

# **The Problem of Identity in Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart* (1958) and *No Longer at Ease* (1960)**

By

**Aseel Alkassasbeh**

Supervisor

**Prof. Asad Alghalith**

**Al-Zaytoonah University of Jordan, Year 2024**

## **Abstract**

Chinua Achebe's seminal works, *Things Fall Apart* (1958) and *No Longer at Ease* (1960) delve into the profound question of individual identity during the period of British colonialism in Nigeria. This thesis aims to examine the fractured landscapes of self that these novels present, focusing on how the protagonists and other characters grapple with clashing forces of tradition, modernity, and personal aspiration. This thesis explores the multifaceted nature of identity. Also, it examines the complex problem of identity in these novels, employing a postcolonial lens to illuminate the characters' struggles amidst the erosion of traditional structures and imposition of alien values by applying colonial and postcolonial theoretical notions. It argues that both novels reject simplistic notions of selfhood, instead demonstrating how individual identities are shaped by a complex interplay of tradition, colonialism, gender roles, and personal aspirations.

**Keywords:** *Alienation, colonialism, hybridity, identity, Igbo people*