

**The Treatment of Women in African Literature in Chinua Achebe's
Things Fall Apart (1958) and Bessie Head's *When Rain Clouds Gather*
(1969), *The Collector of Treasures*, and *Other Botswana Village Tales*
(1977)**

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Abstract

The role of women in Africa is one of the most notable themes in modern African literature. African novelists portray women's roles through their novels. They focus on women through several main eras, namely: pre-colonial, colonial, and post-colonial periods, alongside the effect of colonization on African women.

This study is a serious attempt at providing a comprehensive analytical investigation of the role of women in *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe (1958), together with *When Rain Clouds Gather* (1969), *The Collector of Treasures*, and *Other Botswana Village Tales* (1977) by Bessie Head. These novels represent women in Africa in various cultures and periods. This thesis demonstrates how traditional societies and colonizing countries treat African women's lives and characters, the role of the African women in the post-colonial era, and the influence of the African novelists' personal lives and backgrounds on their literary works.

Various studies concentrate on the issue of women using the feminist approach. This study, however, concentrates on women's issues using feminist, colonial, and post-colonial theories.

Keywords: Women, Africa, Colonizing, Issues, Feminism