

Power Dynamics in Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's Writings

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The women writers in West Africa worked under many literary and social disabilities. The African women writers are considered more as late comers in the field of writing. The third generation witnesses the challenges of feminist critics where Nigerian feminists like Chikwenye, Okonjo struggled to include women writings in the canon where only male writers who write on male characters for male audience were canonized. They have left no trace of women's writings where they would have faced gender specific obstacles. Among women writers Adichie is one of the important novelists. "Madeleine Hron's "Ora na-azu nwa The Figure of the Child in Third-Generation Nigerian Novels proposes a way of the western critical reductionism by exploring the hybrid spaces of childhood in Adichie's *Purple Hibiscus*" Adichie's realistic writing style is a product of third generation novelist's way of writing Adichie is the fast growing writer who has written short stories, essays, blogs and four great novels *Purple Hibiscus* (2003) and *Half of the Yellow Sun* (2006) *Americana* and *Dream Count* (2025) *Half of a Yellow Sun* is an Orange Prize winning novel which won the prize for the portrayal of the Biafran war. Her other short story collection, *The Thing around Your Neck* (2009) is also famous. She has received numbers of awards and distinctions, including the Orange Broadband Prize for fiction (2007). Adichie had already published a collection of poems, *Decisions* (1997). Adichie's works deal with concepts like Feminism, Afrofuturism and Cultural Geography.

Adichie's writing is considered as a great achievement which was praised by Chinua Achebe, Joyce Carwll Oates and Edmund White. Though Adichie did not live during the civil wars, her portrayal of the *Half of a yellow sun* gives a clear view of the civil war. Her narrative technique is strongly appreciated. Since she has not witnessed the war in person, she narrates *Half of a Yellow Sun* through three narrators to portray the sufferings of the higher class woman, lower class and the foreigner. In one of her famous Ted Talk, *The Danger of a Single Story* she claims how single perspectives give harmful understanding.

In the article African Authenticity and the Biafran experience, Adichie recollects her past where in her childhood she found the books dealt with all white characters with blue eyes and she wrote stories with white characters. In the age of eight or nine when she read Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart* she says she felt it as a glorious shock of discovery where the characters there were Igbo, eating yams and inhabited a world similar to hers. This influenced her greatly which made her write stories like *Purple Hibiscus* and *Half of a Yellow sun*. *Things Fall Apart* experience was a point of departure of reflections on authenticity, for the idea that there is a single definition of African and related to that, for thinking about stereotypes.

Adichie is highly influenced by Chinua Achebe where her novel starts with 'Things started to fall apart' which is Chinua Achebe's novel's title about colonization and disruption of culture in Nigeria. The revered writer Chinua Achebe praised Adichie's *Purple Hibiscus*, 'we do not usually associate wisdom with beginners, but here is a new writer endowed with the gift of ancient story tellers, Adichie found Achebe's *Things Fall Apart* to be transformative. *Purple Hibiscus* is in some

ways considered to be a continuation of Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart* where it reflects the complexities of writing an African born story and invites the reader to contempt the inner turmoil and longings sustained in individuals.

Nigeria has witnessed two foreign attacks, one the nineteenth century British imperialism and the other the post independent Biafran war. *Purple Hibiscus* place a great emphasis on the impediments of Igbo loss of political, juridical and sovereign powers under first the colonial government to the Nigerian federal state, the post independence ethnic strife. Adichie grew up hearing stories of the Nigeria and Biafra civil war that raged in Nigeria in 1960s. It was a war for the secession of the republic of Biafra for the Igbo people. Though she was born seven years after the civil war, it created a great impact in Adichie's mind. The civil war was a result of political conflicts in Nigeria, with one political leaders of one or the other tribe, making coups and taking over the government. One such coup led to the fighting and the massacre of many Igbo all over Nigeria. The Igbo therefore sought to create a state of their own in the form of the republic of Biafra. They wanted to put an end to the atrocities committed against them by the blacks and other prominent tribes of Nigeria.

Though the civil war ended and the Igbo failed to form a state of their own. The terrors and sufferings of the war lived on in the hearts of the Igbo, which was passed on as stories from the parents to their children and so on. One of the highly influenced girls of these stories is the great women writer Adichie, She believes that the issues that had involved around the war still exist in Nigeria. For the Igbo according to her the war is a part of the history and is engraved in their minds. Though she herself was born years after the war, the stories told to her by her parents about the war made it a part of her consciousness and that the war became an issue that till today stay close to their hearts. She also experienced the war through her parents' stories. This created a great impact in her works like *Purple Hibiscus* and *Half of a Yellow Sun*.

Adichie's first novel *Purple Hibiscus* was published in 2003 by Algoquin publishers. It won the commonwealth writers prize and the Huston or Wright legacy award and was short listed for the Booker prize. Her second novel, *Half of a Yellow Sun* won the orange prize for fiction in 2007. Adichie also wrote short stories. *That Harmattan Morning*, and *Ghosts* which death with the Nigerian Biafran civil war in the 1960s. These were written before the two novels were published. Her short fiction has appeared in Granta prospect and the Iowa review, to name a few. She received an O.Henry Prize in 2003. She was a Hodder fellow at Princeton University, where she taught introductory fiction.

Her famous novel half of a yellow sun is a record of all the sufferings of the war experience by those who stayed in the Biafra region. Adichie does the narration through three main characters in the novel, namely Ugwu, Olanna and Richard Churchill. Through their eyes, Adichie narrates the story in the novel, interweaving the various experiences and aspects of the war, told to her by those who experienced it firsthand. She gets into the lives of these fictional characters, making them a representation of all those civilians in the Biafran regions of Nigeria during the civil war. The title of the novel stands for the symbol of the Half of a Yellow Sun on the Biafran flag. This novel stands for the struggle for a sovereign Biafra the Igbo fought for. It is about the fighting for their rights to have a peaceful life in the form of a secessionist state. "The urge to re-narrating Biafra by writers who either witnessed the war as toddlers or were born long after the war had ended in itself one of the most remarkable characteristics of the new Nigerian novels like Adichie's *Half of a Yellow Sun*" (Adesanmi XI).

Adichie's other famous work is her short story collection *The Thing around Your Neck*. The collection deals with Adichie's university life, riots, imprisonment and Diaspora. One of the stories, 'Cell One' portrays the reminiscent of Jaja in *Purple Hibiscus*. Most of the stories deal with

migration or diasporic living. *The Thing around Your Neck* is the title story. *Tomorrow is too far* celebrates Adichie as a short story writer. This short story collection revolves around the questions of identity in an era of globalization. It has 12 stories which portray the lives of writers in Nigeria realistically. She has also written poems like *Sheer Beauty*, *Prim People* and a collection of poems named *Decisions*.

Adichie's debut novel, *Purple Hibiscus* picturizes the life of a fifteen years old girl Kambili and her family under the control of her patriarchal father. It is a bildungsroman, feminist novel. Kambili's father who fights for the freedom of the country controversially suppresses his family. His family members do not have the opportunity to taste freedom under their patriarchal father. *Purple Hibiscus* is written in the post colonial setup she brings out transcultural setup in one's own nation. Adichie's way of bringing out bigger issues through minor incidents like a family setup and institutional setup enhances the readers' interest in reading the novel. She has done this in a fantastic way in *Purple Hibiscus* where she deals big issues, feminism and post colonialism from a fifteen year old girl's view. Though she was born after several years after the war she portrays the effects of the war without missing any events.

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