One of the main concepts from “The Private Experience” is “post-colonialism”. In this story, there are two main characters: Chika and the woman. It is told that both are from Nigeria, but each one represents the opposite of the other.

On one side is Chika, who was born in Nigeria and moved to Lagos. She is a young Igbo Christian who is studying medicine. She is on vacation from school and she is visiting for the first time Kano. She is staying with her sister, who is more into politics than her, in her aunt’s home: “We have only spent a week here with our aunty, we have never even been to Kano before”.

On the other side is the woman. Her name is not even mentioned and she is Hausa and Muslim. All we know about her is that she sells onions in the market in Kano, which is usually destroyed by the riots. She is the mother of 5 children. In contraposition to Chika, the woman does not speak English properly even though she can communicate. This is also an example of hybridity.

The riot began when a Christian man drove over a Koran. In contraposition with the aggressiveness shown during the riot, the behaviour between Chika and the woman is completely different. When the woman complains about the pain from her nipple, Chika explains to her what would help with the pain, and she also invents that it happened the same to her mother to make her feel closer to her, even though “She hardly ever lies”. She also says: “she will stop to remember that she examined the nipples and experienced the gentleness of a woman who is Hausa and Muslim”. Also, when Chika was hurt, the woman did not doubt helping her with her scarf.

This is an example that Igbo and Christian people can live in peace with Hausa and Muslim people and vice versa. In fact, it is not a big thing for Chika when the woman prays, and she turns around to give privacy to the woman. Also, Chika is not very religious: “She cannot remember when her idea of God has not been cloudy”.

They are two women scared because of the riot, they are both worried about their families, they help each other… and outside the small shop, people from both sides (Igbo and Christian, and Hausa and Muslim) are fighting. The fact that they are both women is not a coincidence. Adichie is a feminist, and in this story, we find only female characters. The only men that are mentioned are the ones that started the riot. Also, the woman has a problem with her nipples because of feeding the baby.

Mimicry is also very present in the story. Especially in Chika as she has adopted the behaviour from Britain. For example, she mentioned that she had recently travelled to London and her handbag was from Burberry, which is a British brand. Also, for her, riots were unreal: “Riots like this were what she read about in newspapers. Riots like this were what happened to other people”. And for the woman, it was something common, and the market was usually destroyed. This is probably because Chika has been receiving much British information about the riots, and the British would blame Hausa Muslims, as they were the ones “resisting”. The woman has a very strong opinion about the riots: “It is work of evil,” she says finally”.