

Collocations and their Stylistic Significance in Elechi Amadi's *The Concubine* (1966)

Happy Dumbi Omenogor, Ph.D

Department of Languages

Faculty of Arts, University of Delta, Agbor

Delta State, Nigeria

Email: happy.omenogor@unidel.edu.ng

happyomenogor@gmail.com

and

Rita-Ann Ugbechie

Department of Language and Communication

Federal College of Education (Technical)

Asaba, Delta State

Email: rita.ugbechie@fcetasaba.edu.ng

ritaugbechie@gmail.com

Abstract

The purpose of this study is to examine the use of collocations in Elechi Amadi's *The Concubine* and find out their stylistic significance in the novel. The study also examines the application of the collocations in order to find out how they have helped the novelist portray the village life in Omokachi and Omigwe societies in the novel. The overall effects of the use of collocations in

the novel are discovered. Among the findings are that: the novelist makes use of normal collocations, collocational overlap and collocational clash. These collocations make his narration natural, fascinating and vivid. The research is investigative our primary data comes from the text under investigation, while the secondary data are taken from the critical works on the text. The researchers also used the information and communication technology (ICT) to ensure that the topic has not been treated before. Besides, several materials from different libraries are consulted. This study is an addition to the literature available on the text. The gap it fills in scholarship is that it makes scholars aware of the types of collocations in *The Concubine* and their usefulness in the work.

Keywords: Collocations, meaning, collocative meaning and fore- grounding.