

# Pollyannaish Attitude of Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie Towards Her Growth in Writing Career

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## Abstract

This paper focus on the traumatic experience of Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie faced in her childhood and how she invites the optimistic behavior in her life and career, even though she was a victim of Biafra war. Optimistic attitude helps to perceive her career as a writer and also promote drastic growth in her writing field .She includes colonial impact from westerns and their influence showcased in her works. In the process of searching her identity as a writer, she explore her nation's pride. By her life experience she insist that there is no single story for anyone, everybody's life is different from other people's perspective .She strongly believe that optimistic inner thought of one's mind leads and motivate them to succeed their life and career. Adichie oppose the colonizers mindset about her nation and impoverished state and also grateful for western literature, because of the western influence she came to know her Nigerian literature. There were immense unfavorable situation she encounters in her writing career and she overcame that only because of the optimistic vision in her thought.

**Keywords:** Traumatic experience, optimistic behavior, colonial impact, identity, mindset of westerners, optimistic vision, etc.,

## Introduction:

Among the 20<sup>th</sup> century Nigerian writers, almost all experienced the impact of Biafra war .These writers touched their traumatic experience in their each and every literary work .In 1967, during that period of Nigerian civil war, the citizens were turned into refugees. They were clueless in that situation and treated as strangers and slaves in their own nation. Chimamanda Ngozi adichie is a Nigerian writer she also affected by this tragedy .she faced lot of struggles in her childhood even though her parents were worked as a professor and administrator in the university at her native place Nsukka. Respectively during that period, many countries got their independence from European dictatorship and the Africans also got excited to rebuild their nation as being independent .Her parents also lead an average middle class life and spend their evenings with social gathering inside the university campus ,all of the sudden their life were turned into upside down ,their family heard the sound of shelling and gunfire .They have only less time to pack their things before vacating their place , They left almost all of their belongings and ended up in other town. This rapid change affected them as physically, emotionally and mentally , On that time, she realize human beings are not a collection of logical flesh and bones ,they are also emotional beings .According to Adichie ,“dignity and pride as essential as water and bread in one man's life”. She also experienced, if the people from Mexica and America uttered their nations pride, the world would be

prepared and open their ears to hear story of their nation. But at the same time if Africans rise their voice about the nation, they questioned and ended with doubt even before they know about Africa. So these all suppression motivated her to search her identity through writing, so that she reflected semi – autobiographical elements in all of her works.

### **Optimistic Attitude that nurtures her writing career**

Adichie always had a behavior of being positive in tough phase of her life. During the phase, she started her writing career and she experienced lot of suppression and repudiated tremendously .Several time she faced rejection and gone through difficult circumstance only because of the fact that she is an African. In her novel, *Half of a yellow sun* the protagonist ugwu’s aunt says, ‘And as long as you work well, you will eat well. You will even eat meat every day’ By this, Adichie portrays the efforts of Nigerian people, only the hard work leads them to get basic needs in their life .In Adichie’s life also the invasion of optimistic thought and hard work brought her to overcame the all struggles that she had gone through in her life. And also the influence from the westerners create a huge impact in her life, At the age of six she was writing multiple pages of stories in pencil with crayon illustrations and she wrote exactly what she red, All of her characters were white and blue eyed, they ate apples and drunk ginger beer, also they talked about the weather .In the books by western people they talked about the weather, In her world the sun was always burning it never make a pleasant atmosphere but they refer the sun brings a romantic feel in their life and they also refer the sun rising as a new beginning of their life .but in her nation it is common .Her people were black and ate mangoes and they never experienced the texture of the snow The interesting part was she does not had an any idea about what the ginger beer was. Without knowing the westerners things, it influenced life of her from childhood. The difference between climate, skin tone of the people, food etc., puzzled her childhood days. She loved those British and American books. It boost her imagination into new world for her .But she did not consciously actively know that chocolate skin tone girls also exist literature. The features of the westerners blurs her identity and it covers her imagination mind with their literature .After exploring literature she might able to know Nigerian writers like Chinua Achebe, Camara Laye and other writers from 19<sup>th</sup> century .she slowly went through a mental shift in her perception of literature and she begun to write stories about aboriginal people who resembles her skin tone .She realized, all occurred because of the things she discovered while searching for her identity. She believed writing gives meaning to her life and she love the solitude of writing and it leads nearer to mystical sense of creating characters ,she declare those characters sometimes made a conversation with her ,she loves the possibility of touching another human being with her work. She spends large amount of time in the spaces between the imaginary and the concrete. The British playwright Harold printer once said, ‘when he was unable to write it was like being separated from himself and he could not agree more’. Adichie would also engage most of her time in writing, she doesn’t remember a time when she was drawn story to reading them, writing them and finding them. By her childhood she was sitting in the backseat of her mother’s car and looking out from the window , Suddenly she feels melancholy pang a kind of muted morning because she saw through the window as they drove ,there were lot of stories waiting to be told and she knew that she would be unable to tell them all. So only because of her optimistic mind, she would be spend more time with full attention into writing .she thinks of literature as her religion and after knowing literature she learnt that there is no such perfection and that we are all flawed. But Americans were dramatically assumed that Africa was poor country. And it the story of catastrophe and poverty in Africa is very important .It should be told but it is not her story and it is not the only story of Africa. She

experienced after published her first novel, An American professor told her that ,her novel was not authentically African ,now she was perfectly willing to accept that there were a number of things wrong with her novel but she had not quite imagined that he had failed to achieve something called African authenticity , In fact she doesn't know what African authenticity was, The professor told her that her characters were middle class they drove cars and they are not starving .Therefore they were not real Africans .By this incident she hits by the reality of Americans mindset about Africa. The people from the west or the Americans they have a fixed mindset about her nation, even before they visit to Africa. These are all the external suppression for the author, but she built an optimistic attitude to succeed in her writing career.

### **Conclusion**

In Adichie's life she faced traumatic experience in her childhood and also had a lot of unpleasant situation as a writer, but now she led an efficacious lifestyle. Once she asked her male friend who loves rock music, Shall you read Patti smith's memoir? He replied no. Now this friend is good and kind man but to him the stories of woman belong to another universe. As we know statically that men read men, women read women .She declare it is time to change that .she gone through traumatic experience in Biafra war, as a Nigerian writer she faced a lot of negative criticism about her nation and also about her and finally she intensely fight for the gender inequality. Only because of her optimistic attitude towards her writing field transfer her life into successful writer and it also helps to evoke her community people also.

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