

EUROCENTRIC IDIOSYNCRASY AND THE NARRATIVE VIEWPOINTS IN G.T. BASDEN'S *AMONG THE IBOS OF NIGERIA* – A COMPARATIVE STUDY

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ABSTRACT

Ever since the arrival of Europeans on African soil in 19th century, the story of the continent changed from the native narrative viewpoints to that of the colonial masters. Much as African scholars rose to the challenges imposed on them by their European counterparts by refuting their insinuations and asserting their own views over the colonial hegemony, the controversy still goes on between the truth and falsehood of the viewpoints of both European and African scholars. To most Africans, the European viewpoints generally lacked objectivity but were popularized and accepted in the 'western' sphere as facts and authentic. Due to the subjective nature of these narratives, most African scholars picked interest in this aspect of textual expression and often criticized the mindset of these Europeans as idiocies. One of these Europeans is an anthropologist, G.T. Basden, whose text *among the Ibos of Nigeria* has received wide attention, not only in Sociology and Anthropology, but in the study of Literature, especially the oral literature. The study viewed Basden's text as biased based on racial interest and observed that superiority complex contributed to the attitude of the 'whites' on the 'blacks'. It concluded that all men are born equal and need equal treatment at all times.

Keywords: Eurocentric, Europeans, Africans, Basden, Ibos.