

## CHAPTER V

### CONCLUSION

The novel *Things Fall Apart* (1959) is written by Chinua Achebe. The writer chooses this novel as the thesis which is entitled "Patriarchy in Okonkwo's Family in Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*," because it is very interesting to be analyzed. It portrays Igbo society in Nigeria which applies patriarchy as a strict system. In this research, the writer reveals two important things. They are the kinds of patriarchy and the effects of patriarchy on Okonkwo's family in Igbo society in Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*. The library research consisting of the related theories from the books and browsing the internet is needed to support the main data. Those theories are sorted to find the most appropriate and suitable theories which can be applied to overcome the problems. They are character, characterization, patriarchy, setting, and ethnicity. Moreover, the writer also uses two approaches to solve the problems. They are psychological and sociological approaches.

The world in *Things Fall Apart* is one in which patriarchy intrudes oppressively into every sphere of existence. One of the village's leading people is Okonkwo. As the leader, he really has great influence on the other people. In the family, he has the prestigious roles which draw the kinds of patriarchy in Igbo society. There are three kinds of patriarchy on Okonkwo's Family. Firstly, father is as the head of the family. Okonkwo is as 'figureheads' of household which is irreplaceable. He is as the top rank. Patriarchy also emphasizes the superiority of

male family heads and the dependency of women and children. Secondly, father is as the ruler of the family. Okonkwo rules his family, and on the contrary, his wives are destined to follow and obey to his decision. He is also as the decision maker at home. Thirdly, father is as the breadwinner of family. Okonkwo is a successful farmer who has two barns full of yams. He can feed his family in abundance. He is also a money maker who provides assistance financially to support his three wives and eight children.

Patriarchy affects many aspects in Igbo society. In the family, there are two effects of patriarchy on Okonkwo. They are the positive and negative effects. For the former one, the writer finds two effects. Firstly, Okonkwo becomes a hard worker who drives him in obtaining the titles, namely, "Agu na Eche Obodo" which is the title for the best fighter in wrestling and war, "Ochi na Nwata" which is the title for his wealth, and "Ozo" which is the title for an elite Igbo chief; gaining the honor that is a special rank for a man who is placed in the prestigious position in the clan making him proud because he is admired and respected by all clan members in the nine villages; and achieving good reputation that increases his position of power and influence in the community. Secondly, he becomes a hero in both his clan and his family because of his altruism, achievement, and endurance in facing resistance, hardship, and danger in Igbo society.

For the latter one, the negative effects, the writer finds five things. Firstly, Okonkwo possesses absolute authority. He has a great power or right at home. Nobody of his family members including his children and wives are brave to oppose his authority. It makes Okonkwo become egoist man and never admits his

mistakes. Secondly, Okonkwo becomes uncontrolled. Okonkwo associates masculinity with aggression and feels that anger is the only emotion that he should display. For this reason, he frequently beats not only his wives but also his son because of his fear of weakness. Thirdly, Okonkwo becomes a sexist especially to his son. It makes him lose his love to his children. He regards that son as everything as the patriarch in the family, the guard of his reputation and also as men of authority in the clan in the future. Fourthly, Okonkwo never gives affection to his family members. Okonkwo considers any sign of affection and dependence between husband and wife as a reflection of the husband's weakness and womanliness. He thinks that strong loving relationship must be avoided to reach his ultimate goal of complete manliness respected and feared by his family and people in his clan. In fact, he gives his affection to his son more than others. Fifthly, Okonkwo practices polygamy custom at home. It is because his profession is as a farmer who depends on a large family to execute his farm work. He has three wives and eight children. He is also respected because he has a large living compound, several wives, and many children.

Patriarchy is not proper to be applied in the real world now days. It must be eradicated because it causes violence and misery which is a threat to destroy the ideal life. When people finally get rid of men leading, they can transform the earth into a paradise of "peace" where all the children and wives get protection, affection, and prosperity from their fathers.

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