

Charting the Footsteps of a Navigator and Creator of Thought

Mapping the Omnivorous Writings of Toyin Falola

through

Genre and Style

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[Compcros](#)

Comparative Cognitive Processes and Systems

Exploring Every Corner of the Cosmos in Search of Knowledge

"A long and worthy acknowledgment must await another opportunity. I am too famished to speak, too dehydrated to move, too exhausted to write. With the little breath that is left, let me mumble just a few words before I faint".

Toyin Falola, "Acknowledgements", *Cultural Modernity in a Colonized World: The Writings of Chief Isaac Oluwole Delano*, 2020, ix.

At the centre of the universe is a tree and at its foot a little old man. The tree is his mind, the branches his thoughts, their leaves his words.

How may one map the branches of this tree, large as houses, spreading in various directions, their leaves innumerable?

An image of the human being as thinker and expresser of thought, his consciousness the standpoint from which he perceives the cosmos, therefore in a sense, the centre of the cosmos, since cosmic vastness and its individualities only exists for him to the degree that he perceives it.

An image adapted from Wande Abimbola's *An Exposition of Ifa Literary Corpus*.

How may one map the omnivorous writings of one particularly dramatic demonstration of the human being as thinker and expresser of thought, Toyin Falola's penetration into broad zones of exploration and creation in African thought, a journey which perhaps no complete public account exists?

The following admittedly incomplete approaches may be adopted.

Genres

Poetry, interviews, letters, essays, books.

Poetry

Yoruba poetry

English poetry

Celebratory poetry

elegiac poetry

Celebratory poetry, elegiac poetry

Others in *Etches of Fresh Waters* which I have not categorized.

Interviews

Interviews of himself by others

Interviews of others

Letters

Private correspondence demonstrating striking insights or expressions, or both

Essays

Reviews

Project announcements

Celebrations

Celebratory elegies

Expository and analytical essays

Expository, analytical and narrative essays

Books

Poetry

Scholarly

Poetry and scholarship

Autobiographical

Sole authored

Co-authored

Sole edited

Co-edited

Focused on individuals

Focused on cities

Focused on countries

Focused on peoples

Focused on other subjects

Religion

Philosophy

Religion and Philosophy

Art

History

Literature

Politics

Education

Economics

Multidisciplinary and multi-subject

Styles

Expository and analytical

Vatic

Expository, analytical and vatic