



**Feminist Approach In Modern Scenario With Reference To Ama Ata
Aidoo's Changes: A Love Story**

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Abstract-

Novelist depicts the unsatisfied and greedy attitude of men and society this greed of the men folks leads to the problems facing the society faces. Aidoo therefore makes her female character; Esi powerful and strong in making personal decision regardless of the consequences. This action by Aidoo encourages women to take firm actions to their problem and make quick move in overcoming the problem of being oppressed. Aidoo uses oral style of storytelling through the character of Nana. Aidoo portrays the problematic of behavior and identity in a context of social change where the old certainties are no longer reliable guides. The crisis Esi faces which Aidoo has framed as a “Love story” is a crisis of women in general and Africa as a whole.

Changes: A Love Story:

is a novel written by Ama Ata Aidoo. It was published in 1991 by the Feminist Press. The novel speaks about a career-centered African woman. The novel is set in modern-day Accra. Ama Ata Aidoo is a Ghanaian author, poet, playwright and academic. She was born on 23rd March 1942 in Saltpond, Ghana. She has worked as the Minister of Education in Ghana under the Rawlings administration. To promote and support the work of African women writers she has established the Mbaasem Foundation in 2000. She currently lives in Ghana

FEMINISM

Feminism is a socio-political movement which argues that legal and social restrictions on women must be removed in order to bring about equality of the sexes in all aspects of public and private life. This also includes seeking to establish equal opportunities for women in education and employment. Feminists typically advocate or support the rights and equality of women. Barrow and Mulbum define Feminism as “a label for a commitment to achieve

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equality for women”. Feminism is the political theory and practice of free all women of color, working- class women, poor women, physically challenge women etc. Cuddon defines feminism as “an attempt to describe and interpret women’s experience as depicted in various kinds of literature”. Feminism is a revolution that included women and men who wish the world to be without barriers, these lines or blockades are better known as discrimination and basis against gender, age, marital status, sexual orientation and economic status. Feminism aims at bringing women as a movement fighting for equal right and freedom in the society.

Feminism is constantly being reviewed daily by various scholars. Feminism is being re-invented, re-created through determination and compromise, so that women try as they can to have love, support as well as power. According to the Longman Dictionary of contemporary English, Feminism is the belief that woman should have the same equal rights as opportunities as men”. Feminists target freedom and equality between the male and female folks as well as a whole.

Feminist are against the domineering attitude of the society, the feminist ask the women be free to define themselves, instead of having their identity defined for them by their culture and their men. Feminists voice their feelings about the treatment of the society to them, through movements, articles and literary works etc.

In *Changes: A Love Story*, Aidoo presents the plight of both single and career woman in the African society. A career woman in the African society puts her best in her career. Esi Sekyi claims that she competes effectively with her male colleagues by attending all the meetings and conferences and that she gives extra time to her job. Opokuya points out that her male colleagues still have their jobs while she has lost hers. Opokuya says: “We can’t have it all, not if you are a woman”.

Esi Sekyi chooses to be single but she realizes “our society do not admit that single women exist.... Yet single women have always existed here too.” Aidoo juxtaposes the perceptions of the modern generation against the world view of the older generation. In response to Esi’s confession on why she divorced her husband, because she felt gratitude to him instead of love Esi’s grandmother admonishes: ‘And who told you that feeling grateful to a man is not enough reason to pay him? My lady, the world would die of surprise if every woman openly confessed the true reason why she married a certain man’.

In contrast to Esi's perception of the older generation, Ali's first wife decided to abide by the traditional dictates. She remains married to Ali despite his decision to marry a second wife. Fusena attempts to dissuade Ali by asking the elders to intervene on her behalf. However, the elders eventually support on Ali's decision. The elders sent elderly women to persuade Fusena to consent to her husband's second marriage.

Aidoo's female characters know the importance of motherhood and esteem its institution. Nevertheless, the female characters enjoy their roles as mothers, this they sometimes seek the overwhelming responsibilities of a mother, this attitude is depicted by the modern women or characters in the text. Esi agrees to leave her daughter in the care of her mother-in-law because it is much more convenient for her and the child. Esi decided on family planning despite Oko's objection because she does not want to give birth to children that will demand too much of her time. Aidoo portrays the attitude of women towards their independence in the society. Esi's grandmother, Nana feels women should in whatever situation obey her husband and that a woman should be happy when her husband gives her adequate attention. Nana's philosophy about marriage is that "a wedding constitutes a funeral of self" i.e. A man has complete right over his wife after marriage. Esi re-writes her married life by divorcing her husband after he committed "marital rape". Aidoo uses the womanist ideology of marriage, love, career, culture, children in portraying the lives of the African women in the society.

The writer explores women in their marriage, career, and their contribution to the society through the use of her remarkable female characters, Esi, Opokuya, Fusena, they contribute effectively to the society, Esi as a working woman in the urban department of urban stylistics, Opokuya a nurse and Fusena a marketer, they each give due divorces to the economical development. Aidoo's exploration of polygamous marriages through the role of her female characters does not bring happiness to the partners involved i.e. Fusena and Esi. Esi divorces her husband enters a polygamous marriage with Ali which she believes will bring her love without responsibility but she later finds out, brings her loneliness and disillusion. Esi's situation is a general decision facing women who are trying to combine the traditional and modern life style in the society rather than complement the old and modern tradition together.

Novelist depicts the unsatisfied and greedy attitude of men and society this greed of the men folk leads to the problems facing the society. Aidoo therefore makes her female character, Esi powerful and strong in making personal decision regardless of the consequences. This action by Aidoo encourages women to take firm actions to their problem

and make quick move in overcoming the problem of being oppressed. Aidoo uses oral style of storytelling through the character of Nana. Aidoo portrays the problematic of behavior and identity in a context of social change where the old certainties are no longer reliable guides. The crisis Esi faces which Aidoo has framed as a “Love story” is a crisis of women in general and Africa as a whole. The crisis may have different emphasis for different individual divorcing her husband was a radical move in which was portrayed at the concluding part of the book that she still was not happy even with her escapade. Aidoo uses her female characters as a voice for the African women facing societal problem about femininity. The female voices spoke out loud on marital violence, education, motherhood, desire, loneliness in the society.

Changes demonstrate that quality of education improves African. African women have returned from work place to view their home from a newer perspective. The conflict of changes which is built on the contradiction of the protagonist’s choice to be traditional while ignoring the regulations of tradition. The protagonist considers that Oko her husband makes excess demands on the time she should invest in her career and so disregards his appeal to her conform to the standard of behavior appropriate to African woman hood. The narration also shows clearly that Esi is not oblivious to the stigma of being single at her age in the society despite all the changes and social progress recorded. So the problem which Esi attempts to solve by becoming a second wife is how to appropriate the social respect which marriage and family life confer in her society on her own terms rather than on the terms of the society. And because she cannot achieve this desire she becomes lonely. Esi is motivated by a desire for adventure and she also needs to express her mind and self in defiance of other possible social options. The narrative portrays Esi as wishing to integrate her personal moral choices within the wider social network but without making the required adjustment or concession.

Conclusion

The focus of *Changes: A love story* is the problem which a young woman runs into in her quest for freedom. The novel demonstrates how in a changing society, the freedom sought by women can complicate their condition when not handled effectively. While Aidoo has not held up the older generation of women as suitable for the female character, Aidoo has shown through the experience of the protagonist that the social and metaphysical spaces in sex relations that can be characterized as ‘free’. Through the experience of Esi, we are initiated into the curious world of future sex relations where management of women’s successes and

prosperity will be more difficult an implication of this for representation of women's condition is that current obsession with deprived African womanhood.

The major aim of Aidoo's *Changes* is changing the perspective of women in the African society. Aidoo's forte is in the use of her character words a weapon to the extent that she invests her female characters with the powerful tool of speech.

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