RESEARCH FRONT
Multidisciplinary Peer Reviewed International Journal

ISSN
(Online) 2320 – 6446
(Print) 2320 – 8341

Self-Identify And Violence: Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's Purple Hibiscus

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DOI: https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.21889773

Abstract:

Purple Hibiscus is written by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. This is a postcolonial novel. She used first person narrative technique in this novel. The novel described the story of the Adichie family. The main characters are Kambili, her father Eugene Achike also known as Papa, her mother Beatrice Achike known as Mama, her brother Jaja, her Aunty Ifeoma Kambili's father is a very strict and disciplined person by his nature. While her mother has a silent personality. The paper aims to analyze the self-identity and violence in Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's Purple Hibiscus. Adichie focused on the self-Identity of Kambili through this novel. Human beings are always trying to find out the answer to their self-identity as "Who am I?" The novel depicted the story of a family whose father is expected to get things done as per his style, Hence, everyone suffered in their family. Adichie also used the Bildungsroman term to represent the experience of Kambili's life. Through this Kambili may grow as a youth to adulthood as a mature woman and experience the reality of the social and cultural role of a woman. Eugene Achike is a very strict person by his nature. Thus he expects his son & daughter shall follow the same. Hence violence is there in Adichie's family. His daughter Kambili and son Jaja always live in fear and under pressure from their father. Kambili and Jaja were punished by their father on account of various things. Kambili is fifteen years old and she also thinks about her identity from childhood to adulthood. Because self-identification is important when a person becomes fully matured.

Keywords – Post Colonial, Violence, Silent, Self -Identity, Bildungsroman.

Introduction:

Literature has a vast impact upon human life. All the writers aim to describe the real themes through their literary work. In Purple Hibiscus C. N. Adichie described the story of the Adichie family. This novel is divided into four parts and there is no chronological order of the event. It's one more writing style used by Adichie. Purple Hibiscus reflects the life of the

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Achike's family and violence and dominant nature of Eugene Achike due to his whole family members suffering a lot Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's Purple Hibiscus is first novel and published in October, 2003. This novel received many awards including commonwealth writer's prize for first book in 2005.

In purple hibiscus Adichie emphasized about the violence and dominant nature of Eugene. Hence family relationship breaks down and all the members of family traumatized and living in elegy, fear and tears. Purple Hibiscus described the life of the Achike family. Eugene Achike is the father of Kambili who has several factories and publishes an English Newspaper. Eugene always expects things to be done by his family members as per his choice. Kambili didn't like her father's nature hence she hates Eugene Achike. Adichie emphasized in purple hibiscus aspects of African cultural and social life style in the post-colonial period.

Self-Identity in Purple Hibiscus

In Purple Hibiscus Adichie focused on self-identity through a character by name Kambili's perspective. Kambili's father Eugene Adichie is known as Papa. He is a revered member in Enugu Nigeria; a successful and wealthy businessman. He is a very kind human to society but strict authoritarian at home.

The novel begins on Palm Sunday. When all the family members are joining the Church expect Jaja. When Jaja refused to go Church the Papa threw his missal at Jaja. Every day Papa offers a love sip of his tea to his children. Kambili always burns her tongue when she drinks tea. She has no orphan to refuse love sip tea offered by Papa.

Eugene Adichie always expects perfection by his wife, daughter and son. When Kambili stood second in her class then school appreciates her good behavior, discipline and marks. Papa never advised her and felt proud because he had expected she would be passed with first rank in the class. When Papa was taking education he didn't receive money and other amenities on proper time being there he always secured first in his class. Hence my daughter gets all the things on time except this, why she couldn't be topper in her class. Hence Kambili always had the burden of Papa's expectation and she tried her level best but she was unable to fulfill it. She always lives in the solitude at school. She never mixes up with any boys and girls. Whereas remaining students mix up with each other they participate in all activities run by the

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school. Hence Kambili is teased by her school friends because of her living alone and not participating in activities. Because she feels that if I Participate in these activities she will lose her concentration on study hence she always lives alone.

Adichie described that the greedy expectation of Papa which leads into losing identity of Kambili. Kambili thought seriously about her self-identity childhood to adulthood. She has no voice because her father Papa has not given her freedom to live their wife, daughter and son as per their own style. Hence Kambili, her mother Mama and her brother Jaja always live in fear sorrow and tear. Kambili is now gradually turning youth to adulthood. Hence she searches her self-identity as human being.

Adichie used the term bildungsroman in Purple Hibiscus which reflects in the life of Kambili. As every human being wish to grow through childhood to adulthood. When they grow and become matured they wish to build their own identity as human being. In Purple Hibiscus Kambili concerns herself that she lost her identity on account of her father Papa's nature. Who is strict by nature and always dominate on all the family members of work profession as like him. Hence she hates her father and she live at her aunty Ifeoma home with her brother Jaja.

Identity is a phenomenal part of human life. It gives the human being self-confident and authority. Every person has his own personal feelings and thoughts. Any person can wish to form his own identity in the society but it also depends upon in which social and cultural background the persons are living. Because social and cultural aspects are important in human life while the formation of their self-identity.

Violence in Purple Hibiscus:

Adichie begins the novel with a violent scene when Jaja refuses to go Church at the same time Papa throws missal at Jaja unfortunately misses its miss. Hence, Jaja didn't go to the Church. Adichie described the Eugene who is known as Papa always expects perfection like him by his wife, daughter and son. If they unable to fulfill his expectation papa punished them. Hence all the members of Achike's family always live in pressure, burden, fear, sorrow, tear and blood; Because of Papa's strict and dominant nature. Kambili with her brother Jaja moved to live at her aunt's home. They lived there with three children of her aunty Ifeoma. Papa Nnukwu, who is the father of Eugene Achike and Ifeoma, arrives to their native place Nsukka. He lives with them. When Kambili and her grandfather sleep at same room. It came to known

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by her father Papa. Because Papa's principles are different he never likes it. Hence he brutally punishes the Kambili. Papa called Kambili and poured boiling water on her feet. She screamed with, pains, and cries and says sorry.

"He lowered the kettle into the tub, tilted it toward my feet. He poured the hot water on my feet, slowly as if he were conducting an experiment and wanted to see what would happen. He was crying now, tears streaming down his face. I saw the moist steam before I saw the water. I watched the water leave the Kettle, flowing almost in slow motion in an arc to my feet. The pain of contact was so pure, so scalding; I felt nothing for a second. And then I screamed." (Papa no. 194, Purple Hibiscus)

Then Mama lifts Kambili into her room. Jaja also receives the same punishment by Papa. Jaja has brought some purple hibiscus seeds from Ifeoma's home and fears to plant in his garden. Kambili and Jaja open the paintings of their grandfather. They are watching the painting but unfortunately papa finds them while watching painting and questioned them why they convert it. And then papa snatched the painting and started to tear it. Then Kambili screamed and lay down on the painting. Papa continuously beats and kicks her and Mama tells him to leave Kambili. Then Kambili was admitted to the Hospital. Kambili's aunt Ifeoma came to the hospital and met them. Then Kambili and Jaja moved to Nsukka with her aunt at their home. Thus all family members are living in Trauma. They suffered through the violence and punishment given by the papa.

Mama informed Kambili that Papa had died. Ifeoma and Kambili screamed and didn't believe the news. Mama has poisoned her husband. She gives a slow poison through his tea. When a police enquiry took place Jaja accepted the blame for the crime and he was arrested by the police. Thus the whole family suffered the violence nature of Papa. They may be dominating his family members and he also gets the punishment. This novel begins with trauma, sorrow and ends with sorrow, fear, tears and blood as Jaja was prisoned.

Adichie emphasized human nature, behavior and their psychology. Papa, a human being always expects their wife, daughter and son to have a perfect life style. If they are unable to do it he shows his anger and punishes them. Violence nature of papa ends in a similar way.

Adichie focused that any human being cannot be violently dominant and keep further more expectation by their family members or any person in the society.

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Conclusion:

Adiche depicted the term self-identity and violence through the novel Purple Hibiscus. In the main character Kambili who wishes to form her identity as human being in which circumstances she lives, it also matters while growing youth to maturity. As any Human being wishes to flourish their own identity in the society. The thought process is going in the mind of Kambili in the Purple Hibiscus. In Purple Hibiscus Adichie emphasized on violence. Which is known as domestic violence? Everyone in the Achike's family lives a traumatized life. Human beings shouldn't expect from anyone to do like themselves. We always give freedom to live as per their choice. Adiche begins the Purple Hibiscus with violent scenes and ends also with violence. The novel described the African lifestyle and expectation in the post-colonial age.

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