



## WOMEN IDENTITY : A STUDY OF NIGERIAN WOMEN IN THE SELECT NOVELS OF CHIMAMANDA NGOZI ADICHIE

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### ABSTRACT

*The present aim at studying Nigerian women in the selected novels of Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's selected novels. This research examines how Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie portrays the place women characters of the Nigerian society in to the selected works of Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. The portrayal of women in the works of Adichie is relevant to feminism, racism and womanism too. In the works of Adichie, women relentlessly struggle to achieve much desired freedom from the rules of tradition, sociopolitical and economic disempowerment, male oppression and racial distinction*

**Key words:** *Purple Hibiscus, Nigeria, Sexism, Gender, Psychology, Womanhood, Revolt Half of a yellow Sun ,Americanah ,We Should All Be Feminists Etc.*

### INTRODUCTION

The proposed research work attempts to study of Nigerian Women in the select novels of Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie.

The literature in Nigeria began with the oral tradition and initiated by the anonymous heroes of her literary past like imperial bards, fighters, story tellers, preachers and many others. Both folklore and proverbs were originated by these unknown literary warriors.

Literature in Nigeria is definitely at its golden period but the female writers of African literature have struggled to gain audience over the years in this literary world which has also been dominated by male writers. They are more and more expressing their concerns as women

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and challenging the fallacies created by some male writers about them. Many female writers present versions of a woman who longs to be fulfilled in an unfair system that identifies women as 'appendages' to men. A few of these writers have won awards including Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Marjorie Macgoye and Yvonne Vera.

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie is a Nigerian writer whose works range from novels to short stories to non-fiction. She was described in The Times Literary Supplement as "the most prominent" of a "procession of critically acclaimed young anglophone authors which is succeeding in attracting a new generation of readers to African literature particularly in her second home, the United States.

This research examines how Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie portrays the place of women characters of the Nigerian society in her works. The works of Adichie are set in the colonial and postcolonial Nigeria: before, during, and after the Nigerian Civil War and some of its parts are set in America. Nigerian women in the works of Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie face numerous challenges as they attempt to establish their place in the society. Various research have been done in the field of African literature and on the works of African female writers but this researcher explores portrayal of Nigerian Women with reference to the selected works of Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. The portrayal of women in the works of Adichie is relevant to feminism, racism and womanism too. In the works of Adichie, women relentlessly struggle to achieve much desired freedom from the rules of tradition, sociopolitical and economic disempowerment, male oppression and racial distinction. In the Nigerian society which Adichie's works realistically portray more and more women are banding together in order to put an end to many years of deep rooted oppression and senseless subjugation of women.

The research contributes to the specific Nigerian literature. This study of Nigerian women is not limited inside any boundaries of theories; in fact it embraces the whole world. In the materialistic atmosphere of twenty-first century every human being and especially women are searching their identities and independence (mentally as well as physically). This study will contribute Nigerian literature by exploring the women characters and how they come out from their struggle in order to earn their freedom and how it could effect to society. This study will be helpful for further explorations in other disciplines too.

**"Feminism is a theory as well as a political, cultural or economical equal right and legal protection for women. "**

The philosophy of the feminist movement encapsulated the hidden and unexpressed desires of all peoples everywhere for women equality. There is no doubt that feminism is a



movement that stands for women right but it does not eat at simply claiming equal rights with men. It is a movement which knows that every human beings was created equal and pushes for the expression of that certainty in every sphere of the life from Professional to public and also in in personal life.

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie portrait so many male and female character in her novel. In each of his novel, there is at least one female character who occupies an important place in the story.

I studied thesis of Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. These thesis helps me to give direction about my research topic. I visit various website & also read online information about Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie.  
men.

### **1. Study Of Nigerian women in Purple Hibiscus**

This chapter evaluates how the novel Purple Hibiscus portrays Nigerian women characters as affected by violence, gender discrimination, and trauma. Women are tortured and passed through emotional trauma. Female children are seen as lower to male ones. Adichie reveals this act of discrimination through Chief Eugene Achibe who uses his religious philosophies to enslave his family. The novel uses a woman character Kambili who is the main character to tell the story. Other major women characters are Beatrice Kambili's mother, Ifeoma-Kambili's aunt, and the market women. The protagonist of the story and these other characters provide the portrayal of women who, are affected due to violence, gender discrimination, psychological pain and enslavement committed in their lives.

### **2. Study of Nigerian women in Half of a yellow Sun:**

This chapter studies how the novel Half of a Yellow Sun portrays Nigerian women characters as struggling to keep their families hopeful even when the country is going through a civil war. In Half of a Yellow Sun women are depicted as resolute and progressive. They give direction when and where necessary and guide their men and society in time of difficulties. Those women who are not progressive are drawn in the negative light and we, as readers, are called upon to disregard them.

### **3. Study of Nigerian women in Americanah:**

This chapter analyses how the novel Americanah portrays Nigerian women characters as witnessed racial discrimination in the west, hair politics issues. It also inside and out the



battles of a Nigerian women living in the United States, presents the figure of another age of African migrants.

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie influences use of these lines in Americanah to depict the hardships Nigerian migrants need to experience in adjustment and cultural assimilation forms. This statement would recommend that numerous individuals don't see themselves as blacks until the point when they move into a social domain in which their "race" conditions their lives and influences them wind up somebody distinctive according to other people. Subsequently, through the exploration of "race" relations in America, Adichie uncovered the numerous factors that decide individuals' lives through their skin colour or their origin to the world birthplace.

#### **4. Study of Nigerian women in We Should All Be Feminists :**

We should all be feminists: She shared her experiences of being an African feminist, and her views on gender construction and sexuality. Adichie said that the problem with gender is that it shapes who we are. She also said: "I am angry. Gender as it functions today is a grave injustice. We should all be angry. Anger has a long history of bringing about positive change, but in addition to being angry, I'm also hopeful because I believe deeply in the ability of human beings to make and remake themselves for the better.

Adichie recalls a male friend in her home country of Nigeria calling her a "feminist," clearly meaning it as an insult. She then focuses on the wage gap and the gendered nature of economic power. In Nigeria, for instance, it's assumed that any woman with money has gotten that money from a man. She concludes by saying that people do a great disservice to both men and women by teaching them to adhere to strict gender roles.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

This research illustrates how Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's literary works excels the stereotypical misrepresentation of women in Nigerian literature by placing her as a contemporary feminist voice whose main objective is to redefine the African woman in contemporary African literature. Adichie depicts a multiplicity of women characters in her three novels that portray the variety of Nigerian women's real lives. Adichie projects the more positive women as feminist models who are worthy of rivalry. It emphasises patriarchal ideas that keep women in suppression. Adichie criticises them in the specific sense that she goes beyond an embattling method towards an inclusive one that critiques both men and women performance of gender. In a similar manner she uncovers the silence and reveals the



disgrace associated with female sexuality while encouraging for a holistic, noticeable, and visible image for the African woman.

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