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Dedications

First and foremost , I would like to dedicate this work to my beloved parents and brothers. My thanks and appreciations go to my friends Meriem ,Djahida , Ania and all the persons who support me during my research work .

Kamelia.

I dedicate this work to my beloved parents

To my sisters and brothers

To my friends and all the teachers of the department of English

Yasmine .

Abstract

The present dissertation aims at analyzing the issue of domestic violence and trauma in the Black family in both Chimamanda Adichie's novel Purple Hibiscus (2003) and Alice Walker's the Color Purple (1983). Both novels portray the lives of Black Females in two different patriarchal communities, the Nigerian and the African American one. We intend to show the physical and sexual abuse that Black women endured from Black males in rural Georgia during the 1920s and post colonial Nigeria during the 1980s. To reach our aim, we have compared the two works relying on Robert L. Hampton's theory of domestic violence, in the book of Interpersonal Violence in the African- American Community. In addition to Cathy Caruth's theory of Trauma in her famous books Trauma Exploration in Memory and Unclaimed Experience. We have first examined domestic abuse among Black women and children and the impact of Catholic religion on their lives. Then we have demonstrated trauma as a result of gender and violence in a male dominated society. Our study focus on the issues developed by the two novelists and how they affect them. Then, we have studied the psychological trauma of the oppressed women, who describe their traumatic experience that results to silence of the characters. Which led to women solidarity and rebellion, and liberation from male domination. Throughout our analyses of Chimamanda Adichie's and Alice Walker's works, we have come to show the affinities and differences between Purple Hibiscus and The Color Purple.

Key words : Violence , traumatic experience ,Black family, male domination ,women liberation .

I-General Introduction

Domestic Violence also known as intimate partner violence is an issue of the 20th century. It involves violence against women and children in a domestic sphere from the spouse or partner . Indeed,women are the most commonly abused by an intimate partner , and it is a regular phenomenon in the African communities, of which the aim is domination and submission of Black women .

Domestic Violence affects physically and psychologically the victims. It takes different forms as verbal , sexual and physical abuse .OseAihie states “violence on women is shocking high with two thirds of women’s population subjected to physical , sexual and psychological violence by husbands , partners and fathers “¹ .The victims are exposed to depression , anxiety and post traumatic stress disorder symptoms .In fact, women in African societies are usually subjugated and humiliated by men , their position is inferior comparing to men; they are silent victims.Indeed ,violence includes harmful practices as physical , emotional , sexual and psychological abuse.Moreover , it causes psychological trauma and mental disturbance.Gender based violence and trauma were one of the issues of many African and Afro American scholars in the twentieth century .Some of them narrate their personal experience of oppression and humiliation .They affect physically and psychologically Black women who grow up under the oppressive forces of men in a patriarchal society .

The present research aims to deal with the theme of domestic violence and trauma in ChimamandaAdichie’sPurple Hibiscus (2003) and Alice Walker’s The Color Purple (1983). On the one hand ,Adichie’s novel is set in post colonial Nigeria , it explores the life of Nigerian family under the authority of their Catholic father and the political instability of the country during 1980. On the other hand ,Alice Walker’s works are known for their portrayal of women’s life in America. She deals with violence , slavery , sexism , racism and rape . In

her novel The Color Purple, she depicts the lives of Black women in rural Georgia in the early twentieth century, she demonstrates the oppression and domestic abuse of the female characters .

Adichie's novel ,Purple Hibiscus and Alice Walker's novel The Color Purple are two works that examine the same subject , although they are set in different setting , and belong to two different societies and cultures .It seems that their preoccupations in their works are the same .Domestic violence and Trauma are common themes in their works .

1-1 Review of literature

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie 's and Alice Walker's novels have received a great deal of criticism .First,Purple Hibiscus is criticized by Ibeku Ijeoma Ann in her essay "Adichie's Purple Hibiscus and the Issue of Feminism in African Novel" . She affirms that the novel is a feminist work .Adichie presents two different types of feminism , the first one is African feminism which is radical presented by the character of Beatrice who is viewed as an ideal woman who tolerates everything from her husband .Liberal Feminism , which uses violence in order to gain freedom and this is represented by the character of Ifeoma who is a real independent woman.²

Moreover, Christopher E.W Ouma in his article "Childhood in Purple Hibiscus" claims that Nsukka is a nostalgic place in Adichie's conception of her childhood. This is the reason it is a special place of retrieval not only for her own childhood but also a post colony gothic of Igbo culture.Nsukka is a refuge for Kambili and Jaja it is the place of peace and love.Indeed , it's the mother land of Adichie in her childhood ³.

Another critique is done by Michel Oshindrou in his article Solidarity Between Women in Chimamanda Adichie's Purple Hibiscus , in which he explores the solidarity between women in the face of male domination and oppression . The critic says that Adichie carefully constructs her female characters that present Igbo women in post colonial Nigeria

such as Beatrice and Ifeoma .They are two major female characters completely opposite in personality .Beatice is weak and submissive , whereas Ifeoma is strong and educated , she supports Beatrice to choose her destiny and liberate herself from her husband’s oppression.⁴

Alice Walker’s The Color Purple has faced harsh criticism from Black males .Harris Trudier in his journal article ,On the Color Purple ; Stereotypes , and Silence argues that Adichie’s novel has represented Black women humiliated in the Southern Black communities ,and Celie who has reflected the way of life of African American women in the United States.She was waitingfor someone to release her from abuse.Alice walker has represented the struggle of Black women in a male dominated society⁵.

Linda Selzer ,in her essay Race and Domesticity in the Color Purple deals with the novel’s form and content. She argues “ it’s a strategy by which the larger African American history focused on racial conflict and struggle because of its absence from the narration ”⁶. In other words ,the novel focuses on the issue of racism and sexism between the white and the Black race in South America during the early twentieth century and the struggle for gender equality, the novel is written in form of letters from Celie to God then to her sister Nettie .

Furthermore, Jessica Lewis ,in her article Gender ,Race and Violence ; a critical Examination of Trauma in the Color Purple , claims that gender and race are the main causes of the violence and trauma that the female characters of the novel experience . In fact , trauma results from violence , and African American females are exploited by men and they are double marginalized in the society.⁷

Other studies have already compared the two works . For instance, Njoka Divine Ngwang aresearcher ,wrote an article entitled “Breaking Silence in Alice Walker ‘s The Color Purple and NgoziAdichie ‘s Purple Hibiscus(2019) in which he discussed the three ways by which women are silenced ,as physical and emotional abuse and social demands . The author believes that the three types of abuse are present in both novels.⁸

Furthermore, Sumitha Diwakar in her article in "International journal of English language , literature and Humanities ; Symbolism of the Colour Purple " in Alice Walker the Color Purple and Chimamanda Adichie 's Purple Hibiscus shows how the color purple signifies a new awakening and rebirth of the characters in both works ⁹ . Moreover, the authors have already been compared from a feminist perspective in a research work entitled Exploring Feminist Consciousness in the Color Purple , The Purple Violet of Oshanto and Purple Hibiscus.¹⁰

1-2 Issue and Working Hypothesis

Despite their different geographical and historical backgrounds , Chimamanda Adichie and Alice Walker share similarities concerning the circumstances behind writing their two novels . From the review of the literature, we have noticed that Adichie's Purple Hibiscus and Walker's The Color Purple have been already studied . The two novels have been studied and tackled from different perspectives , yet to our knowledge the subject we intend to study has not been dealt with . Therefore, in this research we are going to compare Chimamanda's Purple Hibiscus (2003) and Alice Walker's The Color Purple (1983) . We intend to explore the theme of domestic Violence and Trauma in the two works . We will attempt to explore the ways in which Adichie through Purple Hibiscus and Alice Walker through The Color Purple deal with Black women's struggles during the 20th century in Nigeria and America . We will examine the domestic abuse and oppression of women in a male dominated society . The traumatic experience of their protagonists, by the study of the characters and some of the developed themes like domestic violence , trauma and women liberation . In order to achieve our purpose , we will rely on interpersonal violence and trauma theories . The reason for choosing this critical perspective is that it is a suitable approach to the study of both novels and seems relevant to our investigation .

1-3Methodological Outline

At the methodological level, the dissertation will follow the IMRAD method. We will start with an Introduction in which we will give a general background about the topic, and the purpose of our study. Then the Review of the Literature, in which we reviewed some of the literature about Chimamanda Adichie's Purple Hibiscus and Alice Walker's The Color Purple.

In the Methods and Materials section, we will introduce and explain the theory of Domestic Violence in the Black family by Robert L Hampton and the theory of Trauma by Cathy Caruth. Then we will provide brief summaries of the novels cited above in the material section, after that we will deal with the Results section in which we will present our findings.

The Discussion Section consists of three chapters. The first Chapter will deal with domestic abuse of the female characters and its different forms in Purple Hibiscus and The Color Purple. The second chapter is about trauma and traumatic experience of the protagonists and how it affects their lives and behavior. The last chapter is about Womensolidarity, Rebellion and the liberation from male oppression. Finally, we will conclude with a summary of the important points and affinities related to the two works.

Endnotes

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II-Methods and Materials

II-1 Methods

In this section ,we will deal with two theories , the first one is the theory of Domestic Violence in the Black Family by Robert L Hampton , the second one is the theory of Trauma by Cathy Caruth .

a-Theory of Domestic Violence by Robert L Hampton in Interpersonal Violence in The African – American Community

Domestic violence has several meanings over the 20 century . It is related to wife beating or spousal violence¹¹. It may refer to child abuse and intimate partner violence .The main focus of Hampton is on violence between man and woman who share an intimate relationship . He chooses the term " Intimate Partner Violence "that refers to violence between former spouses , particularly in the African American community .

Hampton's studies of intimate partner violence in the Afro American society which is apatriarchal society, known for historical racism shows that the African Americans are more exposed to Intimate Partner Violence compared to the white community¹². In fact , more recent studies report that the Black community in the USA experience higher rates of violence according to the National Crime Victimization Survey " Both African -American men and women were victimized by intimate partners at significantly higher rates than persons of any other race between 1993 and 1998" .¹³

The African American women experience interpersonal violence in their daily life due to their exposure to racial discrimination and gender oppression. Women of color or Blacks at the age of 16-24 years living in low –income are more exposed to domestic violence because they have less social and economic power than white women¹⁴. In addition , African American males have higher rates of violence toward their wives and children than white males , due to many social and economic factors that affect their lifetime .

Robert L. Hampton sheds light on three fundamental perspectives in which Intimate Partner Violence occurs in the African American community ;Structural ; cultural and situational context .Structural context is the social conditions that affect one's access to opportunity and quality of life;the Blacks have less opportunities for education and employment and incomes than whites in the USA . Consequently , the Blacks suffer from poverty and oppression , they work with low wages and less income . This poor economic situation and chronic unemployment among African American men have a negative effect on women and children .

The cultural community context is the wrong definition of manhood by the Black culture .Blacks believe that manhood is to be superior to women and dominate their wives and girlfriends in the context of male female relationships. The psychologist Ernest Johnson claims ,“Because for most Black men the definition of manhood includes their ability to hold a job , provide for themselves a family , and successfully interact with the system “¹⁵ , African Americans adopt manhood roles that result in violence as a way of resolving disputes .

Furthermore ,the Situational context refers to the particular setting and social environment.In fact ,intimate partner violence occurs in the privacy of an individual home as African American women who reside in a violent community. Illegal behavior as homicide, drugs use, alcohol, and prostitution increase the risk of being victim of intimate partner violence. Therefore ,the social environment affects the individual's life, and violence occurs. Hampton and many other researchers believe that Intimate Partner Violence is a major public health problem for all women around the world . But Black women are the most affected ones comparing to other races¹⁶ .

b-Theory of Trauma by Cathy Caruth

Trauma theory was developed by Cathy Caruth in the 1990's in her two works ; Trauma Exploration in Memory (1995) and Unclaimed experience : Trauma Narrative and History(1996) and relies on Freudian theory .

Trauma is understood as a wound caused by physical injuries , such as an accident , sexual abuses , wars , natural catastrophe , rape and terrorism . Therefore, it results in mental damage which leaves on the person deep and sometimes permanent effects .Caruth considers trauma as a wound that affects the mind before the body¹⁷.It has psychological symptoms that appear belatedly on the victims such as anxiety, stress , depression . In fact there are two types of trauma , the first one is single incident trauma or shattering events that are unexpected and affect the person as an airplane crash , the second type is a chronic or repeated trauma as war.

During the 20th century , many fields has given importance to the issue of trauma as psychiatry , psychoanalyses and sociology to understand this phenomenon .

Caruth sheds light on four main concepts to understand trauma , which are Post Traumatic Stress Disorder , Belatedness , Latency and Unspeakability. To start with PTSD it is a mental health condition , deriving from experiencing terrifying events .Its symptoms display as flashbacks , nightmares and severe anxiety .It is a key concept in trauma theory.According to Roger Luckhurst , this term was defined by the American psychiatric association in 1980¹⁸when they observed psychological disturbances on the soldiers of the Vietnam war . It reflects the direct imposition on the mind , as Caruth states :” the overwhelming events of the past repeatedly possess , in intrusive images [hallucination , flashbacks , nightmares] and thoughts the one who has lived through them”¹⁹ .

Post Traumatic stress Disorder was defined by Caruth as a delayed response to the traumatic experience.Caruth believes that the traumatic experience is unrepresentable event , because it occurs before the individual was prepared to know it . In fact, trauma is something

unspeakable , the victim can not describe the painful moments in words , it is speechless terror .Meanwhile ,the traumatized person is possessed by images and events that are repeated in his mind and actions as Judith Herman states :” traumatized people relieve the moment of trauma not only in their thoughts , dreams but also in their actions “²⁰ .Furthermore, the traumatic experience can never be narrated or identified clearly ,it acts like tumor in consciousness that wounds the persons.

Caruth argues that“ trauma’slatency and dissociation disrupts the ability to fully understand or represent a traumatic experience “ ²¹. The latency is the period in which the effect of the experience are not apparent, it is from the occurrence of the accident and the first appearance of the symptoms²². This concept goes back to Freud’s psychoanalysis. In this period ,the victim can not recognize the impact of the experience.

Caruth demonstrates, in her two works ,the hindrances that the victim faces to heal the traumatic experience. Trauma differs from one person to another , from a case to another . Meanwhile the traumatic events continue to appear as symptoms in forms , but they are ambiguous and not understood neither by the victim nor the closest persons . Judith Herman states : “ traumatic events are extraordinary not because they appear rarely but rather because they overwhelm the ordinary human adaptations to life “ ²³.

2-2Materials

a- Summary of The Color Purple (1983)

The Color Purple was written by the Afro American novelist Alice Walker published in (1983). It is an epistolary novel , narrated through a series of letters from two separated sisters Celie and Nettie .The Color Purple depicts the lives of African American women in early twentieth century in rural Georgia . The story is about Celie ,an African American teenager of fourteen years raised in Georgia .

Celie narrates her life through painfully honest letters addressed to God telling her miserable life . At the age of fourteen , her abusive father, Alphonso rapes her many times .Consequently, she gets pregnant at an early age and gives birth to a boy and a girl . Indeed, her stepfather deprives her from her two children and put them away. Leaving Celie to think that they are killed , Alphonso warns her not to tell anyone ,or he will kill her mother.

Celie remains silent for many years. She undergoes violence and abuse first from Alphonso who is in fact her stepfather then from her husband . She is forced to marry a widower in order to save her sister Nettie from both her stepfather and husband . She runs away and stays with a missionary couple in Africa .Celie suffers again with Albert , who abuses and considers her as sexual object and beats her all the time . From here ,Celie never heard about her sister Nettie .

Many years later ,Celie still suffers from her abusive husband Albert, she meets other women as Sofia and Shug Avery who encourage her to remain strong and keep fighting for her freedom . Celie and Shug are very close friends, one day ,they discover the letters of Nettie hidden in the lock trunk of her husband .Celie reads the letters and decides to leave him and start a new life with Shug Avery ,a blue singer in the city . After reading the letters of Nettie , she discovers that her sister and her children Adem and Olivia are adopted by the young missionaries and are still alive . It gives her hope and encourages her to continue her life and fight the patriarchy world .

At the end of the novel ,Celie and Shug Avery move to Memphis and start a new business ,Celie becomes a designer of pants and liberates herself from submission and male oppression . After that ,Celie and Nettie reunite after many years of separation ,Celie meets her long lost children . They inherited the house after the death of their stepfather,Alphonso .

b-Summary of Purple Hibiscus (2003)

Purple Hibiscus is the first novel written by the Nigerian author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie published in (2003) . It is set in post colonial Nigeria marked by political instability and economic difficulties .Purple Hibiscus narrates the story of a young girl of fifteen years old, Kambili and her brother Jaja ;an Igbo family in Enugu ,Nigeria.She narrates her domestic life with her family which is composed of Eugene and Beatrice Achike the parents and their children .They are wealthy and respected in the city .In fact ,Kambili is the daughter of a devout Catholic man who is harsh with his family imposing the Catholic religion and regime on them.Although he is a strict authoritarian father , he is an important businessman in the city .

The novel starts when Jaja does not attend the communion , Eugene becomes furious and breaks the beloved figurines of Beatrice . Indeed , Eugene is violent and abusive with his family . He abuses his wife and children all the time , he beats his wife in different occasions ; therefore she miscarries several times .

Eugene imposes the European lifestyle and neglects the traditional African Igbo culture . The children attend an exclusive missionary school in the city, and speak only English by fear of their violent father .The novel portrays the unhappy life of Achike's family and domestic abuse of the characters that are traumatized by Eugene who controls their life by his regime .The country begins to fall apart under a military coup .Accordingly ,kambili and her brother Jaja are sent to stay with their aunt Ifeoma in Nsukka, where they discover a different life in Ifeoma's noisy house full love and happiness . They enjoy life and find their voice and freedom with their cousins.

At the end of the novel ,Beatrice has decided to put an end to the brutality that she has endured for many years from her abusive husband . She poisons Eugene silently in a cup of tea and kills him. Meanwhile ,Jaja takes the blame of the crime to protect his mother and ends

in prison .Ifeoma emigrates to America with her children . After three years ,Jaja is released and gathers with his sister and mother.This tragedy pushes Beatrice to deteriorate psychologically while Kambili finds her voice and hope for a new life.

Endnotes

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3-Results

In our research paper , we have compared Adichie's Purple Hibiscus(2003) and Alice Walker 's The Color Purple(1983) . As a result , we have found some similarities in relation to the issue of Domestic Violence and Trauma ,using Robert Hampton's theory of Domestic Violence ,and focusing on the main reasons of intimate partner violence in the Black family . In addition ,we have relied on Cathy Caruth's theory of Trauma to examine the traumatic experience of the main protagonists of the two works .

In fact ,the female characters of the two novels are portrayed victims of traumatized life , they face physical and sexual violence from their relatives and suffer silently in fear of male dominated society .Both authors focus on the hard life of Black women during the twentieth century in Africa and America and their struggles in a patriarchal world .

The two authors demonstrate the oppression , abuse and trauma that Black women endure by the hands of Black men ,and the strong bonds they form to liberate themselves from the forces of oppression . In fact ,Hampton study intimate partner violence during the twentieth century ,as a regular feature in the African American community which has known historical racism , in addition to the social and structural reasons that affect Black men and lead to violence within the Black community .

We have come to the conclusion that there are affinities between The Color Purple and Purple Hibiscus . The characters of both works are parallel they live in a violent background and undergo all forms of abuse in the two patriarchal societies. The masculine domination of Black women causes harmful effects on Black women who suffer from violence and Trauma .Both writers deal with women's issues ,as in our work, violence and trauma are prominent themes in both novels. As a result, the characters seek for their liberation and their own lost voices. We have concluded that both writers use the color purple to symbolize

freedom , love, and hope for the characters of the two novels and use symbols to communicate their trauma .

4-Discussion

In this section ,we will deal with three chapters . The first one is Domestic Violence in Adichie's Purple Hibiscus and Walker's The Color Purple . The second chapter is Trauma and Personal Experiences in both works ,and the third one is Women Solidarity and liberation from male domination .

Chapter One:Domestic Violence in Adichie'sPurple Hibiscus and Walker's The Color Purple

The present chapter examines the two works ,Adichie's Purple Hibiscus and Walker's The Color Purple in relation to gender based violence in the form of domestic violence . In this part of our work , we will explore violence in the two works . We will display Black women's oppression in male dominated societies . We will rely on Robert L Hampton's theory of interpersonal violence to discuss this chapter .Furthermore ,we will show the impact of religion on family's relations , then we will discuss the main causes of violence in both novels .

a- The Impact of Religion in the Two Novels

Adichie's novel is set in post colonial Nigeria . The author portrays Catholic religion in the Igbo society particularly the Achike family . Indeed, Nigeria is one of the former British colonies, which gained independence in 1960. Colonialism has left effects on the Nigerian society , such as political and economic corruption , displacement , poverty and misery .Furthermore ,the European missionaries established new schools and imposed foreign education on Nigerians .Their aim was to spread Christian religion in the Nigerian society at the expense of their mother culture .Accordingly,Adichie deals with the impact of religious fanaticism on Achike's family .

Adichie presents the character of Eugene as a devout Catholic man . He is a product of colonialist education as he is educated by British missionaries and Catholic priests. As a

result, he follows the western lifestyle and Catholic religion . Although he is Nigerian , he speaks primarily British English and he rejects the Igbo traditions of his ancestors . Eugene adhere to father Benedict's lifestyle banishing every Nigerian Heritage ,he disrespects his father and names him "Heathen Pagan" because he sticks to his traditional religion and refuses to become a Catholic . Christopher Ouma argues “ religion is the focal point around which the family members unite and collide “²⁴

Similarly ,inthe Color Purple, Walker depicts religion and beliefs in her novel through the character of Celie ,a Black girl of fourteen years old who believes in God .She writes painfully letters to God and tells him about the sexual abuse of her stepfather. Celie has a traditional Christian belief in God as all the African American community and the Bible is a guide for correct behavior .In addition , the first letters of Celie are addressed to God , which shows that religion affects Celie's behavior to the point she refuses to judge her stepfather 's abuse because the Bible honors the fathers .

The themes of religion and beliefs are present in every chapter in Adichie's novel. Achike family is Catholic , papa sticks to his Catholic beliefs and practices religious rituals in everyday life , praying and attending the church . Moreover , prayers over the meal take over 20 minutes in which he thanks God . In fact , Eugene admires and likes the white culture , he considers the white people as superior and civilized race rather than Black people who are uneducated and ignorant. Meanwhile, he imposes strict rules on his family ; Kambili and Mama are not allowed to wear pants and should put on scarves to hide their hair in the church,because Catholic women have to do that .

Adichie sheds light on Catholicism that influences the characters's lives and identities. Eugene neglects the indigenous religion and Igbo culture of Nigeria, and prefers the Western culture , contrary to his sister Ifeoma who still sticks to her origins and traditions .The novel starts with a violent scene on” palm Sunday“ things started to fall apart at home when my

brother Jaja did not come to communion and Papa flung his heavy missal across the room and broke the figurines on the etagere²⁵

The above quotation reveals how religion affects Achike's family, particularly Eugene who is influenced by father Benedict's beliefs and lifestyle. Besides, he considers everything from the west and white people as right and good, but the traditional beliefs as wrong and old. Eugene imposes a harsh regime on his family, Catholic religion is very important to him. So, when Jaja does not attend communion on Palm Sunday, Papa becomes furious and breaks the beloved ceramic of Mama.

Adichie's main, and original inspiration comes from Chinua Achebe's Things Fall Apart from her childhood. Indeed, Purple Hibiscus starts with an extended quote from Achebe's novel Things Fall Apart. She was inspired by Achebe's novel, her own life is narrated in the novel. Adichie compares her characters to those of Achebe. Nwoye, Okonkwo's eldest son, is an important character in Things Fall Apart, he is different in personality and personal beliefs from his father and the village. These differences lead him to convert to Christianity and leave his village, he joins the European church like Eugene Achike in Purple Hibiscus.

Adichie presents the character of Papa Nkukwu who is the father of Eugene and Ifeoma as a traditional old man still rooted in the traditional beliefs of his ancestors. In the novel, he is a symbol of pure Igbo tradition. He is against the colonial religion. This character reminds us of Okonkwo who has traditional beliefs. He has primarily traditional roots. Although his tribe is in trouble because of the new religion, he does not accept the spread of Christianity and the social order brought by the British missionaries. Indeed, Nkukwu is close to his daughter Ifeoma and her children, whereas he has enmity with his son Eugene, because Nkukwu refuses to convert to Christianity and keeps his Igbo roots.

Furthermore , African traditional religion is something sacred for native Africans , it is part of their culture . Both Eugene and Okonkwo have power over their children ;Kambili is obedient to her father , because Eugene wants his children Jaja and Kambili to be faithful servants of Catholicism ,and Nwoye is expected to be strong and fearful .Kambili and Jaja are beaten on many occasions by their father .When Nigeria is shaken by a military coup they are sent to stay with their aunt Ifeoma in Nsukka .Where they discover another life , full of love and harmony .Kambili and Jaja stay with ifeoma’s children and their grandfather ,Nkukwu. Accordingly ,Eugene cruelly beats them because it’s a sin to stay and eat with a heathen .

You should not see sin and walk right into it . He lowered the kettle into the tube , tilted it toward my feet , slowly , as if he were conducting an experiment and wanted to see what would happen . He was crying now , tears streaming down his face . I saw the moist steam before I saw the water . I watched the water leave the kettle , flowing almost in slow motion in an arc to my feet . The pain of contact was so pure , so scalding , I felt nothing for a second . And then I screamed .²⁶

From the above quotation , we notice the cruelty of Eugene in punishing Kambili in the bathroom . He pours hot water over her feet and this is painful as she describes .She is scared to move because it’s hurtful and she remembers the sweet days she has spent in Nsukka with her aunty .Ranti William ,in his review of Purple Hibiscus, argues “hismisundestanting of Christianity has led him to reject the animist beliefs of his ageing father and to repudiate the old man himself perversely hating the sinner more than the sin”²⁷

Another instance of violence related to religion in the novel is when Eugene finds the painted portrait of Papa Nkukwu in Kambili’s bag . He cuts it into pieces and beats up Kambili although Jaja tries to protect her

Get up papa said again , I still did not move . He started to kick me . The metal buckles on his slippers stung like bites from giant mosquitos [...] The stinging was raw now , even more like bites , because the metal landed an open skin on my side , my back my legs.²⁸

The domestic violence scenes of the novel are dehumanizing and cruel .Eugene is a dictator in his own family ; his fanaticism is contrasted with traditional religious practices of

Papa Nkukwu. That is why Eugene names him heathen . Eugene always uses his faith to justify his abuse towards his children .

Similarly, in Walker 's novel *God is the confidant and source of protection for Celie*. She writes letters and tells her sufferings and the cruelty she endures from her stepfather and husband for many years . After that, Shug Avery convinces her that God is present only in church ; thus Celie get out from religion and starts a new life . According to Hampton, "within the church , Black women may be undermined by religious ideology that often portrays male privilege as divinely sanctioned "²⁹. In this sense, Black women should tolerate rotten behavior from their husbands , some religious traditions hold that, even in the face of abuse , women have to stay with their husbands .

Kambili , in Purple Hibiscus, is the daughter of a devout Catholic man . She is raised to do what God and Papa want . Her relation with God is complex it consists of fear of hell instilled by papa . In fact, she does her best to satisfy her father and God as shown in this quotation : " why do you think I work so hard to give you and Jaja the best ? You have to do something with all these privileges . Because God had given so much ? He expects much from you . He expects perfection "³⁰. From the above quotation, we see that Eugene gives the best life for his children they attend private schools thus, he expects more from them . He wants them to be first in class and respect their father 's regime.

In fact , Adichie in her novel insists on violence in the Achike family. Eugene uses violence and punishment over his children and wife to correct their behavior and God's will. He uses religion to justify his cruelty and torture towards his family :

He unbuckled his belt slowly . It was heavy belt made of layers of brown leather with a sedate leather covered buckle. It landed on Jaja first , across his shoulder . Then mama raised her hands as it landed on her upper arm , which was covered by the puffy sequined sleeve of her church blouse . I put the bowl down just as the belt landed on my back³¹

The above quotation demonstrates Eugene's reaction when he catches Kambili eating cereals before mass or the Eucharist fast. She is sick and her mother asks her to eat solid food and take the medicine before going to the mass. However, Eugene comes and beats everyone with his belt.

To conclude, Eugene uses Catholic religion to oppress his family, religion is justification for his harsh acts inflicted on them. He follows the western lifestyle and banishes the traditional Nigerian beliefs. Both authors present the impact of religion inside the family and the negative consequences behind it such as violence and oppression.

b-Domestic Abuse and Oppression in the Two Novels

Domestic violence takes many forms in Adichie's Purple Hibiscus as physical, psychological and emotional. Adichie portrays violence over the female characters in the novel who endure physical abuse from their authoritarian father Eugene. In fact, the novel is narrated through the perspective of a young Nigerian girl aged fifteen years named Kambili Achike. She is the daughter of an important businessman in Enugu who owns several factories and the standard newspaper. At the same time, she is the protagonist of the novel. Indeed, Kambili observes instability in her family, but also political instability in her country during the eighties in Nigeria.

Accordingly, the first violence in the novel starts with the oppression of British colonialism which led to corruption and violence in the Nigerian government; "soldiers were milling around market women were shouting, and many had both hands placed on their heads, in the way that people do to show despair or shock"³². Here, Kambili is terrified by the scenes of strikes and violent altercations between market women and soldiers, when she goes to the market with her mother and Jaja in the car and feels helpless for the poor women. Adichie shows corruption in the Nigerian government and violence in the novel. She believes that violence always leads to more violence.

Domestic violence is an issue in Adichie's Purple Hibiscus. She presents her characters as victims of abuse and oppression. Beatrice, Kambili and Jaja live under the authority of Eugene who is a fanatically religious man. According to OseAihie "Domestic violence functions as a means of enforcing conformity with the role of women within the customary society"³³

Similarly in the Color Purple, Walker portrays domestic violence in the African American community in the early twentieth century. She depicts the real picture of the lives of Black women, in addition to socio-economic and double oppression that African American face during that period. In the novel, domestic violence takes the form of sexual and physical abuse of the female characters. In fact, the novel is written in an epistolary style, in form of letters from Celie to God, then from her sister Nettie to her and to each other. It starts with the sexual abuse of the main protagonist Celie. Who lives in rural Georgia with her sick mother and her little sister Nettie and her abusive stepfather. Celie is an uneducated Black girl who is victim of her stepfather's sexual abuse. At an early age, she is raped by the person she thinks he is her biological father. After that she endures violence and oppression from her husband.

Walker depicts domestic violence that Black Women undergo from males in their lives. Most of the female characters in the novel are victims of intimate partner violence, rape, gender and racism in African American community. Moreover, the author deals with the hard aspects of life in the South that the Black community faces and the effect of racial repression.

Accordingly, Celie is the victim of sexual and physical abuse at the beginning of the novel. She narrates her pain through a series of letters addressed to God. She is raped by her stepfather. As a young girl, she is unaware of what really happens to her in the absence of her mother: "you gonna do what your mommy wouldn't. First he put his thing up against my hip

and sort of wiggle it around . Then he grab hold my tities . Then he put his thing inside my pussy when that hurt I cry he start to choke me , saying you better shut up and get used to it³⁴

From the quotation above ,we see a scene of a girl's of fourteen years old's rape .Celie is not yet aware of her sexuality because she is still a child. In fact ,Celie suffers from repeated rapes and beatings from her childhood . Her stepfather exploits her for sexual relation although she is a child .He considers her as a sexual object when her mother is sick .

Similarly , in Purple Hibiscus , Adichie portrays Beatrice Achike a Nigerian woman as a victim of physical and psychological abuse by her fanatic husband Eugene . He imposes a harsh regime on his own family .Indeed ,Eugene is a colonial product , he adheres to western lifestyle and colonialist education .Beatrice suffers from her husband's beating and dehumanization for many years.She endures several miscarriages because of Eugene's violence :” we stood at the landing and watched papa descend. Mama was slung over his shoulder like the jute sacks of rice his factory workers bought in bulk at the same border [...]there is blood on the floor. Jaja said I will get the brush from the bathroom”³⁵.This quotation shows the physical abuse of Eugene over his pregnant wife that results in miscarriage . One Sunday she is tired and refuses to visit father Benedict and prefers to stay in the car , Eugene thrash her behind the closed door of their bedroom and beats her cruelly . The next day Beatrice tells her children that the baby is gone.

Adichie presents Beatrice as a weak woman , the one who remains silent in the face of humiliation and victimization of her husband . She sacrifices her life to preserve her family as most of women in the world do .According to Hampton “ there is a lot out there that says that Black women should tolerate lousy behavior in Black man “ ³⁶. In this sense , Beatrice is a traditional African woman who tolerates everything from her husband without complaining . In fact , most of the African women live in the same situation of Beatrice because the African society obliges them to endure violence and obey their husbands .Men consider them as

submissive and inferior . RotimiJegede claims “ it is believed that a woman has no worth or honor outside marriage in an African society as the husband crowns a woman ‘s life “³⁷

Beatrice suffers several miscarriages due to Eugene’s abuse .At the end of the novel ,she loses another baby as Eugene has broken a table on her belly that results in the death of the fetus of six weeks :” my blood finished on that floor even before he took me to stagnes . My doctor said there was nothing he could do to save it“³⁸

The Black culture humiliates and subordinates women in the African society . This is the case of Beatrice Achike, the wife of an important figure in Enugu . This man is a dictator in his own family . Though She suffers from violence and oppression for many years , she can’t leave her husband or divorce . According to Hampton “ there is a stigma against single women , there is pressure to have somebody and society does not actively promote alternatives to staying in the abusive relationship “³⁹. In this sense , Beatrice bears the violence of Eugene in fear of the Nigerian society which encourages him to take another woman in order to have more children

“ where would I go if I leave Eugene’s house? Tell me , where would I go ? Do you know how many mothers pushed their daughters at him? Do you know how many asked him to impregnate them , even and not to bother paying a bride price“⁴⁰

Walker shows, in her novel, the abuse of Celie by her stepfather Alphonso who exploits her body by force and impregnate her twice at the age of fourteen .She gives birth to a boy and a girl ,but Alphonso putsthem away and leaves Celie to think that they are dead “ he acts like he can’t stand me no more .Say am evil an always up to no good .He took my other little baby , a boy this time .But I don’t think he kill it “⁴¹ .Celie’s stepfather beats her all the time and deprives her from education. Then ,she is forced to marry a widower man with four children .Although Celie’s marriage ends up her stepfather’s violence it marks the beginning of another violence from her abusive husband, whom she denotes Mr . He takes Celie in order to take care of his four children and household. Their relation is like a master

and a slave, this is why she never tells his real name , she is emotionless toward him :” I pretend I ain’t there . He never knows the difference . Never ask me how I feel“⁴²

Accordingly ,The Color Purple features another side of physical violence .Celie is victim of her husband’s abuse who considers her as submissive and beats her fiercely .” He beat me as he beat his children“⁴³.Through this quotation , we can notice that Celie is always victim of the oppression and domination of all men in her life .

Walker’s female characters are victims of abuse and oppression of men in the African American community . These women undergo violence and rape in the hands of Black men who attempt to exert their authority and power on them . According to Hampton, :”many of African American men , like many white men have been socialized to believe that to be a man is to be innately superior to women“⁴⁴.In this sense , Black males use violence as a way of domination and authority over women in weak position . This is manhood for them, a man should always be superior and strong .

Moreover ,Sofia Butler , Celie’s step-son’s wife , is beaten by her husband Harpo as Alphonso tell him to beat and control Sofia , but she resists and fights back Harpo. Indeed ,Sofia refuses the humiliation and oppression in the African American community and from anyone :”All my life I had to fight . I had to fight my daddy . I had to fight my brothers. I had to fight my cousins and uncles . A girl ain’t safe in a family of men “⁴⁵. That is why she leaves Harpo and goes away to live with her sister as she never accepts victimization in a patriarchal society.

In addition , Walker’s novel depicts other female characters as victims of violence such as Squeak, the mistress of Harpo who is beaten until she leaves him for Grady . After that ,she is raped by her uncle :”poor little squeak come home with a limp . Her dress rip . Her hat missing and one of the heels come of her shoe“⁴⁶. This means that most of the Black females in the novel are victims of all kind of violence including sexual and physical abuse in

their own Black community . According to Hampton ,“intimate partner violence is behavior that is centered within the cultural and community context of everydaylife”⁴⁷.In this sense , Black women live in a background of violence , they are exposed to masculine frustration of African American men who are subordinated by white men and have higher rates of poverty and unemployment.

In the same way , in Purple Hibiscus Kambili, the protagonist and her brother Jaja , are victims of their father’s abuse .The first type of oppression they experience is domestic . In fact ,Kambili is oppressed by her strict father , her life is in form of schedule from school to family time and church . Moreover,Kambili and her brother follow a strict regime , which is imposed on them and they are deprived of many things such as watching TV and playing stereo .The second type of oppression is religion ,Eugene imposes the Catholic religion on his family and adheres to father Benedict’s faith . The children are limited by Eugene’s desire and God’s will. Adichie’s novel portrays domestic abuse as a prominent issue in the Nigerian society . The novel is a sample of domestic abuse in Nigeria and Africa .It depicts the lives of Nigerians in post colonial Nigeria under a corrupt government and western religion . Beatrice and her children endure violence and oppression in Eugene’s hand .

Furthermore in The Color Purple ,Walker shows how racism influences Black people’s social and economic lives in the early twentieth century in rural Georgia . Indeed , gender and race are the main causes of violence and trauma experience by Walker’s female characters . They suffer from double oppression ; first being Black in a white community and second being a woman in a male dominated society . Celie is a black girl living in poverty in America in the early twentieth century .According to Hampton ,“ the most important structural factors contributing to acts of intimate partner violence perpetrated by African American men is their intergenerational exposure to racial and gender oppression ”⁴⁸ .In this sense , America is known for historical racism and white oppression , the whites take the

power in economic and political spheres and, the Black people live in poor economic situation. Hampton believes that the social conditions of African American men are the main cause of intimate partner violence as they suffer from chronic unemployment which has negative effects on African American women and children like poverty.

Women characters, in the novel ,suffer from racism due to gender and skin color in the American community .Accordingly , Walker presents the female characters as victims of racism as Celie who is affected by racist and sexist oppression in the rural south .She views herself as Black and ugly as her very dark skin color . Besides, Celie’s biological father is murdered by whites .

Another presentation of racism in the novel is the character of Sofia ,a Black woman who fights the mayor and his wife because she says no to a white woman and is arrested by white police :” mayor look at Sofia , push look his wife out the way . Stick out his chest , girl what you say to miss millie ? Sofia say , I say hell no , he slap her”⁴⁹.Sofia is beaten in jail she is a housemaid in the mayor ‘s house and works like a slave without complaining whatever the circumstances . Even in jail,she has been beaten during twelve years , she works in a laundry all the day washing clothes : everything nasty here ,she say ,even the air .Food bad enough to kill you with it . Roaches here ,mice , flies , lies and even a snake or two .If you say anything they strip you , make you sleep on the cement floor without a light ⁵⁰

Sofia narrates her miserable experience in jail and the horrible moments she witnesses.She survives severe beatings during her imprisonment for twelve years , she is forced to work at the prison without income , doing laundry all the day . After that she works at the white mayor’s family as a maidservant.Gender violence is portrayed in both Adichie’s and Walker’s novels in the form of physical, sexual ,and emotional abuse among the Nigerian and African American societies . Black women are victims , they undergo different forms of abuse in a male dominated society .

Endnotes

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Chapter two: Trauma and Personal Experiences in Purple Hibiscus and The Color Purple

This chapter examines the two works of Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's Purple Hibiscus (2003) and of Alice Walker's The Color Purple (1983) in relation to the issue of trauma of Black women and subjugation in patriarchal societies . We will show traditional Black females in a double marginal position . The two authors focus on the traumatic psychology of both Nigerian and African American women . In this sense , we will rely on the theory of Trauma of Cathy Caruth in her famous books Trauma , Exploration in Memory and Unclaimed Experience. Moreover ,we intend to depict the traumatic experiences of the female characters and the silence resulting from trauma and oppression .

a-Traumatic Experience of the Characters in the Two Novels

In Purple Hibiscus , Beatrice Achike , the mother of Kambili and Jaja , is mainly the most traumatized female in the novel . She is portrayed as a very calm and reserved woman . In fact ,women in Nigeria are exposed to trauma through situations in their life like war , violence ,religious sanctions,and cultural norms . Beatrice suffers from the domestic violence that she endures from her strict husband . She undergoes physical and psychological assault during her marriage ,but she remains silent in order to preserve her family . According to Cathy Caruth :” the trauma is repeated suffering of the events but it’s also a continual leaving of its side “⁵¹. In this sense , Beatrice suffers from the torture and abuse of Eugene during many years in Nigeria that subjects her to experience trauma .

Accordingly ,Adichie'sPurple Hibiscus is a sample of Nigerian women's difficulties and their traumatic experience in a post colonial Nigerian society . Indeed, Nigerian women are still submissive and inferior to men , they are subordinated and exposed to trauma and violence . African women are forced in to marriage at an early age because of the traditions and customs . There are many issues that affect women in Africa as polygamy , divorce , and

genital mutilation . Indeed Beatrice is beaten up in several occasions to the point of miscarriage she loses two babies.

Similarly ,in Alice Walker's The Color Purple ,trauma is the major theme of the novel. The heroine Celie suffers from several traumas from an early age . Her childhood was a disaster because of the traumatic sexual abuse of her stepfather and the hard circumstances like poverty and racial discrimination in South America . Indeed, when she was twelve years old , she endures repetitive rapes by her stepfather as her mother was sick and unable to fulfill her husband's desire .

As a matter of fact , the novel depicts the lives of African American women in early twentieth century in the rural south of Georgia . During the 20 th century,the African American community was living a difficult period of time ,Black people suffered from racism , slavery and sexism . Thus ,Walker presents a real picture of the effects of racial repression and hard aspects of life .Bernard Bell states :

The color purple is more concerned with the politics of sex and self than with the politics of class and race ...it'sumelenting , severe attacks on male hegemony , especially the violent abuse of revolutionary leap forward into a new social order based on sexual egalitarianism⁵²

The novel narrates the life of a Black teenager in America .Celie as an African American girl is in double marginal position between patriarchy and racial discrimination . Gender and race are the main causes of violence and trauma that the female characters as Celie , Sofia and Squeak experience . The trauma from which Black women suffer comes from both their families and society . They are mentally and physically abused by their relatives .

Likewise, in Purple Hibiscus, Beatrice experiences trauma within her family like other women in Nigeria who are traumatized as a result of physical abuse . They face poverty, and insecurity .Beatrice tolerates Eugene's violence and punishment for fear of the society.Accordingly , Beatrice accepts the violence of Eugene because she receives threats from the relatives of Eugene that he will take another wife , as he is a businessman and owns

factories and the standard newspaper . Indeed, mama is afraid that papa will marry other women who may give him more children . As a woman in an African society, she is dependent on him .if she divorces, she will lose her position . As a result , she is subjugated and controlled by her husband . Eugene is rich and has just two children that is not enough for a man like him . He is respected in his society and faithful to the Catholic church : “ did our umunna not tell Eugene to take another wife because a man of his stature cannot have just two children “⁵³. This quotation reveals how the Igbo society imposes other women to Eugene , they push them to have a relationship with Eugene to impregnate them without respecting the feeling of his wife, because a man with a social status like Eugene should have many children.

The trauma is presented in The Color Purple , represented by Celie who experiences the trauma of rape . At the beginning of the novel ,Celie’s mother is physically and mentally sick; she is unable to take care for her children . As a result ,Celie is raped by her stepfather due to the carelessness of her mother .She endures sexual and physical assault at the age of fourteen and loses her two children .Cathy Caruth states “ a trauma consists of two senses, the earlier (in childhood) having sexual content but no meaning , the later (after puberty) having no sexual meaning “⁵⁴.

Celie experiences sexual abuse from her stepfather when she is only a child . It was the most difficult moment in her life . She doesn’t understand this terrible incident of rape, which remains a big loss of her childhoodinnocence . Her mother thinks that she behaves improperly and treats her like a delinquent girl .Accordingly ,Celie has a lack of maternal love and family care . As shown in this quotation “ my mama dead . She die screaming and cussing . She scream at me . I am big . I can’t move fast enough“⁵⁵

This terrible experience marks Celie’s first trauma in her life .This causes a psychological wound . Celie bears Post Traumatic Stress Disorder as she faces a single trauma which is sexual abuse . At the beginning of the novel , she writes letters to God and narrates

her painful moments until she meets Shug Avery who becomes her closest friend. Their relationship is like a mother and her daughter ,friends . According to Cathy Caruth“ To be traumatized is precisely to be possessed by an image or event “⁵⁶. In this sense,Celie is possessed by the image of rape that she can never forget . She is traumatized to the point she never tells anybody,she only writes letters to God .

In addition ,Celie suffers from isolation trauma when she loses her two children Adam and Olivia whom she believes are killed .But,they are given away by her stepfather and adopted by a missionary couple in Africa.Indeed, the letters represent the isolation Celie experiences , she is unable to voice her trauma, the reason of her weak position .

The protagonist is separated first from her children then from her beloved sister Nettie who escapes from her stepfather’s abuse to live with a young couple in Africa .

Therefore ,Celie has a blank in her whole life and can not get out her trauma as she loses the closest persons and feels loneliness in a miserable world . Moreover , the causes of trauma is discrimination and male oppression in her life , as her stepfather and husband abuse and beat her from childhood .Indeed ,the African American community put women inside and consider them as inferior as explained in this passage :

Everybody say how good I is to Mr? ??children . I be good to them .But I don’t feel nothing for them . Patting Harpo back not even like patting a dog . It more like patting another piece of wood not a living tree, but a table , a chifferobe . Anyhow , they don’t love me neither , no matter how good I is⁵⁷

The above quotation shows that Celie is dead inside as she doesn’t feel love for anyone in her life , nor is she loved by any of them and feels loneliness and sadness due to all men in her life .Celie ,in The Color Purple, is traumatized by the men in her life , her stepfather and her husband Albert whom she calls Mr .Consequently ,she is afraid of all men she says.” I don’t look at mens.That’s the truth. I look at women ,tho , cause I’m not scared of them“⁵⁸ . Pa and Mr set up a strong distinction in Celie’s mind between women and men since

they cause her harmful memories ;however with women, she feels security and acquires self worth and sisterhood.

Beatrice,in Adichie's novel ,is a submissive woman who lives under Eugene's domination and tolerates everything from him . n fact , Beatrice experiences trauma of oppression in the postcolonial environment in Nigeria . Eugene is a colonial product . He follows father Benedict's lifestyle and believes in Catholic religion .Consequently he imposes the west regime on his family and neglects the traditional Igbo religion . Accordingly , mom is a victim of Eugene's aggression all the time .Sigmund Freud states that ‘ the term trauma is understood as a wound inflicted not upon the body but upon the mind ‘⁵⁹.In this sense , Beatrice is affected in her mind more than in her body due to the mistreatment of Eugene. He tortures her emotionally and beats her on many occasions . He shifts his anger on the weak mama because of the instability of the country “ Eugene has not been well , he has been having migraines and fever . She said he is carrying more than any man should carry . Do you know what Ade's death did to him ?it is too much for one person “⁶⁰.

At the end of the novel, mamadecides to put an end to this oppression and trauma of many years .She poisons the tea of her husband with the help of Sissi who is a servant in the Achike household . Indeed ,this is the only way to stop the abuse and cruelty that all the Achike family endure .Many women adopt this way of killing their partners in order to free themselves as Jesse Emerly states “: the neocolonial , patriarchal oppression of Beatrice leads her to revolt but violence is the only method of revolution she can use“⁶¹

Through the two protagonists Beatrice and Celie, Walker and Adichie explore the themes of trauma and the inner sides of the characters particularly women . On the one hand , Beatrice experiences trauma of domestic violence caused by her strict catholic husband. On the other hand ,Celie as a Black teenager experiencetrauma of rape and child abuse from the closest person to her who is her stepfather Alphonso then from her abusive husband . Both

characters are survivors of terrible traumatic experiences because of the violence they endure from their relatives and suffer silently for many years .Judith Herman argues :“traumatized people relive the moment of trauma not only in their thoughts , dreams but also in their actions “⁶². The authors demonstrate male oppression and discrimination of gender and race against Black women in various forms .

b-Silence in the Color Purple and Purple Hibiscus

The characters in both works use silence to protect themselves from abuse . It is a result of fear and threats that they receive from the abusers .Walker and Adichie ,throughout their characters , present silence as a result of trauma that affect their lives .On the one hand Kambili and Jaja are traumatized by their authoritarian father and find difficulties to speak and express their emotions . So ,they use the language of eyes or speak with their spirits . On the other hand ,Celie who is victim of sexual and domestic abuse from her stepfather then her husband . She remains silent because she is threatened by both of them and never tells anyone, or Alphonso will kill her mother .So, she chooses to write letters to God and tells her sufferings. Cathy Caruth shows the traumatic experience as something absurd for others , it acts like tumor in consciousness that wounds the self . Indeed the traumatic experience is speechless and can't be described to others by the victim⁶³ . In fact , the characters of the two novels use silence as a secure way to protect themselves from abuse .

Adichie explores the theme of silence through the characters and show how violence and abuse impact their lives .This the case of Beatrice Achike and her two children Kambili and Jaja who remain silent for fear to be abuse . This reminds us of Okonkwo and Nwoye in Chinua Achebe 'sThings Fall Apart. The characters struggle with their cruel tribe and unjust treatments .Indeed , silence is shown before Ikemefuna is killed and Nwoye remains silent over the murder of the baby twins .

Ifeoma , the sister of Eugene , receives emotional and psychological torture from her husband's family . She is a widow and mother of three children .Thus, as in many African cultures, she is subjected to frustration and injustice from their society after the death of Ifediora . His relatives accuse Ifeoma of his death “ the people in Umunna said he left money somewhere and I have been hiding it “⁶⁴. She is a lecturer at the university of Nsukka , she is threatened that she will lose her job if she speaks up the political corruption of the university and the government “ they are telling mom to shut up, Amaka said shut up if you don't want to lose your job , because you can be fired just like that “⁶⁵.Adichie's characters are presented as submissive to their father's will as Beatrice Achike prefers to stay silent and tolerate Eugene's violence . Moreover Kambili and Jaja believe that if they say anything about Eugene 's abuse , they will be subject to further punishments .

Silence is also portrayed in the Color Purple by Alice Walker's through her characters. particularly women in the South. They are submissive in a male dominated society. Moreover, in the African American community, they face double discrimination of gender and race .Walker presents the theme of silence by the main protagonist Celie. In fact, she is raped at an early age by her stepfather . At the beginning of the novel, Celie starts writing letters to God because she has no one to tell her suffering“ Dear God I am fourteen years old , I have always been a good girl , maybe you can give me a sign letting me know what is happening to me “⁶⁶.

Celie remains silent as she is threatened by her stepfather “when that hurt , I cry . He start to choke me , saying you better shut up and git used to it”⁶⁷. Therefore the protagonist finds difficulties to speak out the act of her abusive father .Celie feels lonely after the death of her mother .She takes care of the household and of her younger sister Nettie .

The Color Purple is written in the form of letters ,Celie is able to reveal her inner feeling and psychological wounds through the diaries as she is terrified of the traumatic experience with her stepfather then with her husband .She undergoes physical and

psychological tensions . In the novel ,Celie and other women endure silence due to male oppression and discrimination they face in the African American community .Like Sofia, Celie's step-son's wife who remains silent and jailed for twelve years because of a white woman .

Likewise,in Purple Hibiscus ,Kambili is a traumatized female who remains silent and overwhelms her thoughts and feeling . She has no voice with her family members . In fact , she is a very calm and a well educated girl. Her life is composed of a schedule that her father makes for her and for her brother Jaja . She suffers the most as she is unable to speak up and not allowed to tell the truth about the situation they live at home .She goes to school , but she has no friends and her classmates call her a backyard snob.She rarely speaks with them and goes back home . She is wealthy but anti social , she ignores her classmates because she is psychologically tormented by violence at home .Indeed, Kambili's voicelessness is a result of the oppression of her father as Amaka asks Kambili “ why do you lower your voice , you lower your voice when you speak, you talk in whispers”⁶⁸.

Kambili is always afraid and panicked . Her father is one of the main factors contributing to her silence ; he uses religion and violence to silence his family . Kambili is controlled by her catholic father . Judith Herman claims “ traumatic events are extraordinary not because they occur rarely because they overwhelm the ordinary human adaptation to life”⁶⁹. In fact she rarely speaks even with her brother Jaja , they use the language of eyes and speak with glances .The trauma they experience change their personality and behavior . They look different from Ifeoma 's children ,Amaka and Obiora .

Silence is also portrayed in the character of Ade Coker, the editor of the Standard , who is silenced by a package bomb by the head of state .As he criticizes the Nigerian new government, and writes articles about corruption and political dishonesty , he is killed at the end of the novel .

As far as the Color Purple is concerned , Celie is silenced and searches for her voice . She is oppressed and silenced by the men in her life , she is scared to talk to others about her trials .She has no verbal voice. As a result, she writes letters to God . Moreover Celie is forced to marry a widower who has already four children and accepts to raisethem .

To sum up , in the two novels, silence is a symbol of abuse and oppression of the characters . It is the result of trauma which they endure in a patriarchal society . In Purple Hibiscus silence is the safest way for Beatrice ,Kambili and Jaja to protect themselves from the abuse of Eugene and prefer to communicate through eyes rather than speak out . At the end of the novel,the family breaks the silence after palm Sunday . In Walker's novel , the female characters break the silence and start to revolt against men who have the upper hand in the society. Men are the silencers and women are the silenced in the Black community .

Endnotes

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Chapter 3: Women Solidarity ,Rebellion and Liberation in Purple Hibiscus and The Color Purple.

This chapter is devoted to the theme of women's solidarity and their liberation from male domination in the two works .Chimamanda NgoziAdichie and Alice Walker include solidarity among the Black females in African American and African communities as a means of empowerment . In fact, women help other women to overcome oppression and trauma that they experience due to male domination .

Adichie's novel Purple Hibiscus portrays the characters of Beatrice ,Ifeoma ,Kambili and Sissi who are Black females in post-colonial Nigeria and how they come together and form strong relationships to overcome the hardships of life and become independent women within the patriarchal structures . In the same way , Walker portrays the characters of Celie , Nettie ,Sofia ,Shug Avery and Squeak as African American women in Rural Georgia.They face discrimination of both Gender and race and undergo severe physical and mental trauma within domestic life.Indeed , female friendship helps Black women to fight against patriarchy and give them a sense of security and comfort .

In Purple Hibiscus ,Adichie presents two different types of females through her two characters Beatrice and Ifeoma .She introduces the good woman and the real woman ⁷⁰. In the novel,Beatrice is always quiet and obedient , she is tolerant and remains silent and accepts humiliation and abuse from her husband, Eugene .Indeed , Beatrice is a good woman in the African culture ,whereas Aunty Ifeoma is the real woman , strong and outspoken . She is a lecturer at the university of Nsukka in Nigeria .Ifeoma is an independent woman who raises her three children alone as she is a widow, she encourages her children to speak up and express their minds .Thus,Beatrice and Ifeoma are opposed women who form strong relationships. Ifeoma advises Beatrice to refuse the domestic abuse that she has endured for many years from her husband, she tells her“ when Ifediora was alive there were times ,

Nwunye , when the university did not pay salaries for months , Ifediora and I have nothing eh yet he never raised a hand to me ^{“71}. From the above quotation, we notice that Ifeoma tells Beatrice that her husband has never beats her although he is poor and has nothing . He loves his wife and protects her ; however Eugene beats up his wife and justifies his act by religion .

Similarly , in The Color Purple ,Walker portrays the female characters in two types ; the weak submissive woman , and the strong independent woman in the African American community . In the novel ,Celie is depicted as a victim of sexual abuse from her stepfather and domestic violence from her husband. She writes letters to God as a way of communicating her victimization , telling her painful life . Lauret claims “ Celie ‘s writing is not itself an act of liberation even self expression , but rather an escape value when all else failswriting to God does not count as an act of self empowerment ^{“72}.However , Shug Avery who is blue singer and strong woman helps Celie to fight and liberate herself from oppression .

Shug teaches Celie to stand up and protect her from Albert’s violence .She discovers the letters of Nettie which have been hidden by Albert in his locked trunk for many years .In addition Sofia, who is outspoken and confronts all men in her life , fights back harpo when he tries to beat her .Sofia leaves Harpo since he tries to dominate her and follows Albert’sadvice.

Sofia and Celie have a close relationship . As Sofia rejects humiliation and control from anyone in her life, she teaches Celie the way to resist male’s abuse “You got to fight them , Celie , she say .I can’t do it for you .You got to fight them for yourself ^{“73}. She is an independent woman and an example of a strong character in the novel .She is a Black African American and resists all men around her .Amy Sickels, a critic claims :” Sofia is the first woman Celie encounters who successfully resists male abuse , she is one of the women in the novel who will challenge Celie’s passivity and influence her development into an independent woman ^{“74}

Furthermore , solidarity has an impact on women's fight against male oppression in the novel Nettie's letters give power and courage to Celie. When she discovers the letters, she becomes happy as her beloved sister is still alive and they have been separated for thirty years without any contact . Nettie is an intelligent and intellectual woman , she has a happy life with Samuel in Africa.She tries to teach her sister everything . Nettie and Celie are dependent on each other to face the difficulties of life .Celie sacrifices herself in order to protect her younger sister from the abuse of their stepfather and from forced marriage , she states “ I will take care of you with God help ^{“75}, she considers Nettie the most important person in the world after the death of their mother .

Likewise ,women's bonding in Adichie's novel is represented by the characters of Beatrice and Ifeoma ,Eugene's younger sister . She is wise and modern , she addresses her sister in law as my wife, as Kambili asserts “the first time I heard aunty Ifeoma called mama nwunye , ‘I am her wife , too, because I ‘m your father's wife. It shows that she accepts me^{“76}. She is impressed why Ifeoma names her my wife. This demonstrates how the two women are close to each other .Ifeoma tries to save her from an abusive life and advises to leave Eugene. She also blames her for her inability to save her children from the tyranny of her husband .

In addition to being passive and observe of the violent incidents when Kambili is beaten severely, she has the painting of her grand father Nkukwu .She finishes at hospital . She advises Beatrice “ when the house is on fire , you run out before the roof collapses on your head ^{“77}.Ifeoma gives moral support to Beatrice when Eugene breaks a table on her pregnant belly that results in another miscarriage .From that, Beatrice decides to put an end to Eugene 's brutality .

Kambili's and Jaja's visit to aunty Ifeoma's house in Nsukka mark a big change in their life .They find a different life there with more love ,peace and freedom . Ifeoma inspires

them to speak out and to stand up to Eugene's cruelty .Nsukka is a refuge for Kambili and Jaja ,they feel happy and enjoy life although it is a simple and noisy house . OgagaOkuyade observes “ inifeoma's house , everybody has the liberty to say anything , provided elders are not insulted . This enthusiasm with which discourses are introduced and sustained is not only mind boggling to Kambili ,but also causes consternation in her psyche”⁷⁸. Furthermore,Kambili's relationship with her mother is also strong .After her father's death, they find out the sense of life and freedom ,in addition ,they prove their personality and find their lost voices.

Similarly, inThe Color Purple ,Celie finds support first from Shug Avery the mistress of Albert . She gives moral support to Celie and pushes her to stand up and decline Albert's abuse .In fact ,Celie admires Shug's personality and beauty , she considers her as the most beautiful woman she has ever seen in her life , even more prettier than mama .She is less dark skin than Celie .Shug wakens Celie, and she finds the letters of Nettie in which she discovers many secrets .The man she thinks her father is in fact her stepfather and her two children are still alive in Africa . Moreover, her sister Nettie is still alive.

Celie has power and faith in her life after her experience . She decides to leave her abusive husband and go to Memphis with Shug .Indeed ,Celie starts a new business of sewing pants . At the end of the novel ,Celie meets her lost sister and her two children after many years of separation and privation ,she returns to Georgia and inherits her stepfather's house with Nettie and they start a new life .

As far as Purple Hibiscus is concerned , Beatrice Achike is a symbol of an oppressed woman .She is an example of the Nigerian females ,after the violence and the traumatic experience she endures for many years .She kills her husband in order to liberate herself and her two children from years of physical torture and oppression by the help of Sissi her servant

maid. She puts rat poison in small doses in Eugene's tea and succeeds to murder him . The police finds him in his office and Jaja takes the blame of his father's death.

The liberation of the Black females is through the solidarity between women in the two works. In Purple Hibiscus , Beatrice ,Kambili and Jaja free themselves from the domestic abuse and oppression of Eugene, the head of the Achike family . Likewise , in Alice Walker's The Color Purple, the African American women like Celie, Nettie,Sofia ,Squeak and Tashi face different forms of oppression in Patriarchal society .They are double discriminated, first for being Black in an American society , then for being women in a male dominated community .These oppressed women have succeeded to free themselves and revolt against enslavement and abuse of men in their lives thanks to their solidarity .

Adichie reveals how the physical and mental abuse of women results in negative effects on their self being , and goes through negative actions . As a matter of fact , Eugene's family members revolt against him , and the harsh regime imposed on them . Eugene's abuse is not only on his wife , but also on his children Kambili and Jaja . They are victims of his violence which results in trauma and silence.Kambili and Jaja are beaten up on several occasions . Besides, mama Beatrice miscarriages many times due to her husband's violence .

In addition ,Kambili and Jaja go to visit their aunty Ifeoma in Nsukka, where they discover another world full of love , happiness and freedom . Ifeoma's house is noisy ; sounds come from everywhere ,she encourages her children to speak up and express their feelings . Therefore, Kambili and Jaja are impressed and like the way of life of Ifeoma's family.

Likewise,in Walker's novel,the female characters face racial and gender discrimination in the American society .Women make strong relationships and gain independence and revolt against Black males oppression .Celie finds new friends like Sofia and Shug Avery. They support and encourage her to revolt and fight against Albert and Alphonso .The novel portrays the bond between sisters as the letters of Nettie mark big

change in her life ,Shug Avery teaches Celie about love .She learns to love herself , to get self esteem and self worth and become an independent person with the help of other women . African American women find solidarity between them , companionship and revolt against male domination . Indeed , Sofia is an independent woman ,she marries Harpo , she refuses to submit to anyone who tries to control her . Thus, she leaves her husband and defies the white . She rejects the traditional ideas about woman's role and fights back Harpo .

In Purple Hibiscus, the awakening of the two teenagers starts in Nsukka through observing the huge difference ,Jaja brings the flower of hibiscus piece of Nsukka with him to Enugu which is Purple Hibiscus , he finds it in the garden of Ifeoma . He is the first one to notice this rare flower , Hibiscus are always red but, in Nsukka, it is Purple and blooms only in Nsukka . Jaja plants Purple Hibiscus in their garden at Enugu . For the children, Nsukka is the place of refuge .

At the beginning of the novel , Adichie portrays Jaja's revolt against his father by not attending the holy communion .He has been punished severely from childhood , when he was ten years, his father has punished him until he lost his little finger , as he missed two questions on his catechism tests . The violence Jaja endures destroys him psychologically and physically , he is traumatized by his father's cruelty. Kambili also rebels against her father, refusing to go back home with him from hospital.He beats her and causes severe wounds because she keeps the painting of her grandfather whom Eugene considers heathen . She goes with her aunty Ifeoma to Nsukka where she feels secure and safe .

Walker,in her novel,depicts the position of women in Black African American families . Men are the source of absolute domination . In fact ,walker uses epistolary style as a way of communicating the traumatic experience of Celie .The bond of sisterhood is essential to Celie because it helps her revolt against her husband Alphonso after she discovers that her sister and children are still alive . Celie, at the end of the novel, is able to overcome her

traumatic experience .She decides to break her marriage and leave him .She goes to Memphis with Shug the mistress of Alphonso and starts a new business there .She becomes independent .Barbara Christian in her Black feminist Criticism Perspectives on Black Women Writers claims “ Walker’s Celie comes close to liberating herself through the community of Black sisters , Nettie , Sophie and Shug , and is able to positively affect the men of her world⁷⁹

The Color Purple follows the transformation of Celie from a poor uneducated African American Black girl to a free woman, and self -reliant by the strong bond of these Black women who liberate themselves from male oppression . Through the letters of Celie to God and Nettie to Celie , they form solidarity that pushes Celie to rebellion and struggle against the men who cause her awful experience . Celie has the ability to change her life , she learns how to fight and find out her identity ; therefore she breaks the obstacles that prevent her from being physically , spiritually and economically free.

At the end of the novel , mama seems not well . She starts to deteriorate mentally , she doesn’t talk to anyone .Finally after three years ,Jaja is getting out .The Achike’s family gets freedom and liberation after the death of Eugene . Adichie, in her novel , believes that Black women must come together and form strong bonds in order to survive within the dominant patriarchal society . Indeed Nsukka is the place of liberation for Kambili and Jaja” the freedom to be and to do ⁸⁰ , aunty Ifeoma is a decolonizing figure in the novel , she teaches them how to break silence and fear .

There are symbols in the novels . In Purple Hibiscus, Palm Sunday refers to the victory of Beatrice and her children ⁸¹. Moreover the figurines of mama mark the end of violence , when Eugene breaks them ,she refuses to replace them . She is sure that she will not be beaten in the future ,and starts vengeance against her violent husband . The Purple hibiscus plant is a rare flower that blooms only in Nsukka , it is a reflection of the changes happening for Jaja

and his family .It is a symbol of hope and freedom which Jaja seeks from in Nsukka in his aunt Ifeoma's garden .Besides ,in The Color Purple , Celie associates it with loyalty and love and likes all what is purple⁸² .

Women bonding is essential for the survival of Black women .It helps them to rescue themselves from patriarchy and enslavement .Moreover , it gives them power and security to confront the world .The liberation of the oppressed women in the two novels comes through rebellion .When they have decided to revolt against domestic violence and trauma that they have endured at the hands of men and stop abuse, they finally succeed and get freedom at the end of the novels .

Endnotes

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5-Conclusion

In our comparative study between Adichie's and Walker's novels. We have attempted to shed light on the existing affinities between the two authors, in the way they present their female characters as oppressed and marginalized under male forces in African and African American societies. Violence and Trauma are among the main issues discussed by Afro American female writers. They affect women all around the world, who are victims of all forms of violence and oppression. In fact, Chimamanda Adichie and Alice Walker present the struggles of Black women in both African and African American societies. They portray the lives of women during the twentieth century.

In the first chapter, we have portrayed Black women who endure domestic violence and abuse in patriarchal societies. They are double oppressed and victimized by men in their own communities. Women are victims of intimate partner violence and the reasons behind this abuse are social, economic and religious. The African American females undergo physical, sexual and emotional abuse from their partners in their daily life, they are traumatized and terrorized by Black men and their mistreatment. Indeed, Black males are directly or indirectly subjects of racism and slavery, Eugene is a colonial product. Thus, their aggressive attitudes toward females are results of their traumatic experience of racism.

Using Hampton's theory of domestic violence, we have presented the main factors of intimate partner violence in the black family. Besides, we have made use of Caruth's theory of trauma which deal with the survivors and victims of traumatic experience.

In the second chapter of the novel, we depict the trauma of Black female characters, trauma of violence and rape in the rural South Georgia and Nigeria during the twentieth century. Their aim is voicing the trauma of abuse and suffering of women under masculine domination. Both Alice Walker's The Color Purple and Chimamanda Adichie's Purple Hibiscus project female characters as voiceless and oppressed in a male dominated society,

they present the impact of Catholic religion inside the family , and its negative effects on the characters of the two novels . Besides, both authors portray silence as a reflection of violence that affects the female characters , and results in trauma . Black women are forced to remain silent due to fear and violence . In the third chapter of the novel ,we depict women solidarity and strong bonding to revolt and liberate themselves from masculine domination. At the end of the novels , the victims of trauma and violence liberate themselves from the forces of oppression . They break the silence and rebel against patriarchy.

Finally, our work concludes with similarities between the Color Purple and Purple Hibiscus.They deal with Violence and Trauma as main issues in Afro American literature.Ultimately, the two authors choose the color purple to mark love, hope and freedom. The protagonists, Celie and Kambili , after many years of torture and brutality , and the experience of marginalization and domination find their voice and start a new life and become independent.We suggest further studies for students as religion and male domination in the two novels.

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