

fffffffff

by David Mua

Submission date: 09-May-2021 09:54AM (UTC-0400)

Submission ID: 1581821182

File name: African_culture_as_depicted_in_things_fall_apart.docx (18.71K)

Word count: 1371

Character count: 6772

Name

Tutor

Course

Date

African culture in things falls apart.

African literature, in most cases, is an explanation of the cultural practices of African people. Most African literature manifests the African societies and their culture, social, political, and economic organization, not forgetting their religious stands. African literature functions to reflect and celebrate African culture. In his things fall apart, Chinua Achebe presents a dignified and prominent society of the Igbo people. The details of the cultural life of the Igbo people are a significant counter reflection of how the west views African culture. However, the west sees African culture as a failure; Achebe forgets not to mention the weakness among the Igbo culture, which needs to be improved for the grown of the culture.

The Igbo society is depicted as a democratic society. Democracy is a term used to explain a system of governance where the power rests on the people, ruling directly or indirectly through representatives. Western nations perceive African societies as ones who do not know how to practice democracy. Achebe, however, depicts a clear picture of a democratic African culture. For instance, before making any critical decisions, Ndichie, the village elders, and others meet at Ilo or the marketplace. Here they take the decision based on what is affecting the Igbo people; whatever decision made from this place represents the will of the Igbo people. This shows how the community is in control of governance. After the people are informed about the

killing of a daughter of Umuofia in Mbaino, they collectively agree to follow the rule of law. According to their law, they are either to go to with the Umuofia, or offer Umuofia compensation for the death of the daughter of Umuofia, in the form of a virgin girl and a young man. After many give their views, it is decided that the ordinary course of action should take its course.

Another way the Achebe portrays African culture clearly is their way of justice. Justice can be explained as the administration of fairness to every individual of any given society. Justice and fairness are portrayed most effectively and efficiently among the people of Igbo. It qualifies the Igbo organization to be called a noble one. Whenever there are disputes among the Igbo people, they are presented to the village elders, egwugwu. These are perceived as the masked spirits of the land. The role of egwugwu is played by specific respected and titled elders of the clan. In chapter ten of things fall apart, a case that pertains Uzowulu is presented to the egwugwu. The complaint entails his in-laws taking his wife Mgbafor, and therefore, he is demanding the return of his bride price. Odukwe, on the other hand, explains that they took Mgbafor, their sister, to save her from Uzowulu brutality against her. However, he clarifies that they will only allow her to return to her matrimonial home only if Uzowulu swears never to beat her again. The egwugwu consults, and their leader, the Evil Forest, gives a verdict. Uzowulu is to take wine to his in-laws and beg for the return of his wife. The Evil Forest reminds Uzowulu that fighting a woman is not bravery. The Evil Forest instructs, "To Uzowulu, go to your in-laws with a pot of wine and beg for the return of your wife. To Odukwe, when your brother-in-law brings wine to you, let your sister go with him."

Taking about religion, most of the African cultures can be associated with strict religious practices. Religion among the African communities serves to approve morality, straightforwardness, honesty, and also respect for a supreme being. In Things fall apart, Achebe

presents an effective and efficient religious system among the Igbo. It is a religious system that closely relates to that of western nations. When western and the Igbo religions are compared, we find that both of them have a supreme being. Chukwu for the Igbo and God for the Christians. Both supreme beings have their representatives on earth, Christ for the Christians and wooden idols for the Igbo. Both religions also tolerate humility, and their supreme beings take revenge whenever they are disregarded. While western nations view their religion as a more civilized one, Achebe presents a more tolerant religion that shows a more civilized religion than Christianity. The Igbo society gives in to worshipping gods there are not conversant with, while on the other hand, the Europeans would rather fight their fellow for the sake of religion. The western religion destroys the way of life of the Igbo.

Achebe depicts a state of deep respect for human life and dignity. The Igbo society upholds the right to life. Society forbids taking anyone's life even if it happens by mistake. This is why Obuefi advises Okonkwo not to kill Ikemefuna, and we see the punishment Okonkwo undergoes after he kills Ichie Ezedu's son without his consent. Obierika perceives Okonkwo's act of killing Ikemefuna as a crime. Killing is a kind of action that can make the goddess wipe a whole family-but, if the oracle says that my son should be killed, I would not dispute nor be the one to do it.

The Igbo culture is used to show the reverence given to equality between men and women, as it is contrary perceived in the western nations. Achebe lifts the art of love and marriage and credits it. The Igbo society enjoys equality between men and women. For this reason, men who respect and uphold their wives like Ndulue are most revered. Men who behave contrary, like Uzowulu, who inhumanly beats his wife even while pregnant, are reprimanded. A description is given of how Ndulue and Ozoemena were said to be one mind. Ndulue would do

nothing without having consulted his wife. So a character such as Okonkwo describes it as a state of weakness to the man. As a result, Okonkwo gets into a state of turmoil with his family. He ends up killing his son Ikemefuna. He even beats his wife during a peace week. All these acts are some sought of protectionism because he does not want to be perceived as weak as his father. Okonkwo finally faces his eventual downfall as he ends up not being in peace with anyone around him and within him. All these leads to Okonkwo hanging himself. This is an uncommon scenario in the African culture and is therefore associated with the unjust system of the white men.

Despite the state of backwardness among African nations, Africans cherish and uphold diligent hard work. Achebe puts this significant African value clearly in the Igbo society. Okonkwo is described as a renowned man across the nine villages. His fame is closely related to his enormous achievements and determination. Society does not tolerate inheritance as a form of wealth. Instead, a man is considered wealthy from what he works to achieve on his own. Africans take with significant reverence the art of diligent hard work. Being hardworking in African society is taken as a great tool to fight poverty. Igbo puts it well when he says that hard work is the cure for poverty and a strong belief that no one can be poor because of being industrious. Africans value and honor achieved status more than the inherited ones. Okonkwo is recognized as one of the lords of the clan despite the bad legacy that was left by his father Unoka. The recognition comes out of his sheer industry and hard work.

In conclusion, African literature is an important aspect that can clear the negative perception of African culture. Chinua Achebe uses his decent society of the Igbo people to portray a clear picture of the African culture. He explains the values of leadership and democracy, which are negatively taken by western nations. In terms of religion, Achebe helps us

understand the sense Africans practice their religion. They have a strong faith that cannot trade religion with violence. Achebe succeeds in explaining the general African culture. A culture that has dignity and respect for human life, values, and respect age, a culture that is replete to upholding justice and fairness. An appreciative culture that values and rewards hard work.

Work cited

Chinua, Achebe. "Things fall apart." (1958).

fffffff

ORIGINALITY REPORT

4%

SIMILARITY INDEX

1%

INTERNET SOURCES

0%

PUBLICATIONS

4%

STUDENT PAPERS

PRIMARY SOURCES

1

Submitted to East Chapel Hill High School

Student Paper

2%

2

Submitted to Valhalla High School

Student Paper

2%

3

www.austintxgensoc.org

Internet Source

1%

Exclude quotes Off

Exclude matches Off

Exclude bibliography Off