

FROM MORTAR AND PESTLE TO ELECTRICAL FOOD PROCESSOR: EXPLORING THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN OBJECTS, MARRIAGE AND HOME IN THE LIVES OF THE PEOPLES OF CAMEROON

By

**Evelyne N. Tegomoh
HTTTC, University of Buea
Cameroon**

Within any society, the socialness of things makes them actors in a web of social practices and cultural values. They become nodes in a web of knowledge. In Cameroon, the ordinary, mundane and silent mortar and pestle are crucial components in the bridal wealth pack of the different peoples of Cameroon. The producers of these objects can not be left out for they unveil different facets of the society. By their productions which is not limited to mortar and pestle, relationships are spelled out through the definition of cultural, social, economic and political spaces within their various communities. The different spheres into which these actors, artists and objects, live their everyday lives are crucial in understanding hierarchical structures be it socially or economically.

In this paper, the silence of these objects is to be broken, to reveal the powers they have in lived experiences and how they are central to binding or splitting a marriage or home. In more recent times, the electrical food processor has taken over the culinary functions of the mortar and pestle in the urban centres and electrified rural areas. Are the changes related to 'girl child' education, in the western sense of it, geared towards new jobs and independence in and outside the communities? Has it also reconfigured the relationship between people and things, and the role of objects in the institution of marriage?

The study will adopt qualitative and visual research methodologies involving a thematic-content analysis of existing literature. The study will contribute to emerging literature particularly in Cameroon where a paucity of research on Technology and Material Culture is observed.