

ABSTRACT

Materialities of Missionization and Endogenous Religion among the Anfoega of Ghana

This study explored the dynamics of the missionization process specifically in Anfoega, a settlement in the Volta Region of Ghana, as a case study to find out the unique processes, materialities and impact of missionary activities on both Christianity and endogenous religion of Anfoega. Using qualitative auto-ethnographic methods, including interviews and participant-observations, the study analyzed missionization as a cultural process in Anfoega by examining the material and non-material constructions of the endogenous religion of the people; the material and non-material constructions of Christianity; the origins and development of Christianity in Anfoega; the interface between the two religious traditions and materialities; as well as the impact of these processes. The study revealed that both religions and their adherents find themselves in an entangled situation whereby they do not consider as apostasy, their attempts to combine elements of both religions. This is because their belief in the essence of the endogenous religion still holds sway. At the same time, they want to be identified with Christianity. This state of assuming multiple identities is a key component of the entanglement of the adherents of both religious traditions. Thus, both religious traditions have become part of the intangible cultural heritage of the people of Anfoega, by playing complementary roles in the lives of the people. The study recommends that just as the church keeps documenting most of its material and non-material constructions, scholars must partner with the custodians of Anfoega culture to research into and document the cultural traditions of Anfoega. Again, since Christianity continues to evangelize and convert more of the people, the younger generation of Anfoega must be educated on their culture and traditions for the purpose of sustenance and preservation for the future.