

Vision of Postcolonial World in New Nigerian Fiction

Abstract

The remnants of colonialism that survived colonization shaped the postcolonial identity of the African race. That colonialism in some form or shape still survives in Nigeria. However what I wish to argue in this dissertation is that alongside the traces of Nigerian polity ravaged by the horrifying specters of colonization scurries the resilient new Nigeria. Though many cultural, ethnic, political and religious differences have constantly dominated this much troubled country, the contemporary Nigerian writers have raised their voices and have constantly countered all stereotypical notions of Africans as barbarians or masses in crisis. Therefore, their focus is to emphasize the disappointments of postcolonial society and to suggest possibilities for Nigerians to move forward towards a future where a positive change in terms of political, social and economic betterment can be made possible.

The vision addressed in this dissertation has been conceived in two ways. Firstly, vision means the ability on the part of a writer to foresee a future for his or her society under the existing circumstances. Secondly, vision embodies that perception to imagine a potential change in society for which the members of the society work. The new voices in Nigerian English Fiction are vigorous in terms of their mental maturity as they have the powers of observation that help them in bringing forth positive facets of society in a rather disillusioned and pessimistic world. By using this vision, the purpose here is to highlight the issues political as well as personal faced by Nigerians in the post colonial world. Furthermore, it is to make out how these issues have constructed their present in the reflection of past events and what future vision it creates in the present contemporary Nigerian society. The study focuses on the works of Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie- a new voice in Nigerian fiction. Her novels *Purple Hibiscus*, *Half of the Yellow Sun* and short story collection *The Thing Around Your Neck* work at very intimate and personal level with much larger issues reflecting the background. Alongside Adichie, Sefi Atta, Helon Habila and Chris Abani's works have also been considered to gain insight into the overall situation prevailing in Nigerian society today. The first chapter examines the personal and the political

destabilization. The second chapter focuses on the religious hegemony prevalent in Nigerian society which is countered through the essential humanity of the people. The third chapter deals with the gender politics, and the new image of women who are active members of society. The last chapter focuses on language and stylistic features. In postcolonial texts, language has always played a significant role in reversing hegemonic trends; therefore, the contemporary Nigerian fiction uses experimentation in language for the assertion of peculiar identity.