

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

The black African societies consist of many tribes who were colonized by the western people during the colonial era, and were liberated in the post-colonial era, thus gaining their own political independence. There are, however, lots of things changed and developed in the representation of the black African societies over the years, due to various reasons. These changes and developments in the black African societies in the novels are analyzed, using the post-colonial approach, which mainly concerns the representation of the black African people in the two eras.

The first changing and developing aspect is their physical portrayal. In the novel *She*, which is set in the colonial era, the black African societies are described as leading a primordial life compared to the western people. Practically every aspect of their life, including their dwelling places and fashion style, is portrayed as primitive. The black African people are described as living in caves, wearing simple, not-fabricated leather clothing, and utilizing simple tools in their daily lives, mainly for cultivating their land and fulfilling their basic daily needs only. It is described that none of them have ever seen fabricated clothing,

modern devices and weaponry, such as guns, which are owned by the western people who come into their societies.

From the discussion above, I conclude that the black African societies in the novel *She*, which is set in colonial era, still live in primitiveness and simplicity, and do not get many influences from the western colonizers in terms of physical aspects.

However, in the novel *The Leopard Hunts in Darkness*, the black African societies, still divided into tribes, are portrayed as being far more advanced physically. They live in houses, not caves, and they utilized modern stuff such as cigarettes and fabricated, stylish clothing, as well as weapons and handy devices such as the telephone and the tractor. In other words, they have already familiarized themselves with western-made products which symbolizes the influences of global modernization on the black African societies.

Therefore, I conclude that the black African societies in the novel *The Leopard Hunts in Darkness* are generally physically modernized due to the colonizers' influences in the past.

Comparing the portrayal of the black African societies in the two novels, I conclude that there are significant physical changes in the black African societies between colonial and post-colonial eras, which mainly concern developments in their general lifestyles, including the improvements in their dwelling places, fashion styles, devices and furniture.

In the matter of culture, the black African societies have also undergone significant changes. Influences on cultural aspects are indeed unavoidable as parts of global modernization of the black African societies.

In the novel *She*, the black African societies are portrayed as having weird and unusual customs and cultures in the eyes of the western people who colonized them, corresponding to their physical aspects. The female members of the Amahagger tribe are portrayed as having a higher position than men in the black African society. Therefore, the marital bonds are practically determined by the women, as they are the ones who choose their husbands. They are free to do this as they please; furthermore, they are also free to change their husbands as many times as they please. Strangely enough, it is described in the novel that there are very few or no quarrels at all among the members of the tribe about this “switching” husband system. This particular custom is considered strange by the western people, because the system that they follow in their societies is different.

The other customs, which include the vulgar practice of cannibalism and the primitive and unwritten laws which allow inhumane punishments, are other examples to show that the black African society is portrayed less civilized than the western people.

In the novel *The Leopard Hunts in Darkness*, however, the black African societies are portrayed as having far more civilized customs and cultures, and most of them are derived from the western culture. Men have a higher position in the societies, which implies the newly applied patrilineal system. There are no more actions of cannibalism, and the laws are changed into constitutional and written ones following the western examples.

From the discussion, I conclude that the western influences have penetrated deep into the black African societies, and eventually make their their fundamental customs and cultures become similar to the western ones. The

process itself was started in the colonial era, and when the colonization stopped in the post-colonial era, the intrusions had reached such a condition that the black African societies now adopt and apply their past colonizers' customs and cultures in their lives.

The sense of tribalism among the black African societies in the novel *She* is still strong, so strong that they are portrayed as being one solid tribe and are unlikely to be shaken or deeply influenced by external factors such as western customs so as to start any clashes.

However, in the novel *The Leopard Hunts in Darkness*, the black African societies are portrayed as having a weak sense of tribalism. It is portrayed that there are disagreements and clashes among the members of the tribe, and also among tribes.

From this condition, I conclude that the sense of tribalism of the black African societies have degenerated in the post-colonial era, because the black African people are no longer colonized, and their strong tribal bond has weakened. This condition, along with the unavoidable globalization and modernization that they experience, causes many disagreements and clashes in the black African societies.

I conclude that there are changes and developments in the portrayal of the black African societies in the two novels, *She* and *The Leopard Hunts in Darkness*, which concern many physical and cultural aspects. In the novel *She*, the black African societies are described as living primitively, with all kinds of uncivilized customs and a strong sense of tribalism, while in the novel *The Leopard Hunts in Darkness*, the condition of the black African societies is

portrayed in contrast with their past condition. In the former condition, they have more advanced standard of living, following the western standard.

In my opinion, the application of the post-colonial approach is very significant in analyzing the portrayal of black African societies in the two novels, *She* and *The Leopard Hunts in Darkness*. By using this approach, I can show that the changes in the portrayal of the black African societies in the second novel are caused by their adaptation to the western culture and way of life. In the colonial times, the black African societies did not seem to care much about the western culture, but the long-term colonization, which also means long-term relationships with the western people, have inevitably affected them. Therefore, in the post-colonial era, the black African people unconsciously care about the western culture which has already influenced their culture in the societies, and they apply it in their daily lives. Moreover, due to the weakening sense of tribalism among the black African societies, they are even more gullible to outsiders' influences, and this condition makes the changes and developments get even easier to take place.