

ABSTRACT

The thesis is divided into a Foreword and three parts. The Foreword, entitled Chinua Achebe: His Life, traces the career of Chinua Achebe through progressive posts to the elevated status of "elder statesman" of Nigerian authors. Part One, entitled The Ground For Novel Expression, is comprised of chapters 1-4. This section examines the different aspects of the transformations which eventually produced the Nigerian novel. Part Two, entitled Meanings, comprised of chapters 5-9, is a collection of critical essays which attempt to interpret and provide a rationale for the understanding of the meaning of the author's work. Part Three, entitled Techniques, comprised of chapters 10-12, examines and judges the techniques of the writer's art, and attempts to find a relationship between technique and meaning.

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