

Correction of the Exam Paper : Littérature et Culture / 2022 – 2023

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Topic : Show how Chinua Achebe reflects the traditional african culture through his literary work, *Things Fall Apart*.

Chinua Achebe's novel *"Things Fall Apart"* is a seminal work that reflects and portrays various aspects of traditional African culture, particularly the Igbo culture of Nigeria, with intricate detail and authenticity. Through his narrative and characterization, Achebe provides a nuanced depiction of the pre-colonial African society, emphasizing its cultural values, customs, and social structures. Some key ways in which Achebe reflects traditional African culture in *"Things Fall Apart"* include:

1. **Oral Tradition and Storytelling:** Achebe incorporates the rich oral tradition of African culture into the narrative, highlighting the importance of storytelling, proverbs, and folklore as a means of preserving history, transmitting cultural values, and imparting wisdom from one generation to the next. The use of oral tradition emphasizes the communal nature of African societies and their collective memory.
2. **Community and Kinship:** The novel portrays the significance of community and kinship ties in traditional African society. Achebe illustrates the communal way of life, the importance of extended families, and the intricate social hierarchies that govern relationships within the community. He emphasizes the communal decision-making processes, communal labor, and collective responsibilities that bind the members of the society together.
3. **Cultural Rituals and Practices:** Achebe vividly portrays various cultural rituals, ceremonies, and practices that are integral to the Igbo society, such as the New Yam Festival, the Egwugwu ceremony, and the role of the Oracle. These rituals serve as a means of reinforcing cultural norms, religious beliefs, and social cohesion within the community, highlighting the significance of tradition and spirituality in the everyday lives of the Igbo people.

4. **Gender Roles and Power Dynamics:** Achebe explores the intricate gender roles and power dynamics within the Igbo society, shedding light on the roles of men and women, the concept of masculinity and femininity, and the social expectations placed on individuals based on their gender. He portrays the complexities of gender relations and the significance of women in maintaining the social fabric of the community.

Through these and other narrative elements, Achebe effectively captures the essence of traditional African culture in "Things Fall Apart," providing readers with a profound understanding of the complexities, values, and traditions that defined African societies before the disruptive forces of colonialism and modernization.