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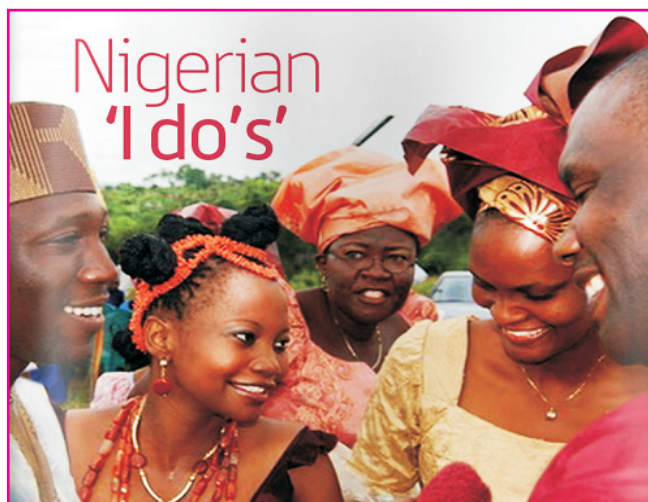
AFRICAN NOVELS: REPRESENTATION OF THEIR SENTIMENTS, CULTURE AND BELIEFS

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ABSTRACT

This paper tries to explain Chinua Achebe's representation of Nigerian Culture and its heritage through the novel "Things Fall Apart", which was published in 1958. It is one of the first African novels written in English to receive comprehensive and significant approval. African literature has grown conspicuously representing western languages (remarkably English, French and Portuguese) and in traditional African Languages such as Hausa. Achebe tries to extort the value of previous generation Nigerian and black-African Scholars. He tries to explicit the importance of African writers colonised by the English People. In this novel, the writer highlights the pre- and post-colonial life in late nineteenth century Nigeria. He creates characters based on indeterminacy, open-endedness, uncertainty, sexuality, possibility, uncertainty, distraction and reunion, disloyalty and faithfulness.



KEYWORDS- Nigerian Culture, Heritage, Colonised, Pre- and Post-colonial life, reunion, Indeterminacy, open-endedness,, disloyalty.

INTRODUCTION :

The rich culture of Africa is diverse and multiple, consisting of a blend of tribes, who represent their own exceptional individuality. It is an amalgamation of various generations that inhabit the continent of Africa and the African Dispersion today. African Culture has been represented in their arts and crafts, customs and belief, attire, cookery, harmony and languages. African traditions are mostly represented through music, art, dance, sculpture and beadwork. These traditions are profoundly deep-rooted into the whole African Culture.

Chinua Achebe (1930 -2013) in his first novel "Things Fall Apart" represents the African Culture explaining them through the characters. It describes the Africans situation, wherein they were treated as slaves and needed to be liberal by the Europeans. Achebe through this novel tries to present his people's history with both potencies and imperfection by describing and signifying them with specific characters such as Okonkwo, Unoka, Ekwefi, Nwoye, Ikemefuna, Ezinma, Obierika, Ogbuefi Ezeudu, Uchendu. In this novel, each character exhibits the African culture and traditions, their festivals, the worship of their gods and the practice of their ritual ceremonies, their rich culture and other social practises especially representing the Igbo society before the arrival of White Missionaries'.

Achebe is well-known for his insertion of and merging in of proverbs from Igbo oral culture into his inscription. This influence was clearly referenced by Achebe in "Things Fall Apart" representing the Culture of Africa. Achebe tries to explicit readers through the novel, the values and traditions, culture and systems, which

carried away their nationalism.

WHITE MEN ESTABLISHES THEIR COLONIES IN THE IGBO SOCIETY

Chinua Achebe through his writings highlights the pre- and post-colonial life in late nineteenth century in Nigeria. He always highlighted the novels on African identity, nationalism and decolonization. He focuses mainly on the African Culture and Traditions followed in the interior parts of Africa. Achebe emphasizes African writer's contributions to the world of literature, where in they compete with American writers. He always believes that African Novels set their own standards by throwing light on their own culture and traditions without missing their flavor.

In the novel, Achebe make an effort in educating the readers about the migration of the Igbo society by the influence of the White People. He tries to highlight the White Man's burden on the African People, who started treating them as their slaves after colonization.

Due to the changing conditions in the Igbo Society, people of Igbo Society were attracted towards the Missionary activities propagated by the White Man, which was an added advantage in uprooting their culture and traditions.

OVER ALL EMPHASIS OF THE NOVEL

- ✦ Describes the history of Igbo, both the perfections and imperfections of their culture and traditions which made them gain their own significance which is different from Western cultures.
- ✦ Arrival of White Missionaries in Umuofia by slowly establishing their colonies and spreading their own culture and traditions.
- ✦ Disputes faced by the Igbo Community by losing their own identity and culture.
- ✦ Igbo society was benefitted by the White Man's arrival, wherein they started educating the children by establishing their schools.
- ✦ Missionaries were stronger than the Igbo with regard to their progression in modern day life and education, they had a stronger authority as well as scheming power.
- ✦ Modern and ancient leadership representing the African Culture.

CONCLUSION

Chinua Achebe through the novel "Things Fall Apart" tries to represent interior parts of Nigeria reflecting their African Culture and Tradition through the characters, each one representing the Igbo Society. Through these characters he tries to investigate the deficiencies of Igbo culture which paved way for the European Countries to establish their colonies. European Countries created favourable circumstances among the Igbo Community by establishing churches, schools and by encouraging them the importance of education. The Africans could not fight with the Europeans, so their culture was distorted greatly. People of Igbo Society were in a state of confusion and found the inventions and innovations of the White Man, beneficial and started adopting them for their livelihood.

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