



Promoting Excellence in Knowledge

GHANA ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

INAUGURAL LECTURE, 2022



TOPIC:

'Kasabuum-kasafi':

Polite and Impolite Language in the
Ghanaian Media and Political Landscape

SPEAKER:

PROF. KOFI AGYEKUM, FGA

Professor of Linguistics

CHAIRPERSON:

PROF. KOFI ANYIDHOH, FGA

Former Vice President, Arts Section, GAAS



DATE: THURSDAY SEPTEMBER **1** 2022 | **TIME:** 5:30 PM

VENUE: GHANA ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES AUDITORIUM

#3 Research Crescent, Casely Hayford Road, Airport Residential Area, Accra

LIVE ON



zoom

MEETING ID

879-4692-5525



Ghana Academy of
Arts and Sciences



LIVE

gaasghana

SPONSORS



PEACE FM
THE STATION WITH A VISION
104.3



END POINT
HOMEOPATHIC CLINIC

Professor Kofi Agyekum is a Professor of Linguistics at the University of Ghana, Legon. He was the Acting Dean of School of Performing Arts, University of Ghana, 2014-2021; Coordinator of the English-Akan Science Dictionary Project, 2010-2015; and Head of Department of Linguistics, University of Ghana, 2010-2013. He holds a Diploma (First Class) from the School of Ghanaian Languages, Ajumako in 1982 and Teachers' Certificate-A from the Nkoranza Teacher Training College from where he graduated as a teacher in 1976.

Following the completion of the Bachelor of Arts degree in Linguistics in 1989, he went on to study for an MPhil in the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim and returned in 1996, to take up a lectureship position in the Linguistics Department, University of Ghana, while working towards a PhD, which he completed in 2003.

Long before the completion of his PhD, he had become widely known for his exceptional competence and fluency in the use of Akan as an effective language for public discourse and debate, from newspaper reviews on radio and TV commentary on major issues of public interest. Professor Kofi Agyekum was the first to introduce Newspaper Review in Akan at Radio Univers in April 1997. The programme was titled *Afisem* and it is still aired on Radio Univers, Legon. He was the host of *Afisem* and Obiara Nka Bi programmes on Radio Univers and has trained a lot of student-trainee journalists. He is a regular panelist on Peace FM's Kokrokoo Show.

Professor Agyekum has established himself as a scholar whose research and publications constitute an important point of reference on the Akan language in particular and Ghanaian culture as a whole with over 77 journal articles and book chapters, a number of book reviews and 16 books. His latest books are *Akan Kasadwini* and *Akan Body Part Expressions*. He is an internationally recognised Akan and Ethnography of Communication scholar and has been quoted and consulted by several scholars and institutions at both local and international levels. He has also written 5 modules in linguistics for the Institute of Continuing and Distance Education University of Ghana, Legon.

Professor Agyekum is the recipient of many awards and honours for his achievements, including: University of Ghana's Best Teacher Award (2007); National Award: Companion of the Volta, for Contributions to Public Education

and the Media (2008); the Kwame Nkrumah Genius Award for the Use of Mother Tongue in the Media; and Humanitarian Awards Ghana (Honorary Division) in 2020.

His areas of Research are Ethnography of Communication, Linguistic Anthropology, Pragmatics, Discourse Analysis, Language and Politics, Mother Tongue Education, Sociolinguistics, Stylistics, Semantics, Cognitive Semantics (Body Part Expressions) Translation, Terminology, Lexicology, Lexicography and Oral Literature.

On the strength of his scholarship and outstanding work as an Akan Language educator and research scholar, a public intellectual with wide repute as a principal consultant on Akan/Ghanaian language and culture, Prof. Agyekum was elected to Fellowship of the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences on 08 July 2021.

Professor Kofi Agyekum is married to Mrs. Abenaa Akyaa-Agyekum and they are blessed with 4 young adults, two boys and two girls.

'Kasahuam-kasafi':

Polite and Impolite Language in the Ghanaian Media and Political Landscape

The objective of this inaugural lecture is to address issues about Kasahuam and Kasafi, 'Polite and impolite language' in the Media and Political (Politico-Mediatized Discourse) Landscape in contemporary Ghana. The lecture emphasises the use of appropriate language based on our Ghanaian Cultural heritage, cultural norms and values that engineer and provide a perfect atmosphere and some panacea for **peace, social cohesion and national development**. The lecture is meant to educate and create the awareness for political and media stakeholders to avoid and abhor the use of impolite and intemperate language, hate speech, invectives, lying, fabrications and denigration of personalities. These negative tendencies create divisiveness, tension, ethnic tribal and partisan conflicts and thereby threaten **social cohesion, national unity and national development**. We will finally recommend that we should look back at how we have stayed as one people with a common destiny and the respect for each other before and after independence. We should therefore not allow the few political and media practitioners to take us for a ride through the misuse of language for their own parochial gains, especially power and fame.

The topic of impoliteness and invectives, and the need for polite language in politics and the media has been lamented upon by many Ghanaians for about two decades now and we must have a solution. The outline of my lecture will be as follows:

- Abstract and Introduction
- Ghanaian communalistic and collectivist Life:
- Ghanaian cultural norms and values
- Political and Media Discourse Analysis (PMDA)
- *Kasapa and Kasahuam*-Politeness in language
- Political apology as ingredients of Polite language
- *Kasafi, kasafo, eburo kasa, Impolite language*
- Political Invectives and verbal taboos, discriminatory language,
- Political Duabɔ 'Grievance Religious Imprecation'
- Lying, fabrications, innuendoes, defamation, dehumanisation
- Recommendations and conclusion

5:30 PM

■ **Welcome Address and Introduction of Chairperson**

Prof. Helen Yitah, FGA,

Honorary Secretary, GAAS

■ **Chairperson's Remarks and Introduction of Speaker**

Prof. Kofi Anyidoho, FGA

Former Vice President, Arts Section, GAAS

■ **Lecture Begins**

■ **Chairperson's Closing Remarks**

■ **Honorary Secretary's Remarks**

■ **Closing [Guests to pick up bagged refreshments in the foyer]**

INAUGURAL LECTURES

Since 1973, all newly elected Fellows have had to deliver an Inaugural Address before other Fellows and specially invited guests at evening meetings arranged for the purpose. These lectures are expected to be of a high standard but not so technical as to be beyond the comprehension of non-specialists.

Originally restricted to invited guests and Fellows, the popularity of the lectures and the choice of topics which have always focused on contemporary issues of national or international significance have compelled the Academy to make these lectures public to a larger audience in recent times.

Inaugural lectures delivered since 1993 are as follows:

- 1993 The Search for an Anti-HIV (Aids) Drug – The Present Position, Problems and Prospects;
*Emeritus Prof. Ivan Addae-Mensab**
- 1994 Health, Medicine and Society;
*Prof. S. K. Owusu**
- 1995 Does Africa Really Need Her Universities?
Prof. Akilagba Sawyerr
- 1997 Religion and National Identity: Assessing the Discussion from Cicero to Danquah;
Prof. Kwame Bediako
- 1997 Efficient Utilisation of the Vertic Soils of the Accra Plains: Prospects, Constraints & the Way Forward;
*Prof. Yaw Abenkorab**
- 1998 Horticultural Research in Ghana: An Overview;
*Prof. J. C. Norman**
- 1999 The Role of the Judiciary in the Establishment of Democracy in Ghana;
Dr. S. Y. Bimpong-Buta
- 2000 Scholarly Authority and the Quest for a New World Academic Order,
Prof. Kwesi Yankab
- 2001 Ghana's Animal Agriculture;
*Prof. W. S. Albassan**
- 2002 Theology and Culture: An African Perspective;
Most Rev. Peter K. Sarpong, Archbishop Emeritus of Kumasi
- 2002 Private Investment and Law in a Developing Economy: Some Reflections;
Justice Prof. S. K. Date-Bab
- 2003 The Future of Cardiothoracic Surgery in Ghana;
*Prof. K. Frimpong-Boateng**
- 2004 The Impact of Cocoa Research Innovations on Poverty Alleviation in Ghana;
*Dr. M. R. Appiah**
- 2004 Bricks, Blocks and the Future Administrative Capital of Ghana;
*Prof. K. A. Andam**
- 2004 Voyage from Birth to Death: Health Hazards for Ghanaians;
*Prof. J. O. M. Pobee**
- 2005 The Ethnic Factor in National Development: Uses and Abuses;
Prof. D. K. Agyeman
- 2005 Physics for Wealth Creation;
*Prof. Aba Bentil Andam**
- 2005 Chemistry – The Neglected Element in the Industrialisation Equation;
Prof. V. P. Y. Gadzekpo
- 2005 Ghana's Juvenile Justice System on Probation: Making Progress with Painful Steps and Slow;
Prof. Henrietta J. A. N. Mensa-Bonsu

- 2006 Libraries and National Development: Implications for Ghana;
Prof. A. A. Alemna
- 2006 Where there is No Silence: Articulations of Resistance to Enslavement,
Prof. Naana Jane Opoku-Agyemang
- 2006 Race, Political Identity and Citizenship in Ghana: The Example of the Lebanese;
Prof. E. K. Akyeampong
- 2006 Embodiment and Epiphanies: Disability in Literature and Society;
Prof. L. A. Quayson
- 2006 Implementing the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD): Challenges and the Path to Progress;
Prof. S. K. B. Asante
- 2006 Improving Human Livelihood: A Development Challenge of the 21st Century;
Prof. K. Asenso-Okyere
- 2007 Challenges of Post-Conflict Reconstruction: Some Reflections;
Dr. Eugenia Date-Bab
- 2008 The Marriage of Mathematics and Biology;
*Prof. K. S. Nokoe**
- 2008 An 11th Region of Ghana? Ghanaians Abroad;
Prof. Takyiwaa Manuh
- 2008 Some Thoughts on Ministerial Reshuffles in Ghana;
Prof. J. R. A. Ayee
- 2008 Nuclear Power for Generating Electricity in Ghana: Issues and Challenges;
*Emeritus Prof. E. H. K. Akabo**
- 2008 Urban Housing and Sanitation – Our Habitat, Our Health;
*Prof. Ralph Mills-Tettey**
- 2008 African Boundaries and Regional Integration: Ghana, OAU and ECOWAS;
Prof. R. B. Bening
- 2009 The Public Law of Ghana – A Tale of Two Legal Systems;
Emeritus Prof. Albert K. Fiadjoe
- 2009 Modernising Ghana's Agribusiness: Science, Technology, Engineering and Indigenous Bio-process Systems;
*Prof. S. K. Sefa-Dedeb**
- 2010 From Everyday Risks to Disaster Risks: Confronting 'Brown' and 'Green' Issues in Ghana's Human Settlements;
Prof. J. Songsore
- 2011 To Mine or Not to Mine: The Economic Controversy and its Resolution;
*Prof. D. Mireku-Gyimab**
- 2011 Culture and the Health of the Nation;
Prof. K. Anyidobo
- 2011 Treating Ghana's Sick Health Service;
*Prof. A. B. Akosa**
- 2011 The Political Economy of Poverty, Equity and Growth;
Prof. K. Ewusi
- 2012 Poverty and Climate Change in Sub-Saharan Africa: Are we winning or losing the Game?
Prof. G. K. S. Aflakpui
- 2013 Politics in the African Development Bank: A Study on the Role and Limits of Politics in an Intergovernmental Institution;
Kantinka Sir Dr. K. Fordwor

- 2013 The Dangers that Obsolete Chemicals Pose to Us;
*Prof. J. H. Ephraim**
- 2013 Harnessing Science for Development of Medicines: Challenges for Ghana in the Global Matrix;
*Prof. Arthur C. Sackeyfio**
- 2013 The Role of Veterinary Medicine in National Development;
*Prof. Paa Kobina Turkson**
- 2014 The Law and Practice of Contempt of Court in Ghana;
Justice Stephen A. Brobbey
- 2014 Truth and Nation-State Building: A Theologian's Perspective;
Rev. Prof. Emeritus John Samuel Pobe,
- 2014 Tailor Light to Task, For Sustainable Development in Ghana;
*Prof. Paul K. Buab-Bassuab**
- 2015 Building Biomedical Research Capacity for Malaria Vaccine and Public Health from Grassroots to Policy: Challenges, Achievements and Future Perspectives;
*Prof. Isabella Quakyi**
- 2015 Architecture for Autism: A Technical Response With Mind and Heart to A Dire Human Need;
*Prof. Dr. Ing. Nii-Adziri Wellington**
- 2015 Will Our Food Animals Live Beyond Tomorrow?
*Prof. Ben K. Abunu**
- 2015 Distressed Fish in Dying Waters?
*Prof. Rose Emma Mamaa Entsua-Mensab**
- 2015 An Audit of Our Contemporary Art Heritage: Rationale for the Preservation of the Legacy and the Restoration of the Culture
Prof. Ablade Glover
- 2016 Channels of Prayer, Prophecy and Power: Contemporary Religion, New Media and Transformation of the Public Sphere in Africa;
Very Rev. Prof. J. Kwabena Asamoab-Gyadu
- 2016 Medicines and Healthcare In Ghana;
*Prof. David Ofori - Adjei**
- 2016 Slavery In Ghana: Our Story And Our Heritage;
Prof. Akosua Adoma Perbi
- 2016 Peak Phosphorus: What it Means for Ghana's Agricultural Productivity and Food Security;
*Prof. E. Owusu-Bennoab**
- 2017 The Philosophy of Man;
Justice Prof. V. C. R. A. C. Crabbe
- 2017 Space Technology Unleashing a Wave of Disruptive New Technologies – To Post-Scarcity Economy;
*Dr. Asbitey Trebi-Ollennu, FGA**
- 2017 Plant Diseases, Crop Production and Food Security in Ghana;
*Prof. G. T. Odamtten**
- 2017 "Who are We and Whose are We?
Prof. Akosua Adomako Ampofo
- 2017 The Government of Ghana and International Arbitration;
Dr. Richard Frimpong
- 2017 Access to Sustainable and Affordable Energy for All: The Role of Nuclear Energy;
*Prof. B.J.B. Nyarkob**
- 2017 The Tyranny of Foreign Expertise: Epistemic Injustice in the Global Arena with Impacts for Ghanaians' Public Health Care;
Prof Helen Lauer

- 2017 Achieving Food and Nutrition Security Through Plant Breeding
*Prof. Hans Adu-Dapaab**
- 2018 Addressing the Crisis of Work in Ghana: What Role for Transformative Social Policy?
Prof Dzodzi Tsikata
- 2019 Understanding Biodiversity as an Infrastructure of Life for Development
*Prof. Alfred A. Oteng-Yeboah**
- 2019 Deficit of Critical Citizenship in Ghana: A Critique of Political (il)literacy, Civic (ir)responsibility and (un)critical Followership.
Prof. Wisdom Tettey
- 2021 The Origins and Consequences of the Mass Migration from West Africa to Libya and Europe - A West African Perspective.
Prof. Steve Tonah
- 2021 The Changing Trends in Land Law, Policy, Governance and Management Under the Land Act 2020 (act 1036).
Justice Sir Dennis Dominic Adjei
- 2021 Laughing, Singing, Dancing for Health: Creative Arts and the Science of Health Communication in Ghana.
Prof. Ama De-graft Aikins
- 2021 Ghanaian Humour in a Time of Crisis: Reflections on the Making of Cultural Meaning .
Prof. Helen Yitab
- 2021 The Meat Industry and National Development.
*Prof. Gabriel Ayum Teye**
- 2022 Linguistic Pan-Africanism as a Global Future
Prof. Adams Bodom
- 2022 Pain; the Bane of Mankind
*Prof. Gladys Amponsab**
- 2022 Establishment of Academic Medical Centres in Ghana
*Prof. Aaron Lante Lawson**
- 2022 Upgrade in Gold Recovery from Refractory Carbonaceous Gold Ores: the Use of Phanerochaete Chrysosporium
*Prof. Grace Ofori-Sarpong**

****Science-oriented Presentations***

The Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences is Ghana's Premier Learned Society. It was founded in November 1959 by Government Instrument of Incorporation. Its aim is to bring together the highest level of intellectuals, experts, professionals in the country to constitute a 'Think Tank' in the Arts and Sciences to enable it advise government and other relevant bodies on issues of importance to national development.

Mission

The mission of the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences is to encourage the creation, acquisition, dissemination and utilisation of knowledge for national development through the promotion of learning.

Objectives

The Academy's objectives are to:

- **Promote** the study, extension, and dissemination of knowledge of the Arts and Sciences;
- **Promote** the establishment and maintenance of proper standards of endeavour in all fields of the arts and sciences;
- **Recognize** outstanding contributions to the advancement of the arts and sciences in Republic of Ghana;
- **Contribute** actively to the advancement of Ghana and Africa in particular and the world in general by examining and addressing issues of development; and
- **Do** any other things that are conducive or incidental to the attainment of all or any of the foregoing objects.

NOTES

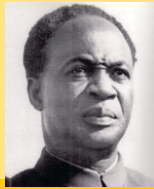
NOTES

NOTES

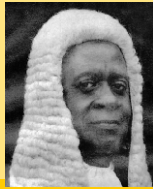
PRESIDENTS GHANA ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES [1959 - 2022]



Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Philip, FGA
1959 - 1961



Dr. Kwame Ninsin, FGA
1961 - 1966



Mr. Justice N.A. Ollenu, FGA
1963 - 1972



Prof. E.A. Boateng, FGA
1973 - 1976



Prof. C.O. Essom, FGA
1977 - 1980



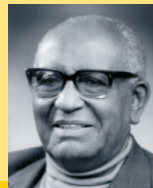
Prof. F.G.T. Torto, FGA
1981 - 1982



Most Rev. Prof. K.A. Dickson, FGA
1983 - 1986



Dr. E. Evans-Arhom, FGA
1987 - 1990



Rev. Prof. C.G. Baeta, FGA
1991 - 1992



Prof. D.A. Bekoe, FGA
1993 - 1996



Prof. J.H. Kwabena Nketia, FGA
1997 - 1998



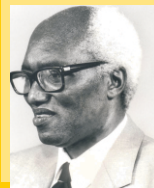
Prof. Fred T. Sai, FGA
1999 - 2002



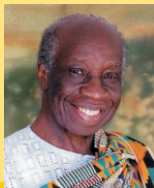
Nana Dr. S.K.B. Asante, FGA
2003 - 2006



Dr. Letitia E. Obeng, FGA
2007 - 2008



Prof. Reginald Fraser Anonoo, FGA
2009 - 2010



Prof. F.K.A. Allotey, FGA
2011 - 2014



Prof. Aklagba Sawyer, FGA
2015 - 2016



Prof. Aba Benli Andam, FGA
2017 - 2018



Justice Prof. Henrietta J.A.N. Mensa-Bonsu, FGA
2019 - 2020



Emeritus Prof. Samuel Sefa-Dedeh, FGA
2021 - 2022

[facebook.com/gaasghana](https://www.facebook.com/gaasghana)
twitter.com/GAASGhana
 Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences
 GA-018-1233

OFFICE & LOCATION ADDRESS:
 P. O. Box M32, Accra-Ghana, #3 Research Crescent, Casely Hayford Road,
 Airport Residential Area, Near Water Research Institute, CSIR, Accra

☎ [0] 302 772 002
 ✉ office@gaas-gh.org
 🌐 www.gaas-gh.org