

## **Equal Encounters: Gender, Language and Power in an African Society -The Case of Ubang, Nigeria**

This study proposes to explore the relationship between language and culture in Ubang, a rural Nigerian community. The latter is one in which men and women maintain two separate, but mutually intelligible, speech dialects. I argue that this unique phenomenon of gender diglossia is a reflection of many other aspects of Ubang culture in which there is strong evidence of the operation of a dual-sex political system. The underlying question of the research is, "What are some of the specific factors responsible for an African feminist orientation that often appears so far-removed from that already established in the West?" The study concludes by highlighting the broader implications of its findings, namely: cultural and historical realities largely influence feminist politics, and patterns of language use in any community serve as a tool with which to illuminate the culture and world-view of its people.