ISSN(O): 2320-5407 | ISSN(P): 3107-4928

ISSN NO. 2320-5407

International Journal of Advanced Research

Publisher's Name: Jana Publication and Research LLP

www.journalijar.com

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR- 59666

Manuscript Title: STATUS FIGURES IN THE LIWAGA OF THE NAABA YADEGA TROUPE OF KADIOGO: AN ETHNOLINGUISTIC STUDY OF MOTTOS AND SOCIAL COHESION AMONG THE MOOSE OF BURKINA FASO.

Recommendation:
Accept after minor revision

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✔		
Techn. Quality			✔	
Clarity			✔	
Significance	✔			

Reviewer Name: Dr. Abdul Haseeb Mir

Detailed Reviewer's Repot

General Overview

This manuscript presents an ethnolinguistic and sociocritical investigation into traditional musical oral performance among the Moose people of Burkina Faso. Specifically, the authors analyze the *liwaga* musical and choreographic genre as performed by the Naaba Yadega Troupe of Kadiogo in an urban migratory context (Ouagadougou).

The paper investigates how sung oral poetry mobilizes heraldic mottos (*zabyuya*) associated with four primary traditional corporate and status groups:

- **Blacksmiths (*sāaba*):** Masters of iron, the anvil, cultivation tools, and ritual purifications.
- **War Chiefs (*tāsɔbanba*):** Military commanders and praetorian guards embodying defensive courage.
- **Mask Initiates (*wando* / *sukwaba*):** Holders of chthonic spiritual forces, earth cults, and agricultural fertility rituals.
- **Masters of the Word (*yvumba* / *benda*):** Royal drummers, genealogists, and court bards who maintain historical memory and act as the moral conscience of sovereign leaders.

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The central thesis posits that invoking these status figures within *liwaga* performance does not reinforce a rigid hierarchy of exclusion or oppression. Instead, it functions as a symbolic mechanism of organic complementarity, mutual recognition, and social cohesion. The authors draw upon a transcribed and translated corpus of five core Mooré songs collected during live urban performances between 2022 and 2024.

Key Strengths

1. **Original Ethnolinguistic Focus:** The manuscript provides a valuable examination of African oral literature by analyzing how traditional status mottos (*zabyuya*) adapt to urban migratory environments.
2. **Methodological Transparency:** The theoretical integration of Geneviève Calame-Griaule's speech-act framework with sociocritical analysis offers a solid foundation for decoding Mooré oral poetry.
3. **Rich Empirical Corpus:** Providing bilingual transcriptions (Mooré and English) along with detailed ethnolinguistic commentaries allows for close textual analysis of poetic figures, hyperbole, and animal metaphors.

Recommendations for Improvement

While the manuscript is conceptually sound and well-written, the authors should address the following minor recommendations prior to final publication:

1. **Remove Table Formatting for Final Journal Submission:**

The manuscript includes a structured summary table in Section 3 ("Status figures in the corpus of the Naaba Yadega troupe"). To adhere to simple, text-only publication preferences, convert the contents of this table into concise narrative paragraphs or itemized bullet points.

2. **Fix Formatting Artifact at Manuscript Conclusion:**

The final page (page 12) contains an incomplete text fragment ("volta.") and an overlapping background watermark ("UNDER PEER REVIEW"). Ensure that the text ends cleanly following the reference section.

3. **Clarify Performance Context and Audio Archiving:**

In Section 2 ("Constitution of the corpus"), add 1–2 sentences detailing whether the primary field recordings gathered between 2022 and 2024 have been archived or made accessible for research replication.

4. **Standardize Reference Formatting to APA 7th Edition:**

Audit the reference list to ensure consistent formatting across all entries, verifying complete author names, publication years, titles, publishing houses, and DOIs where available.

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Final Evaluation and Verdict

This manuscript delivers a thorough, insightful, and culturally grounded ethnolinguistic analysis of Moose oral traditions and social cohesion. It makes a meaningful contribution to African cultural studies, ethnomusicology, and oral literature.

The manuscript is **accepted with minor revisions**. Converting the summary table into narrative text, cleaning up the formatting artifact on the final page, clarifying archive details, and standardizing the reference list will render the paper fully ready for publication

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