

## **Vibrant Female Characters in the Works of Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie**

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### **ABSTRACT:**

*In my writer's works, women were presented as a submissive character and want to struggle until their death. But, in the works of Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie women were represented as a vibrant character to voice out their sufferings. Beatrice, Kambili, Ifeoma, Olanna, and Ifemelu. The novel touches the theme of dictatorship, alienation, betrayal, Religion, cultural traits, racism, identity crisis. Africa is a land of poverty and betrayal. After the colonization period, women are allowed to did their schooling and higher education. The literacy rate is gradually increased. Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie as a survivor of civil war that took place in Africa. The touch of the civil war is represented in all her novels. As a young girl from Igbo tribe she brings the essence of her culture in all the works.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Alienation, Betrayal, Cultural Traits, Dictatorship, Identity Crisis, Racism, Religion.*

**INTRODUCTION:**

Beatrice is noted for her struggling character lost her life under the dictatorship of her husband. Kambili a young girl wants to explore her freedom but, brutally attacked by her father Eugene. Eugene as an active follower of Christianity control over his family members. Ifeoma widower and sister of Eugene boldly made a charge against his brother. Ifeoma is the person who encourages Beatrice and Kambili to fight for their freedom and she bought away from her daughter in open-minded. Olanna a young girl falls in love with her colleague Odenigbo who is a professor at the university where Olanna works.

Olanna's parents never accept their marriage but, she led her life with Odenigbo. Odenigbo lots her trust from Olanna by having her relationship with Amala. Amala a village girl had affair with Odenigbo by his mother's cunningness. The theme of betrayal is identified in the novel. But Olanna never minds that as a loss she led her life in a way she decided. Americanah is a novel that revolves around a particular person called Ifemelu. The novel took place in two countries both in Nigeria and America. In America's land, she faces the problem of racism and remembers her longing for her past life and her love life. She started her blog to represent her identity as a black woman. At last, she rejoins with her love

**VIBRANT FEMALE CHARACTERS:**

In the works of Chimamanda women plays a major role in the story. Ifemelu the protagonist of the novel Americanah is getting ready to visit her home town. The novel depicts the triangle love story of Ifemelu and Obinze. Ifemelu went to hair braided in a shop there she recalls her childhood days. Ifemelu is depicted as "a vice principal on whose early salary the family had to rely" (Adichie, 2013:46). Obinze was the first love of Ifemelu and wealthy person in Lagos with family. The novel depicts a triangle love story. Ifemelu enters into America and with multi-cultural and multi-linguistic aspect, with a hope of satisfying her wishes and an independent girl to survive in the society.

She faces problems of racism and economic constraints. Her step towards success have been postponed in many incidents such as opening blog for black people, but the attempt also failed. These incidents result in loss of hope, loneliness and alienation. She became aware of her identity and says that “I came from a country where race was not an issue. I did not think of myself as a black and I only became black when I came to America” (Adichie 290). Ifemelu have a good relationship with Curt. Curt helps Ifemelu in many ways to survive in the society. But, Ifemelu rejects Curt's proposal because of the racial discrimination. Ifemelu opens up that “When you are black in America and you fall in love with a white person, race doesn't matter when you're alone together because it's just you and your love. But the minute you step outside, race matters” (Adichie 290).

A major incident that changes Ifemelu's mind to leave the country. In every field there is rejection of talented person. Dike, Ifemelu's cousin is a brilliant student at his school. He is branded as aggressive because he is black. Dike suddenly falls into depression and unable to recover from the stress. “There's a ladder of racial hierarchy in America. White is always on the top, specifically White Anglo-Saxon Protestant, otherwise known as WASP, and American Black is always on the bottom, and what's in the middle depends on time and place” (Adichie 184). Ifemelu have been double marginalization by the people. Ifemelu suffers with the identity of African woman in America. She overcomes all the struggle and starts to adopt the American culture. At first, she tries to speak in American accent. Her gesture and body language are being changed as American. The hair of African are curls by birth. she straightens her hair and her dressing scenes also changed. The process of acculturation takes place, she lost her native identity.

Purple Hibiscus is the first novel of Adichie and its major themes is domestic violence. Women have always been on the receiving end when it comes to domestic violence and through the character of Beatrice this novel explores how wives are subjugated by their husbands. Beatrice's world is exclusively controlled by her husband. Her feelings are devastated

by her husband. In the novel *Purple Hibiscus* Eugene is the major character. Eugene a strict follower of Christian tradition. In the novel *Purple Hibiscus*, Kehinde(2008) in 'Rules against Writers, Writers against Rulers: The Failed Promise of the Public sphere in postcolonial Nigerian Fiction'. Being a military ruler, he wants his family members to obey his orders. Eugene and his wife Beatrice had two children Kambili and Jaja. The novel moves around the Biafran war that took place between the tribes of Nigeria. The Igbo tribe were brutally attacked by the revolutionary troop. Eugene as an educated man born and brought up by the Christian missionary. Kehinde capture the allegory of failed promise of public spheres. He observes:

Adichie makes a call for an all- inclusive public sphere in Nigeria society. The novel is a political satire that makes a call for change in a nation that is stunted due to failed promise of the public sphere... Eugene is intolerable and disallows his family members from the public sphere of his household (28).

Eugene shows his arrogance to his family members in the name of religion and his extreme act towards his daughter by pouring the hot water in her legs. Beatrice anger reached its zenith and she emerges as the pro-active character by exterminating his husband. She made her own decision and didn't bother about the feedback. The sufferings that Beatrice goes through can only be eased by removing Eugene out of her space. In this book writer's act is the final act of tearing down patriarchy and its attendant violence. It does not mean destroying men since Beatrice desires to have a loving man in her life. Throughout the novel the character of Eugene is observed by Hewett (2004) as 'a strict catholic who lives within the Manichean dictates of unforgiving faith'. At last the family led a happy life and piece full life with his son Jaja and Kambili. In every novel of Adichie ends in a happy note by uniting with their family and to break the familial bond.

**CONCLUSION:**

This paper deals with the gender evaluation of Beatrice and Ifemelu in the works of Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. Then explains how women are subjugated in the context and survival tactics to uplift themselves from the sufferings. She mainly focuses on the rivals that happens to the women belongs to the Igbo tribes.

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