

ABSTRACT

This thesis explores the role of grief in Tsitsi Dangarembga's trilogy, *Nervous Conditions*. It focuses on the lives of the major characters portrayed in the trilogy to show how the colonized are resented and oppressed through colonialism, racism, and gender bias and the ensuing grief which is a consequence of these factors. It shows how African women rise as a phoenix from the ashes of colonial destruction, through their resilience in response to grief. It sheds light on those patriarchal elements of society that were responsible for marginalizing the women of Africa as described in Dangarembga's Trilogy. The thesis employs Elisabeth Kübler-Ross and David Kessler's classification of the five stages of grief to show how these stages occur in the three novels under study. This model describes the different processes of grief and also the acknowledgement of grief, which means properly identifying and accepting one's grief, only after which one can start to recover from it. The thesis also focuses on the role of resilience in overcoming grief. This is done through Allison S. Troy and Iris B. Mauss' appraisal theory and its role in cognitive emotional regulation as propounded by these eminent theorists in their work *Resilience and Mental Health*. Furthermore, Intersectionality theory is used to show how different factors lead to the marginalization of black women and consequently their grief.