

# Things fall apart: literary analysis

[Literature](#), [Novel](#)



In Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*, the Ibo culture is depicted as a civilized society although it is quite the contrary. The Ibo tribe is first portrayed as a civilized society to those who live amongst it with good morals, a safe environment along with its leaders, and a stable religion. Throughout the novel, it is clear that the Ibo people are not a civilized society. In *Things Fall Apart*, Okonkwo is an important male role who disagrees with his culture and whether or not his cultural traditions are moral.

This is evident in Okonkwo when Chinua Achebe states, "Okonkwo had felt for the first time a snapping inside him... When they heard an infant crying in the thick forest." (Achebe, 61) This is an example of a conflict dealing with morals because Okonkwo is said to have this horrid feeling as they are passing by the thick forest, and they hear an infant's cry he feels bad about the situation because that baby was put there for being a twin and it was tradition to throw twins in the Evil Forest.

Okonkwo realizes that this is not morally correct and is inhuman even just like it wouldn't be correct to follow through with this tradition nowadays in any culture. Of course, FFA, a columnist of Ghanaian states in her column on the book, *Things Fall Apart*, "He could have censored all the gory details if he chose to .... The throwing of twins into the evil forest etc.

All of these fly in the face of our general human values today," meaning that such a tradition nowadays would be immoral and wrong and the author gave us such details and made them important so they he could portray a better picture about what kind of society the Ibo are, an uncivilized society. The Ibo society practices such as having more than one wife, the male being

the lea deer of the souse, and the family violence seen in the novel provide another reason as to why the Ebib society is uncivilized.

For example, in the novel it says, "She was Ginkgo's second wife, Kef, whom he nearly shot," (Achebe, 39) when speaking of the time Awoken almost shoots his second wife for a small misunderstanding, this quote shows both the practices of having more than one wife and family violence, which are both corrupt practices. This information being provided to the readers by the author helps better understand how the Ebib society is and whether or not it is civilized. Like polygamy and attractor and the violence it sometimes engenders against women," states Poof, FAA, when explaining how the Ebib society practices and actions shown in the novel would go against social norms today and are not very civilized practices and actions to begin with. The tragic death of Awakening, being killed by his fatherly figure, the novel's protagonist SST, and tragic hero is another major reason as to why the Ebib are not civilized. My father they have killed me," leukemia said as he ran towards Awoken," who drew his machete and cut him down. "(Achebe, 61). These two quotes are used to explain how Awakening dies and also to show the dark side of Awoken and how far he would go to be seen as not weak, the whole event in the novel can be used as an example to show how the Ebib are uncivilized because first, Awakening was killed because Ann., the goddess, said he must be killed and second because it is murder and murder is morally wrong. The killing of Awakening who had become a part of Ginkgo's family," writes Poof, FAA when explaining that the murder of Awakening by his so called father was provided by the author to understand the novel, and most of all culture and society of the Ebib, and how they are

coarse and uncivilized in many ways. The Bib society is uncivilized despite the fact that it is first shown as a civilized society .

Whether or not the Bib society was civilized is important because it shows how times have changed, this novel having been written in the 1850's and even though the culture may be different, many practices, actions, and beliefs shown in the novel affected many and are still being put to practice now a days in different 2 ways. These actions were not morally justified back then but no one was punished, it was not stopped, it was allowed. Unlike today where women can be the leaders of the house, murder is never justified, and throwing twin babies in a forest is wrong.