Language as a form of oppression and liberation in 'La Bastarda' by Trifonia Melibea Obono

Language is a powerful tool that can reveal hidden attitudes and biases of a society. In La Bastarda, author Trifonia Melibea Obono uses language to represent both the oppression and liberation of the LGBTQ+ community within Equatorial Guinea. In this project, I analyzed Obono’s use of character dialogue and written description to better understand the culture of Equatorial Guinea, specifically within the indigenous Fang tribe. I specifically focused on how the existence, or lack of, sufficient vocabulary to represent the LGBTQ+ community can both marginalize a group and represent its liberation.