

ABSTRACT

Women and Migration in four Emecheta novels

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Migration, internal and external, is always seen as a means of exchanging cultures, of gaining employment and of acquiring an education or skill. What is less obvious, however, is the fact that migration is always accompanied by certain conflicts and problems of adjustment.

For the African female, migration has added significance, mainly because of her sex and her culture. In the first place, the African woman seldom migrates on her own initiative, but usually does so at the bidding of husband or any other male relative who is significant in her life. Secondly, the African woman migrant often faces cultural conflict, and finds it extraordinarily difficult to adjust because she is usually constrained by her culture, which is re-enforced by the men in her life.

As an external migrant, she faces a new conflict - the desire for change and acculturation, juxtaposed with the desire to retain her cultural heritage.

This study explores the conflict that the African female experiences both as an internal and an external migrant. It seeks to demonstrate the tripartite nature of her oppression,

that is, as being black, African and woman, as well as
examine her strategies for confronting and transcending
her problems.