

**SOCIETY OF YOUNG NIGERIAN WRITERS**

**ARTICLES, ESSAYS AND E-BOOKS ON DANIEL  
OLORUNFEMI FAGUNWA**



## **FAGUNWA SPEAKS FOR MOTHER TONGUE USAGE**

**Diwura Fagunwa, one of the daughters of the legendary Yoruba writer, D.O Fagunwa, has said that literary books in mother tongue, particularly Yoruba is a panacea for child development and will also assist children to be culturally rich in the norms and value of their immediate environment.**

Diwura disclosed this in an exclusive interview with Arts Lounge shortly after the D.O. Fagunwa 5th Memorial Lecture organised in memory of her father late last year. She noted Yoruba culture as one of the richest cultures in the world, adding that Fagunwa's Foundation wanted to bridge the wide gap existing between the youths of nowadays and literature in Yoruba language.

We are trying to draw attention to our indigenous languages by bringing to life some of the notable Yoruba literature written by Fagunwa, who was very passionate about the language, so that the current generation can develop a reading culture in our indigenous languages, she explained.

According to her, with the volume of Yoruba literature written by her late father, it behoves on the foundation to make a conscious effort to attract the current generation and develop the skill, ability and interest in books written in their mother tongue. She argued that children who have passion for their indigenous languages are always better in all areas of their learning process, adding that parents should go all out to not only speaking Yoruba to their children at home, but equip them with Yoruba literature that will exposed them to culture, norms and values.

Speaking in the same vein, Chief Oladipo Yemitan, who was a student of Fagunwa in the early fifties, explained how the legend writer was so passionate about Yoruba language to the extent

that he used to read some of his books to them in the class. Yemitan said that the present generation should go back to the drawing board and embrace all the Yoruba literature written by the late literary icon where they will see the versatility and richness of the Yoruba language.