SHALINI NADASWARAN

Motif/ves of Justice in Writings by Third-Generation Nigerian Women

ABSTRACT
The role of third-generation Nigerian women writers in representing motifs of justice in their works are significant in continuing the legacy of their predecessors, such as Nwapa and Emecheta, whose respective works have had a strong impact on the development of Nigerian literature. Novels by these contemporary writers reflect in depth the need to expose the criminal activities that burgeon within the country, in the hope of invoking change. Issues such as internet fraud, sex trafficking, and drug trafficking are symptomatic effects of larger internal as well as external global factors that are treated with keen insight by these female writers. Adaobi Tricia Nwaubani’s I Do Not Come to You By Chance (2010), Abiodun Sanusi’s Eyo (2009), Akachi Ezeigbo’s Trafficked (2008), and Sefi Atta’s Swallow (2010) all lay bare Nigeria’s economic and political condition, simultaneously addressing the implications of global, transnational businesses on the country. This essay argues that these fictional trajectories are a clarion call by Nigerian women writers to end criminal activities that continue to rob Nigerians of their socioeconomic wealth and peaceful well-being.

Introduction

The ‘THIRD GENERATION’1 of Nigerian women writers reveals a further progression in the ways in which female writers and their protagonists represent Nigeria’s burgeoning criminality in the hope of invoking change. While I earlier focused on the ways in which female protagonists in traditional situations grow into agency and independence,2 the present article develops this notion further – with particular reference to Adaobi Tricia Nwaubani’s I Do Not Come to You By Chance (2010), Abiodun Sanusi’s Eyo (2009), Akachi Ezeigbo’s Trafficked (2008), and Sefi

1 ‘Third generation’ women writers are contemporary writers. Their works continue the legacy of the women writers before them (first and second generation) by displaying the ways in which the female protagonist has evolved and developed.