

AFRICANESS IN THE MIRROR OF LANGUAGE IN EMECHETA'S THE JOYS OF MOTHERHOOD 1979

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ABSTRACT

The African novel can be considered as a hybrid of the Oral tradition typical to Africa and the imported literary form of Europe. The conflict generated by the meeting of the African and the European in the African literature written by women is quite interesting to know more about the consequences of these contacts as illustrated in literature, and makes of Emecheta's *The Joys of Motherhood* (1979) a case which is worth investigating through a postcolonial reading highlighting two important cultural aspects in this novel and reflecting her Africaness: 1. the different linguistic devices that "nativize" the language used by Emecheta, 2. the simultaneous use of two temporalities: the western time, that may be called western diachronicity and the African time, typical to the writer's Igbo culture or the traditional synchronicity.

KEYWORDS: Buchi Emecheta, Africaness, Linguistic Devices, Traditional Synchronicity, Western Diachronicity