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The Depiction of Transcendentalism in Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*

**An Extended Essay Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for
the Master's Degree in Anglo-Saxon literature and Civilization**

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Dedication

I want to dedicate this work to thank my lovely parents for believing, and investing in me all these years .

For my siblings for always standing by my side through my better and worse .

For my dearest best friends , Khalfoun Chaima and Lemsan Hizia , it was an honor getting to know you and to have you in my life .

Miss Amina Larbi

Dedication

I dedicate this work to my dearest parents Samira and Idriss Mebakri for being so patient with me and specially my mother who always pushed me to this level.

I also thank my beautiful sisters Chahla and Batoul and my brothers Mohammed and Khaled as well as my preaches precious aunt Fatna .

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Abstract

In the 1830s, new England witnessed the birth of a new movement characterized by its significantly unique beliefs that strives in pushing human beings into becoming better versions of themselves, by following what they believe in and relying on themselves and not others as well as creating their own path than that of society. Thus, to turn to nature for life lessons, this movement is called American transcendentalism. By 1855 American transcendentalism started to fade out until it did eventually, however in the twentieth century it appeared again, but this time in an unexpected place, to be more specific in African literature. This research investigates the reappearance of this philosophy in African literature. This research paper aims at giving an explanation about this topic and shedding the light on the work of the postmodern African writer Chinua Achebe novel *Things Fall Apart* and the depiction of transcendentalism within it.

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General Conclusion

General Introduction

General introduction

General introduction:

When we look back at the history of the United States of America ,we can see that transformation played a significant role throughout the years .It's rich history was famous for the different movements that left an impact on the American life .The nineteenth century witnessed a number of different events and movements each one had it's unique characterization that changed all different sides of the American life , from , thoughts , beliefs and norms .

In the early 19th century , a conflict started between the old generation that believed in reason in their religious approach , and the new generation , who valued an emotional experience over reason and logic in terms of religion ,This issue resulted in the emergence of a new movement called Transcendentalism .

It is a movement of writers and philosophers in new England that was centered around the sacristy of nature , the appreciation of the individual freedom and self reliance , non-conformity in addition to intuition . These four ideas are considered as the key tenets of transcendentalism .The transcendentalists rejected the convention of the 18th century thought , and what began as a discontent with Unitarianism , developed and turned into a new school of thought . By the 1830s when literature started appearing it paved the way for their ideas to be put together in a more cohesive way ,later on with the creation of the Transcendental club the new movement became an organized group led by it's adherents such as Ralph Waldo Emerson , Henry David Thoreau, Margret Fuller and other thinkers .Ralph Waldo Emerson , is the leading figure as his first essay '*nature*' laid out many of the tents of the transcendentalist philosophy .This group of people were convinced that instead of believing that everything in the world could be observed through the scientific method , the transcendentalists believed in the notion that the most essential reality is what is sensed and what is felt .In 1840 the Transcendental Club came to an end ,but the movement continued , however by the 1850s it started to fade out , since many of its original members were dead by the end of the Civil War like Henry David Thoreau and Margret Fuller while the others supported other causes .

In spite the fact that , American Transcendentalism was believed to be over in the 19th

General introduction

century ,in the late 20th century specifically in African literature where themes such as nature are implied in most of African books ,this philosophy was again found precisely in Chinua Achebe's ever first written novel entitled *Things Fall Apart* .The aim of this research is to investigate whether Transcendentalism is within African literature .Through this dissertation, explanations and proof will be provided that this philosophy did not end , but does still exist in African literature . It is divided into two chapters, the first chapter deals with how transcendentalism first emerged as a literary genre and then shifted to philosophy, the next two parts are mainly about the rich African culture, and the phases which led to the creation of a distinguished African literature. The last part discusses the reasons behind the birth of the negritude movement that aimed at refusing to submit to injustices and its influence on African writers such as Chinua Achebe, in writing his well-known work *Things Fall Apart* .While the second chapter is an analysis of the novel and the depiction of Transcendentalism in *Things Fall Apart* .

As the title indicates, this study interprets Transcendentalism in *Things Fall Apart* the questions addressed in this research are the following :

- 1: Does Transcendentalism exist in African Literature?
- 2: Did Transcendentalism fade out in the 19th century?

Chapter One :

An Overview Of Transcendentalism And It's Connection To African Literature .

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Chapter One : An Overview of Transcendentalism and It's Connection To African Literature

Introduction:

Throughout history ,both of the American and the African societies has witnessed and seen numerous changes that has completely effected and influenced their beliefs and way of thinking. The objective of this chapter is to provide a background information and an overview on what Transcendentalism and African literature is .

1.4. The Origin Of Transcendentalism :

Transcendentalism which was a nineteenth-century theological and philosophical school of thought in the United States. The discourse of the American scholar which was given by the brilliant thinker Emerson, in 1837, at Harvard College at the First Parish in Cambridge , Massachusetts, he said that : "We will walk on our own feet; we will work with our own hands; we will speak our own minds...A nation of men will for the first time exist, because each believes himself inspired by the Divine Soul which also inspires all men." (Emerson ,12) . Thus, transcendentalism was born due to these magnificent words.

It was primarily active in New England, Massachusetts at the birth of Unitarianism. It arose out because of an argument between the theologians of the new light, who believed that religious belief should concentrate on an emotional experience, And old light opponents, who appreciated reason in their religious approach. Initially, these old lights were called liberal Christians, then they become Unitarian's, They did not believe in the trinity of father, son and holy ghost as in traditional Christian belief, they only accepted the truth that Jesus Christ was a mortal and nothing else . Transcendentalism took her first steps in protesting the general state of American culture and community, protesting their way of thinking and their behavior , One of the states which transcendentalism objected was that of intellectualism at Harvard University and the doctrine of the influential unitary church. To a certain degree it can be considered as a nationalist movement in the wake of American independence from the United Kingdom, that's why it is sometimes referred to as the American renaissance.

Lewis stresses the point that transcendentalism had rebelled against the pre-existing situation of their time, so their goal was to resolve that situation . Also another objective was to create an exclusive entity of American literature, by the fact that the previous colonization by the

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English man had caused adverse consequences so they felt that it was the best moment to make an uprising in literature, for example, to produce more literary works than before like essays, books, novels, novels..... All this works has given rise to what is called transcendentalism , their own philosophy and way of belief .

1.2. The Development Of Transcendentalism :

Transcendentalism had passed through many steps and stages , it was known as a literary genre, when all the transcendentalists started producing peaces of literature. Then as a social movement defending on the values of human being , for instance , women suffrage and anti-slavery movements. After as a philosophical and a religious approach, believing that any individual is subject to knowledge.

1.2.1.Literary Scene :

First of all, the relationship and correlation between God and nature is very important to human beings because according to the transcendentalists, the spiritual world is the only source of truth and existence. In an Essay on Transcendentalism, Charles Mayo Ellis voiced the point that "the belief and faith of transcendentalism came according to the direct relationship with God and nature, and not through the five human senses "(Ellis,23), so the reality cannot be found by them but with God and nature.

In fact, the main proponent Ralph Waldo Emerson of Transcendentalism thought and argued that the beauty of nature is like watching the sunshine and sunset, the stars and the mountains which the human beings take it for granted as he said it is not for nothing, in other words the physical world serves the person that the absolute truth is within it, so it is the place that anyone should give much importance to, in order to make be successful and well organized (Emerson, 1, 2.) .

They also believed that a person should disregard social standards in order to distinguish and know what things are right and good and what things are bad and harmful. In religious terms, the transcendentalist community believed that every creature in the universe is in contact with God through nature or perceptiveness Rather than in specific locations such as a church or

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mosque. But there is a strong relationship between God and the individual only through insight, the perception of nature. All people have the same benefits and advantages that they are equal to God. Both partisan thinkers Ralph Waldo and Henry David in their essays on transcendentalism, they voiced and expressed their main concepts, That nature is not only a magnificent place with a wonderful atmosphere and an incredible sunshine and sunset as people believed, but a place of truth and faith, a place to contact god to follow the inspiration and revelation, that the universe "macrocosm" and the individual "microcosm "are one thing connected within each other . (Manzari , p,1793)

In the beginning of the eighteen century romanticism commenced to emerge in the American literature, all this thanks to the Romantic movement in America, Europe and Britain which gave the opportunity to transcendentalism to advance and progress in her literary background . James Fennimore Cooper , Henry Whitman, Edger Allan Poe , Herman Melville and Nathaniel Hawthorne, those are transcendentalists and their contemporaries who applied romanticism in their works, and created an assortment of literary works in different genre.

Genuinely, some romantic poets and writers from Britain like Samuel Taylor Coleridge and William Wordsworth had a considerable influence on the American transcendentalists. Two poets were written by them concentrating on their personal feelings and sentiments, they centered on both supernatural and day-to-day experiences. Coleridge submitted to his readers the divergence between knowledge acquired by the senses, or through comprehending and grasped intuition, or by reason.

Transcendentalism as the depiction of romanticism prevalence with many transcendentalists through their works in particular Emerson, Thoreau, Fuller and others, publicizing brilliant pieces of literature, in a broad diversity of genre and aspect. They give expression to their philosophy, focusing on their concerns, and promoting their capacities too through their writings in periodical publications The Magazine that were very significant at that time, the Western Messenger which was one of the first Transcendentalist magazines with James Freeman Clarke. It defended Ralph Waldo Emerson, Amos Bronson Alcott, Orestes Brownson, and Liberal Unitarianism generally contrary to the attacks of the religiously Orthodox. It covered different pieces of works, Unitarianism, Transcendentalism, German, oriental philosophies and

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literature. It was the first journal dedicated to literature and religion. It contained a literary coverage, an authentic work of poetry, a forward-looking to social issues, and issue of liberal religion with literature. such the amazed communique of transcendentalism, the Dial, which was edited by Emerson and Margaret Fuller and published by Elizabeth Palmer Peabody. (Manzari, ,1799) .

Transcendentalism did indeed affect American literature concerning nature, some writers and poems disagreed with this concept regarding the perceptibility of man, that man is not perfect as they thought still there are some wrong things in the human ability, as the perception, sensation, intuition... Hawthorne and Melville, also had disagreed with transcendentalism, because they emphasized more on the concept of man that he is sinful ,(Manzari, p,1799) . Despite all this, they agreed within each other and spent much time together.

1.2.2. Social Conditions :

Manzari highlights that During the 19th century, many reform movements took place for the purpose of changing some things in society (p,1793) . The three significant and celebrated movements termed as: the abolitionist movement, the temperance movement and the women's suffrage movement. But another social movement of importance for transcendentalists which is anti-slavery that was led by Parker. For theme slavery was something bad and should be punished for, that is the duty of each person to protest the government for the sake of the human rights. Thoreau emphasized on the obligation of protesting against slavery, the individual is created by God, and every creation of him should be protected and secured, the individual has a great importance, so they must erase this concept of slavery and all humankind should be equal because for God they are equal, and they should practice their human rights freely with no pressure. For them it was something inferior and unacceptable, the individual is a person with a value that cannot be a slave, to be bought in order to control his life and made him a servant. So, the transcendentalists fought this phenomenon so that everyone becomes equal.

Manzari also states There was another movement that acted by women in the eighteenth century. It was made for specific reasons because women used to be seen as ignorant in the eyes of men, they were viewed as subordinate and weak, they were also inferior and powerless. At that

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time man was controlling the society, fundamentally controlling woman, there were no place for woman to take a job or study, man used to see woman as a tool and nothing else. In addition, it was similar to slavery, but with a few differences, the woman lived their lives according to specific standards, followed man's orders without rejection. They used to grow up thinking about getting married and giving birth to children, they had brainwash under the masculine society. Thus, transcendentalism had a strong relation with women's movement that some of their main female followers like Margaret fuller who was among the transcendental club, was a women's right activist who defended bravely for her rights and other females . Fuller believed that women are equal to men, they share the same right and duty in all fields. For Emerson woman is a soul and not an object with feelings and values as all the creations of God specifically as man, this idea which Fuller was inspired by and fought for it until the end. That She even made a lot of activities during this movement, including some classes to teach women literature, education, methodology and philosophy. She even published a book about feminism in the nineteenth century (p,1794)

1.2.3. Philosophical and Religious Background:

The term of Transcendentalism which had been first proposed and suggested by the Greek philosopher Plato, who believed that any person in the continent is subject to knowledge that can find and discover his goodness, not by logic and reasoning, but rather than on following his insight "the perception and vision", intuition and inspiration as transcendentalists believed . Another belief that has been furnished by Plato for the most part on man's ability and ability to discover the mere being himself. subsequently, all these ideas and theories that were provided by Plato were practiced and performed by the transcendentalists specifically by Emerson. (Manzari ,p,1796)

The English philosopher John Locke who believed in the capacity of the human mind, that a person is conscious in the existence "self-awareness" from his earliest days . However, The materialism of Lock has cast aside the transcendentalist views and perceptions, regarding religious matters .

Certain insights of the German philosopher had influenced transcendental thinkers. For

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instance, his theory of knowledge how to apprehend and comprehend thoughts and ideas, he even drew a distinction between sense and understanding. That he was the foremost thinker among others who believed in the soul and in God that they are transcendent that He made things easier by his theories and hypotheses to transcendentalists to get in touch with the concept of transcendentalism. Kant stressed on the point that knowledge does not consist in obtaining information or discovering new things, but it is about four concepts, which are "God, morality, liberty and immortality", that a human being can understand and comprehend these concepts by his own intuition rather than his reasoning. In his perspectives, man must follow the line of God, following the commands and instructions, doing all that God has asked his creatures to do, he should be obedient. Thus, transcendentalists do agree with Kant in some points to a certain degree.

Another strange and distant way of thinking which has a relationship with transcendentalism, which is Chinese and Indians religious technique. It had an impact and effect upon the mystic aspect of transcendentalism. Despite the fact that transcendentalism has not been treated as a philosophy, there are some common principles that both shares. Like the point that god is not accurate in specific holy places but he is in everywhere in nature, and any idea can be known by intuition not reason which can result a positive emphasis on individualism, self-reliance and the rejection of social norms That god created his creatures with a wonderful capacity to communicate with him based on their faith.

In fact, transcendentalism was produced from English romanticism also German philosophy, Unitarianism..., even though there is a difference between romanticism and Transcendentalism mainly in religious matters and spiritual beliefs. The transcendentalists argued that God is the internal force, he is everywhere and can be discovered at any time by self's inner light "the soul of the human being". While for romanticism, they focused more on the human nature, rather than the power towards God, for them God is an external force, and reason is higher than the inner light (Manzari,p,1796,1797). Transcendentalists have given great importance to inner goodness, because they take it for granted in their entire lives.

Ultimately, Transcendentalism and Unitarianism shared in common the concept of monotheism. This concept means that there is only one God who is the father of all, and Jesus is

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not the God as they believed he is only his son and messenger Jesus and the human beings are similar sharing the same privilege, to connect with God they disagreed about at a certain point, that Unitarians valued heart than mind, for the transcendentalists, anyone in this universe has a great power to distinguish things and explore god at any time and place (Manzari,p,1797).

1.3.What is Transcendentalism :

Like any period of time, which characterized by a specific culture and beliefs in any country; America witnessed some movements that changed the way of thinking of people in the 19th century. Through these changes people developed their views that free them from slavery and strict orders. Philosophers start to react and work for the spread of a new way of thinking under the name of transcendentalism. Transcendentalists believed that God, man, and nature are interrelated to shape the concept of life. (Emerson 07)

Transcendentalism is a philosophical and literary movement that began in the early nineteenth century, centered around Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, Margaret Fuller, Lydia Maria Child, Amos Branson Alcott and several others, stimulated by English and German Romanticism, the Biblical criticism of Herder Schleiermacher, and the skepticism of Hume, the transcendentalist operated with the sense that a new era was at hand they were critics of their contemporary society for its unthinking conformity and urged that each person finds in Emerson's words "an original relation to the universe"(Russell,03)

It arose in reaction to Unitarianism and the age of reason which both are based on reason as the primary source of information however the Transcendentalist refused this notion, thus it is the idea that a person can rise to a higher spiritual level to seek spiritual greatness, it embraces idealism focusing on nature and opposing materialism, the writers and thinkers of this era wanted people to perceive the truth through their senses. This philosophy was based on the innate goodness of humanity, the sovereignty of insight over logic, and the importance of unity of all creation. the transcendentalists believed that man is born inherently good, and the only source of corruption is society, therefore they found refuge and solitude in nature, because nature was untouched and unchanged by man, to them it was simple and they thought that a person can find himself in nature, because man and nature are one, whatever couldn't be felt or seen in society, nature was the way to experience those things like meditation, in addition, they doubted the existence of logic, reason, and the sensed experience, for them the only way to reach knowledge

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is personal revelation or intuition. Furthermore, transcendentalists critiqued and questioned institutions of organized religion, instead of being part of them, human must endeavor to be independent and self-reliant. They were convinced that no intermediary was needed for spiritual insight, because god is present in each person thus all human beings are connected, which means the soul's connection with God, and if one wants to be closer to god, he must go through himself and not another person such as a priest, spirituality comes from within in other words it is not something that could be explained but rather felt.

Transcendentalism was strongly influenced by Deism, deities are often offered up as an example of something that someone might believe exist without the sense experience of it, if a person believes that god exist without experiencing it then that person is a transcendentalist, however if a person believes that they can hear or perhaps even see god then they are not Transcendentalist because they presume to experience it and that is rejected by this new philosophy.

The Transcendentalists were non-conformists, they trusted that no rules must be followed to reach heaven and god, followed their hearts and their beliefs no matter how much they differ from social norms as long as it felt right. As the industrial revolution made substantial changes, they noticed that the society around them was deficient a "mass" of bugs or spawn" as Emerson said in the "American Scholar" they pushed back and critiqued it, they followed the work of Charles Fourier a French social theorist who supported the idea of reconstruction of society based on a communal associations of producers, the Transcendentalists established book farm as a commune in an attempt to share profits with everyone however it failed few years after, to add up they were engaged in social causes like fighting for the abolition of slavery, the rights of women and the rights of native Americans, they advocated the use of non-violent means, to achieve their aims. (Sarikas, 01).

1.5. Two Prominent Transcendental Writers:

1.5.1. Ralph Waldo Emerson:

He was born on may 25, 1803 and died in april 27, 1882, american poet, lecturer and essayist, the son of William Emerson (1769; 1811), and Haskins (1768, 1853) he was part of a large family, eight children including himself, Emerson's father was Unitarian pastor, he was descendent from a line of new England ministers that went back to the bedrock of the seventeenth

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century of puritanism ,he studies at Harvard in 1817, then Harvard divinity school to train for the priesthood in 1825, four years later in 1829 he was ordained a minister the same year he married the love of his life Ellen Tucker ,unfortunately his happiness ended when Ellen died two years after of Tuberculosis ,he resigned from the church .

Emerson already had problems concerning the nature of new England religion orthodoxy and after Ellen's death his faith in god and religion had been irrevocably shaken by his loss (Cerf,2).After a short while he embarked on a trip to Europe , he went to Paris to the famous "Jardine des plants", and there he came up with the idea that man and nature are one , and that nature is part of us not just in its higher forms but in all its wild forms as well and that people can understand god through understanding their souls and feeling other connections through nature , Emerson's dream was to meet face to face with a number of his intellectual heroes , and he managed to meet with the English romantic poets Samuel Tylor Coleridge and William Wordsworth ,when he met them his expectations were disappointed he found them to be normal and ordinary ,the trip was the source of the two main ideas of Emerson's life work which are man and nature are connected and that every human being is uniquely significant .

After he went back to new England he gave lectures that later he published in essay forms in particularly "nature"1836 which embodied his newly developed philosophy Transcendentalism, in the opening line of his essay nature he said 'Our age is retrospective. It builds the sepulchers of the fathers. It writes biographies, histories, and criticism. The foregoing generations beheld God and nature face to face; we, through their eyes. Why should not we also enjoy an original relation to the universe?' (Emerson, 1),in this paragraph Ralph Waldo Emerson said that instead of looking back to the past , to its European heritage we should focus on what is here in the present , and each person should find himself instead of imitating their former ancestors because no past generation is better than the present one.

Another remarkable work by Emerson is Self Reliance "1841in which he spoke about individualism that if a person wants to be the better version of himself he must be a non-conformist , a person can do whatever he wants , without following society ,because society values conformity ,in addition Emerson set the idea of not relying on others for knowledge , but to look for them ourselves , since direct knowledge comes from within and not other people , the

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more people rely on their intuition , the better they will be , and the better society will be , personal experience must be valued thereby the opinions of other people should be rejected in order to transcend ‘trust thyself’ said Emerson .

1.5.2.David Henry Thoreau:

He was born on July 12,1817 and died on 1862,he was a poet , essayist , lecturer , naturalist and a philosopher , a leading transcendentalist and the author of the well-known book *Walden* in addition he delivered lectures that attacked the fugitive slave law and defending the abolitionist John Brown ,he was raised in Concord ,Massachusetts along with his two older siblings Helen and John Jr and his younger sister Sophia ,his father John Thoreau operated a local pencil factory and his mother Cynthia Dunbar rented parts of the home's family boarders, Thoreau went to Harvard college where he studied three languages Greek , Latin along with German ,and graduated in 1837,(Cuenca , Lazo ,18.19).

At 19 Thoreau read Emerson's first essay ‘nature’ that lays the fundamental ideas of transcendentalism , he was fascinated by the philosophy and after college he met with him and Emerson became his mentor , after short while he moved in with Emerson as a caretaker of his home ,Thoreau build a small house on Walden pond , where he seek for a much simpler life , in 1840 he began writing nature poetry in 1854 he published ‘Walden’ or life in the woods ,in 1849 he published ‘civil disobedience’ another influential work of his in which he criticized social institutions and stopped supporting the government ,after he stopped paying taxes as a reaction of opposing slavery and the Mexican-American war ,in his book he called for the need to change he encouraged people to follow their conscience instead of the orders and the dictates of laws ,in the beginning of” Civil Disobedience ‘Thoreau argues that the government rarely proves it self to be useful and that it is unjust and evil therefore people should refuse to follow it and distance them self from the government in general, therefore Thoreau further more argues that this criteria of unjust government fits the united states according to Its support of slavery and its practice of the Mexican-American war.(Zawiyah Mohd Zain¹ & Mohammad Agus Yusoff,129).

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1.6.The Tenets Of Transcendentalism :

1.6.1.Non -Conformity :

Through the years people have been living in a cycle following the exact same way their former generations did ,maintaining their social norms , customs , beliefs , traditions , all trying to fit in and be accepted by the people around them and by their society, it is considered as a type of social influence it includes agreeing with everyone and behaving in a particular in order to be normal , this is called conformity

Conformity can be defined as yielding to group pressures, something which nearly all of us do some of the time. Suppose, for example, you go with friends to see a film. You didn't think the film was very good, but all your friends thought that it was absolutely brilliant. You might be tempted to conform by pretending to agree with their verdict on the film rather than being the odd one out. (Eysenck, 724).

Those who act In different way than others or beliefs in something else are viewed as outsiders or not normal and those group of people are called as non-Conformists . non-conformity is the most important tenet of the Philosophy of transcendentalism ,the transcendentalist were the first known non-conformist in America they pushed and motivated people to seek freedom and independence ,and to not follow paths set by society ,but instead follow themselves and not to conform to social expectations .despite the fact that this action can be considered as difficult due to society pressure and it's constant judging , but it is an action that needs to be done to reach full independence and freedom. Attempting to blend and be part of society by accepting it's immorality leads the individual away from the ability to listen to his own intuition and it undercuts the independence of the individual , studies has shown that on one hand the more a person conforms the less he produces , however on the other hand when he doe not conform and follows his inner voice the more self-reliant he becomes , those who rejected something approved by the majority were often met with harsh criticism , again that is why the individual must learn not to fear the disapproval of society and do what he desires and not to worry about others judgments , therefore relying on one's self is extremely important as it builds confidence and strength that enables the person to be a strong member of society. In 1841 Emerson published his essay “*Self-Reliant*” in which he urged his readers to follow their will instead of conforming and blindly following society, and avoid it at all costs .

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1.6.2. Intuition :

Intuition is an ability to understand or know something immediately based on feelings rather than facts, besides that ,intuition is one of the three main principles that guide transcendentalism ,Transcendentalists believed that a person does not need to learn morality from holly books ,law or society because god is within each person , and each person is capable of doing what he desires in addition they believed that intuition gives people the capacity to become spiritually enlightened , whereas if they depend on their senses they will be doomed to Religious Skepticism thus people must trust and follow their intuition rather than society ,for it is the main source of wisdom

1.6.3. Nature :

Prior to the eighteenth century there was not much of American philosophy going around , only philosophical traditions coming out of Europe existed , That is why Emerson was trying to be unique and original , not just by following the footsteps of the past, but by presenting and creating new thoughts for the world , he believed that instead of living and holding on to the past we must let ourselves to be free from the ghosts of the past , and embrace new ideas that will create a new generation willing to demand for new laws , new religion and new thoughts . Here where his first essay ‘*Nature* ‘comes to the picture it is this significant essay that brought that change by creating a new American philosophy .

In ‘*Nature*’ Emerson recognized both the philosophical and the common sense definition of what the word nature really stands for .

‘‘Philosophically considered, the universe is composed of nature and the soul. strictly speaking, therefore, all that is separate from us , all which philosophy distinguishes as the NOT ME , that is both nature and art , all other men and my own body , must be ranked under this name , nature ‘’(Emerson ,02) .

He also added that: ‘‘Nature, in the common sense , refers to essences unchanged by man; space , the air , the river , the leaf .’’(Emerson,02).

These two definitions are extremely different, which show how an ordinary person simply view

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nature using his common sense , and how nature is seen and complicated through philosophy.

“A Transparent Eyeball, I’m Nothing, I see all(Emerson4), is phrase used by Emerson in referring to his relationship to nature. What he means is that anyone can become one with nature , by blending with it , and by observing and absorbing and taking all its aspects in .As has already been said Nature plays a significant role in the life of the individual , it can be also seen as the reason for it’s survival and well- being .Ralph Waldo Emerson explained how exactly both nature and men are bound together and how , it meet his needs through an endless circulation “All the parts incessantly work into each other’s hands for the profit of man .The wind sows the seed ;the sun evaporates the sea ;the wind blows the vapor to the field ;the ice, on the other side of the plant ;condenses rain on this ;the rain feeds the plant ;the plant feeds the animal’(Emerson ,4)this shows how really vital is nature in man’s universe.

Emerson devoted an entire chapter about the charm of nature called “Beauty “chapter three .At this point it is obvious how important nature is to the transcendentalists , in chapter three deals with how much there is beauty in nature and how appealing it is to the eye of the viewer .He added that the feelings that he gets watching the daybreak and the sunrise are those of an angel .what Emerson was trying to say is that going into nature and leaving behind preoccupying activities as well s society is the best thing for the individual

In transcendentalism ,nature was considered to be sacred , they believed that they should live closer to nature for it is their greatest teacher, and a person can find what he needs and find his true self in it , for nature is indeed his religion (lusk,04) another thing that they deeply thought was that nature was emblematic and by understanding it’s language and lessons they were closer to god for that nature equals god , not only through nature they can know god and themselves ,but also they thought that god was in everything and everywhere ,so there was no necessity for an organized religion like churches and other institutions , they wanted direct relation with god and not through another person like a priest or a pastor, Emerson wrote an essay titled “*nature*” He said:

Undoubtedly we have no questions to ask which are unanswerable . Whatever the problem of the world, there is nothing impossible, each individual is unique and excellent, and can solve all the issues how hard the difficulties are. And every man's trouble should be

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performed as life before apprehending it as truth, Not to answer questions simplistically, but live life itself due to the fact that it's the only solution. Emerson referred to nature as the common usage that it is something out there, "trees, animals..", the part of the world that is not denigrated by human acts and inventions.

In the first chapter "nature", Emerson spoke approximately about the reflection of human beings in the loneliness, the magnificence of nature and the shiny stars . Emerson specified the importance of the stars, that if there are any regulations or rules in the creation, like if they appeared merely one time in a millennium years, How it will be honorable and worthy, everybody would be pleased because of this miracle “page 03” . He portrayed how humans perceive things in nature, that only few can see the sun, and the fact that they took it for granted , They walk outside, through their houses in the woodland, they do not concern if they see the sun, but if it showed up once every hundred years how amazed everyone would be at the privilege of having seeing the sun. He also spoke about serving the landscape, and that no one has the landscape, anyone can take advantages from it,

Fundamentally nature is a democratic element that belongs to everyone. Whether the individual is a component nature, survey everything, the stars, the mountains, the sun and other objects that are part of the nature he will be able to recognize the prettiness of the universe, the sense of becoming a transparent eye-ball. And so on, nature is the truest reflection of reality, as it is of man and woman kind .

1.6.4. Individualism:

Individualism was reckoned to be valued among transcendentalists , they advocated the idea that intuition and natural instincts guides a person to do the right thing , in nature they are uncorrupted , it is only when they let society influence them that they start to conform and hence corrupted ,therefore a person should follow his free will rather than others because conformity kills individuality ,moreover , a person should rely on himself and not others , people are at their best when they are self -reliant ,just because society , the bible or laws say that something is good or bad does not mean it is true , simply because a large number of people said so , does not make something actually real , people are unique and different thus a person must accept himself as he

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is and not take other people into consideration.

The term Individualism insists that thoughts and beliefs must be independent for a person have to follow himself, and build his own personality while not falling under the society's influence, the two well-known transcendentalist who believed in the notion of individualism are Ralph Waldo Emerson and his student David Henry Thoreau, the former wrote *Self-Reliance* in which he encouraged people to be free and rely on themselves, and develop culture and knowledge in order to build a perfect form of personality, Emerson also supported the idea that a person must have free will and be responsible for their lives and stand behind their decisions no matter what they are. (Yahi,08)

To believe your own thought, to believe that what is true for you in your private heart is true for all men, that is genius. Speak your latent conviction, and it shall be the universal sense; for the inmost in due time becomes the outmost and our first thought is rendered back to us by the trumpets of the Last Judgment. (Emerson ,26).

Emerson states that "It is easy in the world to live after the world's opinion; it is easy in solitude to live after our own; but the great man is he who in the midst of the crowd keeps with perfect sweetness the independence of solitude(23)

1.6.5. Self-Reliance:

His essay *self-reliant* transmitted many messages and encouraged people to be free instead of automatically follow the opinion of the majority and that self-reliant must be applied in all life's aspects and sides. Emerson's essay brought new ideas and forever changed society. Thoreau was on the same page as Emerson when it came to individualism, however he focused his attention towards the government after experiencing a direct incident with it, in his essay *Civil Disobedience* he pushed people to act against the government, he viewed it as a limiter of capacities and a killer of dreams, he also urged people to not follow it anymore or obey its orders but on the contrary, the way of thinking influenced not only literature but the politics of the United States of America.

If the injustice is part of the necessary friction of the machine of government, let it go, let it perchance it will wear smooth--certainly the machine will wear out. If the injustice has a

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spring, or a pulley, or a rope, or a crank, exclusively for itself, then perhaps you may consider whether the remedy will not be worse than the evil; but if it is of such a nature that it requires you to be the agent of injustice to another, then I say, break the law. Let your life be a counter-friction to stop the machine. What I have to do is to see, at any rate, that I do not lend myself to the wrong, which I condemn (Thoreau ,14).

1.7. African Culture :

Africa is characteristically unique continent among all seven continents of the world. It also has a highly diversified culture and known as the richest in cultural heritage and diversity, a wealth of natural resources that brings the tourists from all over the globe. The African culture diverse from one region to another, not only from one culture to another, and each ethnic group stay in touch with their own practices and rites, music, customs, tradition, literature, and their philosophy. Generally speaking, Africa is a huge island, composting from 54 or 55 country, 1500 to 2000 language, 3000 tribe or more and uncountable philosophies. The African food differ from one place to another, for instance, Algeria's famous plat is couscous, Morocco's plate is tadjine, and south Africa's favorite food is bobotie and potjeikos, and the same thing about costumes.

Religion also varies from North Africa turning to the east ,west, and the south . Christianity came after the colonization of Britain in the southern regions, because southerners used to believe in more than one god and their holy spirits but after the colonial period they changed their faith (*Achebe, 10,100*)

To speak about Nigeria, which is a country that exists in Africa on the western coast on the Gulf of Guinea. That has more than 250 ethnic group and her three largest and most dominate ethnic groups are the Hausa, Yoruba, and the Igbo. Savana, tropical forest and coastal wetlands are Nigeria's environmental regions that highly affect the culture of the Nigerians, (Falola,2) . So, many ethnic groups and three different environmental regions, which make it a country with various values and traditions. Because of the colonization of Britain, English has become the official one in Nigeria, used by the government and all the formal places in a country with more than 250 individual tribal language, and her second language is Hausa . The other dominant languages in the south are Yoruba and Igbo, however, since the coming of the British, English has

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become the common language in Nigeria .(Falola,2)

1.8.African Literature :

1.8.1.What is African Literature :

It is the literary work of the African continent, produced by African writers which consists of various genres such as , novels , poetry and other literary works. On one hand there are some authors who believes that African literature can only be composed of African languages only, on the other hand some say that it can be written in any language conditionally the writer must be African. In the words of Elizabeth Gunner ‘the body of traditional oral and written literatures in Afro-asiatic and African languages together with works written by Africans in European languages ‘

There are two types of African literature written and oral .The latter also known as Orator is also a part of pre-colonial African literature .The term oral literature is transmitted by word of mouth or the so- called folk (i .e .,those who are unlettered or do not use writing).it flourished in Africa primarily due to the spread of literacy and was handed down to generations through memorization and recitation in forms of folktales , proverbs myths , funeral dirges ,and praise . for instance, folktales were primarily used to teach lessons whereas proverbs were employed as a rhetorical device, presenting its speaker as the holder of cultural knowledge or authority .As for the myths it typically involves supernatural being or events .Oral literature is often referred to as ‘traditional literature ‘ . most African societies place a great worth in oral literature since it has a significant meaning in which it represents their way of life, and a mean to convey their culture and traditions, as well as educate and instruct their younger members . the storyteller or sometimes called a griot, is a master himself and plays an important role in the way of telling the stories in which he has to keep the listener interested (GILL ,528) .

The second type is written African literature , as Africans became literate they started expressing themselves via newspapers and writings , some wrote about the colonial repression, while others, were inspired by their culture and past, one of the first non -fiction slave narratives African literature to gain and attention was ‘*the interesting narratives of the life and adventures of Ouladah Equiano or Gustavus vassa, the African (1789)*’,that described vividly

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the horrors of slavery and slave trade .

1.8.2. The history and The Development of African Literature:

There are 54 nations which makeup Africa, each of these countries have their own history tribes, culture and traditions therefore African literature dates back thousands of years ago to ancient Egypt and hieroglyphs or writing which uses pictures to represent words. These Ancient Egyptian beginnings led to poetry, which spread during the Arab conquest during in the seventeenth century C.E .and through the nineteen century C.E .These Arabic and African culture continued to blend with European culture to form a unique literary form.

In the early 19 century, the missionaries were sent to facilitate the idea of colonialism, by preaching about respect and brotherhood .They believed that they were civilizing the uncivilized countries , but their main goal was to take the lands and make Africa abandon it's culture and religion while adopting the western culture and religion. The work of the missionaries started in central and southern Africa and were considered to be the earliest exploiters of that era. Colonization led to slavery , millions of Africans were enslaved and brought to western countries against their will from the sixteenth to the nineteenth century .Africa experienced severe hardship and through its long history of suffering due to colonization, which left an impact on the concepts and the themes of it's literature.(Diop ,1).

During the 19th and the 20th century Sub-Saharan Africa developed a written African literature due to the arrival of missionaries ,Africans started writing in both European and indigenous languages. Towards the end of the first world war they started calling for independence and more African writings were published by *whole Soyinka, Chinua Achebe ,Ngugi wa thiong'o*and others more , where they all shared same themes such as ,Liberation , independence , the clash between the past and the present .

1.9. Pre-colonial Vs Post- Colonial African Literature:

Pre-colonial:

It refers to the works that emerged from Africa prior to the period of colonization, and before the arrival of the white man. Before then there was the use of oral literature that corporate

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past events that were concealed in proverbs myths, riddles, tales taboo ,and superstitions . There are numerous examples of pre-colonial African literature it can be found in Ethiopia, where there is a substantial literature written in Ge'ez which goes back to the fourth century AD. The best-known Ethiopian literary work in this tradition is the Kebra Negast(“Book of Kings”).Also there is ‘*epic of Dinga* ‘from the old Ghana Empire, in Islamic times Northern Africans such as ibn Khaldoun gained distinction within Arabic literature, in Swahilian literature on of the earliest pieces is *utendi wa tambuka* or the story of tambuka .

Post-colonial:

The term post-colonial African literature refers to writings produced after the independence of multiple African states that were formerly ruled by European countries . with the liberation of Africa and gaining independence in 1950s and the 1960sit resulted in the rise , the growth and the recognition of African literature, African writers in this period wrote both in western languages including French , English and Portuguese and in traditional African languages .These writers implied themes such as the clash between tradition and modernity , indigenous and modernity and several other themes (tikumah,3).In 1986, Wole Soyinka became the first post independence African writer to win the Nobel Prize in literature. Previously, Algerian-born Albert Camus had been awarded the 1957 prize. In Nigeria , Chinua Achebe wrote a masterpiece called *things fall apart 1958 which* represents the struggle between the old and the new order.

1.10. The Influence of the Negritude Movement on Chinua Achebe :

1.10.1. The Negritude Movement:

It is a philosophical, poetic and a political movement of the1930s to 1950s that began among French-speaking African and Caribbean writers living in Paris, led by Leopold Sedar Senghor, Aime Sesaire, and Leon Damas. It was influenced by the Harlem renaissance, alternatively called ‘new Negro movement’ which was an intellectual and cultural revival of African American music , dance, art , literature and theatre centered in Manhattan, New York city. Negritude sought to reclaim the value of blackness and African culture.

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The movement is marked by its rejection of European colonization and its effective role in the African diaspora .furthermore, it was born out of the shared experience of discrimination and oppression, as well as an attempt to dispel stereotypes and create a new black consciousness.The term Negritude was first coined by Aimè césaire in his poem ‘*cahier d’un retour* (John sodiqsanin Dr,2020).

Africans experienced hardships over the years, they were considered to be inferior and believed not to have a history or culture, they were taken against their will and enslaved, and fell under European rule, through the study of African history and the humiliation, these views inspired a lot of basic ideas behind the negritude movement and thus the aim of the movement was to remind African of their rich heritage and traditions , to awaken nationalism and self-confidence among Africans. and to assert self-worth and identity.

Like any other movement and ideology Negritude faced challenges and criticism, yet its growth continued because of its significant role in the development of African literature , *things fall apart* written by the Nigerian writer Chinua Achebe is remarkably influenced by the negritude movement ,The main purpose that led Chinua write *things fall apart* was to educate readers about the true African culture and not the one depicted by Europeanwriters like Joseph’s*Conrad heart of darkness* (1988), Joyce Cary’s*mister Johnson* (1939)and Edgar rice *Burroughze Tarzan* these works Africans are portrayed as savages, primitive, uncivilized and ‘the other world’. (Alexander A. Onwumere, Florence Egbulonu,149,158).

In *Things Fall Apart* Achebe remarkably painted a comprehensive picture of the Igbo society at the end of the nineteenth-century .he spoke about ceremonies such as weddings, funerals , the power that gods plays and holds over their lives as well as myths , legends and superstitions , he mentioned both the negative and positive aspects of his culture, in fact h he devoted half of the novel to mainly speak about the Igbo society.

1.11. Conclusion:

At the beginning of the 19th century, specially when romanticism began to be applied in the American literature , many intellectuals started speaking about nature and supernatural things. However, this romanticism gave the transcendentalists the opportunity to defend and speak about

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their beliefs freely and step by step they organize their clip , made magazines and write numerous books like, nature, Self -Reliance, and civil disobedience .However, the tenets of transcendentalism were not applied only in America, but even far away in Africa with many intellectuals like Chinua Achebe in his novel *things fall Apart* .

Chapter two:
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General Conclusion

Chapter two: The Depiction of Transcendentalism in *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe.

2.1. Introduction :

This chapter consists of two parts only ,the first part gives background information concerning the novel *things fall apart* such as it's characters , plot and the setting , however the second part , is an attempt to analyze and study the book , in order to extract and proof that the philosophy of transcendentalism does in fact exist in African literature .As has been said before in transcendentalism nature, was considered to be a sacred, divine space. They believed god, man, and nature are connected to each other . For the Transcendentalists, a direct relationship with .

2.2. *Things Fall Apart* :

2.2.1. Plot Summary:

The novel *things fall apart* is written by the famous Nigerian author Chinua Achebe, published in 1985, it deals with the changes occurred in the Igbo community after colonialism , Achebe provided themes such as , tradition vs change and fate vs free will ,

The novel narrates the chronicles of its leading character Okonkwo a wealthy and respected warrior of the Umuofia clan, hunted by the fear of becoming like his failed father Unoka, who was a gentle musician in debt to whole of his community, Okonkwo was ashamed of his father and driven to be the opposite, fierce and hyper-masculine that fear guided Okonkwo's life h made sure never to fail and gain a respected place among the clansmen , he earned personal fame recognition then honored his village, by defeating Amalinze the cat in a wrestling contest .since then he married three wives and fathered ten children. in the rising action, the neighboring clan murdered a woman from Umuofia, therefore the payment was a virgin and a boy, the clan's elders chose Okonkwo as the boy's guardian the boy Ikemefuna stayed at Okonkwo's compound until they come to the solution of what to do with him, Ikemefuna adjusted to life in Umuofia and came to view Okonkwo as his father, Nwoye Okonkwo's eldest son grew fond of Ikemefuna, but three years later, the priestess chielo ordered Ikemefuna to be killed, a village elder Ogbuefi Ezeude, warns Okonkwo not to have a hand in Ikemefuna's death, because the boy calls him father, however, Okonkwo does it anyway, fearing if he does not obey the oracle, he will be seen as a weak, fragile and lose respect. Nwoye in particular became devastated and grew distant from his

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father.

Ezinma, Okonkwo's daughter from his second wife Ikwifi, becomes extremely ill with the fever or Iba, and her parents worry the child will die, Ogbuefi Ezeude dies and during his funeral Okonkwo's gun exploded and accidentally killed Ezeude's son, the punishment of killing a clansman, is seven years of exile, Okonkwo and his family settled with his mother's clansmen in Mbanta. Later missionaries arrived Mbanta and other villagers, they requested land to build a church, days after people started attending services including Nwoye, who left his father to join the missionaries, Okonkwo was furious and believed it was natural to have a weak son as he said 'living fire begets cold, impotent ash'. After seven years Okonkwo returned to Umuofia to gain his respect once again, however, everything changed after he left, the missionaries became well established which infuriated Okonkwo, he wanted to fight them but Obierika told him that it was too late. British officials set up a government with a judicial process led by a district commissioner.

Enoch committed the crime of unmasking an Ekwugwu clan leader, which was similar to murdering an ancestral soul. In the climax, the Ekwugwu and the villagers reacted by destroying Enoch's compound and the church. In the falling action, the district commissioner jailed six of Umuofia's leaders including Okonkwo, they were humiliated and tortured in jail, after the villagers paid a fine of two hundred and fifty bags of cowries, the leaders were released, Okonkwo swore vengeance and killed the court messenger for trying to stop a clan meeting. In the resolution of the novel Okonkwo hangs himself and that symbolizes the downfall of an ancient history. The district commissioner reflects that Okonkwo's story is worth including in his book called "*the pacification of the primitive tribes of the lower Niger*".

2.2.2. The Setting:

This novel of Chinua Achebe's 1958, *Things fall apart*, which showed up in the final decade of the 19th century in Igbo ground, which is also known as southeastern Nigeria. The village groups of Igbo come together to protect one another; the action of the story was occurred in two different places. However it was set more in the village of Umuofia.

At this land geography plays a great role, it takes on gender-specific aspects depending on where

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a person's father and mother were delivered. For instance, Umuofia is the home hamlet of Okonkwo's father Unoka, in other words, his fatherland where he spent most of his life, after his exile due to the crime of manslaughter, murder a member of the clan which is a crime against the goddess of the earth he must be punished for. so he, his wives ,and his children were obliged to travel to Mbanta, which is his motherland. Time has played a part as well, the novel was fixed in the 1890's, fundamentally at the beginning of the British colonization in Nigeria specifically in the Igbo land, Since the start of British imperialism in the region, Started with bibles instead of weapons and shotguns.

The staging of the novel is extremely important as it allows Okonkwo's life to pass through both pre- and post-European imperial era. There are also two different manners of justice, before, in the pre-colonial era the traditional Igbo system of justice was: if anything wrong happened villagers have to complain to the nine elders who dressed as masked gods, and in order to judge. However, at the arrival of the British man, everything change they set up their own court which settles disputes in a civilized discussion. Thus ,this temporal setting . Shows the difference between how life in Igbo land went on before and after the arrival of the British.

The Umuofia clan has a complex religious regulation based upon their natural surroundings like the setting of the evil forest which plays a significant part that .It is both a specific decoration and a symbolic representation, which appears 22 times in the novel it is surrounded by, death, dark woods, evil spirits, grave ,mystery, fear .And all the rest. other significant setting, the earth goddess, which is something all the people of community feared and venerated from, As the Umuofians farmers, who depend extremely on the produce of the land which it can be subject to damage and ruin, so they see the earth goddess as the command of the weather and the one who control the production, They rely upon heavy rainfall in the spring and the end of the summer season to help grow their steady harvest of yams.

2.2.3. Characterization:

Characterization is an essential part in the novel and a crucial one , without characters , which are people that re involved in the story a novel can not come to exist . there are two types of characters primary and secondary, the difference between them is that primary characters

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appear in many scenes throughout the story while secondary, play supporting roles and appear in less fewer scenes than the primary ones. the main character is often called the protagonist , while the villains is called an antagonist .characters can be flat or round , depending on it's traits , the behavior and the beliefs of the character change then it is round if it does not it is flat .

Unoka :

Passed away ten years prior the beginning of the novel and is the father of Okonkwo, Unoka is a musician , who loves to play the flute with his band and drink wine , rather than work hard to provide for his family his farming was considered be a failure , as he failed to get any crops from his farm . he borrowed money from numerous people and rarely paid them back which left him in debt to almost the entire village. he was lazy and a coward which prevented him from becoming a warrior and gaining titles, he plays a significant role in shaping the character of his son Okonkwo. because his traits does not change he is considered to be , a static , flat character .

Okonkwo:

Unoka's negative reputation drives Okonkwo's obsession with masculinity and personal achievement ,The protagonist is the exact opposite of his father, he strives in manliness and hates everything related to his father, such as music, laziness, and everything considered to be weak and effeminate, he is he has a problem in expressing himself, so he uses violence with his wives and children especially Nwoye because he resembles Unoka .His respect and fondness of Izinma allows to see his tender side beneath his masculine exterior. Okonkwo is a wealthy, respected leader of Umofia, a great warrior, and a successful farmer .

Okonkwo is a static , flat character , he was unable to adapt to the change brought by Europeans so he killed himself, he would rather die holding on to his beliefs than accept the change of his civilization .and through the novel he remained the same , and did not evolve .

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Nwoye and Iznima:

Nwoye is Okonkwo's eldest son from his first wife, he resembles Unoka, a lot which whom Okonkwo despise. Nwoye, is sensitive, gentle, interested in music Okonkwo and compassionate, as he found some of his clan traditions disturbing, especially the custom of killing twins and bury them in the Evil forest, he preferred listening to his mother's stories than his father's mainly speak about violence and blood. When Okonkwo adopted Ikemefuna, Nwoye looked up to him, and he gradually started putting effort to please his father, however, After Ikemefuna's death he felt betrayed. and was beaten by Okonkwo for crying over him, because to his father, a man does not cry, only women does. later nwoye decided to convert to Christianity, because of the kindness Christianity displayed. when Okonkwo found out he disowned his own son, which clearly shows how poor their relationship was. but, nevertheless, Nwoye finally found peace that he long ago sought

Nwoye is a dynamic, round character, as he displayed a variety of emotions, from being a timid, weak person, to fighting for what he wanted.

Ezinma, is Okonkwo's favorite child, and the only daughter of Ekwifi his second wife. She was believed to be an ogbanje, but she ends up living a normal life with close understanding with her father. Ezinma possesses traits such as, bold, confident and courageous unlike her brother Nwoye, she sits like a man and, and takes tasks of boys. being a man who is fond of masculine qualities Okonkwo grows fond of her to the point when he wishes, she was a boy, because he knew, she would make a good son. Ezinma is loyal to her family, she postponed her wedding to help her father leverage his sociopolitical power.

Ezinma is a round and a dynamic character, from being expected to die at an early age, she grew up to be a strong wise woman. and she proves that being a woman does not necessary mean it be weak, but on the contrary.

Ikemefuna :

Is a fifteen year old boy, from a neighboring village called Mbaino, taken as payment and placed underneath the care of Okonkwo. one of his many characteristics that drew

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Okonkwo's attention to him, and gained him a special place among his children, is that he was a hard working boy. Ikemefuna is also a dynamic, round character, as at the beginning he tried to run away several times from Umuofia, and go back to his mother and three-year-old sister, he managed to adapt to life in Okonkwo's compound, at last when he was told that finally, he gets to go home, he was not as eager and determined as he was before.

M.R Brown:

Mr. Brown is the first white Christian missionary in Umuofia and Mbanta, he came to bring awareness and civilization, he believed that he was god's messenger, so he was delivering that message which is Christianity. He was given a land where he built a church and a hospital. M.R Brown is a kind, patient and an understanding man, despite the differences between his beliefs and Umuofia's beliefs he never showed disrespect towards them or their religion. He was open-minded and listened carefully to Akunna's explanation when he was speaking about his god, but rather respected his view.

M.R Brown considered as a static, flat character, he did not go through any changes.

2.3. The Depiction of Transcendentalism in Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*:

2.3.1. Nature in African Literature:

God and nature were of great importance. In his essay "Nature" Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote "The foregoing generations beheld God and Nature face to face; we through their eyes. Why should not we also enjoy an original relation to the universe?" (Emerson, , 38). It is the same case in African culture, in *Things Fall Apart*, Chinua Achebe portrays the significance of nature and shows that man, nature and gods had lived in harmony for years.

"The feast of the new year was approaching, and Umuofia was in a festival mood. It was an occasion for giving thanks to Ani, the earth goddess, and the source of all fertility, Ani played a great part in the life of the people than any other deity" (Achebe, 17). This passage shows how much the people of Umuofia respect their goddess by organizing a festival only to appreciate and

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thank their her for providing them with food .during the week peace Okonkwo notices that his wife Ojiugo did not make him dinner , and went to have her hair braided , Okonkwo loses his nerves and beats his wife ,which shamefully leads to breaking the week of peace.

“You are not a stranger in Umofia, you know as well as I do that our forefathers ordained the before we plant any crops in the earth , we should observe a week , which a man does not say a harsh word to his neighbor. we live in peace with our fellows to honor our great goddess of the earth, without whose blessing our crops will not grow you have committed a great evil “(Achebe , 28).

In order to atone for what he did, the priest demand that Okonkwo sacrifice a Nanny goat, and a hen and pays a fine of one length of cloth and one hundred cowries.

Okonkwo followed the priestess advice and sacrifices these things to ask for forgiveness and blessing from Ani in order for the crops to grow .Nature plays a great role in the life of the villagers , it does not only provides them food but is a source of medicine as well, “it is *iba* said Okonkwo as he took his machete and went into the bush to collect the leaves and grasses and barks of tree that went into making the medicine for *iba* “(Achebe, 58)this shows that earth provides way for human beings to battle disease and survive. nature, rain and sunshine , are three component that can result plants which anyone can profit from ,and make medicine, it is for everyone, something democratic as Emerson said in his essay.

Since the goddess of the earth and harvest provided the villagers with food and medicine , in return they protected their goddess from any sort of disease that might be inflicted upon her “the sickness was an abomination to the earth , and so the victim could not be buried in her bowls , he died and rotted away above the earth and was not given the first or the second burial , such was Unoka’s fate .”(Achebe , 17)

Unoka died of swelling in his stomach and limbs ,an infliction not acceptable to Ani , so he was taken to the evil forest to rot .they couldn’t risk for the earth goddess to get sick her self which means no food and no medicine .killing whether intentionally or not was viewed as an offense and a sin towards the earth goddess, “ As soon as the day broke, a large crowd of men

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from Ezeudu's quarter stormed Okonkwo's compound, dressed in garbs of war. They set fire to his houses, demolished his red walls, killed his animals, and destroyed his barn. It was the justice of the earth goddess, and they were merely her messengers. They had no hatred in their hearts against Okonkwo. His greatest friend, Obierika, was among them. They were merely cleansing the land which Okonkwo had polluted with the blood of a clansman."(Achebe, 116). committing such crime toward the provider of life is unacceptable, and they believe that the earth will turn against them if they do not atone for their sin.

In *Things Fall Apart* besides explaining the importance of the relationship between God, man, and nature, Achebe describes vividly the beautiful features of nature in Umuofia, "The footway had now become a narrow line in the heart of the forest. The short trees and sparse undergrowth which surrounded the men's village began to give way to giant trees and climbers which perhaps had stood from the beginning of things, untouched by the ax and the bush fire. The sun breaking through their leaves and branches threw a pattern of light and shade on the sandy footway. (Achebe ,41) Achebe highlights the image of the dazzling forest, still untouched and unchanged by man .

Gradually the rains became lighter and less frequent, and earth and sky once again became separate. The rain fell in thin ,slanting showers through sunshine and quiet breeze. Children no longer stayed indoors but ran about singing.

This saying as the first chapter of Emerson's essay "*Nature*" , when he emphasizes on the reaction of the human being inside nature and for the sake of the beauty of her own component, and the prominence of the sky, stars, rain, the sunshine .Achebe describes the falling of rain within a wonderful atmosphere, that gather both rain and sunshine at one moment, he pictured the scene with precise words as romantics used to do. At a certain point, even the children were so glad to see such a view that they went outside to sing and dance, as transcendentalists believe, everyone should profit from this opportunity. Nature has a great impact on the human being that it can make him pleased and happy and even charges them with great and positive energy in order to change them from a miserable situation to a cheerful one . apparently rain is something of a great importance and an essential element for man , nature and their earth goddess as well , as if rain is the main reason for life in Umofia .

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At last the rain came....the grass had long been scorched brown,.....when the rain finally came ...which the people called (the nuts of the water of heaven) ...yet young people ran about happily...the earth quickly came to life and the birds in the forests fluttered around....children sought for shelter, and all were happy, refreshed and thankful.(Achebe ,91-92) this is how a long quote should be cited, in a single space and no indentation

The rain and the sun had a great impact not only toward people but also toward animals and all the creation of the globe ,it inspired them with a considerable power and a feeling of unconcern of all the problems and the difficulties they faced, a tranquility of the soul and a huge serenity . However, the people of Igbo “Umuofia” symbolized the rain as “the nuts of the water of heaven ”,as something very precious and valuable, worth to wait for every signal day , this shows that the people of Umuofia gave a dignified concern to nature that is something not like others, both free that anyone can enjoy it and help them to rebuild , organize and reconstruct themselves towards the better.

not only the rain is magnificent but the moon as well, in the sentence ‘’ when the moon is shining the crippled becomes hungry for a walk ‘’(Achebe ,10). Suggests that the healing powers of the beauty of the moon can make the handicapped walk, however this celestial power owns a dark side apart for the beautiful one , when Ekwefi was following the priestess Chielo, she prayed for the moon to rise, give her clear vision of the forest, but the first light of the moon was terrifying ‘’ She had prayed for the moon to rise half-light of the incipient moon more terrifying darkness’’

2.3.2. Individualism in *Things Fall Apart* :

2 3.2.1. Courage:

Another important aspect about Okonkwo, which is sacrificing, " to make a sacrifice for the sake of the self", in order to fulfill the desires and to achieve the demands, also to do everything for the interest of individualism ,i.e., to be a self reliant , doing actions without hesitating and without caring about others. Okonkwo's first felony was the murder of the boy Ikemefuna, the boy who used to called Okonkwo "father" .This action or this crime has occurred and happened due to the coming of the elders from the nine villages to the house of Okonkwo .

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The main purpose of this visit was to ask Okonkwo to commit the crime i.e., to kill Ikemefuna, (Achebe, 18). Even though, Ogbuefi Ezeudu cautions Okonkwo to not kill the boy who was very close to him and love him, he did not care and prefer to do what suits his own beliefs.

His main objectives were to be a solid man who cannot crash and a leader of the clan, the man who nothing can stop him, the man who is not sensitive and kind-hearted, so to fulfil these desires, he should do anything if it depends, this individualism, means to do anything for the self, even committing a crime, or killing his own sons will not affect him, because he does not want to appear weak in front of his fellow clansmen, he wanted to keep his reputation in the clan. Okonkwo preferred to make sacrifices rather than surrender, in his thoughts there were some apprehensions that made him think about failures and lateness, that's why he had chosen to sacrifice and face everything in order to still be the great man who raised from nothing to everything.

He was a courageous man indeed, who do not fear from blood as others and This term "courage" is a symbol of individualism, which Okonkwo used it in his life. From the beginning of the novel until the coming of the white man, the reader can reason his characterization, attitudes, beliefs, behaviors, capabilities and abilities, that he was a brave man nothing can defeat him. Thus, because of his courage he became one of the leaders of his own village.

2.3.2.2. Wealth:

No matter how lazy his father "Unoka" was, and how much he owed everybody money, he preferred drinking more than working, thus Okonkwo his son wasn't like him at all. on the contrary, he became a very wealthy and a successful man in the clan which at the same time because of his wealth he gained a fame and respect. All his fortune and riches were built by himself at a young age with some help. He commenced his professional by planting his first farm of yams throughout share-cropping from Nwakibie, a very wealthy man, then, step by step he worked alone until he became what he is well-known by "the king of corps" in the village. Even though he did not had the start as other man, he managed everything and made all his possible to reach the target.

" Okonkwo's prosperity was visible in his house hold "Achebe,04. First, due to his wealth, he

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could even marry ten women and make all their needs, all what they asked for but in the novel, he married three wives , Nwoye's mother ,Ekwefi, and Ojuigo . He had a great compound and each of his bride had her own hat with her children, he had ten children and all of them were living within good conditions . Because of his successes and reputation, he became one of the tribal lords whom all the inhabitants of the village respected him and gave him a great value .

He did not only succeed in the field of agriculture, but also occupied in a high position among his people and identified with their ancestors to govern and administer justice in his clan according to their norms . He was one of the Egwugwu that represented the ancestors of the goddess of the land which all the villagers treated them with respect and honor , Okonkwo was the one with springy walk. This shows that he had played a great role in his clan a man of word , who is capable of all the needs , who has many farms and many wives .

2.3.2.3. Valour:

In the beginning of the novel, Chinua Achebe introduces to his readers the character of Okonkwo as a strong, brave man and as a hero. Achebe said: "As a young man of eighteen he had brought honor to his village by throwing Amalize " (Achebe, 01) . Although Amalize was a strong wrestler who did not lose in a fight for seven years, with the arrival of Okonkwo and his entry to this field, he ended up losing his reputation as a hero . Thus ,Okonkwo became the hero of the village on account of his gains and victories . He played his role as he wanted as his believes pushed him to reached it , as he entered to the battle, in his mind he could not imagine the failure, so he did everything to be the hero ,to win the fight .

He also said that “he was a very strong man and rarely felt fatigue ”(04). He used to work day and night without tiring , His strength and bravery were the most common attributions that he was known by ,even in his clan everyone used to fear from him even his own children ,his neighbors, and all the citizens of the village.

2.3.3. Self-Reliance:

Chinua Achebe began his novel by saying that: “Okonkwo was well-known throughout the nine villages and even beyond” (Achebe, 03). He was a self-made man and a well respected

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by all members of the clan. His first accomplishment was when he became famous and acknowledged by all the clan mainly when he became the hero of the clan. At an early age, Okonkwo made his family proud, by becoming the village's champion wrestler, he defeated the strongest man who was a champion for a long time called the cat and because of the greatness of this defeat it had spread in all over the clan and even beyond.

Unlike his father, Unoka, who was a failure, lazy, short-sighted and unable to think for the next day, he was deep in debt, that his family had nothing to eat, they struggle because of the hard conditions, which is completely opposite to Okonkwo the brave man who start from nothing to everything. "He was wealthy farmer and had two barn full of yams, and had just married his third wife"(Achebe,04). Okonkwo struggled in life in order to succeed, he did not get the beginning as any one whose parents are rich and prosperous, he also didn't inherit a barn from his father or a farm, he didn't get anything from him, he set up his first yam farm all by himself. He had conducted two titles in contrast to his father who took nothing and had demonstrated amazing feats and achievements.

Okonkwo had freed himself from great poverty and Although he and his family suffered under difficult circumstances he survived. His misery and suffering made him a great man, one of the lords of clan in Umuofia, Okonkwo was a man of decision who can be relied on, that he was in charge of all matters in his house and even his clan. "if ever a man deserved his success, that man was Okonkwo", Achebe said. And as what Emerson and his followers had argued that any individual can make his life and his own success by using his personal strength and power, and this example of Okonkwo showed it very well.

If any person in this continent follows his own free will, he will be non conformist, which is similar to Nwoye, when he turned to be unique from his clan, far-out from his father's judgments and rules, even many people of his clan did completely as Nwoye, for instance there was a woman called Naeka who supposed to be weak and unwise in her clan, but she followed her own inspiration and revelation, relying on her self, as her mind wish. However, Anyone has the ability to do what he desire, to solve and fix his soul to be in the position and the place he rather want, this is called to be self made and self organized, well structured according to their own beliefs and wishes.

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2.3.4. Intuition:

At the end of this novel and with the issue of the missionaries in Umuofia, suddenly Okonkwo's friend Obierika went to visit his best friend to check him as a reaction to the terrible news, because Okonkwo's son Nwoye was among the missionaries he without any thinking, changed his faith and religion, he followed his own believe, his own intuition, even his father was that fearful man, he himself used to be terrified from, he did not care about him anymore, even though he used to be punished by him but it was no longer from that moment, he stopped everything and start his life as he want as his heart told him .

" Nwoye had been attracted to the new faith from the very first day" (Achebe,166) .He understand himself with this new religion better than he was within the previous with his family, he even started to seek for his own future he wanted to go to Umuofia to the school of the white missionaries, he would like to know how to read and write .For him this was the true faith and not as his clan believed that there are gods of wood, stone, earth,and rules everyone should follow which he did not like it he found him self with the Christian's better than he was .This philosophy apply a rule that how much the difficulties are and even if someone can be killed if he do what he desire , even though he should continue with his faith and believe.

2.3.5. Non-Conformity

Conformity and non-conformity are both present in the African writer Chinua Achebe's novel *Things Fall Apart* .His main protagonist Okonkwo is considered as a non-conformist .One may argue and ask how does a person like Okonkwo , a well -known and a highly cherished figure in the clan , a character that deeply respects the tribes traditions and dedicated his entire life for the sake of his village , he even got to the point of taking someone's life in order of preserving the norms and traditions that he believes in .These actions really shows the admiration and the appreciation that Okonkwo holds for his society .

From the very beginning of the story Nwoye Okonkwo's elder son did not see eye to eye with the clans traditions such as the case of killing twins , but he never dared to say anything about it , after the new settlers " the white men " came to Umofia and brought Christianity , Nwoye started to feel more and more attracted to it , because it welcomed everyone and

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everything, that his religion did not want such as outcasts, twins, and acts. Nwoye broke the rules of society by converting to the new religion which led to him becoming a non-conformist. However, when the majority of Umuofia joined Christianity and all agreed and shared a general point of view, they automatically became conformist, leaving those who did not welcome nor accepted the new change brought by the "white men" outside the circle and becoming a non-conformist such example is Okonkwo, as an individual, Okonkwo hated the idea of other people coming to their clan and bringing change, he disowned his own son for when he found out that he joined and accepted Christianity which furthermore clarifies that Okonkwo is a man of traditions, till his death he stood and defended for what he believed.

2.4. Conclusion:

This part of the essay is devoted for the interpretation and the portrayal of transcendentalism in Chinua Achebe's novel *things fall Apart* in order to see that the philosophy of American transcendentalism does not only exist there, but in other parts of the world as well such as Africa. From what has been already explained concerning what transcendentalism is. From the beginning till the end of the novel, the reader is capable of noticing, that all the tenets of transcendentalism exist. From intuition, individuality, non-conformity to nature the tenet that dominated the whole novel. When we search over the years and look for a relationship between African literature and American transcendentalism or a sign that perhaps Chinua Achebe was influenced by Emerson and his peers we can't find anything, there are no studies and no research made about this specific topic however, one can not neglect that somehow transcendentalism had made her way into African literature, no one knows how or why, but it does exist. and this research paper is the proof.

General Conclusion

General Conclusion:

Nature has played an important role in this novel, that man, nature and gods were all interconnected between each other. In this novel by Chinua Achebe, we noticed that they used to prepare feasts and ceremonies for the sake of the Goddess of the Earth, such as the New Year's celebration to thank Ani because the Earth is the source of everything. That, how matter a person is wealthy and prosperous, he will be punished and must give sacrifices to them, At a certain point, they used to prepare a special week for the earth that everyone should respect it, because it deserves it, they make crops from this earth and they cure themselves with there plants and so on ... Also, Chinua Achebe, describes nature very precisely, the trees, the rains, the moon, the sky and sunshine, it is the source of delightful and joyful which was as the first transcendentalists used to write their books and novels in a relation with romanticism.

Secondly, Individualism in Things Fall Apart has appeared too, and even we noticed three symbols of individualism which are courage, wealth, and valour, he was also a self reliant and one of the most prosperous man of the clan and a leader of the village, he was a wealthy man owed three barn of corps, and a large compound. So Chinua Achebe describes the achievements and the steps that Okonkwo has passed through his life, he was a great man of the clan, who had courage to face the difficulties and do everything for the sake of their own benefits. He was also known by his bravery and strength in his clan, that all the villagers used to afraid from him.

The third tenet of transcendentalism was present in the novel too, it was applied by the character Nwoye, who suddenly found himself with a new religion and completely a different belief, he felt more comfortable because this was what he was looking for since he was a child he never agreed with his father and his compound, even though it was against the norms of the clan he fought them and reached the target he was looking for.

And the fourth one is non-conformity, first of all Nwoye was a non conformist for being the only person who did not follow what his society followed, but then later when the majority of umofia agreed on the new religion, everyone become a conformist but Okonkwo for still following the traditions established years ago in Umofia.

So, transcendentalism did exist in the African literature especially in this novel due to the reason that after doing the analysis we found all the tenets: Nature, individualism, intuition and

General conclusion

conformity. Nature was believed by all the citizens of the clan, individualism especially with Okonkwo intuition by Nwoye, and non conformity

“In 1840, the transcendentalist club came to an end but still the movement continued and even spread throughout the world, By the late 1850s though, transcendentalism had started to faded out” Beatrice,2019. To begin with, if we look around us, that philosophy has existed since humanity was created. It largely depends on the human being himself, each one has his own way of believing and apprehending, but throughout the beginning of the 19th century Ralph Waldo Emerson and his followers who were transcendentalists actually, wanted to confirm and demonstrate this philosophy to the worldwide by creating groups and writing books mainly to give proofs on in order to support people to enter this movement. However, it lasted from the 1820 until 1850, even though the lights went out and the club came to an end as was mentioned earlier this philosophy existed before, from the very beginning. Thus this philosophy was obviously present in the novel of Achebe 'Things Fall Apart',

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