

## Things Fall Apart

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### Abstract

A Post-Colonial Reading On CHINUA ACHEBE'S THINGS FALL APART . He is a Post Colonial Writer born in Nigeria in 1930. Viewing society from the inside students can make inferences about why a high value is accorded to clan solitary , kinship and hospitality and the seasons for court ship and funeral customs. The second and third part of the novel trace the inexorable advance of Europeans. Colonialism is one of the major themes of the novel . The third part of the novel consists of the last six chapters. They show how the western codes of belief destroy the native culture and blow up the roots of the Igbo society. ACHEBE'S novel is an large attempt to provide a record of what the authorising polities of the colonizers brought about to the Igbo (Nigerian) people by denying the chance of cultural negotiation . He has successfully shown that the colonized people are not primitive and savages as per the false notion of the whites. Post Colonial literature has brought a new wave of thinking to English Literature. The phrase itself cannot be defined lightly

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Chinua Achebe provides the perspectives of numerous Igbo people during a period when British interferes in business, government and religion. The British challenged the tradition social structures in Africa. Achebe shows how the cracks in Igbo society occurred. He offers a critical view of European colonial domination. At the same time, he suggests that some Igbo people viewed the colonizer's innovation as beneficial .The break from traditional religion through adoption of Christianity occurred. He also shows that the British interests included internal conflicts such as through the missionaries' they tried to convert the natives faith some of the complexities of the colonial project. Colonizer and the colonized fight in the name of the religion. But stories were already gaining ground that the Whiteman had not only brought a

religion but also a government it was said that they had built a place of judgement in Umuofia to protect the followers of the religion. It was even said that they had hanged one man who killed a missionary. They guarded the prison, which was full of men who had offended against the Whiteman's law. Some of these prisoners had thrown away their twins and some had molested the Christians.

In the novel *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe depicts other act of colonization of the Igbo people of Nigeria by the English during the late nineteenth century. The story is about a powerful leader named Okonkwo living in an Igbo village located in Nigeria, Africa he leads a fine life until he found himself and his village being intruded on by Englishmen. These Englishmen tried to take control of the Igbo people and imposed there values upon them this is colonization. The colonization of Nigeria is inherently racist, according to the examples given in Chinua Achebe's book *Things Fall Apart*. Three characters, Mr. Brown, Reverent James Smith, and the District Commander will be used as examples in support of his claim. Mr. Brown's Successor was the revenged James Smith, and he was different kind of man. He condemned openly Mr. Brown's policy of compromise and accommodation. He saw things as black and white. And block was evil. he saw world as battle field in which the children of light were locked in moral conflict with sons of darkness. He spoke in his sermons about ship and goats and about wheat and tares. Believed in slaying the prophets of Baal. Racism is the belief in which certain groups of people are considered superior (or inferior) because of their skin colour One example of racism is the Igbo people's stories of the British men. This stories mock the white skin the Englishmen have the Igbo villagers call them Lepers and Albinos. In this example the Igbo people believe they are superior. In other cases, it was the English who thought they were superior and thought of the Igbo people as uncivilized, using words like primitive when describing them. Exploitation of a group of people is a main part in the process of colonization.

The first example is of Mr. Brown who shows how "Bothering" contributes colonization. Mr. brown an English Christian Preacher, has a paternalistic view of the Igbo people and feels he was send there by God to help them. He dismissed the Igbo peoples foolish believer's in God. There are no other God's said Mr. Brown. Chukka is the only god and all others are false. Mr. Brown uses Christianity to establish claims of superiority through medicine and education. Through racism is not obvious in this word, he still demonstrates racism because he is telling he Igbo people the Whiteman's way is superior. Reverend James Smith took the place of Mr. Brown (after Mr. Brown left America for health reason). Even though reversed Smith also wanted to convert the Igbo people to Christianity, he did it differently then Mr. Brown. He condemned openly Mr. Brown's policy of compromise and accommodation. He saw things as black and white. And black was evil.

Okonkwo from Umuofia to his mother's village. This part of the novel is the longest one. The second part of the novel consists of chapters from fourteen to nineteen. It traces the tragedy both in the life of Okonkwo and that of the clan. The White missionary started to flourish its system among the Igbo of Umuofia. The Whites establish their religion, school and court besides their

own government. Okonkwo's son Nowise admired by the new religion and he converted into Christianity this shatters Okonkwo. He is pained to know from his friend, Iberia that in Umuofia that things have started falling apart. The mothers of twins take refuge in the new religion and Christianity keep its doors wide open to the social outcasts like the oust of the clan. The native clan pave the way for the Whiteman to impose his own religion and culture on the society of Umuofia.

The annual wrestling contest comes the day after the feast. Ekwefi, in particular, enjoys the contest because Okonkwo won her heart when he defeated the Cat. He was too poor to pay her bride-price then, but she later ran away from her husband to be with him. Ezima, Ekwefi's only child, takes a bowl of food to Okonkwo's hut. Okonkwo is very fond of Ezinma but rarely demonstrates his affection. Obiageli, the daughter of Okonkwo's first wife, is already there, waiting for him to finish the meal that she has brought him. Nkechi, the daughter of Okonkwo's third wife, Ojiugo, then brings a meal to Okonkwo. Reverend Smith clearly implies white is good and obviously superior, however he tries a kinder approach in persuading the Igbo people to worship the correct God unlike. Mr. Brown, The fact that he saw the world as black and white, and black being evil shows how deeply rooted racism is when it comes to colonization. Not only were the Englishmen's opinion racist, but also they used religious metaphors that were embedded with racism. He saw the world as a battle fielded in which the children of light, were looked in moral conflict with the sons of darkness. The children of light present white skinned children (because light is often thought of as the colour black. This is a clear representation of the racism impressed on the Igbo people during colonization.

As a story about a culture on the verge of change, *Things Fall Apart* deals with how the prospect and reality of change affect various characters. The tension about whether change should be privileged over tradition often involves questions of personal status. Okonkwo, for example, resists the new political and religious orders because he feels that they are not manly and that he himself will not be manly if he consents to join or even tolerate them. To some extent, Okonkwo's resistance of cultural change is also due to his fear of losing societal status. His sense of self-worth is dependent upon the traditional standards by which society judges him.

After the Week of Peace, the villagers begin to clear the land in preparation for planting their farms. Nwoye and Ikemefuna help Okonkwo prepare the seed yams, but he finds fault with their work. Even though he knows that they are too young to understand farming completely, he hopes that criticism will drive his son to be a great man and farmer. Ikemefuna settles into Okonkwo's family and shares his large stock of folk tales. Language is an important theme in *Things Fall Apart* on several levels. In demonstrating the imaginative, often formal language of the Igbo, Achebe emphasizes that Africa is not the silent or incomprehensible continent that books such as *Heart of Darkness* made it out to be. Rather, by peppering the novel with Igbo words, Achebe shows that the Igbo language is too complex for direct translation into English. Similarly, Igbo culture cannot be understood within the framework of European colonialist values. Achebe also

points out that Africa has many different languages: the villagers of Umuofia, for example, make fun of Mr. Brown's translator because his language is slightly different from their own.

The third examples is the District Commissioner. the district Commissioner is an Englishman who is a low-level government administrator. the District Commissioner is also an amateur anthropologist, his contribution to bothering is that how he saw the Igbo people as objects of study. Colonial governments discriminated against the employment of Africans in senior categories and whenever it happened that white and black filled the same post, the Whiteman was sure to be paid considerably more. This was true at all levels, ranging from evil service fancied himself an expert on the Igbo people's customs and intended to write a book on them.

As he walked back to the court he thought about that book. Everyday brought him some new materials. The story of this man who had killed a messenger and hanged himself would make interesting reading. One could almost write a whole chapter on him. Perhaps not a whole chapter but a reasonable paragraph, at any rate. The fact that the District Commissioner said he could almost write a chapter, or least a paragraph, on Okonkwo's life is very befitting. It also shows how little he values the lives of any non-white people, like the Igbo. This is evidence of othering as well as implied racism. Another example of the District Commissioner othering is the little decided to give his book about the Igbo people. The Pacification of the primitive Tribes of the Lower Niger. The key word is primitive. He obviously considers the Igbo people to be uncivilized which again connects to racism because anything other than the colour white (for skin) is evil and primitive.

In order to colonize a group of people must have more advantages than those they are colonizing. As Diamond's theory shows, there is no reason for one race to be considered superior to another. Exploitation of a group of people is a main part of the process of colonization. This is unethical behaviour. Trade is a respectable together, and exchange goods and raw materials. The title of Achebe's novel. Things Fall Apart, illustrates them harm caused by colonization and racism. The arrival of the missionaries had caused a considerable stir in the village of Mbanta. There were six of them and one was a Whiteman. Every man had woman come out to see the Whiteman. Stories about these strange men had grown since one of them had been killed in Abrame and his iron horse tied to sacred Silk Cotton Tree. and so everybody was at home. The harvest was over.

The phenomenon of colonization is important part of history, Colonization is contributed in the development of nation in the world. The concept (Gold, Gospel and Glory) which becomes the background of European colonizers travel around. Africa as a big continent of European colonizers. Infect Africa cannot be separated with Theo colonization issue and his portrayed in literary works as the medium of the author to react towards the social phenomena around them. One of the most influential African writers, Chinua Achebe wrote his idea of British colonization in Nigeria especially Igbo land in his first novel, Things fall Apart. He describes the Igbo people and their custom before the arrival of after the arrival of them in Igbo land. Post colonial

approach is applied in this studies because Things Fall Apart depicts the first contact of white colonizer and indigenous people. This approach leaders open the indication and the process of colonization, the arising of white supremacy is the main focus to this studies analysed. To meet the proper analysis and interpretation, this studies uses white supremacy theory and other supporting theories such as negative stereotyping and face theory in addition the retention of the Igbo people of white supremacy. Which is happened around them is also investigated. This study on covers the aspects which are supported the figuration of white supremacy. The result of this study also confirms that there are four aspects which supported the formation of white supremacy. They are religion, law institution and technology.

Then the negative stereotyping creates discriminations by the white as their racism action. Whereas the Igbo retention is divided in to two ways, that are verbal and action. African culture in the mid-1900's was very unique and different from any other country. African natives where very secluded and there fore had a chance to develop their own culture. It all changed many Africans to Christianity. The Africans could not fight the Europeans, so culture was altered greatly. Religion in Africa was a major aspect of their culture. Traditional African gods were rewarded' where as Christianity thought to turn the other cheek and shamed martyrs and warriors. The Europeans saw African religion as under developed and full. The Africans worshiped superhuman forces such as rain and sun, but the Christians worshiped only one supreme god. When the Europeans first arrived in Africa, the number of Christians was extremely low making up about ten percent of a total population of eight million. By 2002 Christianity made up 116 percent of a population of about 30.

Education was something brand new to the Africans. when the Europeans arrived, they built mission schools. The schools where built to educate the Africans, but it was mainly Europeans who attended them. Education was required for the Europeans, but not the Africans. As a result, one percent of Africans received a secondary education, where as more the thirty three percentage of Europeans received one. Missionaries working as teachers in the schools where very deducted to their work. They never talked down to the natives, and that the most schools, everyone was treated equally. Some men however where based and thought that true excellence could com from a white man. Many Africans political leaders received an education at Christian mission school. One examples of new African education is in the noble Things Fall Apart. Many Umuofia where outraged by the new schools because they thought of European cultured values. In Africans culture and, Christian schools greatly altered ways of thinking's. Slavery & African after the Civil war (1865-1872)

Likewise, despite Okonkwo's outward harshness, the narrator explains that his disagreeable characteristics obscure a deeper sensitivity: "Down in his heart Okonkwo was not a cruel man." The narrator extends the same objectivity to European characters, such as the missionaries and the District Commissioner. Notably, however, given that the bulk of the narrative centres on Igbo perspectives, the reader has a difficult time feeling sympathetic with European perspectives, even if the narrator presents them objectively.

One curious aspect of point of view in *Things Fall Apart* is the ethnographic perspective threaded throughout the novel. At many points, the narrator inserts commentary to explain certain elements of Igbo culture. Take one example from early in the novel, when the skilled orator Okoye asks Unoka to repay a debt: “Among the Ibo the art of conversation is regarded very highly, and proverbs are the palm-oil with which words are eaten.” Instead of presenting the exact proverbs Okoye uses to request that Unoka pay him back, the narrator simply informs the reader about the cultural importance of such rhetoric.

The reader learns that proverbs function to diminish the impact of difficult conversations and can then apply this lesson when encountering other proverbs later in the story. Similar examples of an ethnographic perspective occur throughout the novel, and although they serve an explanatory, contextualizing purpose, they also impose a certain narrative distance. When the narrator explains, “Darkness held a vague terror for these people,” the use of the phrase “these people” creates added distance that situates the implied reader outside of the Igbo cultural world. The narrator therefore serves as a cultural intermediary.

Great by the Europeans. In Africa there was elected council that served as government. There government was more or less democratic. When the Europeans told the Natives of the king that would now be the ruler, the Africans thought it was strange. They said the king own all land, and will allow the Africans to leave on it because he cares for his subject. There was theirs although colonial rule was unpopular with most of the natives, some costly collaborated with the Europeans in exchange for certain privileges. Some were grateful of the Europeans for liberating them from slavery and war. Africans kills that would help them rise socially and economically. Many Africans adopted western traditions such as wearing suits. An examples of governmental differences on Africa is in the novel *Things Fall Apart*, Okonkwo the main character, accidentally shoots another man and is exiled from his tribe for seven years. This shows different in crime punishment between the Africans and Europeans.

### **Work Cited**

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