

**The Aspiration to Preserve National Identity:
An Evaluative Reading of *Americanah* and *Things Fall Apart***

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the requirements for the degree of
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Declaration

It is hereby declared that

1. The thesis submitted is my own original work while completing degree at Brac University.
2. The thesis does not contain material previously published or written by a third party, except where this is appropriately cited through full and accurate referencing.
3. The thesis does not contain material which has been accepted, or submitted, for any other degree or diploma at a university or other institution.
4. I have acknowledged all main sources of help.

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Approval

The thesis titled **The Aspiration to Preserve National Identity: An Evaluative Reading of *Americanah* and *Things Fall Apart*** submitted by Thamalika Saha ID: 17103011 of Summer 2020 has been accepted as satisfactory in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Bachelor of Arts.

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Abstract

Adichie's and Achebe's use of terms and expressions to describe how race has been significantly affecting the lives of the innocent black people whose only desire is to endeavor their anticipated ambition and desire along with how they manage the possibility and truth of progress influence several different characters. Moreover, the aim is to scrutinize the aspects of the starting points as to why the people of color is being inadequately oppressed as well as discriminated and how they resolutely battle for the perpetuation for their identity. It is equally important to perceive the way the strategies and methods has been incorporated by the authors in order to convey how dominated and controlled the daily lives and their dreams and aspiration which they want to fulfill in order to enhance their living conditions and discern their correct identity.

Keywords: racism, identity, discrimination, subjugation, mistreatment

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Chapter 1: Introduction

1.1 Postcolonial Literature

Devoted individuals around the world who are proud of their nation will go above and beyond just so they can preserve the traditions and cultures of their own place of origin. Postcolonial is a phrase used to indicate how after innumerable years of suffering and being in total dominance, the colonies eventually got their independence back from the European oppressors. Even though, the colonies are unrestrained, yet they are struggling as well as demented to know what their real authentic identity is. The focal point of this thesis is on the motive and aim of identity crisis as well as the rediscovery of the characters' authentic recognition in scholarly works created within the postcolonial period along with the notion of disillusionment portrays a significant extremity throughout the novels. As a matter of fact, the essential implication of the label "postcolonial" is usually deployed to signify the time before independence when the colonization was still in progress, particularly the cycles of colonization in the course of the eighteenth as well as the nineteenth centuries have been crucially altered the daily lives of the oppressed communities along with the stubborn effects left by the colonists which will persistently exist onto everyday lifestyle of people. For one thing, in the course of the attainment of liberation in Nigeria, it has been noted that an enormous number of migrants have been identified to be moving to the U.S. and U.K. in particular for better living conditions and other valuable benefits (Nwanyanwu, 386). In fact, personality psychologists (Sigmund Freud, Erikson) portrayed the idea that each and every human being has to undergo a certain time frame where they have to experience the psychological evolution including where they start to realize who they are as a person, such as they will start figuring out their purpose in life, what is their identity in reality as a teenager when they partially develop their cognition. That is the time when

teenagers begin to uphold themselves, to find out who they are as a human being, how they can contribute to their society, for instance, Okonkwo from *Things Fall Apart* who became extremely cautious and aware within his surroundings at a very young age which was eighteen. In addition, Adichie from *Americanah* moved to American at only nineteen years old in hope of getting a better education. The protagonists in these novels were exceptionally young to take such courageous acts in order to fulfill their ambitions which is why they can be distinguished as someone who stands out from the rest of the individuals. Both of the protagonists were struggling to preserve their identity when they were interrupted by the exterior forces such as the westerns attempting to completely transform the lives of the African people by recommending them a process where the African people will no longer be able to identify themselves as an authentic Nigerian human being, rather involve themselves into the western culture.

Nevertheless, inside social examinations, post colonialism is commonly used to incorporate the colonial discourse or the elements of communications as well. Hence, the origination of 'postcolonial' alludes to the world in the course of the post European colonization (Baker, 2004, p. 148). In fact, postcolonial writing teaches the readers about where their authentic origin is and where do they actually belong to in general. In effect, right after the appearance of the African writers, they wanted to abolish the false ideas and information provided by the European writers incorrectly. Additionally, the African authors also wanted to demonstrate to their readers of how inaccurately the lives of the African societies were being represented as well as how the westerners mistreated them. Furthermore, the authors created the novels predominantly through their own personal encounter. Postcolonial writing is an insecure and challenged field as basic classification of writings by scholars who live in or have relocated from previous provinces, regardless of whether some of them would dismiss the 'postcolonial'

name (Edward 1). Postcolonial writing is a wide and thorough term that incorporates literary works by individuals from the past pilgrim world, along with from the different minority foreigners who happened to live in the west accordingly.

The novels *Americanah* and *Things Fall Apart* are constructed upon the racial encounters as well as the prejudiced experience faced by the writers themselves long ago and how they effectively responded to the critical racial occurrences. In fact, my research paper aims to focus on what challenging steps were taken by the protagonists in order to gain back their national identity right after when their lives were sternly constrained by the westerners. In *Americanah*, Ifemelu eventually ended up going back to Nigeria despite finding achievement and prosperity over there but the fact that while residing in the United States she was not feeling like her real Nigerian self which has made to take the option to leave and then regain her identity. At the same time, in the novel *Things Fall Apart* which was the major novel that made people all over the world to get rid of their dismissive and antipathetic point of view towards the African people and support and uplift their lifestyle. Essentially, Okonkwo who was striving with commitment along with dedication to keep his status in check, also requested the Igbo people to support him because he wants to hold onto the identity of his nation through his severe difficulty in accomplishing the recognition of the Igbo community.

1.2 Unfair Treatment

Ngozi Adichie and by Chinua Achebe are first- and second-generation Nigerian writers, respectively. In fact, they are both African writers and the technique they utilize to precisely represent how the people of color are being treated sternly by the white individuals just because they anticipate that having darker skin color along with features impulsively indicate that they are inexperienced and inferior in reality, while on the other hand, white individuals are far more

superior and worthier than black individuals and consist more prerogatives and rights in the society. In effect, the writers felt profoundly sympathetic towards the innocent black people who were brutally being neglected and mistreated consistently because of the wide misapprehension about the frequent stereotyped fallacy involving the African society. Moreover, right after the arrival of the Europeans in Africa who brought numerous changes along with them such as new religion, scholastic organizations in order to impose upon the African people regardless. For this reason, Achebe persuaded the African compatriots to make use of the scholastic organizations which will help to develop and enhance their literary skills. Besides, for the most part, both writers are successful in demonstrating to their readers on how the black individuals were strenuously made to feel inferior and have no value among themselves, in effect the rise of the colonization upon the Africans initiated when the Europeans were profoundly determined to take advantage of them by using their natural resources for their own welfare. Apart from Africans, who were invariably interpreted as having no culture or traditions of their own as stated by Achebe himself, this is the central intention of him to indicate to the readers that Africa is not at all what individuals interpret it out to be. Instead, it is entirely a distinct and unique continent along with varying conventions. Due to this inaccurate reliance being unfolded dismally, as a result, through Achebe's novel *Things Fall Apart*, he will evidently demonstrate to his readers of how the Igbo people's lives are filled with cultures, traditions, ceremonies as well as regulations which they need to strictly follow in order to sustain their reputation within the Nigerian community along with keeping in mind to preserve their identity. For one thing, Achebe wanted to eliminate the deceptions and misconceptions that people have about Africa. Even so, only if everyone would treat each and every race of color equally and welcome them like an affectionate

companion who are willing to take the initiative to help everyone in need then this world would have been much more serene, tranquil place.

Moreover, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie decides to write the novel based on her prior experience when visiting the United States for higher studies at only nineteen years old. The plot of the novel informs the reader about a young girl who aspires to become successful and make her dream come true by immigrating to the United States as she would invariably desire for the 'American dream.' However, towards the end, Ifemelu did end up finding triumph and accomplishment within the American lifestyle but yet she suffers from not being able to feel like her Nigerian self consistently. In addition, the novel follows Ifemelu's life within the two nations, who got bonded by her romantic tale with a secondary school colleague known as Obinze in general. As a matter of fact, the extent of the novel regarding Ifemelu, a straightforward and distinct lady whose individual objectives are some of the time driven by academic self-admiration along with pride for her own nation in Nigeria.

The protagonist Ifemelu had to face racial discrimination in U.S. because of having darker skin color, features, she was also being treated differently because of her ethnicity. Moreover, she was regarded as an African American who also gets the lowest form of benefits and privileges within American society. In fact, black people receive punishment twice as more likely than the white people despite committing the same crime. Ifemelu even had to change her appearance such as getting rid of her braided hair and keeping it straightened along with changing her Nigerian accent to an American one in order to be accepted into the professional workplace for the most part. Unfortunately, it was a challenge for her to find a job because of her usage of differing Nigerian tone while speaking in flawed English. Even while she was applying to universities, jobs, the interviewer was talking to her as someone would talk to a child, more

like the interviewer was trying to mortify her by taking a pause every word when communicating with her. This made Ifemelu feel like she was being unfairly misinterpreted, judged and mistaken for thinking that she will not understand English at all. Likewise, Chinua Achebe who was widely recognized as a prominent and reputable writer due to his confounding consistency regarding how he wants to portray the indigenous entity of the African culture to the westerners more precisely. Moreover, not only he is renowned and celebrated within his own country Nigeria, but instantly in a moment he became notable and remarkable universally. He even resisted against the white European writers back in the day who incorrectly represented the civilization and way of life of the African society. This led him to motivate other imminent African writers to inspire as well as prompt them to not feel discouraged by their own creativity thoughts along with persuade them to think, contemplate and communicate truthfully seeing that generally African individuals are made to consider themselves as inferior and unappreciative. By all means, Achebe's way of life was not quite the same as that of others living in his town due to the fact that he was divergent from his companions. In fact, in the course of the European colonization, Achebe and his family was also a victim of being dominated and manipulated through the persuasion by the oppressors to convince the Africans to convert into the religion of Christianity which is apparently the reason why as Achebe was growing up, he was taught to believe in the religion of Christianity in the long run. He was trained as an Ibo Christian, which gave him the opportunity to see the hypocrisies of Western Christianity from within the Church. At the same time, in his novel *Things Fall Apart* the main protagonist who is known as Okonkwo quickly got enraged upon the appearance of the white missionaries bringing in new religion which was Christianity, construct schools to provide an education and they wanted to convince the Igbo people to convert into being a Christian human being and get rid of their current

religious belief, this is how gradually, the Igbo people were starting to lose their identity and rapidly get influenced by the western culture little by little. Okonkwo was not able to grasp the fact that his own community is being directed by the missionaries and the Igbo people are starting to incorporate themselves within the western customs instead of taking the initiative to eliminate the existence of the white missionaries' supremacy and their mission to completely alter the Igbo communities lifestyle.

Contrarily, Okonkwo is someone who attentively focused on being manly and powerful, along with being remarkably honored by the communities of Umuofia. On the whole, he would constantly have this worry about turning into a fragile human being like his own father who could not do anything for their nation but was only capable of decreasing their village's status. Moreover, Okonkwo is embarrassed and guilty about his father since he was a failure without any achievements accomplished in the course of his era in particular. In addition, the novel depicts in detail about their strict convictions of how the Igbo people will carry on their legacy from one generation to the next through their enduring and perpetual traditions that they are willing to preserve. However, women were more likely to become oppressed and disparaged when they were being addressed by the ruling of identity as per some African traditions. Okonkwo at young age was able to attain success and gain more assertive as opposed to rest of the Igbo males in his society. He is someone who can be best described as having more determination within himself and someone who is extraordinarily enthusiastic contrasting from his fellow companions. He will not take the word 'no' for an answer such as if someone was not able to achieve something then he will do it instantly without having any second thought. His identity calamity would usually come from the disagreements and conflicts that occurs within himself, mainly through his observation of his family members progressively, additionally he

always detested the notion of being feminized as he was always humiliated because of his father who died without receiving any name of honor which meant he was also feminized which signifies he was also considered like a woman. The role of women within the Igbo society is that they were steadily represented as someone who is to be regarded as an inferior and lower within the social rank, this is the purpose why Achebe intentionally overemphasized Okonkwo's obsession with showing his manliness and strength which makes it intricate for the fact that traditionally women are supposed to be devalued and belittled as opposed to men. Moreover, the status of men within the Igbo society was determined by their contemporary, reputation maintenance as well as being powerful by their own capability and not genuinely based off their inheritance through their families (Achebe,40). The concept of patriotism was highly accentuated in Igbo society because the citizens would cheerfully praise the vigorous individuals who would take the opportunity to energetically work towards the freedoms of its nation for everyone. However, towards the end, Okonkwo started to lose his identity and did as much as he could to get back his identity. In like manner, in the course of his exile, the white missionaries made numerous transformations into the domain of Umuofia within the absence of Okonkwo who was startled by the sudden changes. After that, he made an aim that as soon as he arrives to Umuofia, he will reinstitute the land of Umuofia back to its original state (Achebe,42).

After a while, the alarming incident occurs when the disagreements and chaos emerged inside the plot when the white European Christian missionaries invaded their way into Umuofia and started to destroy the lives of the Igbo society. Simultaneously, the author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie of the novel *Americanah* was technically inspired by Chinua Achebe's novel *Things Fall Apart*, furthermore she took some of her innovations as well as expressiveness through the creativity from Achebe's writings to publish her own novels accordingly. Both of the

novels talk about how the Nigerian individuals and communities struggled with their search and pursuit of identity and how they fought till the end to regain their recognition, in fact, it did not even matter whether they were triumphant or not to get back their reward but the fact that the protagonists fought till the end, depicts how enthusiastic and dedicated they were for their genuine identity.

Things Fall Apart incorporates a postcolonial approach in depicting the encounters between the colonizer and the colonized. In fact, through the perspective of Chinua Achebe, the Igbo social life unfolds an authentic record of this encounter. Achebe also showed how the Igbo people's way of life and customs were totally opposite from that of the western customs deliberately. For instance, they had more trust in lineal gods, oblation of youthful males as well as maltreatment of females and their custom continues. The Igbo people had no prior notion that they would have to face a severe traditional dispute with a foreign, outside influence who would forcibly mislead them to get rid of their own traditional Nigerian culture. As a matter of fact, Achebe declared that one of his motivations to write the novel *Things Fall Apart* was to introduce an elaborate, dynamic culture to a Western crowd who saw African culture as crude, uncivilized, along with being unsophisticated. Moreover, the novel being exceptionally known as an anecdote about a culture nearly on the brink of an unexpected as well as an atypical change, its distributions and arrangements with how the possibility and truth of progress influence different characters. Without having the adequate freedom of the Ibo people, the pressure about whether change should be advantaged over custom frequently includes inquiries of individual rank.

Similarly, Okonkwo who is exceedingly popular and admired in his own society, unfortunately went into depression and became anxious when he found out that brand new

customs have been brought along by the white Christian missionaries in the hope to teach the Igbo people about the religion of Christianity in general. As a matter of fact, as soon as the Christian missionaries came along in the domain of Nigeria, a major dispute occurred between the Igbo people and the missionaries. Additionally, the main crash that happens is the division at the individual and afterward at the cultural extent. In like manner, the arrival of the Christian missionaries made several changes in the lives among the many Ibo people, as they were heavily influenced to convert into the religion of Christianity which apparently made a vast scene including immense disorders as well as turmoil within the Igbo society. However, this form of misunderstanding that the missionary creates, effects the conventional embodiment of the Igbo society, regrettably they were not in a position to alter their cultural belief by an outside and foreign exertion who they did not know at all.

1.3 Longing for Identity

The central delineation within these two colonial novels is that there is something distinctive about the two protagonists Ifemelu and Okonkwo who carried out a remarkable act of goodness which allowed them to demonstrate to their readers of how they will go above and beyond to maintain their identity. Moreover, the reason why I wanted to work on these two notable novels is because it teaches us how resolutely it is necessary for us to prolong and fight for our own nation's ethnicity and rights. Not only this but I believe that the protagonists of these novels were striving vigorously and not precisely reflecting on the fact that whether they will be successful or not in preserving their national identity in the end. Besides, these novels also depict how essential of a duty it is, for us as human beings to carry on our own tradition and culture which have been passed down from one generation to another significantly, no matter how

horrifying the obstacle we have to face, at the end it is our duty to contribute to our nation. On top of that, one of the most powerful yet humiliating phrases that I have noticed Adichie mention is when she stated “I came from a country where race was not an issue; I did not think of myself as black and I only became black when I came to America.” This sorrowful statement reveals how a foreign country perceives you within their own partial recognition of approval, which means that a white human being is more entitled to his/her own opinion because she/he knows whites are more privileged as well as accepted into the society so their own point of view will matter more regarding racial cases like demeaning individuals based on how dark their skin color is. Additionally, this method of scrutiny will investigate the issues of personality in postcolonial writing. Furthermore, within the advanced world, the topic of personality rose to the top rapidly. Likewise, I want to investigate how the two fearless and courageous protagonists from the novels *Americanah* and *Things Fall Apart* combated and disputed to protect and maintain their veracious identity back which was forcibly changed by the exterior influence. Both the novels have positive and negative interpretations, but the protagonist’s intentions were the same. Okonkwo killed himself knowing that he will not be able to defend the white missionaries who will be making numerous alterations in his nation and he will not be able to hold back the Nigerian traditions and status. On the other hand, Ifemelu at last went back to Nigeria after living in the US for thirteen long years despite being able to adjust within the American culture, however, she was longing for her own country Nigeria and she wanted to feel like an ordinary human being and not someone who is being treated differently just because of her background.

Chapter 2: Literature Review

Postcolonialism is a phrase utilized by individuals where they would generally mention how the colonized people would have finally attained their liberty and independence from the authoritative European colonization after long, continuous struggle and in terms of the westerners who racially degrade and purposefully humiliate the black individuals particularly who has migrated to the western countries. The notion of regarding the African people as being backward and innocent by the Europeans and the western countries had inspired the African authors to take the initiation to significantly demonstrate their readers that whichever incorrect facts are being provided about the African people is entirely wrong. After all, the Europeans and the westerners had a dominant desire to invade the weaker nations by manipulating them and racially discriminate the African human beings and consider them to be weaker, inferior and unsophisticated. Bill Ashcroft and et al state in *The Empire Writes Back* explains and stated that “more than 75% of individuals living colonies of the present reality have had their existence formed by the unfortunate occurrence of colonialism.” However, even if the colonies are no longer regarded as an actual colony anymore, the social as well as political changes that the colonizers have left behind as a mark, indeed does complicate the lives of the colonized people eventually.

2.1 Identity Crisis

Little by little, the national identity as well as the Igbo people’s weakening of their situation within their community of the novel *Things Fall Apart* regrettably commenced into a more desolating state as soon as their nation were occupied within foreign regulations. Moreover, Chinua Achebe wanted to demonstrate the capacity of a literary work or technique which contains the competence to portray the challenging collision that the colonized nations

have to face in reality. After all, Achebe's focal intent was to diminish the most prevalently supposed perception about the African nation predominantly compelled by the European colonizers. At the same time, he was able to crucially reveal the catastrophic outcome which was generated by the oppressors repeatedly upon the survival of the Igbo people in detail. As a result, Achebe was substantially able to achieve a coherent separation which was related to the pre-colonial era along with the Igbo community which was severely colonized by the command of the oppressors in particular (Jweid, 530). For one thing the protagonist Okonkwo started to follow the strategies of the white missionaries who were rigorously imposing command towards the Igbo people which ultimately led Okonkwo to treat the community of Umuofia in the same manner as the missionaries in the hope that he will be able to reinforce them, perceive some admirable transformations and encourage the Igbo's to become stronger. All things considered, the prospect of the Nigerian's recognition and how intensely their manner of living was shaped by the European's directives and strict orders which led the Nigerians being not able to determine their resolution in life (Jweid, 530).

Okonkwo's life was filled with miseries and despairs because he eventually died fighting for his treasured nation even though people in his community was immensely feeble, besides, his encouraging narrative can be ideally described as to how in reality the national recognition of Nigeria actually is. Likewise, Okonkwo was an extraordinary human being seeing that he would consistently seek to aim for the welfare for his nation day and night, on the other hand, his father at most would disintegrate and devalue the status of the nation as long as he was alive because of his mortifying actions. Following Okonkwo's sudden demise, everyone unexpectedly within the Nigerian community were tremendously in desperate desire for success and freedom for their nation avidly (Jweid, 531). Regrettably, the Igbo community had to give up their identity that

represents them as a real citizen due to their territorial faithfulness. Moreover, this is the reason why they have eventually started longing for motivation to prosper better in life in order advance within their upcoming future but rather they are just living with resentment infused among themselves. In this case Achebe wanted to convey how unsatisfactorily the lives of Igbo people were regarding that their lives, predominantly consisted of suffering and distressing which apparently contributes to the essence of tragedy. Moreover, there were severe aspects of death which through the form of shadow symbolizes the idea that it despises and abominates the existence of the native communities. Correspondingly, as the white Europeans missionaries brought in some serious changes along with them such as urging the Igbo people to convert into Christianity along with by convincing them to eliminate their original religion which also made Achebe convert and then to take on the religion of Christianity as well. This is how one of the fewer causes of the Igbo people to lose their identity steadily (Kenalemang, 7).

In fact, the main motive of Postcolonialism is utilized most clearly and shortsightedly to divide the change from colonialism to self-assurance among previously colonized countries. In addition, within this perception of recognition works as a sequential symbol as well as technique for the periodization. Europeans colonized many nations around the world and the colonies had to unfortunately, endure the unbearable torment as well as abuse by the colonizers in effect. By all means, the significant motivation behind this research is to reveal the insight into this hypothesis and the exceptional effect it has left in the field of literary analysis in general.

2.2 Stereotypical Gestures

In effect, the phrase ‘Americanah’ is given to the Nigerian people who memorably resides within the United States for an exceptionally longer session of time and then they go back to

their native country and right after Ifemelu's arrival to Nigeria she was questioned about if she has forgotten any customs of the Nigerian culture. In addition, America is a contended setting where at most only white individuals are more appreciated and valued than the black individuals. For instance, if black people reside in American then they are being considered as someone who has not long ago, just emigrated to America as well as they were being forcefully attacked with phrases like 'go back to your own country' which is what the black individuals are being required to do. Apparently, the concept of racism has been prevalent all throughout the years where having whiter skin meant to have more entitlement among themselves accordingly. All things considered; an individual consisting of white privilege crucially indicated that a specific person should be a native American with an authentic origin belonging from the indigenous lineage. For instance, an Asian person born in America will be evaluated as an Asian American but not technically a native American for that reason if an Asian person does communicate in an adequate English then they are spontaneously praised for their speech because generally they get stereotyped into assuming that they would not be able to speak in English coherently. Even to this day, there are numerous locations where black people are neglected inefficiently as well as not given enough source of assistance and guidance. For the most part, Nigerian people has always been a victim of being portrayed negatively within the dimensions of international news which has expanded all over the world of the residents having the same atrocious viewpoints and thoughts about the Nigerian people. However, these sort of inaccurate ideas that are being represented dishonestly by the media reporters are completely contrasting to how the Nigerian people are in real life (Amonyeze).

Furthermore, there is a quote from the novel *Americanah* which stated that "dear Non-American Black, when you make the choice to come to America, you become black. Stop

arguing. Stop saying I'm Jamaican or I'm Ghanaian. America does not care or even think once how other dark skin people feel." There is no denial to this statement because all black skinned people will be regarded as a black person or an African American citizen who also own little to no rights at all, irrespective of their national identities. Towards the end, Ifemelu was exceedingly disappointed with America because she avidly expected and hoped for the prolongation of residing in America since she started to become accustomed to the daily life over there but, however, the inequitable treatment that she has received has made her the crucial decision to leave the country in order to feel like a Nigerian person once more again back in her home town.

On the other hand, Ifemelu decides to start writing blogs where she will note down her daily confrontation with racial issues that she faces at any moment. One time when Ifemelu visited the beauty parlor to get her eyebrows done, an Asian assistant repudiated her request immediately because of her physical appearance. Moreover, her unique sort of physical features such as her unique hair is what made her represent herself as an authentic Nigerian woman and not feel the desire to change it in order to fit in with the America's preferred style. During the first chapters of the novel, Ifemelu has been noticing within her surroundings and she was feeling disappointed and depressed because of the way people were treating her. Above all, she is not even being identified by her actual name but recognized only by her skin color, for instance, people were referring to her with demeaning phrases like 'colored girl-thing.' This is how she was being made to feel isolated and made her turn into a black person and stated, "I came from a country where race was not an issue; I did not think of myself as black and I only became black when I came to America." Back in her homeland, she thought of herself as a normal human being rather than a colored person or different in detail (Sajna P, 275). On the other hand, Aunty

Uju who is known as Ifemelu's aunt and also a doctor was discriminated because of the color of her skin along with her physical appearances. Moreover, once she failed to give a book to the library, later on, she was called out by the security stating that "you people never to anything right." He even proceeded further by not only screaming at her but brought up the subject of her whole ethnicity being dishonest. Then again, Adichie also mentioned the fact that unfortunately there are also dissimilar levels of racism involved such as people having a bit lighter skin almost like tan color considers themselves more upper-level and worthier than the black people, for instance, when a Spanish tan lady who would worked as a janitor under Aunt Uju's house but she was immensely impolite and rude towards Aunt Uju just because her skin color is slightly lighter than her which made her think that she holds more power and potential among the black individuals.

On the contrary, in *Things Fall Apart*, the author wanted to demonstrate how the Igbo community reacted to the arrival of the Christian missionaries when they forcibly impose regulations and domination toward the Igbo people. They were in a severe case of danger because how powerfully their land was taken away by the foreign influences as well as how new forms of rules and regulations were created and formed into the Igbo culture. Likewise, Chinua Achebe wants to inform his readers that how important it is to maintain our tradition and culture through mandatory festivals so that we can proudly exhibit our identity. Similarly, Achebe also wants to demonstrate how the white Europeans portrayed a negative image about the Africans by mentioning them as backward and unsophisticated all throughout the world. It is also known that before the emergence of African writers, the Europeans would mainly write about the African culture in order to humiliate and degrade their entity as well as their way of living. Achebe was also aggrieved with the fact that numerous authors provided their audience with false and

inaccurate information about the African literature and this is why he wanted to steadily prove every European writer wrong about the African misinterpretations that they have created (Kenalemang, 5).

2.3 Outcomes left by the Colonists

The Europeans and the Igbo people were somehow able to get along with each other since the Igbo people did gain some valuable advancement from them while they were commanding the nation of Nigeria. However, upon the arrival of the white missionaries in Umuofia, as a matter of fact, the Igbo community did attain some education and learn how to read or write, however, the way they were not ready for an enormous change and did not know how to respond to the missionaries had to face severe and threatening obstacles which seemed to be immensely dissonant and divergent to contently accept. Since Nigeria was a colony of Britain, some of Achebe's writing techniques aspires from the European counterparts fundamentally. Furthermore, postcolonialism is all about how a nation gains its independence and freedom years after combating the colonizers for a longer session of time. In addition, the method of how the Europeans commanded and left a major impact on the lives of the Igbo people will be depicted from within the perspectives of the African society since Chinua Achebe also portrayed the novel from the colonized viewpoint. For this reason, the major effects that will be left by colonists to the nation they have oppressed will perpetually have an impact on the lives of the oppressed which will somewhat determine how they proceed with their daily life (Kenalemang, 7). In particular, the fact that the Europeans were once permitted to write about the African people's civilization with false information is the root cause of Africa being deliberately stereotyped. This is the major incident when African writers initiated to take precise actions and disprove the fabricated claims made by the European writers.

Moreover, there is also some regulations that that missionaries could not comprehend about the Igbo society which makes them intensely unique such as consisting of several wives and living together under the same roof, contrarily the missionaries were in opposition to these kind of acts (Kenalemang 8).

Chapter 3: Research Methodology

3.1 Research questions

- Would Okonkwo still be alive only if the Igbo people took the initiative to eliminate the emergence of the white missionaries in the novel *Things Fall Apart*? Why is Okonkwo exceedingly anguished and desperate about maintaining the honorable title? How would the lives of the Igbo people be only if they strived to preserve their tradition and not get influenced and involve themselves within the European culture?
- The phrase ‘Americanah’ is a term for a Nigerian person, as someone who returns to Nigeria from America. Toward the finishing of the novel *Americanah*, has Ifemelu really become an *Americanah*? How was Ifemelu successful in maintaining her authentic Nigerian cultural roots and why did she decide to go back to her home country despite securing prosperity in America? As many people emigrate to the western countries such as the United States in hopes of a preferable future, how would the black immigrant’s life turn out be, only if they were substantially accepted by the westerners?

3.2 Marxist Theory

Karl Marx once pointed out that if the events of history can be broken down towards two simple phrases, it can be asserted as a “class struggle.” Marxism is way of thinking of historical events along with financial investment. In addition, it is a crucial theory about the essential clarification of how the community and the general public endures drastic transformation rapidly. As a matter of fact, the theory of Marxism showed up as a retaliation to the European industrial uprising in the course of prompt era accordingly. At the same time, due to the colonial pursuit being an inevitable circumstance to take place within the lives of the Ibo community, the novel *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe is placed in a specific setting which was in Umuofia, Nigeria. In fact, the conflict is initiated when the white Christian missionaries appeared in the domain of Umuofia promptly. Chinua Achebe wanted to depict how the individuals in the Igbo community handled as well as how they reacted to the emergence of the missionaries, he also wanted to demonstrate how the Igbo people had pride and gratification toward their own culture and tradition together with how they do not want any foreign influence or any transformations to be made within their society. Furthermore, the missionaries even bought along the teachings and practices of the Christian belief. The application of qualitative research will be used here because I will be examining the novels as my primary source. As a secondary data, I will be analyzing how the perspective of postcolonialism can be supplemented with the ideology of Marxism through the use of scholarly academic articles and essays.

Marxist theory is designated as a social, political, and economic theory deliberately based on the struggle among capitalists and the working class correspondingly. By all means, it asserts the fact that this contention would eventually prompt an unrest in which the middle class would topple the industrialist class and hold onto power of the wealth in particular. That is to say, in the

Igbo society, a man is only capable of achieving success through their own hard work and prosperity but not through what their family has accomplished or how much possessions they own or has been passed down. In fact, this puts numerous amounts of stress into the mind of the individuals especially who were considered as the head of the family supporting them. However, on the other hand, women were considered to be situated at the lowest rank and they were viewed to be inferior and subservient to men. Likewise, their job was to look after the house and the family's well-being constantly. Within the Igbo daily life, there was no proper form of social discrimination, this is the reason why it creates such a disagreement as well as clash among the subjugated class and the dominant class (Rahayu et al. 1).

As a matter of fact, as soon as the white missionaries arrive, the subjugated class takes this opportunity in order to fight in opposition to the dominant class in fear of their rank being rejected. With the Igbo community, the perception of class struggle will always exist among the subjugated class along with the dominant class. The opposition of ideas arises in the novel when Okonkwo's son Nwoye refuses to obtain robust and vigorous characteristics like his father, but instead he turns out to be indolent as well as emotional which is one of the few characteristics, Okonkwo disliked about his son. Nwoye can be immensely described as how his grandfather used to be, who was considered as an indolent and negligent and could not achieve anything within the course of his life. Nevertheless, Nwoye is anticipated to become a powerful and successful man in his life as well as taking charge of his family and tribe. He is also desired by his father to become more manly, fearless and brave, on the other hand, Nwoye loves holding onto the elements and aspects of womanly like features, such as he is exceedingly fond of listening to feminine narratives and tales. Nwoye turns out to be the opposite of what his father wants all the time. Okonkwo's perception is that one has to appear as strong and powerful as

well as his son should act like a robust man because anyone who is feminized is considered as a weaker person.

Shortly, Nwoye figures out that he has to undergo a complex transformation in contemplation to adapt to the proper, accepted social category which is expected from him by the community in particular. He ends up converting into the religion of Christianity despite his father's denial. In fact, he does not even bother about receiving the title to honor the Igbo community which is eagerly demanded from him. On the contrary, the protagonist Okonkwo is always anxious and impatient about earning the title of social status. He wanted to gain enormous control within himself so that he can be honored by everyone from the Igbo society (Rahayu et al. 2). Moreover, Okonkwo's fixation in male supremacy which seems to appear from his dissatisfaction coming from his unmanly father which makes him to take control over his wives and torture as well as command them perpetually which Achebe portrays as a disgraceful act and he makes a mockery out of these situations. In addition, Achebe's main purpose was to show how the relationship between Okonkwo and his wives are in reality, so that he can criticize precisely the harsh and oppressed everyday life of women who are not treated as fairly as men are in the society (Achebe, 40). Nevertheless, Okonkwo would have been still be alive only if the people within his community took the initiative to fight energetically in order to evict the white missionaries from their nation. The Igbo people would also be able to preserve their culture and tradition among themselves and carry it on. Their lives would also be filled with more satisfaction and contentment and less agony and suffering. This is how the reader will know how it is essential as a human being to fight for our identity together cooperatively and not only depend on one individual which might torment them leading to an ultimate downfall.

3.3 Critical Race Theory

We inhabit in a community where the issue of race is regarded as accustomed and typical daily part of our life and within the notion of racial identity which averts individuals from figuring out what their actual identity is. Critical race theory or (CRT) is a scholarly development which looks to investigate a racial oppression as a legitimate, social as well as governmental situation is repeated and kept up principally within the U.S context (Garza and Ono, 1). In fact, racism is immensely entrenched without culture, unfortunately it appears to be viewed as normal part of life. In terms of the novel *Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, the formation of Critical Race Theory will be used to explain why the protagonist Ifemelu had to go through severe racism while living in America and why she was given a different identity as well as why did she have to change herself in order to fit into the America's preferred standard of beauty. Similarly, it is important to realize that how the lives of the immigrants would have changed drastically, especially the black immigrants, only if they were welcomed and received with immense devotion by the westerners. Their dream of becoming successful would come true and they would be delighted to lead a gratified life. Even after working hard towards the ambition of their dream and achieving it despite faced with racism on a daily basis, black people are still being made to feel like an outsider by urging them to get rid of their preferences and asked to back to their country by the white people. Nevertheless, in America, Ifemelu was not even acknowledged by her real name but instead, people set up a discrete name for her. Similarly, the view of Critical Race Theory has been convinced to inform that white privilege is deeply enrooted into the minds of ordinary people continually. Additionally, the ongoing perception of unfairness attempts to reveal insights into the issue of prejudice as well as racism affirming the brutal bigotry that is instilled within our general community.

The ideology of CRT imposes an impact on the real-life situations that occurs every day. For instance, by now it is not distressing how the depictions of thinking that having white skin instantly has more benefits and perceived as being more appealing to the eyes. Hence, CRT interestingly questions racist discourse more like it essentially deals with how the concept of racism can wrongly act on finding out an individual's identity and purpose in the nation. Moreover, identity is a significant subject consisting in the novel because as soon as the plot follows, Ifemelu as well as Obinze starts evolving and figuring out their purpose and then discovering their value in their life and existence right after arriving into a dissimilar setting. In fact, due to their slightly extraordinary circumstances which result in a way of life as an individual is inseparably connected to racial along with public personality which belongs to both of these chief characters in fact.

3.4 Postcolonial Theory

In *Americanah*, Adichie utilizes the intensity of correspondence of the conventional artistic structure to reprimand Western norms and generalizations about Africa. Adichie investigates the various societies of the United States, England and Nigeria from an African viewpoint, recognizing the Western culture as the other. *Americanah* raises issues of race tribal orientation and migration just as language and writing to clarify. *Americanah* involves with numerous countries which contribute to the notion of how the concept of racism arises within each and every setting where the protagonist is situated. As a matter of fact, *Americanah* raises issues of race, discrimination and movement just as language and writing in detail. Adichie's work speaks to the postcolonial power in another viewpoint, in which the individual stifles generalizations and gains a sovereign spot in contemporary writing within the English language. Generally, African literary works are written by authors portraying novels through the perspective of their

own racial encounters as well as experiences as they perceive their surroundings when they observe how people of color are being subjugated along with being racially degraded.

Chapter 4: Textual Analysis

Americanah by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

- How does the setting in the novel impact the main character?
- What sort of important message is the author Adichie trying to reveal to the readers? Is she attempting to make everyone take pride in their own nation? Why does the main character Ifemelu struggle to maintain her traditional beliefs?

I will be thoroughly researching Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's novel *Americanah* on how she uncovers a planning of outstanding development of prominent racial strains through the perspective of how the western contradictions effect the survival of the immigrants within the western countries. Ifemelu who is the protagonist of the novel *Americanah* has been treated unfairly when she has arrived in the United States from Nigeria. As a matter of fact, exceptionally the country Nigeria has encountered innumerable adverse representations within the worldwide medias in detail. Adichie claimed by stating "I came from a country where race was not an issue; I did not think of myself as black and I only became black when I came to America." This sort of phrase is always agonizing and can be traumatic to hear because it can mentally mutilate a person's self-esteem. In fact, Ifemelu was still not able to eliminate the psychological loss of her own ethnic traditional value by getting rid of the preferred American accent along with keeping her Nigerian sense of style to herself despite all of the chaos. It is distressing to come to realize that a person of color will be regarded as a different human being

all the time. Adichie uses these phrases to portray the difficulties African ethnicities are forced to go through in variation as well as assimilation measures that took place. At the same time, by reading the novel *Americanah*, readers come to this understanding that as human beings we should never forget which country we are originally from. Generally, people move to the United States for the enhancement of their daily lives by permanently residing in a better country along with applying for a citizenship so that they can benefit substantially from being an American citizen, however, despite all the hassle and difficulty that Ifemelu went through, she was still able to find victory there but she was being identified as an outsider, she could not endure the fact that she was not feeling like a Nigerian human being.

When individuals migrate to a foreign country, at first, they are astonished due to perceiving massive cultural differences apart from their own traditions. When people move to a different country in hopes of receiving a better education and life, they decide to change their whole look and appearance in order to better fit into the countries preferred level and standard. For instance, the individuals will stop wearing their traditional outfits and instead wear more western clothes, try to change and imitate the preferred accent which is given more importance. Even though, definitely there are people who attempt to maintain their culture and tradition despite living in a foreign country, unfortunately there are also people who no longer believes in preserving their traditions and can become too 'westernized' or in numerous cases 'Americanized' along the way. In fact, this is how was I anticipating the author in novel *Americanah* was attempting to convey a significant message to depict when Ifemelu was shocked and troubled to find out the reality about how western influences can generate individuals to alter their appearance according to what is preferred within the foreign nation. However, Ifemelu was indeed capable of not thinking or caring about what advices people had to provide her for changing her physical

appearances. Above all she was academically a good student and desired for more knowledge and accomplishments. By all means, Ifemelu takes pride in her heritage and she wants to happily identify herself as a true Nigerian woman. The valuable effect of the writing of *Americanah* has on the reader will urge themselves to take pride and gratification for their own nation and make sure to pass it down from generations. Additionally, the novel is trying to depict how a simple, normal human being can be viewed as a totally different person. The novel recounts the narrative of Ifemelu, a lively innocent human being with solid feelings along with her high school special friend who is known as Obinze who also happens to be growing up with glorified thoughts and ideas belonging from the west.

4.1 Racial Discrimination

Being subjected to immense racial intolerance as well as discrimination, Adichie starts to utilize her powerful strength as an author, more like the feeling and emotion of separation felt by the two characters in two nations with entirely various chronicles as well as class structures. Moreover, she has a phenomenal view for the persuasive subtlety of social association inside of a specific liberal world class, she ensures that the reader can relate themselves with actual lives of the characters to theirs. For instance, I have lived aboard for a couple of years and I can sort of relate myself with the main character Ifemelu about the cultural shock that was getting to her and how astonishing everything was occurring to her all of a sudden.

□ *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe

- What is the perspective of the author and how does he portray the viewpoint to the knowledge of the reader's comprehension of the clashing societies between the Igbo community and the Christian missionaries?

- The novel is organized into three sections accordingly. How does each plot deliberate about the phases of daily struggle by the main character? How does the categories push toward as well as outline the breakdown of the Igbo community?
- How does the Igbo society react and deal when the Christian missionaries arrive at their community?

In 1959, Chinua Achebe issued the novel *Things Fall Apart* as reaction to books, for instance, Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness* which happens to view Africa in a primitive stage and how only the representation of someone mostly comes from how the Europeans view other people. As a matter of fact, Achebe needed this novel so that he was able to react to artistically challenge the misrepresentations of Africa by European writers. Moreover, authors know that literary works often tend to make the readers relate their everyday struggle and how they can deal with it. The notion of literary work is that it has been written due to how the author has experienced difficult distress or disturbance such as racism as well as discrimination throughout his life (Nzeng 2).

Generally, literary work is a portrayal of the community and how it contributes to a better understanding of the social circumstances during a specific duration. In addition, usually novels are more focused on how the normal individuals and how they deal with their daily issues in the societies where they attempt to find out their true identity. This type of daily conflict can be seen in the novel *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe. Similarly, Achebe also wants to demonstrate how the white Europeans portrayed a negative image about the Africans by mentioning them as backward and unsophisticated, it is also known that before the emergence of African writers, the Europeans would mainly write about the African culture in order to humiliate and degrade their entity (Nzeng 3).

Literary work is a true depiction of the real life that we encounter every single day. Upon the arrival of the white missionaries to the village of Umuofia, as a matter of fact, the Igbo community did gain some major benefits yet, the Ibo people had to face severe, threatening obstacles which seemed to be immensely dissonant. For instance, the protagonist Okonkwo had an immense fear and detested the European missionaries when they wanted to take over the nation of Nigeria. Such as in this quote Okonkwo was worried that he will not be able to become successful, being mistaken for being too concerned and thoughtful, end up becoming like a weak person like his father as stated “Perhaps down in his heart Okonkwo was not a cruel man. But his whole life was dominated by fear, the fear of failure and of weakness. Additionally, there were several African traditions throughout the nation, but the most essential tradition was the Igbo customs. It was deeper and more intimate than the fear of evil and capricious gods and of magic, the fear of the forest, and of the forces of nature, malevolent, red in tooth and claw. Okonkwo’s fear was greater than these. It was not external but lay deep within himself. It was the fear of himself, lest he should be found to resemble his father.” Along these lines, scholarly work is the impression of the reality. It can depict the occasions in our day to day existence, and furthermore can contain the social and social foundation which demonstrates that writing and society is firmly related on the grounds that abstract works which communicates the genuine circumstances and issues existing in the public arena. Some of social issues, for example, neediness, racial orientation, segregation and class strife frequently happens in artistic works, particularly in a novel.

4.1.1 Oppression and Domination

With the arrival of the white European Christian missionaries in Umuofia, a major change started to take place among the Igbo people. However, the Igbo society is not perfect, it

obviously has its flaws and weakness which did not fail to point out by Achebe because what makes him immensely special is that he will not only put emphasis on the nation's positive elements but he also indicate on the negative aspects as well. For instance, in this quote " "The white man is very clever. He came quietly and peaceably with his religion. We were amused at his foolishness and allowed him to stay. Now he has won our brothers, and our clan can no longer act like one. He has put a knife on the things that held us together and we have fallen apart" (Achebe, chapter 2). The intention of the missionaries was to take over the land of Umuofia because they think the Nigerians are immensely fragile and taught to consider themselves as not being valuable and worthy. They most likely thought that they will have it easy and convenient with the aim of colonizing the Igbo people with no hassle. Additionally, the reasons why the Igbo customs were at its degrading state is demonstrated within the course of the threatening incidents occurring in every series. There are several hints in the novel *Things Fall Apart* where it will be easy for the reader to instantly take up on the fact that the Igbo people would perpetually believe on inherited faith as well as reliance. This is the reason why the Igbo people were immensely concerned after the emergence of the white missionaries and they were in opposition when they found out that the missionaries will start to dominate through coerce and bring in changes such as new religion, languages, schools which caused chaos among the community. The Igbo people were hesitating to get an education and start to read and write since it was introduced especially by the missionaries. The Igbo had a profound fear of change because their own traditions is what makes them stand out and makes them unique. Right after Okonkwo's death, their nation's culture started disappearing and the true meaning of cultural loss was making sense to everyone at last. It was the Igbo's ignorance who let the British missionaries take over and impose rules over them. Achebe wanted to contrast the current

situation after the missionary's invasion in Nigeria with the way life was before the conquering happened. As a matter of fact, by now it is evident that just as one individual lost his own identity which contributed to the whole nation letting go of their customs. However, unfortunately, when the protagonist Okonkwo decides to end his life despite knowing that his way of death will not be honored since it was a suicide which was something unaccepted and considered ethically and morally wrong within the Igbo community, yet he decided to commit this dissolute act. He thought that he failed at maintaining his honorable title and neither the divine beings nor the Igbo society would perceive something such as suicide a kind of oblation because suicide is strongly prohibited within the Igbo community. Moreover, Okonkwo noticed that he has been of no use to the Igbo people and their goddess Ani accordingly.

4.1.2 The Significance of Recognition

The concept of racism along with discrimination has been known to cause conflicts and disagreements among the people of color along with white people. White individuals are more privileged, have more rights and advantages than black people. It is not astonishing to find out the news or social medias where the black individuals or societies have been punished or even worse murdered just for a small mistake in reality. However, not a lot of emphasis has been put on the fact that immigrants have significantly improved the way of living of the American's convenience along with their benefited lifestyle within the community. Bhugra along with Becker (2005) pointed out on the element that an immigrant will most likely be regarded as an outsider by the westerners and will not be entirely accommodating and cooperative if they notice a newcomer being perplexed around their surroundings and this is how the immigrants may start to feel unambitious. Similarly, in *Americanah* Adichie precisely uses technique to portray to her audience of how strenuously challenging it was for inhabitants to cope up in a setting where all

people do is judge with biased and racist thoughts and assumptions. Moreover, the author sets the complex incident in a setting where it involves the modern day western counterparts such as America, United Kingdom since the concept of discrimination will be more easier to pick up on, besides the novel is on a mission to test the negative impression of the African foreigners by the westerners as well as examining western preferred set of standards of the aspects of social osmosis along with supernatural development of self.

As a matter of fact, not only do the African Americans who are citizens of the United States by birth get treated unfairly but also black people from other African countries such as Nigeria, Kenya, Ghana, Ethiopia also often get discriminated severely. Similarly, black population are being deprived of encountering dreams where they can further go ahead in life as well as become successful and desire for a better life, unfortunately has been wrecked all throughout their lives. Besides, Adichie precisely chose a location which is Nigeria, the stereotyped country which was in the hands of the colonizers and was enormously immersed within their customs, involving political disturbance along with economic unpredictability. At the same time, their authentic and veracious identity is also being taken away and being replaced with disregard and disdain. In the novel *Americanah*, the essence and aspect of legitimacy can hardly be seen due to the notion of white privilege being emboldened who gets more priority in the society. In addition, this ordinance creates inequality between the white and black counterparts leading to an immensely relentless riot which will cause innumerable public disturbance, for instance, the white people assuming that anyone who is of African descent is spontaneously backward, undeveloped, have poor knowledge and skills while communicating in English. When the protagonist Ifemelu had no choice but to change her appearance due to her work's requirement, as in, to look more professional in the workplace she could not accept the

fact that she is being transform into America's favored standard of impressiveness. Habitually, Ifemelu would always braid her hair back in her home in Nigeria, her hair would represent her identity and personality and keep herself content. This is how gradually the essence of hope is being diminished quickly depending on the particular setting.

On the contrary, when Ifemelu had to find a job in America, she was recommended to get her hair straightened and change her Nigerian accent into an American tone in order to look more professional. Ifemelu and Obinze can be regarded as a diaspora because they have the experience of moving from one country to another and figure out what type of obstacle they will be faced with in each setting and how they are dealing with the matter. Ifemelu became emotionally unstable and felt guilty within herself for altering her demeanor gradually. Moreover, the location of Nigeria is submerged within the traditional and political estate. This is the reason why the characters' lives get complicated throughout the novel due to the political chaos being interfered among their situations. Usually, people take pride and honor in their own nationality; it is something that defines their culture and tradition as a virtue along with honorability and cannot be taken away no matter which foreign country they are in. Moreover, human beings who desire for a better future and opportunity takes the decision to move to a better country in order to live a comfortable life despite their love and adoration for their own home country. Subsequently, immigrants have yet to know the difficult situation they will put in, as soon as they land on a foreign nation, additionally, that is how they get attacked with cultural shock which will definitely something way too divergent as opposed to their own culture. Despite all these cultural shocks, people still take the time out of their day to celebrate their tradition along with their families and friends just so they can still feel their hometown within their element. As

yet, they will still hold onto their culture and customs by following their ritual festivals and wear conventional clothes so that they can grasp and feel the atmosphere.

At the same time, cultural shock plays a significant role in this novel when the characters found out that America is not like of how they thought it to be, in contrast, they were in a complete shock and offended when caught off guard when instantly they figured out that they are being considered as an outsider. Likewise, this made Ifemelu to alter her Nigerian self and adapt better to the American lifestyle. She wanted to be part of the American culture and not feel like someone who is from a different country in general. Unfortunately, the survival chance of the black immigrant is progressively reducing within the western countries because of the intense subjugation and racial treatments made against them everywhere. Besides, the pessimistic perception regarding of the black people is that most of the time they are being viewed as a threat and vicious to the society (Amonyeze). It is true when people say that people do become Americanized when they move to the United States. All through the seventeenth and eighteenth hundreds of years, impoverished individuals from Africa without reluctance were abducted from the mainland of Africa and then forcefully constrained into overpowering along with subjugation within the American settlements.

Even though, Ifemelu took the commitment by making herself some new American friends discovering latest experiences, she still does not forget to preserve her traditional credence. People did take the time to appreciate Ifemelu's English speaking with an American accent and how are racial blog started to get numerous recognition which expanded her self-worth. Nevertheless, the characters in the novel *Americanah* wanted to portray their true authentic self to everyone despite being heavily judged and criticized by almost everyone.

Moreover, the identity of Africa is being degraded as well as demeaned by the European communities and they would consider themselves to be more superior and powerful.

4.1.3 Race has the Potential to Humiliate Mankind

There is a saying that all human beings are born with pure and virtuous mind, as a matter of fact, it is the definite individuals who will instill adverse as well as immoral misconception to the younger generation on how individuals should be treated based on their ethnicity and more importantly on the basis of their skin color. In contrast, ethnic diversity along with multiculturalism has its own means of tradition and culture, it does not represent how other individuals' opinions or point of view will signify anything crucial. In like manner, in the novel *Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, the main protagonist Ifemelu had been faced with immense amount of racism which made her lose numerous opportunities that she was eligible for in particular. In addition, the Africans started using the colonizers language which was English in order to better explain themselves and receive more recognition.

Most compelling evidence is that when Aunt Uju also known as Ifemelu's aunt wanted to stay far away as much as possible from the white privileged Americans because she started to build an impression along with a perception that she knows that the African people are not appreciated as well as valued due to their ethnicity. In other words, there are also several other cases in the novel where the white people could not tolerate of their class having black students in the same room as them. Moreover, there was an incident when Laura was speaking in an unacceptable manner about her Ugandan classmate correspondingly. Above all, Ifemelu contemplates as if all her dreams are being destroyed one by one within a few seconds completely, she feels defeated as well as discouraged within her mind. On the contrary, there is an apparent difference between the black Americans and the black non-Americans which can be

astonishing to understand for the first time conversely. As an illustration, communities often confuse the two different terms all the time when they are attempting to distinguish among the various group of ethnic people in general. In the long run, the biased judgement will be faced by the color of people's darker complexion. This is the reason why the Africans started to submerge themselves within the aspects of English reading and writing and ignoring the Igbo's alphabets such as even the Igbo people are no longer capable of writing in Igbo language properly.

4.1.4 The ferocious Effort of Preserving their Customs

Individuals all around the world carries pride as well as dignity along with them. As a matter of fact, it is not a misconception that each and every individual wants the best for their own country. This is how people in societies get together during their traditional and cultural festivals and celebrate it with happiness and joy. Moreover, elders and parents teach their children the essence and value of traditional festivals along with why it is exceptionally important to celebrate so that their parents can pass it on from one generation to another. At the same time, it will become an enormous nightmare or disaster, if suppose, someone from another nation comes in and claims that people should not celebrate their tradition and culture and should refrain from passing onto the next generation. Regardless, this type of incident is exactly what happened with the Ibo people in the Nigerian village in the novel *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe. Moreover, Achebe also gives a glimpse of how the nation of Umuofia will turn out to be like exclusively relying on the base that if somehow the white missionaries are victorious in taking full leadership of the citizens of Umuofia.

It was inevitable to assume that the notion of cultural conflict was bound to occur due to emergence of the European Christian missionaries unfortunately, the Ibo people had to give up

their traditional belief and create space for the western domination, in addition, the Ibo people had to witness the destruction of their culture tearing down. Likewise, the Africans were in total neglect of the viewpoints which the Europeans consisted, and they could not tolerate the attitude and the way they handled the manliness of their attitude (Adegbite, 2016). The post-colonial novel *Things Fall Apart* focuses chiefly on how man plays the role of masculinity. There are several male characters who signify how they should contribute to the development of their domain. Additionally, it also focuses on how well each of the characters communicate with other and how their cultural system are being manipulated and reversed by the Europeans (Adegbite,2016).

The constant struggle between the eagerness to preserve the societies traditions as well as culture raised starts when the Christian missionaries went to the hometown of Okonkwo who is the protagonist of the novel *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe. In fact, the plot of the novel gets even more intense when the characters were about to realize what sort of change their village will be going through. As a matter of fact, the anxiety in which the characters were going through was exceedingly adverse as well as unfortunate. By all means they had no precise option to have the privilege and power to stop the missionaries from invading their domain. Indeed, a virtuous change would not be that complex in order to further enhance and improve their village since the missionaries offered to build institutional buildings, for instance, school, churches, offices and many other benefits but in return, the missionaries wants the Nigerians domain to themselves and use it unfortunately. There are many essential characters in this novel who has a positive influence in shaping the Nigerian society. In addition, even the educated Nigerians started forgetting their own language and instead depended on using more of the English language.

4.1.5 Inclination for More Robustness

In addition, Okonkwo who is the main character of this novel, he is a very powerful and strong person. He has numerous ambitions as well as goals to achieve in order to bring in improvements and advancements to his country. The reason why he is exceedingly motivated to achieve success in his life because he has seen and observed of how much of an incapacitated, inactive and indolent person his father was during his childhood. His father was not able to achieve anything in his life and he was not able to feed his family members properly. This is the reason why Okonkwo had deep hatred towards his own father, furthermore, he did notice how his father had no desire to improve his life as well as think about the future of his children. According to Okonkwo, acting like indolent as well as loafing means it is considered to be feminine along with being delicate which is not what Okonkwo wants to be referred to or known as unlike his father whose name is Unoka. At this instant, he wanted to demonstrate his masculinity as well as his toughness to the society. On the other hand, Okonkwo along with his son named Nwoye additionally represent conventions as well as changes along with admiration. After all, Okonkwo's character speaks to custom, as long as he grasps customary thoughts of rank, notoriety along with manliness in top regard indeed.

In general, Achebe wanted to represent and convey to his audience through a significant message that he wants to give out that the Ibo people were excessively desperate as well as inspired to maintain their culture and tradition. In addition, the Ibo people who are also known as the Nigerians living in their village, were able to seek for justice and peace through determined actions (Rhoads, 2014). They were able to successfully accomplish tremendous amounts of achievements which a lot of people strive to dream for. By all means, Okonkwo and Nwoye are the reasons why the Ibo people were to witness such a massive change within their nation. For

this reason, Okonkwo was not in good terms with his son regarding their relationship. Nwoye wants to live peacefully along with having the freedom to do what he wants but his father is always against his decisions. Even so, Nwoye's behavior and attitude is more like his grandfather known as Unoka who is also envied by his son Okonkwo.

Nwoye was severely mistreated by his own father immensely due to their disagreements. However, all of it changed when Ikemefuna appeared into their conflicting life. Ikemefuna taught Nwoye the truth and authentic meaning of life with a different approach. Since, male characters are more prone to be portrayed as the fearless, masculine, epitome to their nation, this is the reason why Nwoye went into dispute with Okonkwo who wanted him to be the embodiment of competency.

4.1.6 Modified Identity in Another Nation

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's central starting point of writing the novel *Americanah* is because of the unusual gesture that she has received when she was living in America after she moved out of Nigeria, additionally, she had to leave her genuine ethnicity and background behind her which was pessimistic for her to deal with. In fact, the prominent novel *Americanah* is her previously broadened research that manages the multifaceted nature of being a Nigerian in the United States as well as a prevailing with significant regards with additionally to featuring bigotry as a bristly social concern in the course of the inventive utilization of online journals accordingly. As a matter of fact, in a brief timeframe the notable novel has successfully picked up wide praise for the basic it has set before the American understanding of the public along with how the author was brave enough to function as what she discerns is best for exhibiting her authentic identity to her audience. For one thing is that, by the incorporation to these

subjugations are the new flow of movement which have prompted transnational encounters of distortions that once colonized individuals are confronted with, along with which they need to manage to certify or possibly shape new characters.

In reality, we live in a world where our life has been consisting in a state of worldwide multinational situation, this is the reason why our society is in a condition where the limit of countries converges for the sake of monetary turn of events comparatively and with the idea of human beings not hesitating to shift to any place they want on this resistant earth, by all means getting equivalent reception appears to be ordinary and unsurprising. Furthermore, it is regarded to be unfair and discriminatory to be treated individuals adversely according to base on their nationality but unfortunately this sort of biased behaving towards certain people is still prevalent all around the world which yet has no acknowledgment. In particular, predominantly for black inhabitants residing in a domain accumulated with white community such as the U.S. where the way toward turning into subject incorporates the refinement as well as the enhancement of a basic apprehension dealing with social qualities together with rudimentary standards, seeing as how their world is framed into common notions by way of inequity in addition to dejected bigotry (Reuter, 2).

Together with race is a topic that is immensely controversial as well as debatable, yet it leaves people with resentment and frustration that has been keeping people from getting along delightfully. It is equally important to realize that in the course of the American perspective's community, the notion of race has been portrayed that each domain has divergent types of people who come from distinct ethnicities and background and how the role of race varies among each counterpart. At the same time in the novel *Americanah*, the author depicts how each and every character are being affected through the occurrence of racism and how it took a turn in their lives

along with how their identity was being taken away by the foreign force. Moreover, in the long run race is perceived as a misconception that is passed around from one person to another through the means of communication. This can lead to thinking black people as a threat, appalling and displeasing. In general, there is no denying that darker people are considered twice as more likely to acquire menaces, appraised as more repulsive in opposition to their white counterparts. Throughout the perspective of the protagonist Ifemelu, the author was victorious in representing the prejudiced starting point of the racial confrontation that is being tolerated by the black individuals.

4.2 The Reality of the American Dream

In particular the protagonist of the novel who is known as Ifemelu was always dreaming for a better future, in fact, she imagined in her head of how she portrayed America to be like. For instance, she was longing for the renowned aspiration which is commonly stated as ‘‘American dream’’ which almost everyone desires for. Ifemelu had to encounter different sorts of people in her daily life which she would keep a record in her blog that she would write on. One of the notes in her blog, she stated that ‘‘In America you don’t get to decide what race you are. It is decided for you.’’ This assertion made it apparent that it does not matter which ethnicity you belong to when you move to the United States as long as an individual is not white then they will be a target of racism. Another key point mentioned by Marcus and Moya is that individuals residing in the United States altogether sustain sets of thoughts as well as practices about being white, Latina dark, Asian American or rather American Indian accordingly. As has been noted, every so often, individuals effectively as well as purposefully degrade and discriminate individuals. Similarly, it gets kind of effortless when reading the novel, a reader will simply be

able to figure out how the aftermath of racism attributes to distinct kinds of disapproving frame of minds will be made towards the people of color (Meher, 570).

Ifemelu was struggling to lead a peaceful life and was feeling anxious to find out about the causes of why she was being treated immensely in an assorted manner, additionally with this in mind she has decided to preserve a record of all her daily confrontations with people in her blog accordingly. "I did not think of myself as black and I only became black when I came to America" (290) which is stated by Ifemelu when she was talking about how she was being perceived within her stay in America. This sort of treatment that she has been receiving apparently implies that it breaks the person's identity into several segments because it invalidates the Nigerian's traditions and then attempts to institute as well as establish the aspects of migration within the victim's mind by creating vague meaning of hope. Moreover, non-white people like Asians, Africans are persuaded to not permanently reside within the United States as they are considered not being worthy and not permit them to possess any sort of land and valuables. As a matter of fact, it is unfortunate to take in the fact that the country she was dreaming about and hoping for attaining a better future for herself has turned out to be a torment and affliction for her, furthermore it is despairing to acknowledge that she only felt secure and cautious in her own country. On the other hand, Obinze was always interested in foreign books like the American literature ones and started getting obsessed with them. He always had a desire for American lifestyle, and he would constantly visualize himself within American outlooks but unfortunately, he could not visit there since his visa application was not approved. In like manner, When Ifemelu got her first occupation, later on, she had to meet up with an affluent white lady who has hired Ifemelu as a caregiver for her kids. As both of them were catching up, talking about all of the details about their lives in reality, Ifemelu did not like the way of how the

lady was behaving towards her, rather she felt different. Additionally, she noticed that she was perceived as someone who is not ordinary or usual but rather someone who belong from an exotic whereabouts (Meher, 571).

As a matter of fact, Ifemelu's recruiter who is known as Katherine, regrettably behaves in a distinct manner with black individuals as opposed to white individuals who she considers to be the typical measure. The novel progresses with further aspects of white people being deliberately involved within the factors of how the black people are being handled within the unfair mistreatments. Then again, Ifemelu ended up dating a man who had more interest in dating a foreign woman, as in, someone who belongs to a different race, which is someone other than his own white ethnicity because he has previously been in a relationship with Japanese, Venezuelan women. On the other hand, Ifemelu's partner appreciated her the way she truly represented herself to everyone, in fact, he was opposed to Ifemelu changing her overall appearance just so that she can fit in into the preferred society and he even went further in order to search a job for her. However, despite Ifemelu had acquired the job somewhat easily, compared to her other black friends who regrettably did not have it that simple and easy when they were searching for jobs in spite of attempting with immense effort. The main reason why Ifemelu had it effortless is because of her white boyfriend's privilege and influence. On the condition that her boyfriend Curt organized the job for her which is why the application process was immensely easier and went smoothly, but suppose if it was Ifemelu herself who applied for the job recruitment, then the situation would be totally different, since within the United States, the prominent concept of white entitlement as well as privilege is steadily emphasized.

For one thing Ifemelu faced tremendous amount of racism to the point it turned out intolerable for her, for instance, when she goes to a restaurant with Curt, then Ifemelu is the one

who is being regarded as a ‘nobody’ along with being ignored rapidly. This sort of prejudiced and inequitable behavior towards her, even made Curt menace and get angry towards the store owners for their unequal attitude. In other words, there are situations in where Curt does not really get the hint of the topic of racism is being raised and about to take a turn, but he tries his best to keep the notion of racial barriers at minimal pace. This is what inspired Ifemelu to keep note in her journal where she has stated ‘ ‘What Academics Mean By White Privilege, or Yes It Sucks to be Poor and White but Try Being Poor and Non-White”: “...that is exactly what white privilege is. Race doesn’t really exist for you because it has never been a barrier” (346). She wanted to depict about the struggle of how she was always the subject of being harshly criticized for her ethnicity and how people differentiate between black and white people (Meher, 572).

4.2.1 Inequitable Viewpoint

As a result of Ifemelu’s prolongation of writing blogs and journal about her daily encounters with racial intolerance and bigotry, after a while, her journals commenced to receive massive recognition from all around the world. In addition, she did not forget to mention the fact that the notion of racism is something that has been initiated by within peoples made up judgements. When Ifemelu went to a University in order to get admitted there, then after a while she was handed with numerous forms and the person who gave her the forms happened to be a white lady known as Cristina Tomas who immediately changed the way she was speaking into a different style as soon as she saw Ifemelu. At first Ifemelu did not really get the hint of why Cristina’s method of speaking was somewhat different abruptly, but later on, Ifemelu realized that she has assumed that Ifemelu is unable to speak in English. As a matter of fact, Cristina even went further almost as she wanted to humiliate Ifemelu by speaking to her like someone would do to a child. Little by little, this is how Ifemelu’s self-esteem started deteriorating and her

identity and personality became lowered and aggravated as much as it did to Aunt Uju. Usually, Ifemelu feels isolated all the time unless she is surrounded by African students, also she notices precisely of how they behave within the particular situations.

Much the same as Ifemelu who is viewed as the female hero of the novel, who has no fear to speak up for the truth and for her deserved rights had numerous people praising for her boldness. After all, Adichie left Nigeria and then arrived at the United States at a very young age in the hope of receiving a better education accordingly. Above all, as Ifemelu's life story was inspired from the aspects of Adichie's experiences, in fact, this is when Adichie started to realize and figure out the root cause of the elements of racism as well as perhaps the essential signs for discrimination which was unfortunately her specific type of physical features and darker skin just when she went to America. By all means, the way Ifemelu has been a victim of not being able to fit into the America's standard of beauty is beyond phenomenal because each and every time a kind of human being has their own unique features which makes them stand out. In a prevalent manner, there is no denying that usually women are more prone to being judged based on their looks and how they represent themselves to the society as opposed to men. To demonstrate, African women are also more coerced to look a certain type of way and consist the determination to make each and every endeavor to contribute substantially as the society wants them to efficiently (Dasi, 141).

4.2.2 Prejudiced Treatment

In reality even in present time, black individuals are facing increasing amount of retaliations as well as repercussions daily without having a proper form of equity even the police officers are twice as likely to accuse a black person for any sort of crime they are being presumed of. Most people view the color black as a threat and danger being imposed on them.

For instance, a few months ago, a black male was killed right on the spot for using a fake bill, but on the other hand, a white male also used a fake bill but rather he was only given a few days in jail then bailed out. Hence, this is how the concept of equality works in America. At the same time since white people hold the most privilege then the black human beings, this is the reason why white charm along with beauty is highly emphasized such as having straight hair, lighter skin is regarded to consist more admiring and pleasant to look at as opposed to having black people's feature such as braided hair, darker skin and many more for the most part targeted towards the Africans. It is apparent in the novel *Americanah* that black individuals are not respected with approval and praise in fact, they are being strenuously encouraged to extinguish their original identity and transform themselves into the preferred as well as accepted form of beauty significantly. However, on the positive side the aim of the African women is to fight for their identity back by making a change so that they are capable for preserving and maintaining their culture and tradition so that can at least sustain some of traditions which is still left since they have a very high chance of being manipulated into becoming westernized through outside influences. Another key point is that each and every one of these critical problems fall inside the space of the prevalent postcolonial disapproval which specifically attempts to which the communications that advance racial resistances and investigate the chance of having the precise remaking the first personalities of the underestimated gatherings (Dasi, 142).

4.2.3 Constant Battle in Search of Preserving the Identity

All throughout the centuries, Africa has been portrayed as a continent where life is regarded as going in reverse mode, African people are viewed as unsophisticated and impoverished because they do not consist of having the knowledge as well as education to move ahead in their

everyday life. Back in the day, when immense number of African writers are still making a name of themselves to get recognition around the world, many non-black, foreign writers were representing the lifestyle of the African people in an imprecise, inaccurate way. In like manner, these sort of misleading information along with invalid stereotypes were being expanded and broadened all over the outlets which aggrieved the notable novelist Chinua Achebe whose main goal was to encourage and motivate the other rising contemporary African writers since they were kind of hesitant to speak up for their mind correspondingly. On the contrary, African people are meant to think of themselves as being unworthy and ineffectual since they are not accepted by the general public as a respectable human being.

Okonkwo is the eminent protagonist of the remarkable novel *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe has been persistently faced with brutal obstacles right after the emergence of the white Christian missionaries to the domain of Umuofia. In other words, Okonkwo has this fear instilled within his mind that he will not be able to preserve the tradition as well as the customs of the Umuofia as he promised to everyone since he always has this vigorous determination in his cognition that he might not able to fight for his nation's emancipation till his last breath of air. He was aggrieved by the fact that when he found out that his native land will be completely transformed by the command of the missionaries which made him want to eliminate them accordingly. In other words, he has this perception in his mind that he needs to aspire more to be powerful enough in order to be appraised by his community, that indeed he is robust person who has massive strength within himself to take reciprocate in opposition to the missionaries. He strived to be even more masculine and fearless when he observed how his own father was abundantly fragile and excessively weak who was struggling to look after his own family. Moreover, as Okonkwo was going through severe identity crisis, he was put in such a serious

dilemma where he was given the duty to look after a nation during his teenage years. At that age, people go through several confusing changes on top of that he was given the task of being a warrior. His self-worth is determined through the observation of his family, societies and that is how he determines his self-esteem. As a result, because of this situation he finds his identity when he figures out by himself by claiming that “this is what I want to be.” In fact, at age eighteen, Okonkwo started gaining his achieved self-confidence and started knowing his capabilities and strengths as opposed to the normal Igbo men. He was widely praised and celebrated by all of the communities complementing him for his success. He was exceedingly brilliant at what he was doing, such as he was a successful wrestler, farmer and warrior in the course of his time in detail. Hence, despite being a teenager he was able to rise to the top significantly which is obviously expected from him as he was aspired to aim for prosperous life constantly (Achebe,36). Moreover, after the Igbo people lost their traditions, they were not able to get along with the new transformed culture.

4.2.4 Conflict of Customs

The Igbo community living in the domain of Umuofia were always being encountered with difficult situations even prior to the emergence of the white Christian missionaries started to take control of their society above all in *Things Fall Apart*. Moreover, numerous Igbo people took the initiative to get rid of their customary belief of their Igbo lineage and then converted into the religion of Christianity in the course of the colonial time after the missionaries convinced them. In fact, their nation had numerous amounts of regulations as well as orders to follow earnestly. For one thing men and women had different roles within the society and had to follow the rules provided to them accordingly or else they had to encounter severe issues and disputes. For instance, the men consisting within the community had to maintain the parts of being fearless,

brave, powerful and robust, additionally they also had to prove that they can fight for the freedom of their nation. On the other hand, for women their part of task was to look after their children along with their family and educate their children wisely. Moreover, the Igbo people always relied upon Okonkwo for the hope of advancement of their nation, hence, they were also not prepared by the actions of the missionaries when they were on their plan to dominate the Igbo people. This is how the Igbo culture started to realize of how salient it was for them to protect their nation from being dominated, lose identity and now they are left with an entirely different situation.

4.2.5 Social Dissolution

The extent of the land of Umuofia started to decline and disintegrate rapidly mainly after the coming of the missionaries. As a matter of fact, the Igbo people's lives were significantly destroyed leaving them with the inefficiency to figure what is right for them. That is to say, their religion was intensely replaced by Christianity and without their permission the white missionaries constructed offices, churches, buildings and institutions rapidly on their domain. Religion is something that is an essential element within the lives of the Igbo people, they pay intense respect to their belief system and their fear was constantly rising as they were thinking that they are committing an offence to their deity. To point out, in regard to the end, Okonkwo felt immensely regretful and miserable seeing that his chief fear of becoming weak and powerless was actually heading towards to become true because of his decision to die which was considered as a debilitated act. This is how Chinua Achebe's motive to portray to his readers how inadequately the Igbo people were being managed with extreme torment, misery and suffering in the long run. The critical significance of the community's responsibility was to

rigorously secure the nation's ethnic culture by taking the initiative to forcibly dismiss the domination implemented by the white missionaries. In effect, under those circumstances, the Igbo people were in a chaotic as well as disrupted state because of all the dissonant commands left by the colonizers such as the missionaries who rapidly without any form of hesitance, took the initiative to emphasize the ideological directive they wanted to hand in to the colonized individuals. As a result, the Igbo people failed to maintain and preserve their authentic identity and ended up losing one of the most leading and well-known warriors known as Okonkwo. Even though he died fighting for the reclaiming identity of his own nation, however, his mind was filled with vast remorse and mortification within himself and he could no longer endure it. Only if the Igbo community took the initiative to forcibly eliminate the power and control of the white missionaries and if they were successful in doing so, then they could have at least saved the life of Okonkwo.

Chapter 5: Conclusion

The most distinctive elements about the protagonists Ifemelu and Okonkwo is that they both sternly take actions for what they think is not right for their own identity. In fact, identity is an aspect of how it represents a human being as a unique entity and shapes their authentic ethnicity. Besides, both of them had enormous pride and gratification for their own Nigerian identity and they did not want to lose it no matter how inconvenient it was for them to struggle and fight till they receive their desired identity. One significant aspect is that they did not take into consideration that whether they will be successful in getting back their identity or not, in fact, they just kept aiming. The characters are an example of how as a human being we should take pride and hope for our own nation and no outside influences should take it away from us as long as we keep fighting until we reach our desired victory contentment. In fact, the point of convergence of this speculation is on the thought process and point of personality emergency just as the rediscovery of the character's legitimate turn of mind in essence. Both of the Nigerian authors wanted to portray how the westerners are treating and handling the African people unfairly.

Moreover, my aim was to compare how the protagonists in the novel *Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie and *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe persistently longed for their abiding perception of bringing back their own identity back which was once forcibly attempted to be taken away by the foreign influences. Likewise, I wanted to investigate on how the two fearless and courageous protagonists known as Ifemelu from the novel *Americanah* and Okonkwo from the novel *Things Fall Apart* combated and disputed to protect and maintain their veracious identity back which was forcibly changed by the exterior influence. Both of the novel has positive and negative impact but both of the protagonist's intention were the same which was

the prolongation of their own identity in general. In the long run, Okonkwo killed himself knowing that he will not be able to defend the white missionaries making alteration in his own nation and he cannot hold back the Nigerian traditions. On the other hand, Ifemelu went back to Nigeria after thirteen long years living in U.S because she was longing for her own country which was Nigeria and she wanted to feel like an ordinary human being and not someone who is being treated differently just because of their skin complexion. All things considered, the way the Africans have been portrayed by the foreigners who took the initiative to spread false information and knowledge about the African culture and their way of living puts a negative impression on the minds of a lot of people. In fact, Africa is not that uncultivated and underdeveloped as individuals make out of it. Africa was being stereotyped by many foreign writers claiming that it is impoverished along with being unsophisticated, but this statement is not true because not all parts of Africa is poverty stricken and uncivilized.

In the novel *Americanah*, the protagonist Ifemelu was struggling to live in a country where racism and discrimination is vigorously being imposed upon innocent black individuals. By all means, Ifemelu's main intention while moving to America was the desire and longing for the advancement as well as amelioration for herself in order to further improve her future. On the other hand, little did she know that how the American life will turn out to be which was beyond her expectation. On the whole she never viewed herself as someone who is different just because of her darker skin color, she would always consider herself as a normal human being, up until she encountered the American culture which exhibited herself as a foreign as well as unfamiliar individual. America made her do countless divergent things like recommending her to alter her appearance as well as modify her accent into an American one, dress according to the American preferred standard, this is why Ifemelu was immensely aggrieved and dissatisfied with her life,

for the most part she did had no intention and preference to change her appearance just so that it will be better for her to fit into the society ideally, she was getting isolated. She had this reflection in her mind is that in order to maintain her Nigerian identity as well take actions to preserve it, she will keep her look the way it is and keep her Nigerian accent, additionally, she will not change herself for the contentment and gratification of others, in fact, she does not live to please anybody. She ended up departing from America and went back to her home country Nigeria in order to start feeling like an ordinary human being despite finding prosperity in America which she was aiming for. Moreover, only if Ifemelu was pleasantly accepted by the westerners and guided her with full respect and not racially discriminate her for ethnicity and features, but instead encouraged her to fulfill her dreams by assisting her with the further development of her education since she was a brilliant scholar then she could have contributed to something better within the American society.

In addition, in the novel *Things Fall Apart*, right after the arrival of the Christian missionaries to the domain of Umuofia, the Igbo people started to question their identity. At the same time, the protagonist Okonkwo ends up fighting for the emancipation of his country till his last days, when he realized he could no longer protect and conserve his nation. Despite knowing that suicide is form of impermissible act within the Igbo community, yet he took the consequential charge of killing himself because of the profound humiliations as well as disappointments that he had been encountering. Then again, he had commenced to realize the pessimistic outlook of the missionaries that had arrived and as soon as Okonkwo perceived them, his main intention was to murder the missionaries because he was abundantly infuriated and enraged by them. On the whole, Okonkwo did have an immense fondness and attachment towards his nation and takes on any chance possible to carefully secure the culture and tradition

of his Nigerian village community. In like manner, one important lesson that he has learned from his fragile father is that he has taught him the outcomes and consequences of not working hard enough will ultimately result to disappointments along with frustration in the future. This is the reason why Okonkwo strives for more vigor in order to become strong and powerful so that he can look after his family and community which was something his father was incapable of doing unfortunately. In fact, only if the Igbo community took the advantage of removing the arrival of the white missionaries into their domain and not incorporate themselves into the western culture thoroughly by ignoring their own, then they could have saved the powerful warrior Okonkwo and he would still be alive to preserve his nation's identity. However, after Okonkwo's unexpected demise, all of a sudden, the Igbo's tradition disappeared completely, seeing that, the Igbo people only depended on one person and desire for more opulence. As the Igbo society changed their trusted religion into a totally different religion Christianity was astonishing to comprehend since the concept of religion shapes a person's life, it teaches people to know the authentic definition of life. This is how inadequately their tradition was diminishing little by little from people's lack of caution gradually. In fact, just as Okonkwo lost his identity, people within the Igbo community had to give up and lost their customs.

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