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SEARCH FOR BLACK IDENTITY IN ADICHIE'S NOVEL *AMERICANAH*

SUNANDAN PARAMANIK

(NET QUALIFIED)

SALTORA BANKURA WEST BENGAL

Email: sunandanbappa32@gmail.com



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Abstract

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie represents the discourse of postcoloniality and hybridity in literature of our time. The perception carried forward is not regional but a cosmopolitan where a spirit of struggle exists. In revealing the issue, she never deviates from her art of storytelling in a lucid simple way as if to watch a movie. Adichie is a truth seeker.... she never pretends rather she admits the truth might it be bitter. The struggle is everywhere in different form. Racism is simply a bad thing that causes sufferings to many. The trajectory built by Ifemelu is based on self-respect, love, Friendship and the sufferings, humiliation led her to the realization of Black identity she possesses. *Americanah* is the recorded version of the struggle both outer and inner and Adichie has shown that "Whiteman's burden" is a myth and a falsified snobbery of the West that nourishes racism and exploits others who are different in colour and language.

INTRODUCTION

Genocide happens when identity collapses as a human being in word around Rohingya crisis is the most current issue and example of human activities when an ethnicity is supposed to be geographical and to some extent political dilemma to the civilized countries across the globe. Humanity seems to be a jugglery of words when someone is denied food, shelter, clothes, medicines from his/her fellows only on the ground of not being similar to their race/community/ethnicity or whatever term we could use to hide our failures in savings lives of thousands. In this 21st century the identity of a man or woman depends on several points: colour, language, politics, food habits and wearing used. From Renaissance to the discovery of genomes Man has been in search of his identity/self sometimes

philosophically and sometimes in lab-based activities... this journey is ongoing process in outer ontology. BLACK IDENTITY is a struggle of establishing their dignity as human beings like other not the subjects of sympathetic treatments in texture of European or South East Asian liking for "whiteness" – the colour prejudiced mind and consciousness often lead used to unlawful in human activities of not accepting people as like ours This is a snobbery of Whiteman's burden of making others civilized in accordance with their predefined traits of civilization and progress.

Identity, a broad concept to be deciphered influences on individual life. This is one from of recognition both psychologically and materialistically rather on important aspect, whenever a person faces challenges in the struggle

of life. People around the world are concerned about identity as the themes of racism; black subjectivity, migration, and forceful displacement have touched our conscience. Discourses on identity link the concepts of Race, Nation and Ethnic group. Social constructivists believe that racial identification exists as an imagined construct whereas binary of white-black is a social reality. The formation of post-colonial nationalism is the result of decolonization of Europe. Cultural and economic globalization has accelerated 'ethnicity boom' resulting migration of people around the world from their homeland in order to relocate elsewhere suitable. The 19th Century witnessed imperial expansion along with rapid growth of industrialization. European colonization actually dehumanized the people of the colony wearing the mask of universalism. Identity has many layers. Above all, identity exposes individual liberty based on humanity. In the present paper the aim has been remain the search for black identity of the protagonist Ifemelu in her own words: "I recently decided to move back Nigeria". As education spreads society progresses resulting in a claim for identity from the part of the oppressed section. Racism has been remaining a big issue in America since the time of colonization. Ifemelu, the spokesperson of the novel shouts in one of her blogs: 'there's a ladder of racial hierarchy in America'. Race is not biological rather sociological aspect that causes sufferings to any. White supremacy is a colonial hangover absorbed in cultural practices. In order to search one's identity one must struggle in the hierarchy of racism as identity establishes lingual, cultural and ethnic existence. When Ifemelu sounds at the parlour: "I like my hair the way God made it". This utterance somehow resonates the same about black identity of Hughes declaration 'I am Negro – and beautiful'. In the novel 'AMERICANAH' Adichie tries to convey the message that she believes through the lips of Ifemelu: "The only race that matters is the human race".

'Americanah' is the Chimamanda Adichie's famous novel about a young Nigerian woman Ifemelu who migrates to the U.S.A in order to pursue higher studies. Coming in this dream land she

struggles with racism, relationships and with her identity. Written in flashback 'Americanah' presents the love relationships of Ifemelu and Obinze and their breakup. Through a love story the novel certainly is but it has touched different aspects of emotional perspective in different atmosphere of existential crisis. The novel flashes back to Ifemelu's youth and at last Ifemelu's return to Nigeria, her own land. This is also her return to her own self. 'Americanah' is a brilliant dissection of modern attitudes to race touching on issues of multi layers of identity. This novel is a journey through life of Nigerian Woman in search of her true self and record of her honest struggle with racism and white supremacy. Adichie has shown the impact of racism both in individual and social life. Actually, racism is one kind of cruelty, violence and crime that man commits knowingly or unknowingly.

In course of the novel Ifemelu struggles as she is labeled as 'black'. She has been treated outsider. She discovers the prevalent racism that leads her comment: "But racism is about the power of a group and in America it's white folks who have that power". Ultimately, the protagonist rejects American cultural and white standards of Beauty in favour of Nigerian self. She drops her American accent and begins to wear her hair in Nigerian manner. Realizing the obstacles of being black she decides to come back to Nigeria. This return establishes lingual cultural and ethnic nuances of an individual to live in. She wants to be what she actually can be effortlessly. At the end of the novel Ifemelu becomes sad at the possibility of losing Obinze and now she is fully prepared to live without him because she has achieved a more complete sense of self-respect by embracing black identity.

The sordid realities of life teach Ifemelu to discover her own spirit, self-respect and ethnicity. Ifemelu faces the crisis of white privilege when she gets disturbed and harassed in academia in mall, in hospital, in office as her skin colour differs.

In a practical life Ifemelu is able to realize that she has been treated and humiliated as a cultural outsider in such a country where commerce, science, education, medicine are of excellent degrees but this make-belief proves to be falsified

when humanity stumbles in the name of racism. Humiliation to which Ifemelu faces is painful when Haley, the group leader hesitates while giving sunscreen to every one except her. She realizes that facial expressions to trying to suggest that being black she needs not any sunscreen.

Albert Memmi the noted theorist of colonial racism expresses it as pathological conditions that are irrational. Racism is physiological instinct, an allergic reaction towards the other and it is irresistible. In *The Order of Things*, Foucault writes that man is empirical entity. Ifemelu faces territorial dislike from the Americans tries to highlight in her blogs. She says: "of all their tribalisms, Americans are most uncomfortable with race". Americans things the race is simplistic and racism is complex. They never accept a black boss in their offices but they are very eager to have a black driver.

In identity politics, the master slave dialectic matters a lot. The master is in privileged status being forceful and violence. The black is given freedom as a gift in form of reciprocal recognition but it does not change their living condition. Americanah the words suggest that Americans try to established racial politics. Ifemelu discovers it and reject to adopt this habit of colonialism.

Adichie provides the examples of friendship of a romantic love to win over this allergic reaction. Ifemelu and Obinze are link to racial a national identity. Ifemelu embraces Niagerianness and she turns to be a mix-up of two identities. Obinze faces difficulty in England. He borrows other identities for a job. Being immigrant, he feels miserable and worthless. Finally, he starts to build a new identity and he has deported back to Nigeria. The novel highlights that situation forces to build identities whether it is cultural, racial and economic blended together to the journey from personal to national identity. The entire novel is itself a search /journey of an individual(s) towards true self/inner self to make a flight on the wings of self-respect and identity.

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