

## ABSTRACT

This study is the analysis of the redefined roles of women in the society using *The Joys of Motherhood* by Buchi Emecheta and *Nervous Conditions* by Tsitsi Dangarembga. It focuses on African female writers and voices of African women, Buchi Emecheta's and Tsitsi Dangarembga's works highlight a desire to improve the conditions of women at various points in time. While acknowledging that most, if not all African feminist writers have clearly sought to redefine the role of women, generally and African women in particular, the study argues that perspectives have been dynamic, diverse and multifaceted. Buchi's novel, *The Joys of Motherhood*, is placed among earlier African feminist works, while Tsitsi modern writer. Thus the present study examines the role of context and ideology in writers' handling of gender issues and the implications of the chosen approach. It seeks to understand the basis and lasting influence of the two African women writers. The study also pays close attention to the advancement of women's liberation movements often referred to as waves of feminism. The study is guided by the following objectives: To examine the role of ideology in the depiction and construction of female characters in the novel; to find out the experiences African women go through as they search for their new identity in the society; and to examine the role of modern African women as envisaged by the two authors. This study attempts to analyze these two authors' works within the views of three waves of feminism. It uses feminism theory since it is concerned with ideologies that construt women and issues like unfairness, oppression, discrimination, gender equality and freedom which the proposed study looks into. Since the two writers are from Africa, this study is greatly influenced with views from African feminism which emerges as a variant of the broader feminism movement. Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak's ideas concerning the space occupied by subaltern, especially women are very helpful too. The research methodology is qualitative, where it adopts the use of descriptive statements. A descriptive, analytical and comparative research designs is used in conducting this study and data is collected through intensive reading of these two novels while making notes. The findinngs reveal that in Buchi's novel women perform domestic roles and in Tsitsi's women work in public sphere. This study is analyzed simultenoussly with data collection. It is interpreted and presented thematically where key themes are identified, compared and categorized. It is hoped that this study is significant as it is expected to add value on literary scholars who may want to use these findings to analyze the roles of women in the changing Africa. The study psyches the need to break away from the blanket of generalization of African feminist writings. Lastly, it recommends further comparative study on the topic using other literary works.