

Adaptation is Essential For The Survival

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Natural selection is a profound study which has been recognized by Charles Darwin, who is identified as the father of evolution, and Sir Alfred Russel Wallace. One of the precedence theory of natural selection is “the stronger will survive and the underdog deteriorates”. To some extent, natural selection is directly connected with the adaptation. The core meaning of the word natural selection is the one who adopts the environment it will survive for a time. Therefore according to Darwin, the adaptation is a must needed requirement for a being to survive. The human being is also no exception.

The inversion of this theory is the one who doesn't adopt according to the situation or environment it has to be perished gradually. Hence the adaptation is essential for the survival of everything in this natural system. If there is no adaptation, there is no survival. This great reality has been proved by the father of evolution. It seems to be that Chinua Achebe has written the novel *Things Fall Apart* having this eternal reality in his mind. It's because he has attested to the proposition throughout the novel. He has used the character of Okonkwo for this great aspiration. Thus Okonkwo has been tested by Achebe throughout the *Things Fall Apart*.

Not only Achebe proves that adaptation is essential for the survival, but also he has given the evidences that if the person doesn't obey to the adaptation he has to die. At the end of the novel it has been justified by the author through the hanging on of Okonkwo. In fact the real case is that Okonkwo couldn't adapt to the environment, situation and culture. It is important to have a look at that what is environment and culture which has been reflected through the novel. Further it is very important to have a deep look on

1. *Why he is unable to adapt to the environment.*
2. *The tragic fall of his life.*

Which kind of adaptation Okonkwo has needed? In

the case of tradition, he has inherited his own culture. All these cultural obligations have been gathered around the Umuofia clan. It is his heart. It is his value. It is his god and it is his ancestor. Umuofia clan has its own beliefs, tribunal behaviors. All functions the culture of Umuofia clan. As the leader of this clan, Okonkwo has to follow all these cultural aspects. It is not only his responsibility but also he does it according to his heart.

In some of the occasions his culture is very strict. In this Umuofia clan the masculinity is respected. This tribe has given very strict principle on masculinity and it sees the feminine as a weak. Masculinity functions the major role in this social system. They label the persons who have love, affection, emotion, music as weak persons. The place where there is no love, emotion, and affection, they label it as a respected one. Therefore the leader of the clan, Okonkwo never becomes a weak person. He is a warrior, clansman, farmer and he has given up all his humanities for the sake of Umuofia clan. The best example is for this notion, “Despite the fact that the boy begins to call him father, Okonkwo doesn't let himself show any affection for him.” (*Things Fall Apart*, Page No-37)

Almost his culture follows the tradition. As that reason it is very difficult to overlap the culture. What is happening is there have been significance cultural differences in the Umuofia clan just because of British colonized period in Africa. In there English language and Christianity do considerable changes in the Umuofia clan. In this case, our proposition (Adoptation) comes into play. How it comes into play?

Gradually Umuofia clan practices these new cultural differences, except Okonkwo. He can't adopt to these new cultural changes since it's all about his clan and there is nothing above that. Being the leader of Umuofia clan also is a problem

for him to the cultural adjustments. As a result of this inability of adjustment only he has to be dying at the end of the novel. It proves us adaptation is essential for the survival. Which kinds of adjustments or adaptations were asked to be done by his culture from him?

According to Kumarathunga Munidasa there is a famous saying in Sinhala culture that the nation who is not going to make new things, it stagnates in the same point. Here also the term is somewhat related with Okonkwo's incident. He doesn't go to new things. Always he follows each and every respected cultural values of his own clan. As that reason he is stagnated by his clan. The confusion is in between the impact of the Umuofia culture and catholic system. With the colonization, Catholic Church system and Christianity were introduced by the British. Not only that, English language has also been given a considerable contribution to these cultural changes.

As an accident Okonkwo has to undergo a seven year exile in Mbtana which is his uncle's village. During this period the English people takes the control of Okonkwo's village by many sides. The side of the culture is very important and it happens because of the Christianity. When he is at Mbtana his real village is adopted to the new English system little by little. For this case, the real example is when he comes back to the village he saw his own people go to the churches. Most of them have been converted by the British, except Okonkwo.

It must be very clearly understood that it was done by the British forcefully. This is directly connected with the title of the novel, Things Fall Apart. Thereafter Okonkwo has no alternatives. Most of the villagers are following Mr. Brown's policy on Cristian system. Though he hasn't any alternatives he never embraces Christianity since his all original roots are coming from Umuofia culture. That is his forefather. At least he never thinks about the Christianity even it embraces. Since that kind of strengthen cultural obligations he has with his Umuofia Culture. But Darwin's theory is

applicable in this case. Even though you have very powerful obligations within your context you have to change according to the environment if necessary. Otherwise there will be a problem about your survival. That problem has been tested through Okonkwo's character.

Though Okonkwo doesn't adapt to the new system other Africans adopt it. For instance Mr. Kiaga can be mentioned as he is a translator of Mr. Brown. Not only Mr. Kiaga but also using the egwuru incidents, the author expresses us gradually Okonkwo's people tend to embraces the English cultural aspects. But Okonkwo never does it.

The time is a factor which changes. The changing of time brings so many changes on the world. The people in the world should always adjust according to the changing time. Nigerian society changes as British. According to that changings Nigerian people change including Umuofia clan. But persons someone like Okonkwo doesn't change since they are the cultural values of the particular systems. Their cessations are the death of their life. Just Okonkwo is only one example of them.

At the climax he goes to challenge to the existing system. He tries to change the British system. But he is defeated after he realizes that my people are not willing to follow me. One court messenger is killed by our hero and as being alone and helpless, Okonkwo has to hang on in the jungle.

According to the Umuofia's customs and conventions the person who commits suicide must be neglected as a dog. Even anyone of his clan doesn't respect his coffin as that is a guilty. A respected warrior has to die like a dog. By having a sarcastic eye the author is telling that the one who fails to adopt for the existing system has to perish his life by himself.

Therefore, even at the end of the Things Fall Apart, Chinua Achebe repeatedly justifies to the world the great reality of "Adaptation is essential for the survival"

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