



## ETHICAL (RE)TURN OF AFRICANS OBSTRUCTING THEIR GROWTH

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DOI: [10.33329/rjelal.74.355](https://doi.org/10.33329/rjelal.74.355)



### ABSTRACT

The aim of this article is to examine the dynamics of Africa and the world economy and the hindrance in the path of developing Africa and also to depict the psychological factors lying in the minds of the Africans arguing in favour of their past glory which prevents towards their goal. Here we use Postcolonialism as a theoretical lens for critical examination of factors blocking the African development.

**Keywords:** Postcolonialism, Psychological effects, focus on identity.

All the king's horses and all the king's men couldn't put Humpty-Dumpty together again-(Dutkiewicz).

As Africa's population is expected to double over the next three decades, the pressures on young people in particular, who across the region are already struggling to earn a livelihood in highly competitive labour markets, are likely to ratchet up. Many will experience psychological problems as they fail to realize their ambitions, and some will turn to substance misuse as a means of alleviating their frustration. (Osman. et al.)

### The inspiration of the Article

Walter Allen has emphasized that "contemporary novels are the mirror of the age, but a very special kind of mirror, a mirror that reflects not merely the external features of the age but also its interface, its nervous system, coursing of its blood, and the unconscious promptings and

conflicts, which sway it"(Allen 18-19).The Lancet global health is one of the most influential journals in the global health field. It promotes the calls for papers, editorial articles, special supplements, and conferences. The main aim of this journal is to raise awareness of the subject. So it encourages more researchers to devote their time to deal and dig deep aspects regarding the mental health of African people. This is the main inspiration of my article to discuss about the ethical return of Africans blindfolding their progress and the opening the global window to have the wonderful blow of pleasant breeze spreading developing fragrance fill their hearts and lives.

Africa is the most interesting continent, which has the second largest population in the world and the second largest continent on earth. The greatest wealth of any nation is the Human resources. Particularly Africa is enriched with Human resources. But still Africa faces a lot of challenges in the global development. The darkness which prevents them to march towards their

development is any other than the effects of colonialism.

Several challenges remain and are holding back progress. Public debt levels and debt risk are rising, which might jeopardize debt sustainability in some countries; the availability of good jobs has not kept pace with the number of entrants in the labor force; fragility is costing the subcontinent a half of a percentage point of growth per year; gender gaps persist and are keeping the continent from reaching its full growth and innovation potential, and 416 million Africans still live in extreme poverty.

While examining through the eyes of Literature colonial effects could be well demonstrated by the theory Postcolonialism. The term post in Postcolonial refers to historical description and relation of the nation after colonialism. But the term Postcolonial in African literature bears the burden of chronological signification. We apply the term Postcolonial to project all the cultures which are affected by the imperial process due to colonization up to the till date. In a broad sense, Postcolonial literature is "affected by the imperial process from the moment of colonization to the present day" (Ashcroft et al 2). The term African Literature comprises of a huge range of languages, traditions, feelings of indigenous cultures and colonial conflicts to deal with the issues of identity.

#### **What is the intention of the Postcolonial writers?**

After the World War II people began to struggle for their independence. Finally they gained their independence after the World War II. The new born Africa got rid of imperialism but they couldn't get rid of the effects of imperialism. Decolonisation is not a just matter, it also comprises of cultural, social, economic, mental health of an individual as well as to the welfare of the nation. The impact of the decolonisation has a greater influence on the minds of the colonised people. This gives a major urge to the writers to write about the postcolonial concept, thus the Postcolonial writers came in. The main intention of the Postcolonial writers is, as already pointed, not only to decolonise the political structures after the independence but to give a

greater stress to decolonise the minds of the people. The best example is NgũgĩwaThiong'o's *Decolonising the Mind*. The ideology of decolonising the mind can be examined and analysed by different Postcolonial writers and critics in different ways. But the core or the basic underlying motive or the factor is to root out psychological impact of colonisation completely and to achieve mental and cultural liberation from the structures and philosophies of colonialism.

The ideology of Postcolonialism not only deals with the Postcolonial aspects but also to focus to expand and enrich the better understanding of the continent to be dealt with and to relate the modern power. This is the main reason why Africans are engaged in Postcolonial Theoretical studies. Postcolonialism is regarded as too theoretical and too preoccupied and it gives a brief narration about a continent. It is not possible to consider Postcolonialism as a conventional theory like Poststructuralism and Postmodernism. It is not easy to compile this theory as a single since it is a set of multiple ideas in various fields like contemporary social and political views of Africa.

At the same time it is impossible to avoid the feeling of Postcolonialism and the feeling of commitment to earlier colonial Africa. In other words it can be described as Africans are focusing their past and reoccupying the present and filling and reconnecting the past with the present. It is an intellectual history depicting African past and the postcolonial African future. In Africa, deep poverty, colonial legacies and other psychological factors which are caused due to colonization may have contributed to the eruption of conflicts. As a result of these conflicts physical, mental, economic condition of the individual might be disturbed leading to hopelessness of life resulting to serious problems like high unemployment and social disruption.

#### **Psychological effects of Colonisation – obstacle to African development**

- In the process of colonisation, the colonisers justified their act by saying that the colonised people were inferior to

prove that they were superior in order to enslave and loot them.

- The Psychological illusion created by the colonisers tattooed the minds of the colonised people. Psychological factor is a major obstacle in the path of developing Africa
- Colonial rule had injured African pride, self-worth and belief in themselves. Their injuries couldn't be healed off quickly.
- Africa is fertile land deep rooted with colonialism and practice of racial discrimination. During Colonisation, Racial discrimination was highly highlighted. The Racial discrimination keeps on ringing in the minds of the Africans preventing them to hear the welcoming call of the globalisation.
- Thus they are uniquely sensitive to the gathering claims of African nationalism, where they used the term Africanto define their identity and their compressed emotions.
- Through the romantic tales of the past they wanted to expose and express the audience their troubles, suppressions, inequality, frustrating inability etc.
- The Postcolonial writers aim at providing and training the future Africans to identify their problem of identity. But the present generations on hearing their broken fragment of their ancestors and their cultures fails to look forward to their nation's development. Because their ancestors suppressions and depressions made them to look back.
- They are highly sceptical and are not readily involve themselves them national development plans because they have their focus only on their suppressions and colonial conflicts.

### **Impedance of Developing Africa**

The major Postcolonial factors which are affecting the growth of Africans are being listed. The factors which are listed is the life essence of all people living all over the world. Each and every side of a coin has its two faces. Likewise, the essence of every soul and being is resisting the way to the development. These resistance are explained below.

### **Identity crisis**

The issues of identity and culture are inevitable aspects of Postcolonial literature. The acceptance or the recognition of an individual, group or national aspects is termed to be identity. Identity is a token of representation of an individual in relation to their homeland. The invention of self with respect to tradition, culture, and nationality creates identity accreditation. Even though Africans are freed from the mighty hands of European colonization, they are not free from the invisible chains of colonial imprints. These imprints erase the path of African development. It blindfolds the African minds having the attitude of discrimination and inferiority status arguing their identity problems.

The quest of identity is the major issue hindering African economy. It weakens their ability to have their pace at the global level. Identity is the essential essence of every individual or nation. There can't exist anything without identity. Such a crucial role, identity has. But the quest of identity should make them to prove who they are instead of pushing them back. The major misinterpretation of identity crisis in Postcolonialism is instead of encouraging the future to participate in the world race, it lessens their confidence of ability and stimulates the suppressions and inferiority complex. Postcolonial writers should aim at not only depicting their painful past and also at the same time they have to take in to the account that literature is the map through which there is to be.

### **Nostalgia**

African writings in the 1950s and 1960s are autobiographical in nature. African writers are torn between their indigenous culture and colonizers

rationality. The same kind of spiritual and emotional journey is depicted for refusing to renounce the influence of Europe. This aspect of Postcolonialism depresses the thirst of Africans to take their pace. "In 1985, psychoanalytic theorist Roderick Peters described extreme nostalgia as debilitating, something that persists and profoundly interferes with the individual's attempts to cope with his present circumstances" (Bathcho).

### The dilemma of Mother tongue Vs Link language

The major weapon of imperialism is their control over colonized language. The language is a crucial tool through which a hierarchical sketch of a nation can be traced. But the colonized like Africans are in a great dilemma of choosing the language to express their views. They wanted to give their importance to only to their mother tongue. But as we are in the global world, English has become the link language connecting all over the world. So English Language has become a vital one to run the race in the global world. But the sense of belongingness that is their mother tongue poses a difficult question to the indigenous people whether it is right to pursue the foreign language like English or is it good to turn away from English by sticking to their mother tongue. It is a known fact that our mother tongue is the blood of our body. To overcome the barriers of development (sickness) inject of Antibiotics is very important. Injecting Antibiotics doesn't pollute the holiness of our blood. Seeking a foreign Language doesn't mean that mother tongue is rejected or disapproved. It exactly means through the link language it is possible to project the glory of motherland on the worldly stage.

NgũgĩwaThiong'o, a Gikuyu writer from Kenya, began a successful career writing in English. Later he decided to write in his mother tongue. In *Decolonising the Mind*, Ngũgĩemphasised that through language people have not only described the world, but also understand themselves by it.

Language as communication and as culture are then products of each other ... Language carries culture, and culture carries, particularly through orature and

literature, the entire body of values by which we perceive ourselves and our place in the world ... Language is thus inseparable from ourselves as a community of human beings with a specific form and character, a specific history, a specific relationship to the world (15-16).

In the essay *Imaginary Homelands* (from the eponymous collection published by Granta in 1992), he explains that, far from being something that can simply be ignored or disposed of, the English language is the place where writers can and must work out the problems that confront emerging/recently independent colonies.

### The challenge of Postcolonial writers

To remove the stereotypes. An important role of postcolonial writers is to challenge these stereotypes and to eliminate the illusion that stereotypes based on the race were nothing but the biases of the colonizers. The Postcolonial writer Chinua Achebe is the best example who is trying to eliminate and exposing the problems faced by the colonised people. Achebe is quoted by Jabbi (1979), stating that "Life just has to go on, and if you refuse to accept changes, then tragic though it may be, you are swept aside"(135).

Chinua Achebe of Nigeria has carried out an accurate observation of the African past and present through his novels. "And at last the locusts did descend. They settled on every tree and on every blade of grass; they settled on the roofs and covered the bare ground. Mighty tree branches broke away under them, and the whole country became the brown-earth color of the vast, hungry swarm"(Achebe 58). Through his novels he reflects the life of Igbo people with all its pains, pleasures, and puzzles. While portraying African history and the real picture of African people, he reveals the fact that if Africa has to progress, it will have to overcome many hurdles and problems. The works of the writers are historical inscriptions over which events are being inscribed. So the writers play a vital role in moulding the minds of not only present but also the emerging minds of the future. This is the major challenge to be faced or the major role to

be played by the writer's particularly postcolonial writers, since the topic they deal is like a mirror. Once dropped can't be shaped right.

### Conclusion

The impact of the Postcolonial writing expresses and induces nostalgic reminiscence, impression of identity, inclination of their indigenous culture and it is an unavoidable fact that writings are the ever and ever dictionary and guide to the future generations. So it is an inevitable need for the writers to be a stabilizing force and their works should be a lighthouse for the riders of life to move in a right way. It can strengthen our sense of personal continuity, reminding us that we possess a store of powerful memories that are deeply intertwined with our identity tensions

Tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today. African development lies in the minds and potentials of African people, especially its women and youth. So there arises a need to stress and channelize their stream and focus to compete in the global, digitizing economy. It is possible mainly through the mighty hands of the writers since pen is mightier than sword. So the writers who play a major role in inscribing the history should bring positivity and spread the aroma of vision of their nation to achieve the global success.

These findings do not mean that Africa's colonial legacy, ethnic divisions, or particular geographical difficulties, feelings of the people are unimportant. But this article deals with the problems affecting the progress of the developing Africa. And it also deals with the better ways which would contribute to the economic development rate. To accelerate growth and hasten progress towards achievement of the developing Africa, the volume of aid (establishment of NGOs) to Africa must increase dramatically dreaming that Africans would best express themselves and live fully in holding their pride glory of identity torch.

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