

Analysis of Social Values through Literary Works of Chinua Achebe and Charles Dickens: A Contrastive Approach

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ABSTRACT :

This research investigates the social values that are reflected in the works of Chinua Achebe and Charles Dickens. One of its objectives is to bring out the similarities and differences between African English literature and British literature, in terms of social values. Following the descriptive, analytic, comparative and contrastive approach, Achebe's 'Things Fall Apart' and 'No Longer at Ease' and Dickens' 'Oliver Twist' and 'Great Expectations' have been discussed, analyzed, compared and contrasted. The findings have shown existence of similarities between the social values of the two writers such as: work, co-operation collaboration, charity, kindness, helpfulness, justice, marriage, good morals, patience, tolerance and generosity. The study has also revealed existence of differences which can be grouped in two categories: The first comprises the values that have been reflected by Achebe only: polygamy, patriotism and nationalism including peace. The second includes the values that are reflected by Dickens only: honesty, faithfulness, gentility and nobility. Also, one important conclusion of this study is that there are some differences between peoples' cultures, including religions but also, there is a common spiritual principles that are to be found in all of them and this reinforces the spread of peace the world over, for they represent the point of convergence.

Key Words: *values, social, similarities, differences*

المستخلص :

هذه الدراسة هي محاولة للبحث في القيم الاجتماعية كما تبدو في أعمال شنوا اشيب و شارلز ديكنس. تهدف الدراسة إلى إيجاد وجه الشبه و الاختلاف في القيم الاجتماعية في الأدب الأفريقي المكتوب باللغة الانجليزية و الأدب البريطاني. لقد اتبعت الدراسة المنهج الوصفي و التحليلي المقارن و التقابلي لمقارنة أربع روايات هي (الأشياء تتداعى و لم يعد في الراحة) لشنوا اشيب و (اوليفر تويست و الآمال العظيمة لشارلز ديكنس). و لقد كشفت نتائج التحليل ان هنالك وجه الشبه في بعض القيم الاجتماعية في أعمال الكاتبين مثل: العمل ، التعاون، الإحسان، اللطف على الضعفاء، المساعدة، الكرم، الصبر، الزواج، العدل و التسامح. النتائج أيضا أثبتت وجود بعض الإختلافات في القيم الاجتماعية حيث يمكن تقسيمها إلى مجموعتين: المجموعة الأولى هي القيم الاجتماعية التي توجد في أعمال شنوا اشيب فقط و هي تعددية الزوجات، الوطنية و القومية بما فيها السلام. أما المجموعة الثانية فهي القيم الاجتماعية التي تعامل بها شارلز ديكنس فقط و هي الصدق، الأمانة، الأخلاص، الارستقراطية و النبيل. أيضا واحدة من أهم نتائج هذه الدراسة هي إن هنالك بعض الإختلافات في ثقافات الشعوب و الأديان و لكن هنالك قواسم مشتركة قائمة على مبادئ معروفة لدى كل الأديان و هذا يعزز انتشار السلام حول العالم لأنه يمثل نقطة التقارب.

الكلمات المفتاحية: قيم، اجتماعية، تشابهات، إختلافات.

INTRODUCTION:

It is believed that this study is closely related to comparative literature. For it tackles the social values that are reflected in the novels of the two

writers, not with standing that their backgrounds are different. The comparison that is drawn between the two writers will be geared towards



the field of comparative literature. Though the works may belong to the same genre of literature, the times in which the two writers' works were produced, the places and cultures are certainly different. The novels are known to belong to the 19th and 20th centuries. In Comparative literature it is not uncommon to compare two or more works written in different languages and at different times.

Also, it is well known that any language is a part of a certain culture. Yet, to understand a language well one needs to have good background about its culture. Nonetheless, most students of English as a foreign language, including those in Africa seem to lack the necessary cultural and linguistic background, for their study of English literature is insufficient. This fact has negatively influenced their language learning. Also, students who study African literature particularly those who do not live in Africa face the difficulty of understanding African cultures.

Objectives of the Study

The study attempts to underline the similarities and differences between African English literature and British literature, in terms of the social values that are depicted in Dickens' and Achebe's novels. It is believed that good understanding of these values leads to better understanding between the different nations. Also, the study attempts to find out whether the two writers have been influenced by such values and the extent to which their literary works have reflected this. In addition, the study is an attempt to participate in the process of exchange of literary experiences, social values and ideas between Africa and Britain. Lastly, the study tries to facilitate the process of understanding between African and British cultures through comparison, and contribute to enhancing African and British people's understanding and

acceptance of the culture and values of each other.

Significance of the Research

The research is believed to be significant; because it studies two writers who belong to two different backgrounds, environmental and historical. It is of three dimensions, and deals with the domains of African literature, British literature and comparative literature, which in fact makes of it a rare and exceptional research in the literary field. Such researches are expected to draw the peoples closer to each other and enhance global understanding; hence, contributing to the spread of peace the world over focusing on the point of convergence of cultures, including religions. Each of the two writers is regarded as a leading figure in his country and era. So, the study is supposed to promote the process of understanding the works of the two writers, their world views along side the literary works of their contemporary writers. The study is believed to be a valuable contribution to the field of comparative literature. This research is of special importance to African students majoring in EFL, because it aims at helping them to have better command and understanding of the English language and its literature via its culture awareness. Also, it is of value to the British students who study African English literature, because it can help them understand African literature and cultures.

In addition, the governments, the elite and the common people in Africa and Britain are expected to find the study profitable and useful in guiding them to change the stereotypical view of each other. Hence, narrowing the cultural gap between the peoples and promoting understanding between them and enhancing the possibility of exchanging their experiences, ideas and social values.



Literature Review: The Concept of Social Values

Many scholars and experts have contributed to defining social values. For example, Hornsby thinks that the adjective “social” means concerning the organization of and relations between people and communities: social problems, social customs/ change/reforms. Also, the word “values” means moral or professional standards of behavior; principles: cultural/family/social values. In other words, values are the social principles, goals, or standards held or accepted by an individual, class, society, etc. They are related to ethics and morals which came to be known since ancient times and they can be found in the Holy Scriptures and Books. Socially, values are things that are recognized and known world wide. Folk literature, traditions and customs are also regarded as the main sources of values. (Hornsby 1995, 1319). It is generally agreed that there are many differences between religions but also, there is a common core of spiritual principles that is to be found in all of them. The future survival of humanity may depend on the acceptance of global ethic. But it has to be pointed out that those who are calling for the recognition of universal values are not arguing for an end to individual or cultural diversity. Rather, they are asking for the acceptance of some limited common grounds to improve communication and cooperation world wide. Therefore, diversity and universality can coexist. Definition of social values also includes social norms in general. Social norms are concerned with social aspects, such as social conducts, values and morals. On this basis, textual data that are obtained from books and other printed materials can be analyzed in relation to these social aspects. On some occasions, analysis of this type is intended for

finding out the influence of a writer, for example, on social life, or the influence of social values on the writer’s work. Sometimes the analysis is done on the basis of culture and ethnocentricity. The researcher analyzes the work of a writer from one culture on the basis of the social values of another culture to reach conclusions on that basis. (Al-Samawi 2000, 147). In this research the norms and values that are related to Sudanese culture are taken into consideration to judge literary works that belong to other cultures. In fact, literature is a very effective medium for transmission and reflection of cultures between peoples. The researcher contends that literature is a means for the exchange of cultures and values, nonetheless; the reader needs to be careful about what is contrary to his culture. Social values in addition incorporate the political side of the life. One example is struggle for social and political reform. The writers of the Victorian age, including Charles Dickens, were concerned with social and political problems: "There was too much poverty, too much injustice, too much ugliness, and too little certainty about faith or morals- it became also an age of crusaders and reformers". Burgess (1974, 180).

The researcher thinks that Dickens’ and his fellows’ concern of social and political problems is a natural reaction against the injustices of the social and political systems of their time.

It can briefly be said that the term social values is a huge term and it includes moral or professional standards of behavior and principles. In other words, values are the social principles, goals, or standards accepted by an individual, class, society, etc. They are related to ethics and morals which came to be known since ancient times and they can be found in the Holy Scriptures, customs and traditions. Social values are also widely recognized by secular international organizations and creeds. In addition,



concept of social values also incorporates the cultural, economic and political aspects of people's life.

Social Values in African Context

There are many views about the concepts of social values in African context. Social values in African context include social, political, cultural, and economic values such as: education, nationalism, protection of African cultures, political and social freedom for the African people, happiness, dance, humanity, love, friendship, fighting against suppression and colonialism, civilization and the unity of Africa.

In African context it is difficult to separate the social values from the political life. To prove this idea, Sampson believes that in African literature, particularly in South African literature, it is difficult to separate politics from literature. "More recent South African and southern African literature is particularly strong in the field of realistic fiction, usually with political implications, as in Alan Paton's *Cry, the Beloved Country* (1948) and novels written during the nineteen-fifties and sixties by Nadine Gordimer, Peter Abrahams, Dan Jacobson, Kenneth Mackenzie, Richard Rive, Jack Cope and others". (Sampson 1970, 765).

Sampson goes on to point out that after the rule of Apartheid and the establishment of the Republic of South Africa in (1961) by the Nationalist Government, it became obviously impossible to keep politics out of a discussion of twentieth-century South African literature because so many of the best writers, mostly liberal writers dealt with questions that have a political bearing. The social values in African context are obviously meant to include women's rights.

According to Sampson the twentieth-century witnessed the publication of many books on political questions in South Africa, including 'Home and Exile' (1966) by Lewis Nkosi, Ndabaningi Sithole's 'African Nationalism' (1959), and 'No Easy Walk to

Freedom' (1965). Sampson stresses the value of believing in a democratic and free society in which all people live in harmony and have equal opportunities. (Sampson 1970, 765).

South African literature, especially the black South African writers dealt with the issues of social values; including political, economic and cultural values. Most of the prominent South African black writers, like Chief Albert Luthuli, Ezekiel Mphahlele, Alfred A. Konf, Noni Jabavu, Alan Paton and Peter Abraham focused on values like freedom, education, reconciliation, independence, wisdom, bravery, justice, human dignity and national unity. (Olney 1973, 257).

To researcher's view point, the writer is like an ambassador of his nation. In African context, it is difficult to draw a boundary line between what is social, cultural, economic and political issue. Hence, African writers only deal with the issues of their communities and reflect their realities.

In addition, Kronenfeld believes that the concept of social values in Africa includes many values. Of them he mentions establishment of African identity, struggle for independence and nation-building, brotherhood, truth, African cultures, peace, ownership of land, religion, justice, victory, responsibility, loyalty to traditions and cultures, power, marriage, beauty, wisdom, love, polygamy, prestige, folklore, Africans' humanity, defense of African national states, social change, cooperation between people, advancement, group solidarity, sacrifice, achievements, ambition, masculinity and friendship. (Kronenfeld 1980, 218).

Fighting corruption and neocolonialism is also a value based on by African literature of post-colonial era. The following generation of African authors produced literatures in European languages that have been described as literatures of revolt. These texts move away from the project of recuperating and reconstructing an African past and focus on responding to, and revolting against colonialism,



neocolonialism, and corruption. These literatures are more concerned with the present realities of African life, and often represent the past negatively. (Harrow 1994, 84).

The African colonial experience is the main motive force behind the African novel and this is what made Achebe take up the task of investigating the tragic outcome of this experience. The history of the colonial impact in Africa proceeded in three phases: First, the stage of actual conquest when the white man by sheer forces of armies introduced an alien form of administration, education, and religion and taught the African people to look down on their own indigenous systems. The second was the period of resistance when the newly awaked masses struggled to shake off the imperialist yoke. The third phase is the present post independence stage in which African society seeks to reorder itself, having thrown off imperialist oppression. (Bayoumi 1995, 3).

In short, it can be said that African literature, including Nigerian and South African literature reflects many social values. Of them are those of freedom and independence, love and respect for the native land, belief in equality, democracy, and support of women's rights and their role in society, establishment of African identity, struggle for nation-building, brotherhood, truth, peace, ownership of land, religion, justice, victory, responsibility and loyalty to traditions and cultures.

Social Values in British Environment

The concept of social values in British environment has many dimensions. Social values in British environment include: freedom, change, independence, absence of foreign domination and powers, social stability, personal liberty, justice, etc.

Social values in Britain in the Nineteenth- century include political, cultural and economic values. A good examples are Charles Kingsley's (1819-1875) novels in which many social values are reflected, e.g. 'The Voyages and Adventures of Sir Amyas Leigh' (1855) ,, 'The Heroes' (1856), 'Tom Brown's School

Days' (1857) 'The Water babies' (1863),, 'Tom Brown at Oxford, (1861) and 'At last' (1871). Here, Kingsley's focus is on the social values of friendship, peace, Christianity, salvation, improvement, rights of women, social reform, faith, beauty, hope, self-sacrifice and success. (Sampson 1970, 632).

Sampson also makes reference to the British social novelist Mary Ann Evans (1819-1818), whose pen name is George Eliot. He observes that Eliot depicts in her novels many concepts of social values; such as religious enthusiasm, self-sacrifice, self-control, marriage and family life, national mythology, freedom, successes, humour and labour.

He adds that the Bronte sisters played an important role in the British literature of their time and dealt with some concepts of social values. They addressed some social values in their writings, as can be found in Jane Eyre (1847) which focuses on the ideas of modern woman, gender equality, purity, emotional independence for women, and liberation of women, all of which are social values. In Emily's Wuthering Heights some social values like love and innocence of the heart are depicted. Sampson also contends that the most impressive woman writer of the time is Mary Augusta Arnold (1851-1920) whose novels are stories of conflict; though none of her heroines dares to fight for the women's independence. He believes that British women writers of the nineteenth century were generally inclined to focus on the values of marriage, position of women, honest life, Christian religiousism, liberation and realism.

Thomas Hardy (1840-1928) is one of the British writers who reflected many concepts as social values in their literary works. This is to be traced in 'Desperate Remedies' (1871), 'Under the Greenwood Tree (1872), 'A Pair of Blue Eyes (1873), 'Far from the Madding Crowd' (1874) and 'The Return of the Native' (1878). In all these novels the social values of education, sincerity of soul, religion or Christianity, realism, morals, culture, love, life, facts, labour,



happiness, truth, faith, and human dignity are focused on.

According to Sampson, twentieth-century British literature also addressed many social concepts of social values. George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950) is thought to have reflected in his prose drama many social values. This can obviously be observed in his plays 'Widowers' Houses' (1892), 'Mrs. Warren's Profession' (1894), 'Arms and the Man' (1894), 'Candida' (1895), and 'You Never Can Tell' (1897), Shaw's dominant themes are those of marriage, parenthood, romanticism, comedy, realism, ambition and the position of woman. (Sampson 1970, 638-639). As have been seen, the concept of social values in African and British context incorporates many concepts, including cultural, economic and political ones. In other words, it can be said that social values is a comprehensive term that covers many dimensions of people's life. This is true in both African context and British environment.

Method of Study

To help achieve the set objectives of the study, the analytic, comparative and contrastive method is followed. The four novels are compared and contrasted. The main focus is on the issue of social values and the cultural difference as reflected in the novels. As well, the discourse (context) in the novels is studied.

The data is presented and analyzed rationally. Rational Analysis is reckoned to be an important tool in literary research, for through it the writer's language, style and ideas are examined. So, the rational approach to the selected texts, which is most suited to literary studies, is followed. The sample of the study is the four selected novels themselves. This study, then attempted to present, discuss and analyze the four selected novels. First, a brief synopsis of each novel is provided. Then, followed by discussion and analysis of novels. They are dealt with one after another, focusing on the social

values that are discerned from the four selected novels. Later, the four novels are compared and contrasted on the basis of the social values that are depicted in each of them.

Comparison of Novels

Based on a description and analysis of the social values that are reflected in Achebe's and Dickens' novels, many similarities can be discerned. These values are highlighted in British, African and Islamic cultures and traditions. They can be classified into three groups: first, the values that are reflected by the two authors in their four selected novels; second, the values reflected in three novels-either in the two of Achebe's novels and in one of Dickens' or vice-versa i.e. in the two novels by Dickens and in one of Achebe's. Or comparing social values that are to be found in two novels; one by each writer.

Discussion and analysis of the social values show that some of them have been reflected in the four novels of both writers. The values mentioned represent, and can be regarded, the most important group of social values; for they are reflected in all four novels. They are grouped under the umbrella of human relations; such as marriage and family life. Therefore, it can be said that they are international values that are respectedly recognized and observed the world over.

The values of prominence are those of marriage and family life. Both writers strongly stress them in the four selected novels. These values are highly esteemed in African and British cultures. Though the ceremonies of marriage may be different, generally, the concept is the same. Marriage is the first step towards establishing a stable society. In Islam, the young who are capable of marriage are demanded to get married in order to lead an innocent and pure life.



Also, according to analysis and discussion, another group of social values can be found in three of the novels. Some of these values are reflected in both of Achebe's novels and in one of Dickens'. They are related to the importance of going to work and abstention from idleness; the need for co-operation and collaboration and helping the poor and needy (helpfulness). The second category incorporates values that are reflected in Dickens' two novels and in one of Achebe's. They are: charity, kindness and the observation of good and polite conduct with others.

The value of help of the needy, especially the aged, is to be found in two of the texts. For example, Pip in *Great Expectations* helps Miss Havisham, the old woman and saves her from serious burn. Likewise, in *Things Fall Apart*, Okonkwo's close friend Oberika helps him when he is in need of help. As well, Okonkwo's Kinsmen show sympathy with him and provide help for him and his family during their seven – years' exile.

As the English saying goes 'charity begins at home'; people generally are required to have a sense of responsibility, to be kind and care for and help the others, starting with their own families. The same is true of Islamic teachings and culture. Muslims are demanded to contribute to charitable deeds and institutions. Indeed, the al-zaka (giving away money to the poor and needy) is compulsory on every financially capable Muslim. It is one of the five pillars of Islam.

There is yet another set of social values that are reflected in two novels; one by each writer. They are justice (fairness), patience, generosity, tolerance and education.

Justice or fairness is stressed as an important value by both writers, it is regarded a key value in the Holy Scriptures. It is of special

importance in Islam. The Muslims are urged to do justice and act justly in their life. This is stressed in a number of verses in the Holy Quran.

In both cultures patience is regarded as a key to success. For example, in Dickens' selected novels the protagonists (Oliver and Pip) are shown to face serious difficulties with patience, and in the end they achieve success. Islam also calls for having patience. The believers are told that difficulties and hardships that are faced with patience and forbearance are followed by success and ease. This is confirmed in the holy Quran.

Generosity is another value that is reflected in the works of the two writers. This is exemplified in 'Things Fall Apart' by the generosity of Okonkwo's kinsmen in Mbanta during his seven-years' exile and in Dickens' 'Great Expectations' by Joe to Pip.

In the three cultures (African, Islamic and British) the value of tolerance is stressed. People are urged to have tolerance in their dealing with each other. This will lead to good understanding and peaceful life and provide for mutual and fruitful cooperation.

Education is another highly rated value world wide. It is one of the basic values in Islam. Muslims are urged to be educated and well informed, especially on the teachings and rules of their religion. In Islam, the individual is commanded to educate himself throughout his life. In the West, as in all parts of the world, the study of the different sciences has become the cornerstone of human development. The same is true of the African continent, which was mostly dominated and colonized by the Western countries.

From the above representation, discussion and analysis of social values it has been found that there are similarities between Achebe and



Dickens in the four selected novels. As well, mostly these values are shared by the Islamic culture; hence they are esteemed and observed by Muslims.

Contrast of Novels

Contrast is meant contrasting two or more things to show the difference/s between them. (Kennedy 1971, 227). Based on the description and analysis of the social values that are reflected by Achebe and Dickens in their four selected novels, some key differences have been found. They are of two groups: the first is the social values reflected by Achebe in one or two novels; and they are not to be found in Dickens'. Some of these values may only be found in African and Islamic cultures and traditions and not in British culture. The second group comprises values that are reflected by Dickens in one or two of his novels, but they are not reflected by Achebe. Also, some of these values are only to be found in British culture and not in African traditions, as far as the selected novels are concerned.

There are many social values that Achebe has reflected in one or two of his novels; but they are not reflected by Dickens. These values include: polygamy, patriotism and nationalism, including peace and the sense of social belonging. There is no mention of them in Dickens' novels. Nonetheless, one may not be quite convinced that all these values do not exist in British culture. However, some of these values seem to be unique to African culture. For example, the idea and practice of polygamy is very common in Africa, including Nigeria and also in Islamic traditions. In Islam, it is allowable for a man to marry up to four women, simultaneously. On the other hand, in some African countries a man can marry even more than four women. There is no such practice in Britain.

The value of patriotism and nationalism, including peace, calls to attention the saying: 'there is no bad peace or good war'. Dickens did not focus on this issue; nonetheless, peace seems to be a crucial element in all cultures, including that of Britain. In other words, the idea of peace is similar in the African context, including Islamic traditions and British norms. Peace is a common goal and, regardless of their backgrounds, people seek for its realization all over the world.

As a twentieth century African novelist, Achebe is inclined to focus on some values that are necessary within the African context of his age. It is well known that Africa suffered from colonialism and still suffers from many political, economic, social and cultural crises. It goes without saying that one of the roles of a writer is to deal with issues that are relevant to his community. This fact made the values of patriotism, nationalism or the sense of social belonging and commitment and peace to be prominent issues in Achebe's writings within the African context.

Analysis and discussion of the social values also reveal that there are some social values that are reflected by Dickens in one or two of his novels; but not in Achebe's. These values are: honesty and faithfulness, truth, gentility (aristocracy) and nobility.

As stated previously, Dickens came from a very humble and poor middle class family that suffered from financial difficulties. This must have made Dickens focus on some values that are not shared by Achebe. Dickens' focus is on gentility and nobility. The ideas of gentility and nobility or aristocracy were not known to the Africans in the nineteenth century. Therefore, it is not surprise that Achebe, the twentieth century writer, had no concern with these values.



The aforementioned values in the two groups show the differences between Achebe and Dickens, in so far as the selected four novels are concerned.

In conclusion, some observations can be made: First, most of the values that are reflected by both authors are mainly universal values that can be found even in other cultures. Second, some social values that show contrast between Achebe and Dickens are attributed to some cultural, historical and geographical factors. For example, through some social values that are reflected only by Achebe one can observe the elements of African cultures, including that of Nigeria. The value of polygamy is a good example of this. As previously mentioned, in Africa polygamy is commonly practiced, while in Britain there is no such practice. Also, some social values by Dickens reflect his Western background and his age; i.e. the nineteenth century and its literary movements. For example, the ideas of gentility and nobility are highly spread in Britain in nineteenth century, while they are not clear in the African context.

Conclusion

As pointed out previously, the study attempted to underline the similarities and differences between African English literature and British literature, in terms of the social values that are depicted in Dickens' and Achebe's novels. So, based on the analysis, a number of findings have been obtained. They can be summarized as follows:

There are many similarities between the social values that are reflected by Chinua Achebe and Charles Dickens in the four novels. Most prominent of them are: the value of work and refrain from idleness, co-operation and collaboration, charity and kindness to the weak and help for the needy, justice and fairness,

marriage and family life, good morals, patience , tolerance and generosity.

Also, some significant differences have been found. They can be categorized in two groups. The first comprises the values that have been reflected by Achebe in one or two of his novels, they are not to be found in Dickens's. They include: polygamy, patriotism and nationalism, including peace and social commitment. The second group includes the values that are reflected by Dickens in one novel or two, but they are not to be found in Achebe's. They are: honesty and faithfulness, gentility and nobility.

The study also concluded that the source of the values reflected by the two authors is partly the Holy Scriptures, but mainly the people's heritage of traditions and customs.

In addition, one implication of this study is that literature is an effective means for people to understand each other's values, cultures, including traditions and customs. In other words, it serves as an effective medium for social and cultural communication between the different nations.

Moreover, it can be said that the social values that are reflected by the two writers are believed to be of significance, and they have special implications and connotations. Also, it is obvious that the lives of both writers were influenced by the social and cultural conditions in their countries and abroad. Furthermore, the study concluded that the cultural, geographical and historical factors also have influenced the literary works of both writers.

One important conclusion of this study is that there are some differences between religions but, there is a common core of spiritual principles that is to be found in all of them. Also, peoples' cultures are different, but there are many points of similarities between them. Therefore, it seems that the future survival of humanity may depend on the acceptance



of global ethic and values based on acceptance of some limited common grounds with in diversity, to improve communication and cooperation world wide. Therefore, diversity and universality can coexist. Based on what has been concluded, the researcher recommends the following: English literature is to be employed as a suitable means for teaching the cultural aspects of the target language, after three years of involvement in the topic of social values the researcher is prompted to recommend more researches on similar areas, including traditional practices, morals, concepts, or behavioral attitudes of the different peoples. Also, similar researches can be conducted to cover other novels of Chinua Achebe and Charles Dickens, or the other genres of English literature.

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