build a nation in truth
All for excellence and creativity

Since its adoption as the Rivers State University anthem, it has been performed and sung by students at all official events of the Institution. However, in 2021, the acronym of Rivers State University was changed from RSU to RiSU and this change has been effected in the University Anthem. Also, the University has undergone expansion and has evolved into a conventional university, with the establishment of satellite campuses such as the Faculty of Entrepreneurship in Ogoni, the Faculty of Humanities in Ahoada, the Faculty of Agriculture in Etche and the Faculty of Social Sciences in Emohua. The updated Anthem reads as follows:

RiSU, RiSU we sing of thee
Flower of Knowledge and Peace
In the Garden City stands a tree
From whence inspiration comes
The peoples of many a tongue
Come and search and find the Golden Fleece
All for a simple and humble song
All for excellence and creativity.

RiSU, RiSU we sing of thee
Flower of Knowledge and Peace
Busy we toil much as the bee
Fruitful science and tech we grow
Keeping in motion the wheel of truth
Waters of the rivers always flow
To build a nation in truth
All for excellence and creativity.

Philosophy and Textual Analysis of the Anthem

According to Jaja, music is the most widely practiced and accessible social instrument of communication.¹⁸ It is so easily available and associated with entertainment and relaxation that some people hardly pause to ponder on its social, political and economic implications on the development of the society. Jaja opines that music is the expression of art that is most accessible to human beings in any situation of their lives – crisis or calm, work or worship, play or war, recreation or reflection.¹⁹ Music is implicated in life and people go all out to use music to communicate, to express emotions and ideas, and to mobilize people or rally them to solidarity. One of the most important uses of music is to transfer social values and morals.²⁰ According to Jaja, such values transmitted through music often stick and pass from generation to another; they always produce the required results.²¹ Jaja argues that education is a veritable instrument of social change and music is an effective tool of education.²²

The present Rivers State University anthem is more or less a modification of the old one. As previously stated, the new anthem was created to reflect the new perspective of the upgraded university. Although most of the old wordings together with the tune were retained, a few changes were made.

In the first line of the two stanzas, UST was changed to RSU and subsequently to RiSU to reflect the change of name from Rivers State University of Science and Technology to Rivers State University.

In the fifth line of the first stanza, "Worlds and peoples of many a tongue" was modified to "The peoples of many a tongue". The change was informed by the fact that the human race is one, regardless of the diversities in ethnicity and language.

In the seventh line of the second stanza, the line which says, "To build a state and nation in truth" was altered to "To build a nation in truth". This change was made on the premise that building a state is synonymous with building a nation. You cannot build a state without building a nation. None is mutually exclusive of the other.

The present Rivers State University anthem is a reflection of the principles and premise on which the institution was founded. As stated in the University Motto, "Excellence and Creativity", the philosophy behind the establishment of the University is academic excellence geared towards the building of a better community/society and channeling the creative ingenuity of the youth to positive areas. The first two lines read:

RiSU, RiSU, we sing of thee
Flower of Knowledge and Peace

¹⁸ J. M. Jaja. "Drum Music (Language) of the Eastern Niger Delta (Nigeria)". *The Literary Voyage*. Vol. 1 Issue 3. 2014. 302 – 309

¹⁹ J. M. Jaja. "Drumlore of Opobo Kingdom: A Historical Interpretation". *Elixir International Journal of Arts and Social Sciences*. 85. 2015. 34397 – 34405.

²⁰ J. M. Jaja. "Drum Music (Language) of the Eastern Niger Delta (Nigeria)". *The Literary Voyage*. Vol. 1 Issue 3. 2014. 302 – 309

²¹ J. M. Jaja. "Drum Music (Language) of the Eastern Niger Delta (Nigeria)". *The Literary Voyage*. Vol. 1 Issue 3. 2014. 302 – 309

²² J. M. Jaja. "Drum Music (Language) of the Eastern Niger Delta (Nigeria)". *The Literary Voyage*. Vol. 1 Issue 3. 2014. 302 – 309

The primary aim of the Rivers State University is to provide an enabling environment for the acquisition of facts, information and skills by providing qualitative education. According to Jaja, education is essential to achieving sustainable development in any society.²³ Education at this level is an instrument for excellence not only for the students' advantage, but also for the advancement of the society in general. Knowledge obtained at the University is not just academic but is also geared at grooming people in character and learning who would be beneficial to the society by solving the complex problems and challenges of the region.

Flowers are elegant and beautiful. A flower symbolizes happiness, abundance, wealth, fortune and prosperity. Flowers are a symbol of hospitality, joyfulness, beauty, purity and positivity. Flowers are attractive. Flowers add colour. A tree cannot bear fruit if it does not produce flowers first. We can safely say that flowers herald fruitfulness.

The production of flowers ensure sustainability of the species of the plant. When a plant flowers, it is ensuring that there will be future generations. The flower is not just useful for the present. The flower is transformed into a fruit which would bear seeds that possess all the properties of the parent plant. The 'Flower of Knowledge' ensures that there would always be a generational transfer of knowledge, intellect, expertise and skills in the Institution. The functions of the University include standard upbringing of future generations who should adequately be equipped to understand their past, present and indeed forecast the possibilities of the future. A plant usually has many flowers, and the flower gives rise to a fruit which could have many seeds. Thus, one plant gives rise to several new plants. In the same way, the 'Flower of Knowledge' gives rise to exponential numbers of scholars and academicians, sustaining educational advancement.

Flowers emit a good and sweet fragrance that attracts/draws people to its presence. Similarly, Rivers State University is a centre that attracts those desirous to acquire knowledge in a conducive atmosphere. Some flowers also produce nectar which is a pleasant tasting liquid. Nectar attracts insects which come to pollinate the flowers. Rivers State University, in the same way, is a hub for ideas, creativity and productive activities.

Peace is crucial to an academic environment. Peace is concord, harmony and tranquility. It is a state of lawfulness, justice and goodness. It implies a balance or equilibrium of powers. It is the absence of dissention, antagonistic conflict, violence or war. There is no doubt that a few incidences of conflict have occurred from time to time amongst students, these have often been contained by internal mechanisms without disrupting the stability of the institution. Learning can best be achieved in a peaceful environment. It is only in an atmosphere of peace that people are free to embark on the quest of self-improvement through knowledge. Peace is also featured strongly on the University Logo by the white colour on the emblem.

When we refer to the Rivers State University as a "Flower of Knowledge and Peace", we are referring to an intricately beautiful balance between Knowledge and Peace. We are talking about an environment where all the fruits of Knowledge and Peace are free to thrive. We are referring to an Institution that offers complete freedom for one

²³ J. M. Jaja. "Drum Music (Language) of the Eastern Niger Delta (Nigeria)". *The Literary Voyage*. Vol. 1 Issue 3. 2014. 302 – 309

to go in search of the golden fleece of knowledge. The Ivory Tower of Rivers State University provides an enabling study environment for everyone to nurture their aspirations, achieve their goals and reach their full potential. The next two lines read:

In the Garden City stands a tree
From whence inspiration comes

According to Jaja, most Africans have emotional attachments to the environment in which they live.²⁴ The Garden City in this text refers to Port Harcourt, the home of Rivers State University. The "tree from whence inspiration comes" in this context is symbolic of the University. Trees represent physical and spiritual nourishment, shelter, security, stability, wisdom, transformation and liberation, union, fertility and growth. Trees provide a steady supply of oxygen for the survival and sustenance of the human race. In this same manner the Rivers State University churns out a steady supply of outstanding graduates equipped with the knowledge, creativity, skills and mindset to improve the quality of life in the community. Trees are sturdy and resilient. Some trees can live for many years, and are so distinct, to the extent that they become popular landmarks in the communities where they are situated. A landmark is a guide to show the way or to indicate direction. It is in this same way that the University serves as a guide to scholars, aligning their steps towards their chosen career paths. A tree could serve as a habitat for so many animals like birds, insects, squirrels and so on, creating a mini ecosystem. This can be likened to one of the key functions of the University. It brings lecturers and students together from far and wide, with the purpose of benefitting from its academic environment. A tree has several branches and is deeply rooted. Likewise, Rivers State University has a total of eleven (11) faculties and sixty-five (65) departments. The faculties in Rivers State University are: Faculty of Agriculture, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, Faculty of Education, Faculty of Engineering, Faculty of Environmental Sciences, Faculty of Humanities, Faculty of Law, Faculty of Management Sciences, College of Medical Sciences, Faculty of Sciences and Faculty of Social Sciences. Just like in the Bible, the tree in the centre of the garden is the tree of knowledge, so does the university stand in the centre of Port Harcourt albeit to give knowledge.

"Inspiration" refers to an unconscious burst of creativity in the pursuit of academic endeavours. The latent creativity of the students is burgeoned. Art is a product of creativity. Art is manifested in such things as pictures, buildings, clothes, furniture, music, drama, dance and even activities such as farming and healing.²⁵ This brings us to the University Motto which is "Excellence and Creativity", reiterating the dream of the founding fathers that Rivers State University becomes the engine turning "The wheel of socio-economic and techno-cultural evolution" of Rivers State, the Niger Delta region and Nigeria as a whole. Considering the next two lines:

²⁴ J. M. Jaja and E. Brown. "The Role of Images in Historical Illumination: The Opobo Example". *Sophia: An African Journal of Philosophy*, 8(2). 2005. Pp. 80 – 84s

²⁵ J. M. Jaja and E. Brown. "The Role of Images in Historical Illumination: The Opobo Example". *Sophia: An African Journal of Philosophy*, 8(2). 2005. Pp. 80 – 84s

The peoples of many a tongue
Come and search and find the Golden Fleece

These lines draw credence from the cultural diversity of Rivers State. Culture refers to the cumulative deposit of knowledge, experience, beliefs, values, attitudes, meanings, hierarchies, religion, notions of time, rules, spatial relations, concepts of the universe and material, objects and possessions acquired by a group of people in the course of generations through individual and group strivings.²⁶ Rivers State which is the immediate environment of Rivers State University is home to many culture groups – Ogoni, Ijaw, Ikwerre, Ekpeye, Obolo, Ogba, Etche amongst others. Also, Rivers State University admits students from the entire length and breadth of Nigeria. The University also attracts international students from all over the globe, thus providing a genuine multicultural environment. This is without prejudice to gender, ethnic extraction or colour of one's skin and therefore offers equal opportunities to all. The search for the Golden Fleece is the quest by all students and lecturers alike, to achieve their career aspirations. The principle of adventure in intellectual pursuit, to dare to do new things has become a part of the academic tradition of Rivers State University. The next two lines read:

All for a simple and humble song
All for excellence and creativity

The anthem might be simple and humble, but the message is clear, strong, positive and powerful. The mission of the University is to be a powerful force for learning, creativity and enterprise, promoting economic, social and cultural fertilization of ideas and well-being. In the second stanza, we have these lines:

Busy we toil much as the bee
Fruitful science and tech we grow
Keeping in motion the wheel of truth

The first line above talks about the staff and students of the University. This is why it reads as 'we'. Here, there is a comparison – staff/students and bees. One thing about the bees is that they are united in actions and activities. Their product (honey) is sweet and healthy. Bees are very industrious and are committed to their roles in the colony. The importance of hard work and perseverance cannot be overemphasized. It is this drive that gears students to strive to be the best they can be and better than they were yesterday in academic pursuits, research and service to the community. Rome was not built in a day. Great innovations and inventions are borne out of the burning desire to constantly keep on developing products that affect the quality of life in general and the fortunes of industries and the private sector.

The University prides itself as a hub of science and technology. Science and technology hold the key to the progress and development of any nation. Science and technology are intimately connected with development and share a symbiotic

²⁶ J. M. Jaja and P. P. Badey. "Logic in African Philosophy: Examples from two Niger Delta Societies. *International Journal of Academic Research in Business and Social Sciences*". 2 (4). 2012. Pp. 95 - 102

relationship. They contribute immensely to various sectors of the economy. They play a fundamental role in wealth creation, improvement of the quality of life, tangible economic growth and transformation in any society. The University recognizes the importance of science and technology to the society and has risen to the challenge of creating an enabling environment for learning and research.

The University is a citadel for the search of knowledge and truth. The wheel of truth is steady and consistent, just as the bee can fly twenty miles per hour. Knowledge is based on facts, logic and reason. Reason leads to the truth. As a wheel keeps on turning, so should the acquisition of knowledge be made a continuous process. Let us look critically at the last three lines:

Waters of the rivers always flow
To build a nation in truth
All for excellence and creativity

Rivers State is named after the multiple rivers, rivulets, creeks and lakes within its territory. These rivers are depicted by the wavy blue lines on the University logo. Rivers symbolize fertility and nourishment. Rivers could also depict the passage of time. Water is essential to life. It is associated with birth, fertility and refreshment.

More importantly, rivers are linkages between communities for cross-cultural interactions. Rivers carry water and nutrients to areas all around the earth. The University does the same as it provides excellent intellectual nourishment for the human mind. The University provides 'intellectual food and drinks' for anyone desirous of learning. The rivers of knowledge in the University are varied and cover all aspects of human endeavour. Moreover, the University provides an excellent habitat for grooming diverse people from diverse backgrounds.

Learning institutions are commonly referred to as "fountains of knowledge". Knowledge that is acted upon becomes wisdom. Qualitative education plays a critical role in the growth and development of the society. On graduation, the products are expected to serve humanity with their education. Rivers State University equips students with the qualities, norms and values necessary to improve the welfare of the state and invariably the nation. This is fully highlighted and expressed in the Vision Statement of the Institution: "To be a world class uncommon university that will be structurally and philosophically oriented to solve the practical and peculiar challenging problems of the region".

Conclusion

The Rivers State University anthem is for all practical purposes, a representation of the ideals embedded in the University. It has impacted on the environment showing the "town and gown" relationship. It is in tandem with the mission, vision, core values and principles of the Institution. Since its inception, the Rivers State University has created and maintained an academic and social environment where students, lecturers and researchers are motivated and challenged to work hard and add value to the State, the Niger Delta region and Nigeria as a whole. The Anthem is more than just a hymn; it is a

mission statement. It is highly recommended that students of RiSU not just recite the song, but also take time to meditate on the lyrics, and the historico-philosophical significance.

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