THE NARRATIVE OF CHAOS IN POST-INDEPENDENCE AFRICAN FICTION: TOWARDS THE DEMYSTIFICATION OF VIOLENCE IN CHIMAMANDA N. ADICHIE’S “A PRIVATE EXPERIENCE”

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ABSTRACT
Post-independence African fiction portrays among other things the challenges of nation building set in motion by the African political leaders. One of these challenges centers round how to implement a long lasting peace among the many nation-ethnic groups living on the same geographic territory created by the colonizer. This research interrogated how, the third generation Nigerian writer, Chimamanda N. Adichie, presented violence in her Nigerian based short stories. The study demonstrated that the selected text, in its thematic preoccupation and character demarcation, depicted how the clashes between Hausa Muslims and Igbo Christians resulted from a non-enlightened crowd and a less caring political leadership. Using the premises of postcolonial theory, this paper argued that despite her now and then stereotypical portrayal of the Hausa/Igbo binary opposition, Adichie had strived to call attention on the root-cause of Nigerian malaise which resulted mostly from cultural religious violence fuelled by political agendas. The study recommended that Nigerian and many other African nations’ building efforts should start by leveling/smoothing the religious/cultural cleavage by showing that diversity should be an impetus for development rather than a source of mayhem.

KEYWORDS: Africa, Literature, Adichie, Violence & Religion

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