International Journal of
LAW, ARTS AND HUMANITIES
Peer Reviewed, Referred & Indexed Journal
ISSN: 3070-0523 www.zesterapublications.com Original Research Paper

CHINUA ACHEBE AS A POST-COLONIAL WRITER

ITI TIWARI,
Languages, Research Scholar, VMV Commerce JMT Arts and JJP Science College, Nagpur, Maharashtra, India.

DR. ABHAY MUDGAL
Languages, Professor, VMV Commerce JMT Arts and JJP Science College, Nagpur, Maharashtra,India.

ABSTRACT:
This paper examines the significance of postcolonial perspectives in the literary works of Chinua Achebe, with particular emphasis on Things Fall Apart. Achebe, a pioneering Nigerian author, is celebrated for his nuanced portrayal of African identity and culture during the colonial era. His writings foreground indigenous worldviews, challenge Eurocentric narratives, and illuminate the complexities of cultural encounter, resistance, and adaptation.
Furthermore, it explores how Achebe's characters assert their independence amid colonial oppression while balancing the demands of tradition and modernity. It also delves into themes like identity development, cultural upheaval, and the resilience of African communities facing external influences. Achebe's works critique colonial structures and legacies, providing deep insights into the sociopolitical realities of postcolonial Africa.
A modest attempt has been made to explain Achebe's role in transforming global literature and in advocating for diverse cultural perspectives, thereby contributing to the wider discussion of postcolonial writing and its significance for decolonisation and cultural self-determination.
Keywords: Postcolonial, colonizer, sociopolitical, identity, cultural disruption.

Chinua Achebe is a prominent writer of African literature. In Things Fall Apart, he depicts the effects of colonialism on African society. The narrative dwells on post-colonial themes such as identity, cultural crisis, and the reclamation of African narratives. Things Fall Apart portrays how Igbo society faced problems before and during colonisation. Okonkwo, the primary character, represents the struggle to preserve his cultural identity in the face of British colonialism's expanding impact. Achebe offers a counternarrative that highlights the diversity and complexity of pre-colonial African societies, countering the colonial depiction of Africa as backward and primitive.

Achebe's critique of the power relations inherent in colonialism is central to his postcolonial perspective. In "Things Fall Apart," Achebe illustrates the conflict between colonial ideology and native African beliefs and customs through characters such as Mr. Brown and Reverend Smith. Reverend Smith embodies a more aggressive and intolerant form of colonialism, whereas Mr. Brown represents a more understanding and tolerant one. However, both characters function as agents of cultural imposition and disruption, upending Igbo society's established hierarchies and causing societal unrest and strife.

Achebe's books, especially "Things Fall Apart," "Arrow of God," and "No Longer at Ease," illuminate the intricacies of African cultural identity under colonial rule. He challenges colonial prejudices that disparaged African civilisations as primitive or backward by depicting pre-colonial Igbo society with nuance and compassion. Achebe emphasises the value of cultural authenticity and self-representation in literature through complex, nuanced portrayals of Igbo customs, language, and social structures.

Achebe critiques the devastating effects of colonialism on African societies through his characters and stories. "Things Fall Apart," for example, depicts the terrible effects of British colonialism on Okonkwo

International Journal of
LAW, ARTS AND HUMANITIES
Peer Reviewed, Referred & Indexed Journal
ISSN: 3070-0523 www.zesterapublications.com Original Research Paper

and his community, showing how external forces upend social hierarchies and customs. Achebe's examination of power relations demonstrates the long-lasting consequences of colonial exploitation and cultural erasure, both within indigenous groups and between colonisers and colonised.

A key component of Achebe's literary endeavour is his support for African storytelling traditions. He bridges the gap between colonial languages and indigenous cultures by writing in English and incorporating Igbo proverbs, folklore, and oral traditions into his stories. Through this linguistic and narrative technique, Achebe challenges colonial discourse and affirms African agency in creating and reclaiming their own stories. His writings challenge Western hegemony in literary representation and strengthen African voices.

The topic of resistance and adaptability in the face of colonial oppression lies at the heart of Achebe's story. Okonkwo and other characters in "Things Fall Apart" embody the struggle to preserve cultural integrity in the face of colonial rulers' forces of change. Achebe criticises African civilisations' internal divisions brought on by external forces, as well as the brutality of colonial occupation.

Achebe highlights the significance of language as a means of expressing cultural identity. Achebe questions the supremacy of colonial languages and advocates the preservation of indigenous languages as archives of cultural history, as demonstrated by his use of English and the incorporation of Igbo language and proverbs. His dedication to reclaiming African tales and decolonising literary language is demonstrated by this linguistic tactic.

Achebe also discusses gender dynamics in postcolonial settings, showing how patriarchal systems and colonialism interact to maintain inequality. Characters in 'Things Fall Apart', such as Ekwefi and Ezinma, demonstrate the complex roles women play in pre-colonial Igbo society and their ability to adapt to changing power relations under colonial authority.

Chinua Achebe's literary works, particularly his portrayal of Nigerian society and culture, offer deep insights into postcolonial perspectives. His books, such as "Things Fall Apart" and "Arrow of God," challenge Eurocentric narratives and authentically and nuancedly convey indigenous perspectives while critically examining the effects of colonialism on African societies. Achebe's commitment to decolonising writing and reclaiming African voices is evident in his depiction of characters negotiating the complexities of cultural identity, power dynamics, and resistance against colonial powers.

Through his writings, Achebe challenges readers to consider colonialism's lasting impacts on civilisations and calls for a reevaluation of history from a variety of angles. His writing is a potent critique of imperialism and its effects in addition to capturing the beauty and tenacity of African traditions. Beyond merely literature, Achebe's legacy continues to influence conversations about justice, identity, and the worldwide effects of colonial past.

Works Cited:-

1. Achebe, Chinua. Things Fall Apart. Heinemann, 1958.
2. Dhumal, Dhanaji.Postcolonial interpretations in chinua achebes things fall apart a man of the people and edward forsters a passage to India. Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, 26 May 2014.
3. Kumar, Tarseem. Postcolonial Perspective in the Works of Chinua Achebe.IJARIIE,Vol. 10, Issue. 3, 2024.
4. . Said, Edward W. Culture and Imperialism. Vintage Books, 1994