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REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-59667

Title:. AWU DE JUSTINE: LE VEUVAGE COMME PROLONGEMENT DE LA VIOLENCE FAITE AUX FEMMES.

Recommendation:
Accept as it is .....
Accept after minor revision.....
Accept after major revision .....
Do not accept (*Reasons below*) .....

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

Reviewer Name: Dr. Mithilesh kumar shukla

Reviewer's Comment for Publication:

This paper examines Justine Mintsa's novel *Histoire d'Awu* (2000) to analyze how widowhood in Gabon extends violence against women. Using African feminism, gender studies, and Bourdieu's concept of symbolic violence, the author argues that funeral rites, rather than protecting widows, become instruments of spoliation and humiliation. Awu, the protagonist, is stripped of her belongings, subjected to physical and psychological abuse by her in-laws, and ultimately treated as inheritable property through levirate marriage. The study shows how tradition is manipulated to legitimize the economic dispossession and social "death" of widows. The paper concludes that Mintsa's novel remains relevant, connecting its critique to Gabon's 2021 Loi Gap, which legally protects widows' rights.

Recommendation: Accept after minor revision.1- give page no of use references.

Detailed Reviewer's Report

STRENGTHS:

1- The paper argues convincingly that widowhood in *Histoire d'Awu* represents a "prolongement" of violence, a focused and memorable central claim.
2- It integrates African feminism (Oyéwùmí, Amadiume), gender studies (Connell), and Bourdieu's symbolic violence into a coherent analytical lens.
3- In paper Numerous direct quotations from the novel (pages 93–111) ground each argument in the primary text.
4- It Analysis of naming (AWU = death), the "Nous/Tu" rhetorical strategy, and imperative language reveals how language itself enacts domination.
5- The paper moves logically from framework to context to thematic analysis to conclusion, with an explicit Bourdieusian methodology.

WEAKNESSES:

1- Limited engagement with counterarguments.
2- Weak integration of the legal dimension.
3- The paper does not seriously consider alternative readings, such as the protective or integrative functions of levirate marriage,