

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie: The Portrayal of Child Characters.

GITEEMONI SAIKIA

*No-1 Lazum, Segunbari, Near M.P.H.S. School, Margherita, P.O-Margherita,
786181. Dist-Tinsukia. Assam.*

ABSTRACT: *This essay attempts to point out one very specific aspect of Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, that is her depiction of children in her fiction. It is not that she picks up child characters of one particular ethnic group or Igbo people; neither she writes about only elite class nor of oppressed ones. She writes of different ages, different classes, in a word children from various walks of life with their unique philosophy and psychology. Adichie has spun stories of children as she has minutely observed them in the true perspective of their respective ethnic groups or nations. She writes about children she came across, moved with them and understood them clearly. She writes about them with great authority and authenticity.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Adichie in her novels depicts about children's various aspects, i.e. love, exploitation, nature, quarrel, attitude, and relationship with others. She deals with their intelligence, ignorance, tactfulness, knowledge, loyalty, weakness, experience and maturity, etc. The following observations could be made for Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie:

1. Children treated by the parents.
2. Behaviour of children towards their own group.
3. Behaviour to elders.
4. Children under critical situation.
5. Children as servants.
6. Children's attitude towards opposite sex.
7. Children being used/misused by elders.
8. The subtle ways of thinking of a child.

Adichie has been very carefully studied the prevalent conditions of Nigeria as well as the ethnic groups and also the history of the past which still effect the social and cultural life of Africa and in that

II. BACKGROUND

She depicts the various child characters. The writer considers that there are social influences and forces oppressing children. Such forces can be carefully eliminated by meticulous planning and restructuring the moral codes and laws which meant for children. We can definitely find out solutions.

The life of a child is very precious; they are the future father of nations. Hence they must be nurtured well from all aspects. Thus Adichie probably grasped this very fact and sends to the readers a message. Several child characters either major or minor left indelible mark on her readers. She presents to her readers what she has come across, she witness. She makes an effort to scientifically study their age and social background. The novelist at a very tender age is able to observe minutely and that too with apt. She presents a galaxy of child characters in her fictions, "Half of a Yellow Sun" and "Purple Hibiscus", which is discussed below.

In "Half of a yellow sun", She among her three major character narrators, opted for one child narrator, Ugwu, a thirteen years old boy. He has come all the way from his village Opi to Odim street, with a handful of dreams, a city with commotion; there he comes to serve the professor. As if Adichie enters in the mind of Ugwu and reveals his wonders, dreams, and what not! A boy who passes a very casual life in his village, with his family, siblings and his infatuations for Nnesinachi. The grandmother thoroughly teaches him to prove himself to be a good servant; to please his master professor as therein lies his future. I think whoever go through the character of Ugwu would definitely be stupefied by such realistic portrayal! Specifically in his talent to catch up the line as shown by his grandmother, to please his master, to perform his duty without any complaints.

Ugwu is shocked to see a world which is so different, the palatial house of his master, the packed shelves of books, soft curtains, cutlery sets and every thing he sees. Adichie also kept in mind that a boy who had plain meals would obviously feel greedy to see a fridge laden with food. , thus he cannot resist licking the roasted chicken, to turn the bones into ashes. also Ugwu's I.Q is very sharp, he can easily distinguish the plates of people by noticing the left-overs. of course, the novelist has confessed that the character of Ugwu to a great extent is projection of partly Mellitus, her parental houseboy and partly of Fide, who is their houseboy.

It is to be noted , Adichie in her other novel, "Purple Hibiscus" also takes a child character, as a protagonist, Kambili, some other characters, like- chukwuka jaja achike' amaka, obiora, chiaku, etc. Kambili, a girl of 15 who is also a narrator besides heroine. the novelist has endowed lot of traits in her, such as-intelligence, shyness, observance, etc. kambili grows up in a family of catholic, a wealthy family but her father is too particular about his religiosity and he is over-dominant which hampered in the normal growth of the children. not only Kambili even her brother jaja faces the same situation. things are going as it is until once when this two visits aunt Ifoema's house, both the siblings undergone tremendous changes. they got liberty there which teaches them to be frank and courageous. Kambili becomes out of bound and falls in love with a young priest, Fr. Amadi. on the other hand, jaja has become too bold and taken the blame for himself that he has murdered his father even though it was their mother. the novelist has analysis the psychology of the sister and brother under such critical circumstance. jaja later came out of the prison with more maturity and hardcoreness..then there is the minor character, Amaka, cousin sister of kambili, aunt Ifoema's daughter, she is not the counterfoil of kambili but she is over jealous of kambili's possessions, her high-profile life-style., which is natural more or less in every girl-child

Character.

Thus Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie shows much apt in delineating each child character with a certain purpose. They don't simply crowded with empty traits, even they are not superficial projection of author's mind. They are real representation of their types which is found in any society. Hence, it is correctly said of ADICHIE as---- 'the most prominent' of a 'procession of critically acclaimed young anglophone authors that is succeeding in attracting a new generation of readers to African literature'.

REFERENCES

- [1]. Half of a Yellow Sun- Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie.
- [2]. Purple Hibiscus-Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie.