

Workplace Exploitation and Labour Identity in Nigerian Industrial Narratives: Analyzing Themes in Dul Johnson's *Deeper into the Night*

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ABSTRACT: The relationship between labour identity and workplace exploitation in Nigeria's industrial sector remains a key sociological concern. Literature serves as a reflective and analytical medium, capturing socio-economic struggles. Dul Johnson's *Deeper into the Night* offers a striking portrayal of labour conditions, exploitation, and identity crises among Nigerian workers. This study examines how the novel encapsulates these issues and how literature aids in analyzing workplace inequalities. This research is guided by Marxist literary criticism and post-colonial labour theories. Marxist criticism highlights labor commodification and worker alienation under capitalist systems (Marx, 1867), while post-colonial labour theories assess the impact of colonial economic structures on modern labor relations (Fanon, 1961). These perspectives help contextualize themes of exploitation and identity in *Deeper into the Night*. A qualitative content analysis approach was used to examine the novel as a socio-industrial text. Key passages depicting labor conditions, workplace conflicts, and character interactions were systematically analyzed to identify dominant themes, particularly in how workers resist or endure exploitation. The novel illustrates harsh labor conditions through themes such as Alienation and Marginalization - Workers are treated as expendable under capitalist structures. Economic Hardship and Class Struggle -The widening socio-economic divide reinforces systemic inequalities. Resistance and Resilience - Some characters challenge oppression, demanding better conditions. *Deeper into the Night* critically examines Nigeria's industrial labour landscape. It was recommended amongst others that literature should be integrated into sociological and policy discussions to enhance understanding of workers' experiences and that future research should explore similar themes in other African literary works.

KEYWORDS: Alienation, Class Struggle, Conflict Theory, Economic Hardship, Industrial Sociology

INTRODUCTION

The issue of workplace exploitation and labour identity has been a significant theme in both global and Nigerian literary narratives, especially within industrial settings. In contemporary Nigerian literature, many works engage with socio-economic issues, particularly the struggles faced by the working class. Dul Johnson's novel *Deeper into the Night* (2007) presents a critical exploration of these themes within the context of Nigeria's industrial landscape. Through his portrayal of the lives of industrial workers, Johnson delves into the complexities of labour exploitation and the construction of labour identity in the face of oppressive systems.

Workplace exploitation in Nigerian industrial narratives, as seen in *Deeper into the Night*, highlights the systemic injustices that characterize the labour sector, particularly in relation to the marginalization of workers, the inequities of the workplace environment, and the consequences of capitalism in post-colonial Nigeria. The novel reflects broader societal issues where workers are subjected to poor working conditions, inadequate wages, and a lack of legal protections, which often result in a sense of alienation and disempowerment. These elements are central to understanding the labor identity constructed within such narratives.

In the context of Nigeria's current economic and social challenges, one of the key aspects of Dul Johnson's work in *Deeper into the Night* resonates deeply with the ongoing struggles faced by the Nigerian working class. The novel's portrayal of the interrelationship between labour exploitation and identity formation in the workplace speaks to the broader socio-political realities of contemporary Nigeria, where workers are increasingly subjected to harsh economic conditions and systemic marginalization. Just as the characters in Johnson's narrative are not passive victims of exploitation, the Nigerian workforce today continues to negotiate its position within a complex socio-political structure that defines labour roles. This negotiation, however, is not without significant hurdles, as the country's high unemployment rate, rising inflation, and poor working conditions contribute to an environment where many workers experience alienation and disempowerment (Afolabi, 2020).

The narrative's exploration of how workers develop a collective sense of identity in response to exploitation and resistance against the marginalization imposed by industrial employers and the state echoes the current reality for many Nigerian workers. Across various sectors, including oil and gas, manufacturing, and service industries, Nigerian workers face the challenge of asserting their

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dignity amidst exploitative labour practices, irregular payment systems, and a lack of social safety nets. As workers in Johnson's novel push back against exploitation, so too do Nigerian labour unions and activist groups, striving to defend workers' rights and advocate for better working conditions, despite the oppressive structures that hinder progress (Ojo-Ade, 2018). Thus, the themes of labour exploitation and identity formation in *Deeper into the Night* serve as a powerful lens through which we can understand the current state of labour relations in Nigeria, underlining the ongoing struggle for justice, fair wages, and recognition of workers' rights in a turbulent socio-economic climate.

Therefore, the construction of a labour identity becomes a form of resistance, a proclamation of the worker's dignity and humanity in a dehumanizing system. Moreover, The themes of exploitation and labour identity in *Deeper into the Night* can best be understood within the broader socio-political and economic context of post-independence Nigeria, where industrialization brought both hope and disillusionment. Following the nation's independence in 1960, Nigeria sought to build a robust economy through industrialization, which resulted in the growth of large industries. However, this development often came at the expense of workers' rights and welfare, as businesses prioritized profit over the well-being of their labour force. This situation created a hazardous environment for workers, who were increasingly subjected to exploitation and social inequalities.

Furthermore, the novel's exploration of these themes is aligned with critical perspectives on labour in Nigerian literature. Scholars such as Niyi Afolabi (2017) and Femi Ojo-Ade (2015) have noted that literature plays a crucial role in articulating the socio-economic realities of the Nigerian working class. Afolabi argues that contemporary Nigerian authors often use the industrial setting as a metaphor for the broader societal challenges faced by workers in post-colonial economies. Similarly, Ojo-Ade discusses how literature serves as a platform for examining the power dynamics between workers and their employers, shedding light on the inequities and struggles that define labour relations in Nigeria. In examining *Deeper into the Night*, it becomes apparent that Dul Johnson not only critiques the exploitative labor practices in Nigeria's industrial sectors but also provides a platform for the voices of workers to be heard. The novel climaxes the complex emotional, psychological, and social dimensions of labor, showing how workers navigate and respond to the challenges they face in oppressive work environments. It is through their, their relationships, and their resistance that Johnson constructs different shades or perspectives of understanding labour identity, revealing the ways in which individuals can assert their dignity in the face of exploitation.

This study focuses on analyzing workplace exploitation and labour identity in Dul Johnson's *Deeper into the Night*, with a specific emphasis on the themes of alienation, resistance, and the socio-political dynamics of labor practices in post-colonial Nigeria. Through engaging with the industrial narratives presented in the novel, this analysis seeks to explore how workers' identities are continuously shaped and redefined in response to the exploitative forces they face. The discussion also explore the intersection of labour, class, and identity, drawing from both literary and socio-economic critiques to better understand Johnson's portrayal of the Nigerian labour experience in a post-independence context. This study is therefore justified by the need to explore how Nigerian literature reflects the lived realities of workers, particularly in an era where economic hardship, social inequality, and labour exploitation remain pressing issues. Therefore, Literature provides a crucial space for examining the complex relationships between individuals, labour systems, and socio-political structures (Afolabi, 2020). Through this analysis, the study aims to contribute to a deeper understanding of labour identity within the framework of Nigerian industrial narratives and the broader socio-economic challenges faced by workers in the country.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Workplace exploitation and labour identity remain significant issues within Nigeria's socio-economic landscape, particularly in the context of industrial labour. In contemporary Nigeria, workers face numerous challenges, including poor working conditions, irregular wages, job insecurity, and the lack of sufficient labour protections. These issues have deepened in recent years due to a combination of factors, including economic recession, inadequate implementation of labour laws, and systemic corruption within both the public and private sectors (Omotoso, 2019). Consequently, the Nigerian workforce continues to experience alienation and marginalization in industrial environments, where the power dynamics between employers and employees often perpetuate exploitative practices which reflects in the constant wage and the ever-rising cost of living.

Dul Johnson's *Deeper into the Night* (2007) provides a literary lens through which these real-world issues can be examined, as it reflects the struggles of workers in industrial settings. The novel explores how workers negotiate their identities in response to exploitation and how they develop collective resistance against oppressive labour practices. However, while Johnson's work presents these issues within a fictionalized industrial context, the realities depicted closely mirror the current socio-political and economic challenges that Nigerian workers continue to face. These challenges include exploitative labour practices in the oil and gas, telecommunications, and manufacturing sectors, where workers endure long hours, unsafe working conditions, and poor compensation (Afolabi, 2020). Furthermore, there is a growing disillusionment among workers, particularly young Nigerians, who struggle with unemployment and underemployment due to the lack of stable, well-paying jobs (Ojo-Ade, 2018)

This study aims to explore the interrelationship between labour exploitation and identity formation within the context of *Deeper into the Night*, analyzing how Johnson's portrayal of these themes reflects the broader realities of labour in post-colonial Nigeria.

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The problem lies in the fact that despite the growing awareness of labour issues, Nigerian workers continue to face the systemic challenges of exploitation and identity erosion, which have extensive implications for their social mobility and overall well-being.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The primary objective of this research is to critically examine the portrayal of workplace exploitation and labor identity in Dul Johnson's Deeper into the Night, with the aim of understanding how Nigerian industrial narratives reflect and critique the socio-economic realities faced by workers in post-colonial Nigeria. Specifically, the study seeks to:

- 1. Explore the themes of labour exploitation, economic hardship, and identity formation within the Nigerian industrial context.
- 2. Analyze the themes of alienation, resistance, and marginalization as depicted in the novel, connecting these literary elements to real-life experiences of Nigerian workers within industrial sectors.
- 3. Investigate how Johnson's narrative highlights the formation and transformation of labour identity in response to exploitative practices and socio-political pressures.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- 1. How are themes of labour exploitation, economic hardship, and identity formation portrayed within the Nigerian industrial context, and what insights do these themes provide into the socio-economic challenges faced by Nigerian workers?
- 2. In what ways does Deeper into the Night depict alienation, resistance, and marginalization, and how do these literary elements reflect the real-life experiences of Nigerian industrial workers?
- 3. How does Johnson's narrative in Deeper into the Night illustrate the formation and transformation of labour identity in response to workplace exploitation and socio-political pressures in Nigeria?

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

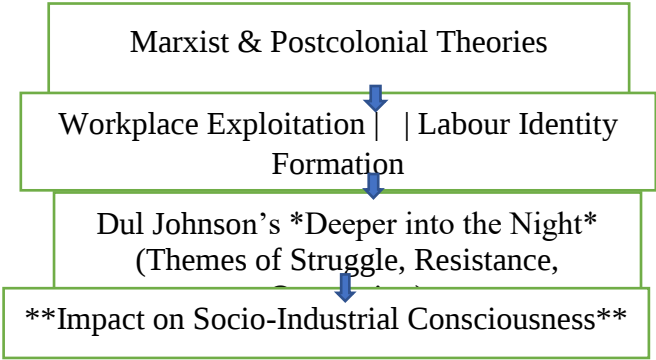
Theoretical Underpinning: This study anchored on the **Marxist Literary Criticism and Postcolonial Labour Theories** to analyze workplace exploitation and labour identity. These theories provide insights into class struggle, economic oppression, and the socio-political forces shaping industrial workers' experiences.

- **Marxist Literary Criticism** – Examines economic structures, class struggle, and the exploitation of the working class in literature.
- **Postcolonial Labour Theory** – Explores how historical colonial economic structures influence contemporary labour practices in postcolonial Nigeria.

Key Variables and Relationships

Key Concepts	Indicators/Factors	Relationship
Workplace Exploitation	Low wages, poor working conditions, lack of job security, employer dominance	Exploitation leads to the alienation of workers and loss of agency
Labour Identity	Class consciousness, resistance, solidarity, cultural perception of work	Shaped by socio-economic conditions and industrial oppression
Industrial Narratives in Literature	Themes of struggle, resilience, oppression, and hope in Deeper into the Night	Literature as a reflection of real-world industrial realities

Framework Diagram (Illustrative Model)



This paradigm helps in the understanding of how labour identity is formed in Nigerian industrial contexts and how workplace exploitation is reflected in literature.

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THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

With an emphasis on Dul Johnson's *Deeper into the Night*, this study explores workplace exploitation and labor identity in Nigerian industrial narratives using Marxist literary criticism and post-colonial labour theories. These theoretical stances offer a critical lens through which to examine how capitalism processes in Nigeria shape class conflict, labour relations, and post-colonial work dynamics.

Marxist Literary Criticism (Propounded by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, 1848)

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels introduced Marxist literary criticism in 1848. Marxist literary criticism offers a framework for examining the ways in which class conflicts and economic systems impact literary tales. It is founded on Karl Marx's theory of historical materialism. It looks at how capitalist exploitation is reflected in and critiqued by literature, especially in connection to labor relations and industrial environments. This method is essential to comprehending how *Deeper into the Night* depicts the commodification, oppression, and alienation of workers in Nigeria's industrial environment.

Key Concepts from Marxist Criticism

- **Class Struggle and Exploitation:** The proletariat (working class) and the bourgeoisie (capitalist class) can be used as lenses through which to analyze the novel. One of the main concerns is the degree to which workers are exposed to oppressive policies, subpar working conditions, and unfair salaries (Marx & Engels, 1848; Eagleton, 1976).
- **Alienation of Labor:** Drawing on Marx's theory of alienation, which was first presented in *Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts* in 1844 and developed in *Das Kapital* in 1867, the analysis looked at how the novel's characters lack autonomy and fulfillment in their work and are estranged from it (Marx, 1867; Lukács, 1971).
- **Economic Determinism and Ideology:** The novel illustrates how social relationships and organizational structures are influenced by economic circumstances. It also looks at how workers' culture of quiet, agreement, or resistance is maintained by ruling-class ideology (Althusser, 1971; Gramsci, 1971).
- **Resistance and Revolution:** According to Eagleton (2002), this study investigates if the novel includes instances of worker solidarity, resistance, or calls for structural change in Nigeria's industrial sector.

Post-Colonial Labour Theories (Developed in the mid-20th century by scholars such as Frantz Fanon, Walter Rodney, and Samir Amin)

Post-colonial labor theories were created in the middle of the 20th century by academics including Samir Amin, Walter Rodney, and Frantz Fanon. The persistence of colonial labour systems in Nigeria after independence can be comprehended using the framework provided by post-colonial labor theories. The persistence of colonial capitalist practices in modern workplaces, such as forced labor, economic dependency, and structural inequality, is criticized by these views.

Key Concepts from Post-Colonial Labour Theories

- **Colonial Legacy in Labour Structures:** This study looks at how colonial exploitation has influenced Nigeria's labour system historically and how these structures are still present in the industrial work conditions shown in *Deeper into the Night* (Johnson, 2007) Rodney, 1972; Fanon, 1961).
- **Neo-Colonial Economic Exploitation:** Echoing dependency theorists like Walter Rodney (*How Europe Underdeveloped Africa*, 1972) and Samir Amin (*Unequal Development*, 1976), the novel illustrates how global capitalism and multinational corporations sustain exploitative working conditions (Amin, 1976; Nkrumah, 1965).
- **Labor Identity and Cultural Displacement:** Based on post-colonial critiques of identity loss and cultural degradation, the study examines how characters negotiate their sense of self and identity in exploitative labor situations (Bhabha, 1994; Said, 1978).
- **Resistance and Agency –** The analysis looks at how the novel portrays African workers either as agents of resistance against neo-colonial and capitalist forces or as passive victims (Fanon, 1963; Mbembe, 2001).

This study uses Marxist literary criticism and post-colonial labor theories to analyze how class conflict, worker alienation, and capitalist exploitation are portrayed in *Deeper into the Night*; how colonial and neo-colonial economic structures impact labor identities and working experiences; and how the representation of Nigerian workers emphasizes solidarity and resistance to injustice. As a result, these theoretical frameworks offer a critical interpretation of *Deeper into the Night*.

LITERATURE REVIEW

A complex interaction of socioeconomic, cultural, and political issues is shown by examining workplace exploitation and worker identity within Nigerian industrial tales. A touching literary case study that captures these ideas through its depiction of interpersonal relationships, power struggles, and personal journeys is Dul Johnson's *Deeper into the Night*.

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Workplace Exploitation in Nigerian Industrial Contexts

The informal sector employs a significant section of Nigeria's workforce, where employees sometimes face hazardous working conditions marked by long hours, low pay, and no job security. The bulk of workers in this sector put in 10 to 12 hours a day on average, earning 30,000 naira (about \$182) a month, according to Akinwale (2014), highlighting systemic exploitation entrenched in capitalist processes. Nevertheless, this sum has increased to roughly 44,000 naira in 2025, when the US dollar is officially worth 1,470 to one naira, but only 30 USD.

Furthermore, workers are exploited in Nigeria's manufacturing sector due to a lack of respect to International Labour Organization (ILO) norms. Yange, Oyeshola, and Aduloju (2016) blame this on the dualist legal system and the capitalist goals of private industrial firms, which erode the enforcement of labour rights and lead to poor working conditions and insufficient worker protection.

Labor Identity and Power Dynamics in *Deeper into the Night*

The change of Mamzhi, a battle hero whose rise to prominence results in internal tyranny within his village, is explored in Johnson's *Deeper into the Night*. At first praised for his valor in the face of outside dangers, Mamzhi's leadership turns into tyranny, illustrating the distorting effects of unbridled authority. This story reflects situations in which people or organizations, after assuming power, continue to exploit others in a manner similar to that of the oppressors they previously resisted.

The conflict between indigenous tribes and settler populations is also discussed in the book, with special attention paid to the settlers' cultural and economic intrusions. In Nigeria, where indigenous workers frequently feel excluded by dominant groups, this dynamic reflects labour identity difficulties and can result in disputes over resources, cultural preservation, and economic opportunities.

Intersections of Literature and Socio-Economic Realities

Thematic exploration of workplace exploitation and labor identity in Nigerian industrial narratives, such as *Deeper into the Night*, highlights the widespread challenges faced by workers. Addressing these issues requires a multifaceted approach, including the enforcement of labor rights, socio-economic reforms, and cultural sensitivity, in order to foster a more equitable and just work environment in Nigeria. Literary works such as *Deeper into the Night* offer profound insights into the socio-economic realities of Nigerian workers by portraying characters that are rooted in struggles against exploitation and identity crises.

Furthermore, literature is a potent instrument for social critique because it illuminates the real-life struggles of underrepresented workers and highlights the structural injustices ingrained in labour and industrial systems. African literature has long served as a vehicle for expressing socioeconomic and political issues, giving the downtrodden a voice and a forum for resistance (Nnolim, 2009). *Deeper into the Night* humanizes the hardships of workers by means of its rich narrative and character development, rendering their predicament more relatable to both readers and decision-makers (Johnson, 2017).

The novel captures the shades of workplace exploitation while simultaneously reinforcing the working class's agency in demanding better conditions because it weaves historical, economic, and political contexts into its narrative. This intersection between literature and socio-economic realities highlights the role of fiction as a catalyst for advocacy and reform, encouraging discourse on labour rights, corporate accountability, and the broader implications of economic oppression in Nigeria. As noted by Ezechi (2018), narratives that focus on labor identity and exploitation not only document these issues but also challenge dominant ideologies that justify or ignore such injustices.

METHODOLOGY

This study employs qualitative content analysis to examine *Deeper into the Night* by Dul Johnson, focusing on the depiction of workplace exploitation and labour identity in Nigerian industrial narratives. This method is well-suited for analyzing literary texts, as it allows for a systematic examination of themes, character dynamics, and underlying sociological patterns.

Data Collection and Coding

Passages from the novel that illustrate labour conditions, power relations, and conflicts in workplace settings were identified and coded thematically. The coding process involved:

Open Coding – Initial identification of significant excerpts related to workplace exploitation, worker agency, and structural inequalities.

Axial Coding – Grouping related themes, such as wage disparities, precarious employment, and employer-employee tensions.

Selective Coding – Synthesizing key themes to understand broader sociological implications, particularly regarding labour identity formation.

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Data Analysis and Results

This section provides the analysis and conclusions from the study on labour identity and workplace exploitation as they are portrayed in Dul Johnson's *Deeper into the Night*. Character development, socioeconomic settings, and thematic patterns in the book are the main topics of the qualitative content analysis.

Thematic Analysis

Three major themes on labor identity and workplace exploitation are revealed by a qualitative thematic analysis of *Deeper into the Night*, viz:

A. Power and Class Struggles in Labour Relations

Marxist labor theories emphasize class struggles as a defining factor in workplace exploitation (Marx, 1867; Rodney, 1972). To illustrate how power dynamics shift within workplace structures, the novel depicts a hierarchical labor structure in which workers at the bottom of the socio-economic pyramid face systemic exploitation. The protagonist, Mamzhi, initially represents the common person but later becomes an instrument of oppression.

B. Economic Oppression and Dehumanization of Workers

In *Deeper into the Night*, the characters deal with harsh working conditions, low pay, and indifference to their welfare. According to Akinwale (2014), the depiction of economic suffering mirrors actual problems in Nigerian industry, where workers face unstable employment and inadequate labor safeguards. Johnson highlights the psychological and physical effects of labor exploitation using literary devices like imagery and symbolism.

C. Opposition and the Development of Labor Identity

Workers in the novel exhibit agency by opposing exploitative conditions in spite of their oppression. The book emphasizes instances of group organization, subtly defiant behaviour, and the defense of one's cultural and professional identity. This mirrors historical labor movements in Nigeria, such as the 1945 general strike, where workers mobilized against colonial exploitation (Fashoyin, 1992).

Character Analysis and Labour Identity

A detailed examination of *Deeper into the Night*'s personalities sheds light on how labour identity is constructed:

- **Mamzhi:** His transformation from a figure of resistance to one of power highlights the flexibility of labor identity under capitalist systems. His growth as a person is consistent with labour alienation theories (Marx, 1867).
- **The Factory Workers:** They stand for the working class's united efforts. Their stories, which highlight themes of exploitation and resistance, are similar to the actual realities of many Nigerian labourers.
- **The Elite Industrialists:** They are portrayed as unconcerned with the suffering of laborers, which serves to further capitalist exploitation and socioeconomic inequality in Nigeria.

3. Literary Representation and Socioeconomic Realities

Johnson's novel reflects broader socioeconomic conditions in Nigeria. A comparative analysis highlights the connection between literary depictions and real-world labour challenges:

Indicator	Depiction in the Novel	Real-World Data
Wages	Workers are paid meager salaries insufficient for survival.	Minimum wage in Nigeria remains low, with many workers earning below the poverty line (NBS, 2022).
Working Conditions	Exploitative labor conditions, lack of safety measures.	Reports indicate widespread labor rights violations in manufacturing sectors (ILO, 2021).
Labor Movements	Attempts at collective resistance and negotiations.	Historical strikes and protests for better wages and conditions (Fashoyin, 1992).

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The study's results clearly meet its goals, showing that *Deeper into the Night* explores worker identity in Nigerian industrial narratives and functions as a literary critique of workplace exploitation. In particular, the novel does a good job of capturing the unfavorable working conditions, low pay, and institutionalized labor exploitation that are reminiscent of actual labor conflicts in Nigeria. Thus, these representations support previous research on insecure work and abuses of labor rights (Akinwale, 2014; ILO, 2021). Furthermore, the mutation of labor identity is highlighted by the novel's complex character development, especially through Mamzhi's transition from an oppressed worker to an actor of the capitalist system. Thus, this is consistent with Marxist theories of alienation and class struggle, which emphasize how workers can either resist or become complicit in exploitative systems (Marx, 1867; Fashoyin, 1992).

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This directly supports the study's first objective, which is to examine how *Deeper into the Night* depicts workplace exploitation. Additionally, the findings support the study's second objective, which aims to investigate how labor identity is constructed and contested in the novel. For example, *Deeper into the Night*'s character development and thematic depth demonstrate the fluidity of labor identity, demonstrating how workplace dynamics and economic oppression shape individual and collective worker consciousness. *Deeper into the Night* also reflects the larger claim that literature is a potent medium for documenting socio-economic injustices.

Researchers like Nnolim (2009) and Ezechi (2018) have highlighted how African literature may mirror and analyze injustices in the real world. Additionally, the way that worker resistance is portrayed in the book is consistent with both past and present labour movements in Nigeria. The 1945 general strike and contemporary demonstrations against low pay and unfavorable working conditions are two notable examples of how its themes correspond with actual labour battles (Fashoyin, 1992; NBS, 2022; ILO, 2021). This reaffirms the novel's literary relevance by demonstrating how well the story depicts the struggle for worker identity inside capitalist structures.

Finally, the results validate the third goal of the study, which was to establish the relationship between literary narratives and socio-economic reality in Nigeria. A socio-political critique that critically analyzes Nigerian worker identity and workplace exploitation, *Deeper into the Night* is more than just a work of fiction. The novel, more significantly, emphasizes the power of literature as a vehicle for social consciousness and change, providing perspectives that support current debates over economic fairness and worker rights. Thus, the novel's themes' relevance to actual working conditions validates the role that literary tales play in influencing public opinion regarding workplace exploitation and societal change.

ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK

A sociological perspective was used, referencing postcolonial African literature's notions of identity construction, class conflict, and labour exploitation. The analysis uses this framework to examine how *Deeper into the Night* depicts the lived realities of labourers, power imbalances in industrial environments, and the changing awareness of workers in Nigeria's socioeconomic background. This method provides insights into the relationship between human identities and economic systems in Nigerian industrial narratives, allowing for a comprehensive comprehension of how literature both reflects and critiques workplace realities.

CONTRIBUTION TO KNOWLEDGE

This study advances knowledge by establishing a connection between socioeconomic realities in Nigeria's industrial sector and literary narratives. The study demonstrates how literature may be used as a critical instrument to document and critique labor identity and workplace exploitation through its analysis of *Deeper into the Night*. It strengthens literature's influence on public debate on labor rights, economic fairness, and social change by illuminating the ways in which Nigerian industrial narratives mirror past and present labor conflicts. Additionally, by showing how capitalist exploitation and class conflicts show up in workplace relations, the study is consistent with African literary traditions and Marxist labor ideas. By combining literary analysis and labor studies, it also offers an interdisciplinary viewpoint, which benefits academics, policymakers, and labor rights activists.

CONCLUSION

Through *Deeper into the Night*, this study explores workplace exploitation and labor identity in Nigerian industrial narratives. It reveals how workers' socioeconomic struggles are portrayed, how labor identity is contested within capitalist structures, and how the novel aligns with actual labor issues, ultimately positioning it as a reflection of Nigeria's industrial realities and a call for labor justice.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to promote social justice, fair labour practices, and improved working conditions in Nigeria, while also enhancing awareness of workplace exploitation and labour identity in literary narratives, the following recommendations are proposed:

1. Labour laws should be strengthened, fair wages enforced, and working conditions improved to align labour realities with legal protections.
2. Unions and activist groups should integrate literary works like *Deeper into the Night* into awareness campaigns to highlight workers' struggles and advocate for policy change.
3. Scholars should further explore the intersection of literature and labour studies to deepen the understanding of workplace dynamics and influence socio-economic policies.

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