

ÀKÓGBÁDÙN: TEACHING YORUBA AND PORTUGUESE LANGUAGES, CULTURE AND WORLDVIEWS IN BRAZIL

Félix Ayoh' Omidire

Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria

ÀKÓGBÁDÙN: ABC da lingual, cultura e civilização iorubanas is the title of a Foreign Language Teaching Textbook conceived to transform into a pleasurable experience the learning of Yorùbá, the most important African language in Brazil made popular by its millennial use in the Candomblé rituals. Better known today as a *gramática da língua iorubana*, the methodology of the book invested heavily in the resourceful use of music, especially Yorùbá folk and popular music not only as a pedagogical tool, but also as the basis for the acquisition of the grammar and correct tonality of the Yorùbá language by contemporary Brazilian learners. The methodological choice also involved the use of films and literary materials in which such music can be more easily found. This choice was premised mainly on the discovery that the original survival of the Yorùbá language and the world-famous preservation of the Yorùbá culture and worldview that transformed Brazil, especially Bahia, its cultural capital, into the Roma Negra (the Black Rome of the Americas) celebrated in the works of great anthropologists and ethnologists like Melville Herskovits, Roger Bastide, Pierre Verger, Lorenzo Turner, etc. was majorly through the sonorous orality of the Yorùbá ritual songs of its *qeto-nagô Candomblé*. Today, more than a decade after its initial publication, the book continues in high demand by Brazilian learners, making it necessary for nearly a yearly re-print. To a lesser extent, the same methodology would be employed years later in the conception of *Oxente! Viva o português brasileiro* the first textbook of Brazilian Portuguese published in Nigeria for the use of Anglophone and Francophone West-African learners of Portuguese. The present paper intends to x-ray and evaluate the strength and possible limits of this teaching methodology in the learning of foreign languages in the present multilingual context of globalization.