

Hybrid Culture and Identity are Lingering Legacies of Colonialism:**A Postcolonial Study of Adichie's Half of a Yellow Sun****Umber Javed, Tahseen javed, Aneela Khalid****Pakistan****Abstract:**

The colonial power ruled the colonized world for a long period it had lifted its marks on the native society. The present paper will highlight that the hybrid culture is one of the lingering effect of the colonial rule. Adiche's second novel Half of a Yellow Sun (2006) highlights that in postcolonial society everything is hybrid. The interaction between the two opposite culture has created a new dimension in both culture where nothing is pure now. Culture is a source of identity for a nation which often destroyed by the colonial power. Colonial power in Africa destroyed the social and cultural fabric of the Africa and they replaced it with their own culture in native's land. With this assimilation there is no pure culture now in the native land. Under the colonial rule both the native and colonial power has impacted each other and the whole culture is hybrid.

Culture is a social tradition of a particular group and it is based on the unique ideas, knowledge, belief and traditions of the concerned group (Amponsah, 2010). Culture is not a common code of a group but it is a set of traditions, thoughts ,values and beliefs that are prevailing in the particular society. Culture is linked with the identity. Identity of the individual is not inherited but one gains it with its interaction to a particular culture. The uniqueness of a culture is exposed by its home, its places, its wearing styles and with its occasions. Culture gives a unique identity, ethnicity and behaviour to the individual. There is change in culture when it interacts with other societies which possess a different culture (Arowolo, 2010).

Fanon (1967) has described about the culture that it is a combination of motor and mental behaviours of the people. Such behaviours develops when one interact with the nature and human beings living around. Culture cannot be considered as a limited it includes all modes of human behaviours whether those behaviours are social or non-social. Culture even includes the impacts of technological artefacts on human beings (Abraham, 1962).

Culture is developed by those who love in that state. In colonial state culture is developed by the dominated nation. In colonized world the colonial power makes the native move both physically and culturally so that it can expend its land. With the expansion of the land the colonial power also establish a power and domination over the desired material and culture (Carstens,2006). The colonial power has a concept of superiority with them. They

consider that they have superior culture and values than the colonized world so they should have domination over the primitive colonized nation (Okoduwa & Markovitz, 2008).

The colonial process tries to dominate the native traditions and culture. With the interaction of the two cultures there is a production of a new culture which is neither the primitive nor the foreign. For this mixture of the culture the term hybridity is used. Hybridity is a process which is considered superior and privileged in the modern world because it gives the way between the two different cultures and creates a space. Hybrid process also creates the ability to negotiate between two opposite cultures (Hoogvelt, 1997). Hybrid culture gives the view that before colonization there was a pure culture. This notion about the hybrid culture ignores the flux through which a culture has to undergo. Instead of seeing how the two opposite cultures become part of each other it should be seen that how and when the old traditions are redefined according to new circumstances and situations (Smith, 2008). Colonial process in Africa has encouraged the diverse cultural experiences in the native culture and has created a cultural homogeneity in Africa. Under the colonial process African culture has become heterogeneous in language, economies, customs, traditions and beliefs (Akin and Akinwale, 2012).

Under the colonial process the native culture is transformed. Nigerian writers in their writings try to highlight the native norms and tradition in their work but the production is not the pure native nor the British culture but the culture which emerged with the interaction of the two cultures (Justin and Cauveri, 2013).

The third generation writers of Nigeria in their writing are presenting the characters which are living in the hybrid culture. They are showing that Nigeria is a hybrid state where different nations are living and they are impacting each other. Nigerian writers are trying to negotiate the issue of hybrid identity which is the result of political and social situation of the postcolonial Nigeria. There are people with multilayers having different cultural elements because they are living in a hybrid and multicultural environment (Krishnan, 2010). Nigerian writers are trying to celebrate the hybrid culture and identities (Smith, 2009).

Culture has assimilation with the language. Culture like language varied according to land. No language is universal as one speaks the language he speaks is according to the constraints and limits of that particular region and culture. In the same way culture also is formed according to the land (Sacks, 2003).

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie is the third generation writer of Nigeria. In her second novel *Half of a Yellow Sun* (2006) she has discussed the culture of Nigeria through the paradox of education, religion and language since the colonial powers have divided Nigeria. She has shown the impacts of colonization on natives in her novel.

In her novel Adichie has tried to highlight the history of Nigeria under the colonial process. Colonial power after their decolonization tried to maintain their rule over the colonized nation. Colonial power divided Nigeria into two different regions without seeing the cultural and linguistic difference of the native. The colonial power has given the education to Igbo and it has

given the authority to the Hausa and created the ethnic difference in natives for their personal benefits.

Colonial power at first introduced their language in the native land. They have the concept of superiority with them so they give the view to the natives that their language is more developed and authentic than the natives. Adichie in the novels has shown the natives are trying to speak the language of the colonial power. The educated community speaks in English instead of their native language. But Adichie has shown that though the language of colonial power has become international but it cannot convey all the experiences of Nigeria as she has used the Igbo phrases in the text. She has shown that the culture of the ad language of the Nigeria has become hybrid.

Adichie in *Half of a yellow sun* has shown that Nigeria was a unique place before the colonization and it is divided by the colonial power. She has shown in her writing that the culture of Nigeria is not hybrid of precolonial and colonial period but it is hybrid due to the interaction of two culture. Hybridity suggest that before the mixing of the two both had a pure form (Smit ,2008).

Bhabha(1994) has defined hybridity as device which can be helpful against the colonial power. Hybrid culture create a space between two fixed identities as it was in precolonial period and under colonial period. It rejects the notion that there exists a single identity as colonial power defines. In colonized world the identity of the individual is not monolithic but it is hybrid because in colonized world there is interaction of the two culture of the colonizer and colonized.

Adichie's *Half of a yellow sun* shows that the characters are living in a hybrid culture. She has discussed the culture and identity which is the product of the colonial process. In the novel she has shown that in postcolonial society the natives are trying to create assimilation between the both cultures. She has shown the lives anxieties and laid the emphasis on globalization. Adichie has shown that the hybrids are supposed to strive under the globalization process which is an imperialistic policy of the colonial power.

Under the colonization process all cultures has become interlinked. In postcolonial society all culture are overlapping each other and there is no possibility to move back to the primitive native culture. Adichie has highlighted the confusions of hybrid personality. She has shown that in in hybrid culture nothing is pure(Dhobi 2013).

Siad (1993) in Culture and Imperialism has stated that the colonial power has dominated the world for their own profit. Colonial power colonized the native and tried to transform the culture of native. Under this process of colonization all cultural practices have become intertwined and interlinked. Adichie has stated that colonial power has not only impacted the natives, natives have also influence on colonial master. If the colonial power has given something to the colonized, colonized nation has also impacted the culture and values of the colonial power. Result of this interaction of colonized and colonizer is a production of hybrid culture where nothing is pure and it cannot be reversed.

In Half of a Yellow Sun it has be presented that the culture which is ruling Nigeria is neither the culture of colonial power and nor that of colonized. Adichie has presented that the characters are living in the hybrid culture. And this hybrid culture is giving the domination to colonial power. Characters are living in third world space which is different from the primitive native culture and traditions. Adichie in the novel has introduced the different type of people who are living together and all of them are sharing their cultural values. Nigeria is a hybrid land as she has presented in the novel that the friends of Odenigbo are not only the natives but there are professor from India. America and they all discuss the politic of the whole world not only of the Nigeria. Imperial power has introduced the term of globalization for this Hybrid culture where nothing is pure. Under the wave of globalization character are discussing the whole universe as Miss Adebayo, a Yoruba, talks about the policy of French ambassador and expresses her view that they should not use their atomic weapon in Algeria.

Culture is not static it has the flexibility towards the change. Culture develops systematically. With the passage of time there is a development in customs, habits and everyday life of nation. Culture of a nation develops when it interacts a with other nations culture. Culture develops with the transformation of knowledge. Culture is an organizer of the society, politics, religion and law. But the social contrast in a society leads towards the formation of new culture. With an interaction to a powerful culture there is a change in the native cultural values (David, 1997).

The culture of Nigeria is mixed. The characters Adichie depicted shows that the culture of Nigeria is no more pure. The native character are trying to follow the traditions and cultural values of colonial power along with their native traditions and whites are also having influences of the natives as Adichie has presented the character of Richard. Adichie has shown this impact in the house of Richard as Richard gives the values to the foreign food and feel the pleasure in making foreign. He in a conversation with Kainene says that "I am cooking any type of European food, anything my master is eating in his country"(p,255). Richard is the reverse as he gives preference to native food and tradition.

In postcolonial situation there is no specific difference in culture of different nations. Adichie has highlighted that in postcolonial Nigeria there is no difference of culture as the gust in the house of Odenigbo are served with the cola nut along with imported beer and cock. In past their was separate tradition of a nation with their specific values but now nothing is separated each culture is integrated with the other cultural values. Ugwu makes the comparison between two cultures of Nigeria as he enters in Nussaka. He sees that the house of Odenigbo is filled with all those things that are introduce by the colonial power in native culture and he thinks about his family and house where everything is primitive.

Under colonization there is a change in the native thoughts and values. As the intellectual community in Odenigbo, house discusses the music they give the view that there is

no border for music but the difference of culture in different location creates the difference in music. Odenigbo a more patriot character is hybrid as he is having the life style of colonial power and he expresses his love for the western classical music.

In Nigeria there were three hundred ethnic seats that were living together when the colonial power left Nigeria. Adichie has presented that they all are living together and they are sharing their cultural values with each other. she has presented that despite of difference in religion the Igbo Christian and Hausa Muslims were living together before the war. Olanna goes to meet her uncle at Kano she finds that the Hausa and Muslims are discussing about their land with each other. Even the Hausa Muslim friend of Olanna's uncle invites her at the dinner and offers her a gift. Olanna's ex-boyfriend was also a Hausa Muslim.

The cultural values of natives are changed. Natives are trying to follow both the traditions. Muhammad offers Olanna wine when she goes to meet him though Olanna expresses surprise at the availability of alcohol in the house of a Muslim. Adichie has shown the influence on the culture of the native that they are having a different culture now. There is difference in natives some have accepted the foreign culture and has integrated it with their own cultural values while the others are unable to follow these values. Ugwu mother and the mother of Master both shows the values of old people. They do not feel comfortable in the house of master as it is based on the pattern of the colonial power. Ugwu's mother was brought to the house of master when she has a chest burning diseases and she does not feel comfortable in the house of Odenigbo and complain about the smell of tooth paste.

Colonial power has not only impacted the natives but the natives have also impacted the colonial culture. Adichie in the novel has introduce a white man who is living in Nigeria. Richard is a white man but he does not show the attitude of a white man of the past. He does not express a sign of superiority as the whites have done in the period of colonization. Richard is a hybrid white man in nigeria. He loves the native art and express the love for native tradtion and culture. He informs Kainene that he loves the native Ukwu art and confrm that this art was introduced by the natives in nine century but in twentieth century colonial power excavated this art. Richard feels comfortable in the company of Kainene because she is different for her white girlfriend and in the war situation he calls her his fiancé.

Adichie has presented that the whites are taking interest in local beliefs and traditions. Richard exprsses his desire to use the herb when he was unable to has a satisfied relationship with Kainene. Natives try to follow the view and pattern of the white man. When Ugwu's mother was not fine master took her to the hospital for medical treatment as the colonial power has given them the concept in the same way Richard has got the concept that herb can be more affective then the medicine though his native servant advices hin to take medicine instead of using herb.

In past colonial power has taken interest in the native culture and tradition for their benefit. With their authoritative voice they presented the colonized nation according their view without seeing the reality. By living with the natives the views of the colonial power is changed now. Adichie has shown that the whites are trying to take the interest in native art and they want to represent in the world. Adichie through the character of the Richard has shown that the whites are trying to write about the native cultural values. Richard takes interest in the native festival. He is a product of the hybrid culture. When the natives are facing the war situation Richard a white man supports the natives. He writes about the true situation of the white and tries to convince the world about the situation of the natives. Richard enjoys the native Pepper soup and enjoys and often asks Harison to make the native food. Richard expresses love for native nigerian people and says that he has accepted the heritage of the colonial period.

Richard considers himself like the natives as he is there with them. He express his love for Kainene often calls her Fiancé and in war situation calls her his wife. Colonial power has given natives their language. Native characters like Odenigbo and Olanna are trying to speak in British accent. Kainene informs Richard that the parents of Olanna and Kainene have tried to convert them into British. Even Ugwu throughout the novel tries to speak the language of the colonial power and feels ashamed when he was unable to speak it. Ugwu often expresses the love for the English language. Richard a white in nigeria tries to speak the Igbo language. He talks in Igbo with Muhammad then with the soldier in civil war situation.

Richard at airport meets an custom officer and inform him that he is writing about the nigerian art and also informs him that his fiancé Kainene belongs to Umannachi and tries to speak in igbo with the custom officer. When the custom officer was killed by the Hausa Muslims at the airport he tries to console the parent of the officer. Both colonial white master and natives are following the tradition of each other.

Richard discussed the war situation in his writing as he is loyal to Nigeria because he is living there. When he receive an article which has given the view the war in nigeria is due to the long term hatred between the two tribes. Richard defends the native and writes about the imperialistic policy of “divide and rule”. he discusses the problems of the native refugees which is a result of the massacre of the native people.

Under the colonial power the whole cultural values have become hybrid and nothing is pure. By living in a hybrid culture the characters are confused about their identity. In hybrid society the characters are having more than one identity. Not only are the natives confused about their identity the whites are also. Adichie has presented this confusion of hybrid situation in whites through the character of Richard. Richard is confused about his identity he consider himself that he is a true Biafran because he is there from the start. He confess his love for Biafra state as he says “ I fell in love with Igbo Ukwu art and fell in love with her”(p,310).

Natives are also confused about his identity as Odenigbo says that he is an Igbo and is interrupted by a friend that he is a Nigerian. Odenigbo says that he is an Igbo first but the colonial power has given them the identity of Nigerian. Later on under the civil war situation they were given the identity of Biafran which was for a short duration.

Richard is a product of the hybrid culture so he distinct himself from the American journalists. He thinks that he is Biafran so he defends the situation of native when the two journalist talks about the imperialistic policy. He discusses the words of journalist with Kainene and uses the word “we” and gives the explanation that he consider himself a Biafran as he is there from the start. Richard is a hybrid character which shows that colonial power is not free from the influence of the natives. as Richard has developed a strong feelings for native culture and tradition and he has become united with it.

The world has become one. All cultural values and practices are interlinked with each other. Adichie in novel has shown that the media is bringing the world close as there is no distance between two nations. Through the novel characters are getting the news from different channels. She has shown that whole world is united as the characters are using the radio and they are listening BBC and then the radio of Biafra and Nigeria and the world is discussing the situation of Nigerian civil war. Richard a hybrid white man often listen the radio Kaduna instead of BBC.

Adichie has shown that one of the benefits of the colonization is that it has interlinked the whole world. Though there is regional discrimination but the whole world has become interlinked. The native intellectual community talks about the policies of America. They discuss the politics of the whole universe at the house if Odenigbo. Odenigbo says about Sardauna that he Is ruling Nigeria as if it is his fiefdom because he has a hand of imperialistic power behind him.

Adichie in the novel has introduced the character from different regions as from India, America, and French and so on. So the land of Nigeria has become hybrid. Adichie in the civil war situation has shown that the whole world is connected as the two journalist talks about the whole universe and express that whole colonized land is facing the situation as the Nigerian are facing. Adichie has given a view of racism in natives. Edna who is living in refugee camp through light of Black racism in America. Through her character Adichie has shown that the concept of white is not limited to Africa but it has impacted the whole universe. Eden informs Olanna the white American bombed black in her hometown. Adichie has shown that under the wave of globalization or hybrid culture the imperial power are still having their influence of the whole culture values.

All culture in postcolonial world are interlinked and overlapping each other. Under the influence of imperialistic policy Nigeria was forced to face a civil war after its independence from the colonial power. Though the colonial power has created the ethnic difference in natives

and led them toward the war situation. But the natives belonging to different sects and regions are helping each other in war situation. After the massacre of the Igbo Olanna goes to see her Uncle at Kano she was saved by Muhammad a muslim he advices her to wears the scarf and says “wear this, so you can blend in”(p,146). Though the natives are not aware of war situation they are helping each other. Ugwu takes the food to railway station he is informed the natives are saved by the soldiers Hausa soldiers are saving the natives.

The whole universe has become interlinked under the imperial process. Ugwu reads the book of Frederick Douglass a narrative. The book was about the racial discrimination it is going to raise the quest for identity. Ugwu feels that the whole colonized world is feeling the same plight and all of them are living in same situation. The same answer is given by the white journalist when Richard raises the question about the death of natives in Nigeria. The white says that people are dying in the whole world not only in the Nigeria.

Though the colonial power has left the colonized land but through their imperialistic policy they are still having a strong influence on the natives. Colonial power still impacted the curtail values of Nigeria. the colonial power has impacted the politics of Nigeria with its imperialistic policy for their personal benefit. Odenigbo comments that America is creating Hindrance in the formation of Biafra because of its oil resources. The colonized nation is living the post -colonial world but the colonial power still impacting there identity and politics with its policies.

In postcolonial world the whole world is interlinked and it has impact on each other. When the war was over Ugwu writes the book about the British policies. Richard ‘a white man’ appreciates Ugwu for his effort. Adichie has shown another Swedish character of Count von Rosen. Richard meets Rosen a Swedish aristocrat who is supporting the Biafra with his personal small plane. He informs Richard he is not supporting Biafra because he has supported Ethopia. Rosen says that he ““I love the Biafra” (p,312) and he has also adopted a Biafran child. During the war situation Nigeria is getting the support from different countries as German. Russia and Britain this shows that colonization has created a third world space in this universe where different nations are living together and all of them are supporting each other.

Adichie in half of yellow sun has depicted that the Nigeria is not only a land of pure primitive people but it has become a hybrid place. There are living different people with different cultural values and these cultural values are impacting each other in nigerian state there is not a single culture. In postcolonial states different religion, ideas, customs, beliefs, traditions and thoughts are working together.

Conclusion

Adichie in the novel *Half of a Yellow Sun* has presented that in postcolonial state of Nigeria there is pure culture. Those who are living in postcolonial world they are following a hybrid culture and tradition and there nothing is primitive as different cultural values are impacted each other. Both the colonial power and the colonized nation have impacted each other. She has presented from the society where nothing is primitive. The characters are using a mix language they are following a mix culture even the identity of the natives and colonizer has become hybrid. Not only the natives have the influence of colonial power but the colonial power also has the influence natives traditions and beliefs over them. Under the term hybrid the whole world is interlinked. The whole culture of Nigeria has become hybrid and it cannot move back towards its primitive situation.

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