

# Stylistic Vehicle Patterns of Illness as an Ideological Tool in Understanding the Speeches of Martin Luther King Junior and the Plays of Bate Besong

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## Abstract

The meaning of words is to be derived from the relations between words, concepts and things in the real world. Words have a representational or symbolic meaning, that is, they are about something that goes beyond the physical shape that have meanings. Any communication is only successful to the extent that the idea the hearer or the reader gets is the same idea that the speaker or writer intended the hearer or reader to get. What matters is how the world is represented, construed by means of linguistic expressions and how our reports about reality are influenced by conceptual structures inherent in our language. These structures can be metaphoric, carrying connotations as in this study. The study looks at the use of illness related diction to show the ideological outlook of Martin Luther King Junior and Bate Besong. The groupings of the metaphor vehicles portray that both Martin Luther King Junior and Bate Besong follow the discourse dynamics, showing interconnectedness of the dimensions of metaphor used in their works, unravelling vehicle patterns of systematic metaphor of illness.

**Keywords:** Illness, Vehicle, Systematic, Metaphor, Ideology

## 1. Introduction

The meaning of words is to be derived from the relations between words, concepts and things in the real world. Words have a representational or symbolic meaning, that is, they are about something that goes beyond the physical shape that has meanings. For there to be meaning, there has to be a successful communication. Any communication is only successful to the extent that the idea the hearer or the reader gets is the same idea that the speaker or writer intended the hearer or reader to get. What matters is how the world is represented, construed by means of linguistic expressions, how reports about reality are influenced by conceptual structures inherent in the speaker's or writer's language. These conceptual structures are understood through semantics which is that level of linguistic analysis in which meaning is analysed. Meaning is very closely related to the human capacity to think logically and to understand. The connotating use of words add further complications to any theorisations about meaning, particularly their uses in metaphor. The connotative meaning is the additional meaning that a concept carries; it is the communicative value an expression has by virtue of what it refers to above purely conceptual content. That is, apart from its logical or essential attributes, there is a further meaning attached to a word, which comes from its reference to other things in the real world. Thus connotative meaning consists of the attributes associated with a concept. Meaning in this case takes into consideration the conceptual or systematic meaning that relates a formal item or pattern to an element of situation. This brings out the regular association between a linguistic item and something which is extra-linguistic, which is part of the structure of language rather than part of language itself (Halliday and Hasan, 1985). The relation between a linguistic item and pattern forms a system.

The goal of linguistic semantics is to describe the meaning of linguistic elements and to study the principles which allow the assignment of meaning to combinations of these elements. A complete and an adequate semantic theory provides an account of the relations between linguistic expressions and the things that can be used to talk about. One of these connotative sense is the metaphor. A metaphor denotes something not from a literal meaning but a similar figurative meaning. It uses symbols in the place of reality. It is a tool to get one to really think about something, to find a new meaning in it and to see it from a different angle. Metaphors identify one phenomenon with another, suggesting an image or experience that emphasizes a specific quality of its referents, sense or significance. They are most useful and most successful in this respect when they associate an unfamiliar or abstract referent with something familiar or concrete. Metaphors thus give rise to new visions of reality that the ordinary words would be incapable of portraying and compel the reader or listener to encounter the image.

Studying metaphor could help researchers to identify the conceptual structures that reflect and shape the thought patterns of a speaker or writer. The speaker or writer might deliberately or unconsciously choose particular ways of expressing ideas metaphorically in order to cover an ideological or a persuasive point. From their use therefore the metaphor researcher can develop a picture of the speaker's or writer's interacting ideas, feelings and language. What is expressed or understood in flow of discourse is the outcome available at the time, under those constraints and in those circumstances. These outcomes reflect the multiple influences of past

experiences making the linguistic metaphor to be connected into dense network of ideas, associations, conceptual and affective patterns which are interwoven with correlates from these experiences. These connections and patterns are not expressed directly but are fundamental to how the speakers and writers perceive, conceptualise and interact with the world.

In describing metaphor in this study the concepts involved are the topic and vehicle, which are connected. The study sets out to analyse the vehicle terms of the linguistic metaphor that often carries evaluations, attitudes, values and beliefs of the writer or speaker. This is expressed through systematic connections between semantically similar metaphor vehicles and topics. These systematic connections build up a systematic metaphor which is an emergent discourse phenomenon that is produced when discourse participants over a discourse event or longer periods of time use a particular set of linguistic metaphor vehicles in talking about a topic, or closely connected topics. Cameron and Maslen (2010) in describing a systematic metaphor say it is not a single metaphor but an emergent grouping of closely connected metaphors.

Working on metaphors provide an objectivity in establishing the semantic characteristics of vehicle groupings. The vehicle is grouped together on the basis of the semantics of the basic meaning of the metaphor vehicle, and choosing a label which generalises as little as possible, from the word or phrase used in the discourse. Martin Luther King Junior and Bate Besong choose particular ways of expressing ideas metaphorically in order to convey an ideological point. The study aims at showing that in stylistic analysis the same linguistic tool can be used to analyse both literary and non-literary texts and that both MLKJ and Bate Besong use metaphors related to illness to refer to a society that accommodates social ills. The study examines how King and Besong use sickness in the discussion of different social ills in their societies and what their metaphors reveal about their ideas, attitudes values and perspectives of life.

## **2. Sociopolitical Context**

Martin Luther King Junior (late), a black American, born in 1929, was a Baptist minister and a civil rights activist, who stood up against racial discrimination. He was for nonviolent strikes and through this, won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. He was a great orator and in most of his speeches, encouraged the blacks not to give up on their fights for equality. Martin Luther King Junior lived in an age of racial discrimination in America. That was when there was segregation against the blacks.

Bate Besong (late) hailed from the South West Region of Cameroon. He was a critic, playwright, poet and a lecturer in the University of Buea and was very critical of repressive regimes, especially the government of Cameroon. He stood up with the masses and became disappointed when the masses would not stand up for their rights. In his time, Bate Besong experienced electoral fraud, ill treatment of the masses, bad leadership and embezzlement. This was an inspiration to his writings.

## **3. Related Literature**

Some research has been carried out on the works of Martin Luther King Junior and Bate Besong. Fomukong (2013) examined the use of biblical allusions by Bate Besong in *Beasts of No Nation* and highlighted the importance of allusions from the Holy Bible in the language of protest. This biblical allusions is also highlighted in her work (Fomukong 2015) that looked at the stylistic-rhetoric elements of biblical allusions, antithetical structures and triads in the speeches of Martin Luther King Junior. She concluded that for King to pass across his message he makes extensive use of these structures. Fomukong (2017) also analysed the metaphors of sight and smell in the works of Martin Luther King Junior's speeches and Bate Besong's plays. She focused on the conceptual metaphor and the Dual Coding theories. She drew the conclusion that in Martin Luther King Junior's works, racism is darkness, and in Bate Besong's plays embezzlement, marginalisation, electoral fraud and inhumanity are stench. Ambe (2004) and Nchia (2016) all carry out a literary appreciation of Bate Besong's *Beasts of No Nation* emphasizing on marginalisation.

Sipra and Rashid (2012) focused on the famous speech 'I Have a Dream' by Martin Luther King Junior. They use a Critical Discourse Analysis with emphasis on Fairclough's 3D Model. They do an analysis of textual/stylistic strategies and interpretation of relational, express and representative values in the speech with special focus on wider socio-political and economic perspectives. They conclude that King, very impressively and successfully with the help of metaphors and other devices, identifies the relationship between the powerful and oppressed, and succeeds in achieving the strength and support of the powerless without creating any conflict with the powerful. These studies relate to both King and Besong using different approaches to analyse their works. The present study makes a difference in that it examines the works of both authors through the use of the discourse dynamics framework.

#### **4. Theoretical Framework**

The theoretical basis for this study is the discourse dynamics framework for metaphor by Lynne Cameron (Cameron & Maslen, 2010, pp. 77). The theory describes and explains the phenomena of metaphor in discourse as a social interaction. That is, it explains the connections between the discourse context and metaphor use. This theory works with the assumption that metaphor cannot be separated from its discourse context without becoming something different (pp.77). The interest here is in the patterns of metaphor vehicles used across a discourse event, or particular bounded episodes of discourse.

#### **5. Methodology**

The method of data analysis is a descriptive approach, that of systematic metaphor which follows:

The identification of metaphors

Grouping metaphor vehicles

Bringing out systematic metaphors from vehicle groupings.

Working on metaphors provide an objectivity in establishing the semantic characteristics of vehicle groupings. The vehicle is grouped together on the basis of the basic meaning of the

metaphor vehicle and choosing a label which generalises as little as possible from the word or phrase used in discourse. Cameron & Maslen (2010, pp. 120) stipulate that grouping metaphor vehicles is interpretive, in that there is no single 'right answer' and in that the research must make judgments about how best to group the vehicles on the basis of available evidence. Cameron gives an example of metaphor vehicle groupings (Cameron & Maslen 2010, pp. 122) from a text as follows:

THING: thing, things, everything, anything, something, nothing

MOVEMENT: comes into, from, comes, go away, go by, gone too far, progressed, towards.

Deciding on the range of each grouping and on how to select a label that best describes a grouping involves consideration of connections between the metaphor vehicle and the discourse evidence to support decisions. In turn, decisions about groupings contribute to what the analyst notices about the patterns and themes in the data. In this way the vehicle groupings that are constructed will inevitably at times have blurred boundaries and a degree of overlap. It is possible that with this approach the analyst should not expect to come up with a set of categories which reliably accommodate every linguistic metaphor found. Meanwhile in labelling, the metaphor vehicle with topic codes should remain connected to the discourse events from which data was connected. This means that within each vehicle grouping, all the linguistic metaphors that relate to a particular topic are collected into a set. This set of related vehicles is what is called a systematic metaphor which is a construct of the researcher created to help condense the discourse data and to summarise metaphorical ways of expressing ideas, attitudes and values.

The data was collected from the following texts:

MLKJ's Speeches

*Give us the Ballot (May 1957)*

*Letter from Birmingham Jail (April 1963)*

*The Great March on Detroit (June 1963)*

*I have a Dream (August 1963)*

*Nobel Peace Prize Acceptance Speech (10 December 1964)*

*The Quest for Peace and Justice (11 December 1964)*

*Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence (April 1967)*

*Where do we go from here (August 1967)*

*I've been to the Mountain Top (April 1968)*

BATE BESONG's Plays

*Beasts of No Nation (1990)*

*Requiem for the Last Kaiser (1991)*

*Change Waka & His Man Sawa Boy (2001)*

*Once Upon Great Lepers (2003)*

## 6. Results and Discussion

This section is going to examine the use of metaphor vehicle and the related topics of both Martin Luther King Junior's speeches and Bate Besong's plays.

### 6.1 Metaphor development in Martin Luther King Junior's Speeches

Martin Luther King Junior in his speeches uses remarkable diction to express the degrading conditions of the blacks in America and the American society at the time. To express this ideology he makes ample use of lexis related to illness. This includes sub-topics like diseases, wounds, instruments used in the hospital, different specialties in medicine, madness. The coding of the metaphor vehicles under these lexical groupings give the metaphor in Martin Luther King Junior's speeches a systematic nature. The different speeches are made in different occasions, that is, they have different topics, but are all portraying the American society with its racism, as a sick society. *Give us the Ballot* is about calling on the government to give the blacks the right to vote. The *Letter from Birmingham Jail* is a response to the accusation of Martin Luther King Junior for talking about in the Vietnam War by some prominent white clergymen. In it he also defends the strategy of the nonviolent resistance to racism. In *The Great March on Detroit* King is addressing demonstrators, demonstrating for freedom in America, held in Detroit. In *I have a Dream* like the Great March on Detroit, he is addressing demonstrators of freedom in America. The *Nobel Peace Prize Acceptance Speech* is delivered in Norway but he connects it to the situation in America at the time. The *Quest for Peace and Justice* is a speech in which he discusses what he considers to be the most pressing problem confronting mankind in his time. In *Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence* he focuses on America's involvement in the war in Vietnam, its impact on the American society as a whole and the blacks in particular. He presents *Where Do We Go From Here* in an annual session of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. And *I've Been to The Mountain Top* is a speech delivered at the Mason Temple in Memphis Tennessee. Its primary concern is the Memphis sanitation strike challenging the United States to live up to its ideals. The different speeches come up because of different events giving different topics, but Martin Luther King Junior uses the image of illness in all. The different topics are disease, wounds, physically disabled and drugs, and other health related diction.

#### 6.1.1 Diseases

King's audience have obviously experienced different diseases and therefore are familiar with the concept. They know the diseases he uses as metaphor vehicle because it is what is prevalent in their society. King knows they can easily relate the concepts of racial discrimination to the different diseases and by so doing understand his message. He uses different kinds of diseases in the following situations:

For the shape of the world today does not afford us the luxury of an *anemic democracy*.

*Segregation is the cancer in the body politic*

those who have not suffered unduly from the *disease of segregation*

*The nation is sick*

These men so often have *a high blood pressure of words and an anemia of deeds*

A second evil which *plagues* the modern world is that of poverty.

Just as nonviolence exposed the ugliness of racial injustice, so must the *infection and sickness* of poverty be exposed and healed

...from *paralyzing chains* of conformity

...and that love without power is sentimental and *anemic*.

The war in Vietnam is but a symptom of a far *deeper malady* within the American spirit

Plaything of a society gone *mad on war*

I ponder the *madness of Vietnam*

Somehow this *madness must cease*

Negroes... have demonstrated that nonviolence is not *sterile passivity*

Martin Luther King Junior uses diseases to portray that racism is an illness. Disease is a concept that King's listeners are versed with. They have been sick and have probably taken care of sick people, or know about these diseases and can use the concept to understand his meaning. Anemia, cancer, high blood pressure are killer diseases and the use of diction semantically connected to disease like plagues, infection, paralyze, malady all insinuate illness. Madness, a disease that is specifically highlighted by Martin Luther King Junior is a mental disorder that may cause malfunction or it can be considered a poor ability to function in life. A society therefore that is mad does not function well and in this case the madness is segregation

### 6.1.2 Wounds

Wounds in Martin Luther King's speeches signify hurting through segregation. The concept of wounding is very familiar. It is found in the following instances:

Nonviolence is a powerful and just weapon... which *cuts without wounding* ...

There is nothing to keep us from molding a recalcitrant status quo *with bruised hands* until we have fashioned it into a brotherhood

All over the globe men are revolting against old systems of exploitation and oppression, and out of the *wounds of a frail* world, new systems of justice and equality are born.

I believe that *wounded justice*, lying prostrate on the blood-flowing streets of our nation...

The bruised hands, wounded justice, wounds of a frail world all signify exploitation, oppression, racism, segregation that have left marks of suffering on the blacks. But when he refers to nonviolence as a weapon that cuts without wounding, he is insinuating the positive impact nonviolent strikes have on the government.

### 6.1.3 Physically disabled

Martin Luther King Junior makes use of the images of the crippled and the blind to show a degrading society. The following are instances in which he uses ‘crippled and blind.’

The negro is still sadly *crippled* by the manacle of segregation

We are taking the black young men who had been *crippled* by our society

The great decent majority who through *blindness*... Have allowed their consciences to sleep

The *blind operation* of our economic system

And even his cultural life was rising through the steady decline of *crippling illiteracy*

To be physically challenged is having a disability that is a limitation on a person’s physical functioning. Therefore the physically challenged does not have the ability to carry out their duties fully. A cripple cannot move, likewise a blind cannot see. These impairments distort the functioning of the body. The concept of physical disabilities makes the concept of racism better understood since the audience have experience the malfunctioning of those who are physically disable. Martin Luther King Junior portrays the black in America as being crippled by segregation in the society, and the blind as those implementing racism, who cannot see or feel the pain they are causing on the blacks.

### 6.1.4 Drugs

The presence of drugs insinuate the presence of the sick. Martin Luther King Junior uses drug in negative ways to show the negativity of racial discrimination. This is seen in the following instances:

*Tranquilizing drug* of gradualism

Massive *dose of violence*

*Injecting poisonous drugs* of hate into the veins of people

Powerful ‘action’ *antidotes* to combat the *disease of segregations*

Behind the *anesthetizing security* of stained glass windows

The tranquilizing drug, dose of violence, poisonous drugs, antidotes, anesthetizing security are used in a manner to portray the destructive nature of drugs-segregation- to the lives of blacks. Other health related diction used are instruments like ‘suction tube, thermometer, thermostat’ that are used in the hospital. He uses ‘poisoned’ as a metaphor used in destroying the American society.

## 6.2 Metaphor Development in Bate Besong’s Plays

Bate Besong in his plays uses metaphors of illness in writing about different topics. *Beasts of No Nation* is about embezzlement of state funds. The play is about a mayor who spends 450million of the 500million budget on shit related issues like toilet tissues and disinfectants. The Nightsoil men who cart away the shit are not paid and are threatened when they want to protest. Those who are at the top live in affluence while those at the bottom live in abject penury. *Requiem for the Last Kaiser* presents an oppressive regime with a president whose word is law. Those who are at the top support Akhikrikri the deity of Agidigidi, but at the end the masses rise up against them and ousts them from the marble palace. *Change Waka and His Man Sawa Boy* is about election fraud. Besong portrays this fraud through the use of stuffed ballot boxes, decaying teeth, electoral asphyxia, cerebral anaemia, all metaphors giving the picture of a sick society. In *Once Upon Great Lepers*, Besong is presenting a degraded society through two lepers who are identical twins, Ntufam and Samdeng. These lepers appear on crutches and are covered with running sores and protruding acnes. The play is filled with nasty images; smelling pus, carcass pollutants and contaminated blood. The play portrays a situation where the lepers are not taken care of, even when the hospitals are available. The play metaphorically presents a repressive regime through the use of images of illness.

### 6.2.1 Bad Breath

In Besong's society bad breath is a very annoying experience which causes so much discomfort to the one having it and to those around. His audience understand its implication and therefore grasp the concepts he uses bad breath to explain. Bad breath is used in all Besong's four plays under study. Bad breath is expressed in the following instances:

Maybe it is your *mouth that is smelling*

You *foul-mouthed* rascal

Rather than have your *teeth extracted*, you prefer carrying a *mouth full of rotten teeth*

It is no exaggeration to say his *bad breath* is...

*Decaying teeth smell* and we feel ashamed...Yet an ordinary chewing stick from a hibiscus hedge will help to keep your teeth clean

What does a *dentist do with a bad tooth*? It will take a hammer and chisel to knock off Agidigidi's *bad leadership teeth*.

Besong in his works uses the image of the mouth to portray a sick society. It is an image he uses in many of his plays to show the different ills of the society. He focuses on the smell of the mouth using bad breath, bad tooth, rotten teeth, foul-mouthed to represent a fraudulent society, bad leadership, filthy society and an unjust society. The smelling mouth is an experience his audience all know, so it makes it easier for him to use a known concept to explain an unknown one.

### 6.2.2 Diseases

The diseases mentioned in the plays are experiences that Besong's audience have seen or they know about. Different kinds of diseases in the plays are used in the following instances:

The worst tumour that ravages the national anatomy is the *tumour of flattery!*

...bottomless hole of the *ulcerous economy*

...our *leprous Economy*

...brain is cut off and the transparent ballot box dies of electrical *asphyxia* or *cerebral anaemia*...

...you do not have *irreversible glaucoma* otherwise you'll see that the *cancer* has progressed.

He has ... *malformed genitals*

They have been eaten to the core by the *syphilis* of the new...

*Cancerous growths* in the nation's morale

Carrier of *cryptococcal meningitis*

It is suffering from *kwashiorkor*

In fact he has *collapsed into a coma*.

*Heart problems* and *thickening arteries*

...*epileptic Judiciary*

The *country is barren*

*Risk of the stroke,*

*Sick country*

When our *nose is leaking with catarrh*, we should blow it out.

It will *burst open, spelling reddish and smelly pus*.

... *cancerous balloon* should discharge all its decayed contents,...

... *reddish balloon* like protrusion from his navel which emits offensive odour.

That *economy is mad*

Rocks of fire-power *sucked the oxygen out of their brains*.

*Arteries* of the human body can become *clogged*

However, during the *surgery a blood clot developed in the brain*...

Just like Martin Luther King Junior, but more extensively Besong uses diseases as a concept to portray the ills of the society. His kind of diseases are many more than that of King. He uses diseases as metaphor vehicle, in some situations as adjectives and in others as nouns. Using diseases as nouns he talks of tumour, syphilis, meningitis, glaucoma, heart problems,

coma, asphyxia, anaemia, catarrh and kwashiorkor. Using diseases as adjectives he mentions malformed genitals, leprous economy, ulcerous economy, cancerous growths, epileptic judiciary, the economy is mad and cancerous balloons.

### 6.2.3 Physically Disabled

The physically disabled are used in the following situations:

Ntufam and Samndeng lepers

Cripple and blindman

Ignorant imbeciles

Unlike Martin Luther King, Besong uses the physically disabled as characters in his plays. In *Beasts of No Nation*, he uses Cripple and Blindman as characters representing the downtrodden in the society. In *Once Upon Great Lepers*, the characters are lepers that are not taken care of. The inability of the characters to carry out their duties as complete humans represent an unhealthy society. These inability metaphors portray a handicap in the functioning of the society.

### 6.2.4 Drugs

An *injection* was administered.

... requires a stronger *dose* than one on a normal diet...

... Power is the ultimate *aphrodisiac*

*Drug dosage problems*

*Anti-coagulant drugs...*

*Tranquilizers*

We'll give *surgery without anaesthesia*

Just like Martin Luther King Junior, Bate Besong uses drugs in a negative way in his plays. The use of drugs portray the negative acts in society like electoral fraud, bad leadership, embezzlement and maltreatment of the masses.

There are other expressions that carry the impression or give the picture of illness, but are not the subgroups. The presence of a surgeon, physician indicate the presence of the sick. Also, contaminated blood, balm, consignment of blood, syringe are all diction related to the concept of illness. The use of Lazarus is an allusion from the Holy Bible that gives an image of the sick. Besong says '*The physician of today's Lazarus.*' As Cameron and Maslen (2010) discuss, the categorisations are not defined categories, meaning that one item might fall in different categories. But the main idea running through the study stays, that is, the use of illness as a vehicle.

## 7. Conclusion

The works of Martin Luther King Junior and Bate Besong shed light on the institutional inequalities in society, through the use of illness as a metaphor vehicle. The lexical choices used in their works explain better the broad socio-cultural context in which these choices are used, expressing the ideologies that have an influence on their audience. The study has shown how the linguistic choices of vehicle patterns by both authors help the speaker and writer to propagate their ideologies effectively. The groupings of the metaphor vehicles portray that both Martin Luther King Junior and Bate Besong follow the discourse dynamics, showing interconnectedness of the dimensions of metaphor used in their works, unravelling vehicle patterns of the systematic metaphor of illness. This is revealed through the use of metaphors of diseases, drugs, instruments in the hospital, the physically disabled as characters and to describe situations, all to show a depreciated society. Their view of a society with social ills-in Martin Luther King Junior's case a racist society and in Bate Besong's case a society filled with electoral fraud, a repressive government and embezzlement- bring to mind the image of sickness. Their attitude to such a society is one that as Bate Besong says, in *Requiem for Last Kaiser* (1998, pp.1) needs 'a hammer and chisel to knock off' the bad tooth. The study makes use of a large stretch of discourse to draw the conclusion on the use of the metaphor of illness in the works of Martin Luther King Junior and Bate Besong.

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## **APPENDIX**

### **Where do we go from here**

...and that love without power is sentimental and anemic.

The blind operation of our economic system.

These men so often have a high blood pressure of words and an anemia of deeds.

### **Letter from Birmingham Jail**

Segregation is the cancer in the body politic those who have not suffered unduly from the disease of segregation.

Normal and healthy discontent.

Powerful ‘action’ antidotes to combat the disease of segregations.

Behind the anesthetizing security of stained glass windows.

In those days the church was not rarely a thermometer that recorded the ideas and principles of popular opinion; it was a thermostat that transformed the mores of the society.

...from paralyzing chains of conformity.

### **Give us the Ballot**

These men so often have a high blood pressure of words and an anemia of deeds.

**I've been to the Mountain Top**

The nation is sick.

**I Have a Dream**

The negro is still sadly crippled by the manacle of segregation.

Tranquilizing drug of gradualism.

**Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence**

Plaything of a society gone mad on war.

Vietnam continued to draw men and skills and money like some demonic destructive suction tube.

We are taking the black young men who had been crippled by our society

If our nation wasn't using massive dose of violence...

If America's soul becomes totally poisoned, part of the autopsy must read 'Vietnam.'

...for the health of our land.

...life and health of America.

I ponder the madness of Vietnam.

...and we again fell victim of the deadly western arrogance that poisoned the...

Somehow this madness must cease.

The war in Vietnam is but a symptom of a far deeper malady within the American spirit,...

Injecting poisonous drugs of hate into the veins of people.

...battlefields physically handicapped and psychologically deranged.

There is nothing to keep us from molding a recalcitrant status quo with bruised hands until we have fashioned it into a brotherhood.

All over the globe men are revolting against old systems of exploitation and oppression, and out of the wounds of a frail world, new systems of justice and equality are born.

**Nobel Peace Prize Acceptance Speech**

Negroes... have demonstrated that nonviolence is not sterile passivity.

I believe that wounded justice, lying prostrate on the blood-flowing streets of our nation...

...on the blood flowing streets.

**The Quest for Peace and Justice**

Nonviolence is a powerful and just weapon... which cuts without wounding ...

...appealing to the conscience of the great decent majority who through blindness, fear, pride, and irritation have allowed their consciences to sleep.

A second evil which plagues the modern world is that of poverty.

Most of these poverty stricken children of God have never seen a physician or a dentist.

Just as nonviolence exposed the ugliness of racial injustice, so must the infection and sickness of poverty be exposed and healed-not only its symptoms but its basic causes.

...to see men victimized with starvation and illhealth when we have the means to help them.

### **The Great March on Detroit**

For the shape of the world today does not afford us the luxury of an anemic democracy.

...segregation is a cancer in the body politic.

...removed before our democratic health...

### **Beasts of No Nations**

Maybe it is your mouth that is smelling (88).

Is there no balm in Ednuoay. Is there no physician here?(91)

The worst tumor that ravages the national anatomy is the tumor of flattery! (130)

You foul-mouthed rascal (135).

...bottomless hole of the ulcerous economy (141).

...our leprous Economy (115).

### **Requiem for the Last Kaiser**

What does a dentist do with a bad tooth? It will take a hammer and chisel to knock off Agidigidi's bad leadership teeth (1).

They have been eaten to the core by the syphilis of the new... (2)

Sick country (7).

The physician of today's Lazarus (11).

We'll give surgery without anaesthesia (14).

Foreign sanatoriums (17).

Tried leaders always avoid that leprosy (20).

Cancerous growths in the nation's morale (21).

Carrier of cryptococcal meningitis (21).

It is suffering from kwashiorkor (22).

In fact he has collapsed into a coma...because of drug problems (23).

The variety of anti-coagulant drugs he takes to combat the risk of the stroke... (23).

He is certainly ill (23).

The beast is insane (23).

Heart problems and thickening arteries leading to constriction of the brain's blood supply (23).

The surgery was meant to transfer a portion of blood vessel from AKHIKI's leg to his neck, Pastor (23).

I would rather let an obedient bushman into an ultra-complex hospital surgery room... (25).

...Alcohol and tranquilizers to take care of the rest... (32).

And stop behaving like those monkeys: ignorants imbeciles unhappy... (33).

That economy is mad (38).

We have given a shot in the arm of the epileptic Judiciary (45).

Risk of the stroke.

Rocks of fire-power sucked the oxygen out of their brains.

The country is barren (57).

### **Once Upon Great Lepers**

It is no exaggeration to say his bad breath is....

It will burst open, spelling reddish and smelly pus (16).

The cancerous balloon should discharge all its decayed contents,.. (16).

You are pursued with a syringe containing ngyenmbo contaminated blood (19).

Arteries of the human body can become clogged (20).

However, during the surgery a blood clot developed in the brain (22-23).

Rather than have your teeth extracted, you prefer carrying a mouth full of rotten teeth (27).

The surgeons await a consignment of blood.

An injection was administered (58).

### **Changa Waka and His Man Sawa Boy**

Decaying teeth smell and and we feel ashamed...Yet an ordinary chewing stick from a hibiscus hedge will help to keep your teeth clean (8).

The flow of oxygen- rich blood to the brain is cut off and the transparent ballot box dies of electrical asphyxia or cerebral anaemia... (9).

You do not have irreversible glaucoma otherwise you'll see that the cancer has progressed (10).

He has a congenital problem of malformed genitals (13).

There is a reddish balloon like protusion from his navel which emits offensive odour (14).

A settler elector who has been fasting and is dehydrated requires a stronger dose than one on a normal diet... (35).

In both its sexual and asexual connotations, Power is the ultimate aphrodisiac (43).

When our nose is leaking with catarrh, we should blow it out (57).

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