



EVOLUTION OF A TYPICAL GIRL INTO AN INDEPENDENT WOMEN

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ABSTRACT:

Most of the male writers have given an imaginary portraiture to their heroines. While they all demanded silent submission of women to the patriarchal society, Emecheta brings back their triumph in these oppressive situations by making their voices real and sensible. This shows the strong positive characterization of her female characters. Chukwuma (1989), comments on the presentation of Emecheta's female characters as, 'the woman is presented in her accepted social roles as daughter, sister, wife, mother, aunt and mistress'. Emecheta breaks the stereotypical images of women which ruled the literature by male writers. She presents her characters as sensible realistic women. In the beginning of the novel her protagonists are portrayed as powerless characters that shape themselves depending upon the situation they face and, in the end, they become aware of their solitude and strive to seek independence.

Keywords: racial discriminations, self aware, self realization, reality.

Racial incidents keep chasing Adah especially when a white woman at a warehouse nearby the mansion screams for her clothes being washed next to Adah. In spite of the invisibility, she never gave up her Black female initiative and her determination. Emecheta tries to prove the willfulness of Adah which she also calls as the ethics of black women. Without any manpower or a community to support her and with no financial support she tries to live a life and hence this survival proves her willfulness. Like all the other Black women, Adah did not submerge in her sufferings but instead lead a balanced life where the complexity of life does not overwhelm.

Adah's character has toughened and with all her inner strength, she faces all the odds in her life. The Pussy Cat Mansion is the microcosmic replica of the outside world which is filled with the racism, sexism and classism. Adah could not cope with the ditch dwellers as she got dreams to accomplish and desires to stand on her own feet. This longing for independence and the freedom is not out of pride or arrogance. It is a long time cherished wish of every Igbo woman. Her inner voice, kept on telling "I am going to be different" (*In the Ditch*, 30) which kept on moving her. Every individual tend to transform into a ruthless exploiter by pushing the poor and the humble people for the sake of his own survival. This poor and humble people are

named as second class citizen and assume that they fit only into the ditch. Among the second class citizens, the most vulnerable are the poor jobless single black mother like Adah.

The sexual hierarchy of England is no less oppressive to her own Ibo culture. The circumstances which lead women to enslavement and exploitation are very much created by the society especially by the patriarchy. Adah in a satirical voice says,

“Most of the flats were dark in sympathy with the dark atmosphere. Ah, yes, the mansions were a unique place, a separate place individualized for 'problem families'. Problem families with real problems were placed in a problem place. So even if one lived at the Mansions and had no problems the set-up would create problems in plenty.”(*In the Ditch*, 26)

It is the society which has created the norm that, the men in the flat are the breadwinners whereas the women in the flat have to be jobless and die out of starvation. A women living with her husband is ineligible for the social security. Single mothers are also forbidden to meet other male friends. Women in the mansion are denied marrying or remarrying. All these prevent the basic right of women to love and to be loved. These rules for the ditch dwellers proves that restrictions and the problems are enforced upon them which further leads them into a physical and mental breakdown. This system is oppressive and framed so that women sink deeper but Adah chose to rise, grow and develop.

Adah is characterized in such a way that she never becomes a slave to the situation or to the social set-up. She struggles to relocate to another apartment and when the time arrives to shift the mansion, Adah is confronted with moments of hesitation. The society has pushed her to a demoralized state where she prefers to cling to the past than to face the unknown dangers. Her fear of facing further more humiliation and discrimination makes her to stay back in the ditch than to start a fresh life. The story of Adah along with her five children in England proves that life itself is a daily struggle. With no money to meet her ends, she is totally dependent on the welfare system. The life of the African women under the welfare system is explained by Emecheta as,

“She, an African woman with five children and no husband, no job, and no future, was just like most of her neighbors—shiftless, rootless, with no rightful claim to anything. Just cut off ... none of them knew the beginning of their existence, the reason for their hand-to-mouth existence, or the result or future of that existence. All would stay in the ditch until somebody pulled them out or they sank under.”(*In the Ditch*,)

She is aware that living in the mansion is like being in a cage accepting all the evil things, while leaving it means taking into hands one's own responsibility. Since Adah is aware of the need to denounce the oppressive system that perpetuates women's enslavement, she acts accordingly and makes her choice. She is aware that the ultimate solution for all the problems lies in the decision of the individual. Staying back in the mansion is to let others to guide and operate us. This will make one to lose their individuality and turn them to slaves forever.

Adah being the Igbo tigress recognizes that desperate situations should not shake her potential for choice. The unique choices of Adah from her childhood have made her to trek the most difficult and the hard paths of her life. She also succeeded in each stage and even now the choice is hers. The process of relocating will not provide them a complete solution for their sufferings. Aware of this few fellow women prefer to stay back in the mansion. Adah inspite of her incomplete degree, unemployment, her burden of bringing up her children, her aspiration to publish her creative work is poised to come out of the ditch like Pussy Cat Mansion. At last the servile and subservient takes a harsh initiative in order to make a determined effort.

Adah makes it clear to us that our destiny lies in our hands. None has got the right and the power to control or to guide other's destiny. Adah is solely responsible for the choices she makes in her life and the consequences out of her decision. Every woman should have this potential and confidence for choice. All the oppressive system not only dehumanized Adah but also helped her to emerge victoriously. Adah's courage in face of adversity always makes her a tigress. The life and her journey in England have transformed Adah into an experienced woman. All the frustration, disappointment and her isolation have reshaped Adah to redeem her identity and assert her personhood. Her transformation can be seen when she was racially discriminated by her fellow workers at the library. The young white girls working there made her to feel inferior and ashamed of her skin color. Embittered at this, Adah feels, "the concept of 'whiteness' could cover a multitude of sins." Bill, her only friend in England helped her to get rid of her complex. He helped her to read the works of many Black writers which eventually made her realize not to be ashamed of her color.

Earlier Adah was innocent and also felt the need to be just a wife and a mother and hoped to live such a life with Francis. The works of the Black writers which she read, expressed their agony and the frustration as a housewife. Emecheta expresses her hopes as,

"She had been reading a great number of women's magazines, and was surprised to read of mothers saying that they were bored just being housewives. She was not that type of woman. There were so many things she planned to do, and she did them. She knitted endless jumpers and cardigans for everybody, including thick big ones for Francis. It was a way of telling him that that was all she asked of life. Just to be a mother and a wife." (*Second Class Citizen*, 353)

In Lagos, Adah was a typical housewife serving her husband and her in laws. She simultaneously played the role of the homemaker and the breadwinner in order to bring joy to her husband. But Francis wanted Adah to go and earn for him and not to just sit looking after the babies. In the end she felt like a castaway when Francis ignored her and demolished her hope about their future. This frustration about her misfortunes in life is revealed as she cries out,

"If only she had a home, she would not have married so early. If only Pa had not died when he did. If only her people in Lagos had been civilized enough to know that a girl who decided to live by herself and study for her degree was not necessarily a prostitute, if only.... Her thoughts went on and on[...]. She was looking for a home. She had never had one since Pa died years ago; she had looked for it in the wrong place and among the wrong people." (*Second Class Citizen*, 264)

The events and the circumstances of the life have taught her to face the reality of the world. Her life with Francis was not a dreamy world but a dark tunnel filled with nails and thorns. Adah being an Igbo woman did not limit herself to the role of a wife and a mother, but rose to a more intelligent, heroic and New African women. Adah never allowed the social structure to gobble her individuality.

Adah was able to find her own potential and her power by leaving Francis and surviving with her children. Her education as well as the western influence has made her more responsive to the prospects of self-development and self-assertion. This shows the strength of the women to face the world. On the other hand Francis, the phallus tends to be rigid and powerful only by suppressing his wife and listening to his parents. His parents were sexist and they also felt that education for women is like spoiling them and so, they not only hated Adah's decision to go to London but also prevents her from pursuing her education in the foreign land. Francis maintains his male privilege and along with her parents enjoyed the money earned by Adah. Both Francis and her in-laws never bothered about her dreams or about the separation between the husband and the wife. Adah is just looked upon as a money earning machine and this is evident when Francis father says.

“The money is for you, can't you see? Let her go and work for a million Americans and bring their money here, into this house. It is your luck. You made a good choice in marriage, son.”(*Second Class Citizen*,51).

Now Adah has to play the role of the wife, mother and also a financial provider of their family. He fails to be real husband and a father by escaping from his responsibilities. Francis was a typical tradition African male, for whom wife is mere a lifeless property valued for their sexual, domestic and maternal capabilities. Finally, Francis asks her to join him since he has to stay for five long years. Francis, here summons Adah as he cannot survive alone in the new foreign land and also he needs her for his physical desires. This shows his incapability to understand her aspiration and also his typical phallus urge that drives his mind.

In case of Adah her educational qualifications brings into account her economical capabilities too. Emecheta shows how Francis becomes fragile in the face of change in the new alienated society. In the foreign land, Francis also lost his native consciousness and could not recognize his meaningful existence in the society. Hence he begins to neglect his wife and his children. Even Francis brutality against Adah is to restore his male dignity as,

“To him, a woman was a second-class human, to be slept with at any time, even during the day, and, if she refused, to have sense beaten into her until she gave in; to be ordered out of bed after he had done with her; to make sure she washed his clothes and got his meals ready at the right time. (*Second Class Citizen*, 356)

Francis has got a defeatist mentality which prevents him to adapt to the changes. As for him the adaptation of the European living will pull his position to an inferior level and so he also prevents Adah from doing so. In case of Adah, her self-assertiveness has developed only from her subordinate position in her native land. As

New women, she totally denied all the restrictions that were imposed upon men and women on the basis of their gender. She claims:

“My sons will learn to treat their wives as people, individuals, not like goats that have been taught to talk. My daughters... God help me, nobody is going to pay and bleeding price for them. They will marry because they love and respect their man, not because they are looking for the highest bidder or because they are looking for a home...”(*Second Class Citizen*, 263)

This is mainly as a result of the psychological trauma due to the chain of traditional and colonial forms of oppression. Even Adah’s decision to seek legal dissolution of her marriage is from her adaption to the western values. A typical African Igbo woman might have lead a dependent life either with their father, brother or husband whom seem to be the sole protector of their life. Adah wished to live a prosperous elite life in the future unrestricted and uninhibited by the traditional customs or any sort of discrimination

The strong determined character of Adah has reshaped her conscious to be proud of her skin color and there is nothing to be ashamed of it. Adah was able to discover her selfhood only through her writing and this process of documenting her creative work helped her to maintain her sanity. Earlier she was unable to reject Francis but in England she had the liberty to make her own choice, so was able to abandon him in order to start a new life. Adah regrets for clinging on to Francis as a source of support and now her liberty allows her to take full control of her life. The novel also focuses on Francis’s identity problem and his stubbornness in the face of changes. He was a typical Ibo man who maintained his traditional values and never accepted the western norms. Adah and Francis are not made for each other pair as their interest and their characters differs very much. When Adah is known to make her own choices and decisions in life, Francis as a young man still depends on his parents wish and approval. In spite of clinging to the masculine power, he is unable to make choices of his own. Thus power has nothing to do with one’s wisdom or intelligence. He also could not cope up with the racist attitudes in England and the inferior complex haunts him. He simply accepts the western people’s discrimination and never even tries to challenge or protest them. This shows that the power of the phallus lies in just exploiting women and to keep them always under their control. When Francis uses his authority over Adah by questioning and brutalizing, then why can’t he stand against the racial discrimination which binds him.

These negative attitudes of Francis make him to fall off from his masculine standards. Adah analyses the situation in England and stays strong, since she got none to share her problems. Adah as a new woman understands that she need not obey the illogical norms of her Igbo society and so, bites and hurts Francis for his change in attitude. Adah always wants to be respectful while Francis does not want Adah to gain her individuality. Francis continuous failure in his examination further deteriorates his standard and his feeling of inferiority increases. He also deliberately injects this feeling into his whole family. This is evident when his daughter Titi says in Yoruba,

“Don’t talk to me. My Dad will cane me with belt if I speak in Yoruba. And I don’t know much English. Don’t talk to me.” (*Second class citizen*, 116)

Adah's child Titi is known as "noisy toddler" when they were in Nigeria but in England the child is psychologically affected by the inferior problem which makes her silent. This attitude is mainly due to Francis who enforces the children to mimic like the English, as speaking in the native language is considered to be something to be ashamed of.

But Emecheta expresses Adah's wish as she declares as,

"She was different. Her children were going to be different. They were all going to be black, they were going to enjoy being black, be proud of being black, a black of a different breed. That's what they were going to be." (*Second Class Citizen*, 304)

The character of Adah is entirely the opposite as she wants her children to be different and to embrace their color. For centuries women were always ruled by men and the phallus made sure that women are always subordinate to them. The events and the situations which Adah faces is a form of enslavement which is created by the society. Society plays a very significant role in women's exploitation. According to Frye,

"Brutality and radical helplessness creates a fissure..... The intelligent body ceases to be: intelligence and bodiliness are sundered, unable to ground or defend each other or themselves. Mind and body, thus made separate, are then reconnected, but only indirectly: their interactions and communications now mediated by the man's will and interest." (*In And Out Of Harm's Way*, 65)

The chain of oppression enforced upon women, made them to come to an agreement that, they can preserve their mind and body only by subordinating to him. Thus women began to serve men, in order to serve her and began to talk about her with reference to men.

From the time of existence, mankind has always seems to be the dominant creature among all the other species. Even women, one among them were turned as their submissive in order to portray them superior and powerful. But there arise a question that, will the subjugated and the subordinated species accept and remain the same, and also what will happen when they all, one day turn against the dominant species for their own survival. The result for these dilemmas can be achieved through the character of Adah. Women were treated by men like mere animals as they went through a process of enslavement. This process involves stages like Abduction. Seasoning and Criminalization. Frye explains these stages one by one where a girl in the beginning is kidnapped from her own space. This alienation haunts her as she is strange to the new environment. The fear of the place brings in her mind several thoughts on survival. Later the phallus seasons the atmosphere where the girl is forced into a more fearful and horrible conditions. These are man-made conditions and events to seduce the mind of women to remain in a submissive place and to be always feared of men. The scenario gets worse when men even brutalize women to accomplish his needs. As a result of all these, woman accepts her subjugation and begins to serve men to stop his brutality. In the end the whole mind and the body becomes the victim of the exploiter.

Women started to play the submissive role for the sake of their survival. This strategy to survive was followed by women for many centuries. When women like Adah turns against the system, the whole

patriarchal oppressive system begins to shake. Adah's self realization and determination helped her to come out of the ditch to attain her mental equilibrium. Women are always a survivor and Adah's survival strategy is not through her submission to the system but to emerge from the awful experience into a more respectful and dignified person than any other ditch dwellers. Adah is the perfect example to show other fellow women how she was able to live out and also transcends these stereotypes. Her experience in Nigeria and the reality she faces in England with the experience of being discriminated helps her to evolve and survive. Adah is the perfect embodiment of New Women who insist on making our own choices and also to stick on to it in order to execute.

Adah from her childhood is seen to protest the oppression against women. Emecheta has brought about the enslavement of women from both the domestic spheres and the public spheres. In order to escape from the forced unemployment and dependency brought about by the welfare system, Adah uses her education and her aspirations to keep up the fire inside her. This mitigates her to liberate herself from the ditch while the other ditch dwellers hoped for some social change whereas while few others accepted their dependency within the welfare system. Thus the system in spite of providing the needed security cages the people within the Pussy Cat Mansion where they are subjected to pure dysfunctionality. Inside the mansion, she only experienced more racial discrimination from the other ditch dwellers. A white woman does not want Adah to wash her clothes near her as she is a black. Thus an inhabitant torments another inhabitant for her skin color. Even the migrants from her own native land do not feel sympathetic for her. This is also another form of torment created by the sense of dislocation. The power of the phallus and the system created by them aim in only exploitation in many forms. The continuous oppression has made women stronger both in mind and soul which eventually reshaped them to fight for their betterment. This is also a part of our evolution, where women are evolved to come in terms to gain their selfhood and independence

Emecheta discusses different extremes of character. While Adah is portrait as an independent women capable to make her own choice, there are few character such as Mrs.Cox and Whoopey who are the perfect examples for depending completely on the welfare system. This is what Frye has explained when she talks on Seasoning and Criminalization. The welfare system in the name of security has created a cold atmosphere for the problem families. In fear of the outside world they seem to remain within mansion accepting their submission in spite of losing their dignity. Their lack of initiative to come out makes them to get deeper into the ditch. Whereas Mrs.Coo like Adah is a ditch dweller with her five children and her husband. Mrs.Coo emancipates her family from the cycle of dependency, by coming out of oppressive welfare system and getting the back to work. This helped her family to live a decent living in two room apartment. Such a living for an immigrant in the foreign land is itself a great relief.

It is evident with these characterizations that the empowerment of women can be achieved only when they begin making their personal choices and also start to execute them. This ability in making their own choices will increase their sense of self worth. This is when women begin to feel worthy about themselves and their anatomy. This is the stage where the change in themselves will bring about the change in the society also. Mary Wollstonecraft brings out her opinion that, "I do not wish (women) to have power over

men; but over themselves.” The discrimination, violence and the struggle they face are mainly due to the fact that they are underrepresented in both power and in their social roles. With limited progress in the empowerment of women, there is much to be done in to strive for gender equality. The characters like Adah help women to give up their fear for the society and come up with the initiative motive to bring about changes for their emancipation. Thus Empowering helps in not only in the growth and the stability of women abut also

Every typical species yearns for a shelter where they can be safe, as a safe living space will lead to a prosperous and a fulfilled life. This also helps them as a family to raise a healthier and happier child. Adah did this to raise all her five children in a healthy environment to give them a fulfilled life away from all sort of submission. A peaceful mind and soul after leaving ditch helped Adah to find a decent matchbox maisonette flat across the Regent’s Park, where “her own working-class council estate was cheek by jowl with expensive houses and flats belonging to successful writers and actors,” (*In the Ditch*,000). This triumph empowers Adah to become a creative and an artistic writer. The indestructible will of Adah helped her to come out of the ditch which was about to bring her a psychological dependence.

Back in Nigeria Adah’s education gave her respect and enough money she needed but in England, her education was totally wiped out. In spite of her education, she was pushed into the ditch by the circumstances and Emecheta shows what it is like, for a woman to live in very bottom of the society. The loss of responsibility from the side of Francis increased Adah’s burden in Britain. Her life in England is full of rejection, as every landlord in the town rejected the black. This left her with no choice but to find rooms in the slum housing. Adah had a relief only when they were shifted from the Pussy Cat Mansion as it was considered unfit for human living. Adah with her five children was allocated a modern maisonette in the upmarket, this is where she begins to work to aspire her dream of becoming a writer. In both the novels Adah continuously resist all the limitations provided by the masculine society both in Nigeria and in London. She was always ready to try new things and was open to changes. This is evident when she said; “Ibo people seldom separate from their husbands after the birth of five children. But in England, anything could be tried, and even done. It’s a free country.”(*In the Ditch*, 000)She was never bound to the norms like a typical traditional woman. Her continuous disappointments in Britain made her to fell that, the independence she hoped for was totally absent in her dreamland.

Adah is determined to manage as a single mom as she had her job at the British Museum. But as said by Frye, women are subjugated through the system created by men. This is evident when Carol, onsite family advisor says that in England the children cannot be left alone and so Adah needs a baby sitter. Thus women are cornered with no choice left for their well being.

“That was one of the things Adah did not like about these white-coated females who called themselves social officers. They were bloody well too patronizing. All right, she had pointed out that Adah was wrong in leaving her kids in the evenings—why make a meal of it? [...] Adah would have

to swallow her pride as a woman, her dignity as a mother, and let Carol help her. She did not like to accept the help, but she had no choice.” (*In the Ditch*, 000)

The human relations are characterized by three main factors namely, race, gender and religion. Among these the race is gendered and the gender is raced. These are correlated with each other and also help in building up the society. This racism perpetuates pride and supremacy in a specific group of people who considered them as elite whereas the other set of people becomes the victim of the pride group. This dehumanizing among people brings in the demarcation between the humans as master and slaves which leads to a havoc within the human species. In the name of racism, the black Africans were targeted and underrated. This racism affects the Africans irrespective of their gender.

Being a Nigerian novelist, Buchi Emecheta has herself experienced such racist discrimination which she chronicles in both her novels *In the Ditch* (1972) and *Second Class Citizen* (1974). The protagonist Adah shows us how the Africans are hounded and subordinated by the racist forces. The white's were opportunistic and this attitude led to the exploitation of the black. The black people were treated and used like animals with the menial job and also brutalized. The only reason for this racial supremacy is the illogical assumptions and the wrong notions which was created and also preached by the patriarchal society. This attitude of the whites keep on going and thus the blacks remained to be a slave for the masters. Buchi Emecheta shows the exploitation of the black woman in her own native land and also in the foreign land.

When compared to Francis, Adah has got more potential and ability, but still she cannot rule either her family or her home as men are only considered as the head of the family. She also realized that the sole reason for her enslavement is not due to her accomplishment but her birth. Adah migrated to the new land for a better living, but in search of livelihood she only lost her identity. As a women she feels the alienation wherever she moves, be it her native land or the adopted land, she has to face numerous hardships and humiliations. The sense of otherness and dislocation as a result of migration puts her into disgrace and depression. Emecheta has portrayed the incredible will of Adah which helped her to overcome all her odds in the novel *In the Ditch* (1972). The problems of a typical African black woman in the migrated land are brought to limelight. The circumstances that lead Adah into the ditch were also the reason for her strength to face the horrid conditions.

Adah is the reflection of Emecheta, her creator. Adah with no means of livelihood becomes helpless, homeless and eventually loses her identity. Leaving Francis left her with only two options in her life. She must either return to Nigeria along with her children or to stay back in London with her children as a single mother. Going back to Nigeria means, Adah and her five children will be under the care and control of Francis's family as per the customs of the Igbo people. Adah, unlike her fellow Igbo women always had a dream about her future. This aspiration to chase her dreams made her to stay back in United Kingdom and face all the miseries and difficulties all alone. In spite of the malevolent situations, Adah's strategy and her determination makes her an invincible woman. All the challenges that she faced in her life made her into a wonder woman.

Although Adah migrates from the Nigerian society to the English society, she cannot find much difference between the two nations. But Adah's focus was only on earning a livelihood and succeeding in her career. Earlier in Nigeria, from her childhood her dreams were hurdled by the male dominated social systems and similarly in London her dreams are being shattered through racial discriminations created by the same patriarchal society. Thus this gender biased society pushes the protagonist to a dilemma where she has to either give up her dreams to fall as a prey to the society or to face the horrid situations created by the society to achieve her dreams. Adah choose the latter one and also takes the initiatives to execute them in the male dominated society. She shows the ways to be an independent woman inspite of the horrid social, political and financial conditions.

By leaving her home country for a better future, Adah is devoid of the sense of belongingness which eventually leads to lose of her identity as an individual. This search for identity and mere survival in foreign land, compromises of miseries and frustrations that cause a mixed feeling within the protagonist. Such a positive and negative thought often correlates with Adah which helps her to make choices of her own and also stick to it. Instead of being a mum spectator, Adah becomes a protestor against women's exploitation. Being a single jobless black woman in the white society with five children is a main challenge that makes her feel as an orphan.

The welfare state neither cares for the dwellers nor work for their advancements. Here again Adah is made to make choices as she has only two options, the first one is to stay in the ditch accepting all exploitations and the second one is to move away with her children to a better living and for a better future. After a deep confrontation, Adah decides to take the path less taken by the immigrants. Thus Adah always prove to be unique in her choices and she also feels responsible for those choices that she makes. Her determination for a better life makes her to stay strong and to move ahead in her life. Adah does not fit into a typical traditional daughter, wife or mother; she strives to break all the barriers created by the masculine society.

Emecheta has proved that, the gender biased society has created all the customs and the traditions to make woman remain submissive as it's a only way to lose their identity and selfhood. An immigrant has to accept the reality of an alien country as Francis experiences that,

We are all blacks, all coloureds, and the only houses we can get are horrors like these, Well, what could she say? She simply stared. She said nothing even when she learned that the toilet was not outside, four flights of stairs down, in the yard; nor when she learned that there was no bath and no kitchen. She swallowed it all, just like a nasty pill. (*Second Class Citizen*, 81-82)

Francis never bothers either to care or feed his family, but instead adds baby after baby every year. This eventually makes life in England more complicated with countless problems. Adah becomes a prey to her husband's wishes even in the liberal society. Emecheta admits,

Most Nigerian wives would say that they have to send their children away because they lacked suitable accommodation for them, and there was a great deal of truth in this. But what they would not

admit was that most of them were brought up institutions, far, far different from the ones in which they found themselves in England. So most Nigerian children born to these-called "students" were condemned to be fostered away. (*Second Class Citizen*, 100).

Adah's continuous pregnancy and delivery makes her health to deteriorate, and despite of this she takes the responsibility of her family and serves to be the breadwinner for her family. Moreover Francis never respected his wife but instead used her to quench his physical urge. This is well expressed in *African Literature: An anthology of criticism and Theory* as,

Once as woman starts making money, she stops having children regularly. This is because women who are lucky to find the work which they love and which they are good at derive the same kind of enjoyment from it as from sex. Many female writers I have spoken to claimed that they find their work, not only sexually satisfactory but sometimes masturbatory. I certainly find my work satisfying. Sex is part of our life; it shouldn't be the life. (Olaniyan,556).

All the forced incessant pregnancies piled her problems in the new land. Moreover Francis also never cares about the deterioration in Adah's health. Francis looked upon her as a mere sex object and also beats her when she refuses to surrender to him. She decides to use contraception to look upon both her physical and mental health. But when Francis comes to know about this, he immediately informs his parents and also assaults her, as he considered it to be treacherous. Francis being a typical Igbo man considered Adah's use of contraception as a testimony for her illicit relationships. He regards Adah as a disloyal wife and humiliates her in front of all their neighbors. Adah, who gives much importance to her dignity, is shattered by her husband's humiliation before her in-laws and her neighbors.

The creator universalizes the agony of Adah. Female exploitation can be witnessed all over the world and Emecheta shows her antipathy to all her fellow womankind. Adah's struggle shows how she has turned all her adversities into her strength. Adah's transformation is mainly due to her will power. From her childhood she strives to get educated and in order to achieve this venture she took the necessary steps without bothering about her culture or customs. While other Igbo girls are paralyzed by the traditional beliefs, Adah's invincible determination helps her to cross all the barriers. She even plays smart by lying her parents that she lost the money they gave to buy meat and used it to pay for her entrance test. This shows that Adah was determined to gain the needed education. Adah is a warrior who fights back at all problems of life to achieve her dream in life.

Adah soon finds out that Francis is in relation with a white woman named Trudy who is appointed as a babysitter for their children. Her rage on Trudy reveals her attitude towards the white as Emecheta says,

“Adah could not stop thinking about her discovery that the whites were just as fallible as everyone else. There were bad whites and good whites, just as there were bad blacks and good blacks! Why then did they claim to be superior?” (*Second Class Citizen*, 115)

His dishonesty shatters her, as she has spent her whole life working hard to provide for his education, to rear their children and also does everything he demands. This shows how irresponsible husband and a father he is, as his trifling deteriorates his son's health. Adah in distrust shouts at Francis as, "If anything happens to my son, I am going to kill you and that you sleep with her do you not." (*Second Class Citizen*, 69). Francis urge for physical pleasure leads him to fail in his examinations, despite of his five successive attempts. Francis now brings out his typical masculine attitude where he turns all his faults upon Adah as a matter of getting vanished from the adverse situation. He begins to torture and demoralize Adah for his failure in his life. Thus men transfer accountability upon women for their foundering.

Mr. Bill, Adah's friend encourages her to write about her own life and people to keep her sanity amidst all the troubles caused by Francis. Again Francis proves his irresponsible attitude by burning the manuscripts of her writings. Now it is a high time that Adah begins to realize that their relationship has come to an end and there is no use of revitalizing it. Adah takes the initiative to leave Francis to succeed in her life and be in peace. This act of her is completely different from the other Igbo women. All these years, Adah has sacrificed her energy, money and life for the welfare of Francis and his family and in return she gets only frustrations, humiliation, physical assault and mental trauma. Finally she makes a new start as an independent woman. Thus she has solved and freed herself from the problem caused by her husband. Traditional women would accept their submissive position, whereas a new women fights against the submissive position.

In the white dominated society, education and a decent earning has got nothing to do with one's status or dignity in the society. All these fail before the racial prejudice because the skin color is important and detrimental as she says,

"Two weeks later, on the notice board in front of the post office at Queen's recent, she read on a blue card of a vacant room. There was no "Sorry, no coloureds" on it. Adah could not believe her eyes. And the vacant room was not very far from where they lived: just around the corner, in Hawley Street (*Second Class Citizen*, 158).

The protagonist realization about her true self in the foreign land makes her to ponder over the fact that masculine will only be a disabling factor rather than an enabling factor.

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