

**The influence of striving for superiority  
towards okonkwo's life in achebe's "*things fall apart*"  
(Individual Psychological Approach)**

by

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**CHAPTER I**

**INTRODUCTION**

**A. Research Background**

Human beings are individual and social creatures. As individual creatures, human is a free man where they have a self ego. As a social creature, they need other's existences and helps. That's why they can not live alone. Every individual belongs to overlapping groups, such as family, classes, clubs, etc. They need to socialize with others and show their existence. People need to be loved, respected, and received by themselves and society. These psychological needs must be fulfilled in order to get the happiness.

Basically, each individual has a superior feeling whether they realize or not. Superior is better in quality than something or somebody else. It also means higher in rank, importance or position ( Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary,

1995:1199 ). It can be said that superior feeling is a feeling to be better in quality than somebody else.

The needs to be respected and received in a society motivate the feeling to be superior to other. Every person must have a feeling to be a step greater than other. There is one key to reach all things that people wants that is motivation. Motivation is an important factor in life. It is an inner influence on behavior as represented by physiological conditions, interest, attitudes, and aspiration (Introduction to Psychology 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, 1957:684). There is not purpose without motivation. The purpose or the goal is the end of an effort while the motivation is the beginning and the reason before the goal is created. In other words, motivation can be defined broadly as the aspect behavior concerned with goal direction. Someone will die if he does not have any motivation in his life. That's why it is very interesting to study and analyze human motivation.

Each individual must has a superior feeling. This kind of feelings can raise two effects, the good or positive ones and the bad or negative ones. If a person sees and behaves positively then it will makes a person become more optimistic in facing and solve all the problems in his life. Finally, he can realize his ideal in life. On the contrary, if a person sees and behaves negatively then it will makes a person more pessimistic in facing all the problems in life. Worse, people can not solve the problems he faced so that they get depressed. In some case, some people try to run away from the problem and the depression they face by suicide.

Chinua Achebe is the one who presents the role of motivation in reaching the orientation of life through characterization in his novel. Chinua Achebe is one

of the most famous writers from Africa. He was born on 16 November 1930, in Ogidi in Eastern Nigeria. His works mostly concern about the dignity of a nation especially Africa that he represented in the main character in his novel.

Achebe has written twenty-one novels, short-stories and collections of poetry. His first novel, *Things Fall Apart* (1958) was published at the age of 28, and has proved popular not just in Nigeria, but throughout Africa and the rest of the world. Achebe has also won acclaim for *Arrow of God*, which is winner of the New Statesman-Jock Campbell Award, *Christmas in Biafra*, joint winner of the first Commonwealth Prize, and *Anthills of the Savannah* (1987), a finalist for the prestigious Booker Prize in England. Chinua Achebe has received numerous other honors from around the world and is a recipient of the highest award for intellectual achievement in his native country of Nigeria. (www.literatureclassics.com)

One of his best works is *Things Fall Apart*. It was published in London in 1958. The novel is based on a conception of humans as self-reflexive beings and a definition of culture as a set of control mechanisms. *Thing Fall Apart* is a story about Ibo land in South Africa. In the novel, Okonkwo is a character who faces a condition which makes him depressed because of having a bad situation in his family. Okonkwo is ashamed of his father. His father, Unoka can not fulfill his family needs. He was heavily in debt. He died with no title at all. Okonkwo perceive his father as a failure.

Okonkwo is forced to face inferiority feeling that was caused by the economical pressure. All this bad condition does not make Okonkwo feel

pessimistic. Basically, man is conscious being. He is ordinarily aware of the reasons for his behavior. So does Okonkwo. He is conscious of his inferiority and conscious of the goals which he strives.

Okonkwo is optimistic in facing his future because the Ibo judge each man according to each individual's worth not his father's. He determined not to end up a failure like his father, but wants to follow tradition and rise in rank within the tribe. The inferiority feelings that he faces creates "fictional finalism" in his mind. His fictional finalism motivates Okonkwo to be superior man, to be respected in his family and society. This also makes him become an aggressive and optimistic individual.

Okonkwo first earns personal fame and distinction, and brings honor to his village, when he defeats Amalinze the Cat in a wrestling contest. Okonkwo determines to gain titles for himself. Later, he becomes a wealthy man. The society respects him. He becomes an influential leader within the Igbo community of Umuofia.

Over the years, Okonkwo becomes an extremely volatile man. He violates the Week of Peace when he beats his youngest wife, Ojiugo. Later, he severely beats and shoots a gun at his second wife, Ekwefi. After the coming of the locusts, Ogbuefi Ezeuder, the oldest man in the village, relays to Okonkwo a message from the Oracle. The Oracle says that Ikemefuna, Okonkwo's adopted son must be killed as part of the retribution for the Umuofian woman killed three years earlier in Mbaino. Consequently, Okonkwo kills Ikemefuna with his machete.

During the large funeral, Okonkwo's gun goes off, and Ezeudu's sixteen-year-old son is killed accidentally. Because the accidental killing of a clansman is a crime against the earth goddess, Okonkwo and his family must be exiled from Umuofia for seven years. After the exile is over, Okonkwo returns to Umuofia. He discovers that the village has changed during his absence. Many men have renounced their titles and have converted to Christianity. Okonkwo must change the situation in order to get his title as an elder and superior man in his village. He tries to change the situation but he failed. Finally he realizes that he can not adapt with that situation. He feels depressed. His fear of failure and to be no one in his village creates inferiority feelings. At the end, he commit to suicide.

*Things fall Apart* is a novel which contains many moral messages. It gives an understanding of human life and life value. It presents how a person must behave in facing the change in his life. Every person must face the changes in their life. In this case, people must able to adopt and face the changes with positive behavior. Researcher learns if a strong motivation or strong needs will lead people in a way that he wanted to be. Motivation is the basic principal in life. It is the reasons behind all the goals or the ideals. People will die if they do not have motivation.

## **B. Problem Formulation**

Considering the idea which has been presented in the background above, the researcher presents the problem as follows:

1. What are the factors that motivate Okonkwo to strive for superiority?
2. How does striving for superiority influence Okonkwo's life?

### **C. Problems Limitation**

To limit the study of the research, the researcher focuses on analyzing the character of Okonkwo who struggle to be superior man and other characters which play the important role in building up Okonkwo's struggle to be a superior man.

The researcher confines the analysis from Psychological point of view especially Alfred Adler's theory of motivation. Alfred Adler's theory of motivation is important in searching the basic motivation that influences other motivation. Researcher also includes Adler's theory of Six Basic Concepts of Personality.

### **D. Research Objectives**

Based on the problems formulation above, the objectives of the research are as follows:

1. To know the factors that motivates Okonkwo to be a superior man.
2. To know the influence of striving for superiority towards Okonkwo's life.

### **E. Research Benefits**

The result of this research is highly expected to give such benefits, especially:

1. To help readers easily and deeply understand Achebe's work, especially *Things Fall Apart*.
2. To motivate the readers to keep struggle and motivate them in facing the hardness in their life.
3. To provide some additional information to the readers who are going to do other researches on *Things Fall Apart*.

## **F. Research Method**

### **1. Sources of Main Data and Supporting Data**

The sources of data in this research are classified into two groups. The first is the sources of main data, and the second is the source of supporting data.

- a. The source of the main data is the novel itself *Things Fall Apart*. Meanwhile, the primary data includes all the words, dialogues and sentences in the novel related to the subject matter.
- b. The source of supporting data includes all sources that supporting the main data. The supporting data consists of the criticism of the novel and other information about Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*.

### **2. The Method of Collecting Data**

The data were collected by reading the novel carefully and repeatedly in order to get the deep comprehension upon its content. Next, the researcher

noted the important information contained in the novel. Then, the notes of the important information supporting the study were taken.

### **3. The Method of Processing Data**

1. First, the researcher read and understood carefully the main and supporting data.
2. Then, the researcher chose the subject matter or the problem.
3. Next, the researcher read and studied Alfred Adler's theory of Individual Psychology.
4. The researcher selected the important data that dealt with the problems which were going to be analyzed.
5. The researcher interpreted the data.
6. The researcher analyzed the problems.
7. Last, the researcher made conclusion of the research.

### **4. Approach**

The researcher applied the Psychological approach as the basic scientific approach to support the research in digging up the inside sense in the novel. The approach focused on Alfred Adler's theory of Individual Psychology especially motivation theory and personality theory to avoid the deviated explanation towards the problem statement.

According to Adler man is primarily a social and not a sexual being. Man is motivated by social and not by sexual interest. In the novel *Things Fall Apart*, the characters' motivation towards future is influenced most by the social interests such as the prestige to be a respected man or the elder in

the society, high position in for the rich people, etc. The sexual interest plays minor rule in arousing motivation. Man is self conscious individual who is capable of planning and guiding his actions with full awareness of their meaning for his own self realization. (Adler in Hall and Lindzey, 1978:118).

Adler reveals the basic thing that make human still alive, that is motivation. His theory of motivation is very important to understand all human behavior and personality. Motivation is the starting point and the basic of all human do. Further, it plays an important role in forming the personality and characterization.

According to Adler, there are six major concepts in forming the personality. The six concepts are inferiority feelings, striving for superiority, fictional finalism, style of life, creative self and social interest. By understanding Adler theory, human can understand the reason why they do something.

In this research, the researcher did not use all six the humanistic major concepts in analyzing personality development because the character's personality development in this research was not influenced by the *social interest*. The researcher used five concepts of personality. They are fictional finalism, striving for superiority, inferiority feelings, creative self and style of life.

The researcher also applied Adler theory of motivation. It states that a single "drive" or motivating force behind all our behavior and experience. This motivating force is the striving for superiority or perfection. In *Things*

*Fall Apart*, the main character is surrounded by one obsession. His life is for one goal that is to be the best man in his society. All of things he does is motivated by one factor, which is the striving for superiority. The striving for superiority effects Okonkwo's life and his personality development.

In this research, the researcher tried to find the reasons that motivate Okonkwo to be a superior man. There are economical and psychological inferiority feelings. Both two reasons are from his past when he was child. The first factor is the economical difficulties. The failure of his father to fulfill the family needs leads Okonkwo's family to poverty.

Second is the psychological inferiority. The society does not respect Okonkwo's father because his father does not have any ability except singing a song. His father is nobody in the society. This condition makes Okonkwo frustrated.

Both bad economical condition in his family and the psychological pressure raise the inferiority feelings in Okonkwo's mind. If someone faces inferiority feelings, he will try to overcome it. It is the basic instinct in human mind. Okonkwo tries to overcome his inferiority feelings by showing his ability and masculine side of him. According to psychological theory, the inferiority feeling leads someone to be an aggressive or a shy individual. In this case, Okonkwo's inferiority feeling leads him to be an aggressive individual.

The inferiority feelings which Okonkwo faced raise the motivation that is to be better than before. Okonkwo wants to reach a better future, better

condition than his past. In this case, Okonkwo's feeling of superiority is formed. Basically, the superiority feeling is the basic motive of human life. So does with Okonkwo, he also wants to be the one who has a power to rule his society. It makes Okonkwo becomes an optimistic man. At the same time, the creative self in Okonkwo's is formed. The creative self gives the power to overcome the difficulties and problems he faced. It also creates his goal in life.

Those two factors influence the way of Okonkwo perspective of his future. Further, it creates "fictional finalism". First, Okonkwo wants to be a wealthy man. He does not want experience the suffering he got when he was child. Next, the psychological pressure which is come from the society raises the imagination to be a respected man. Okonkwo wants to be a man who has a power in ruling his society.

The superiority feelings at the same time also give bad effects to Okonkwo. It raises anxiety and fear in Okonkwo's life. His life is surrounded by the child trauma, fear of failure, fear of lack ness in economical condition and the anxiety of becoming no one in this society.

Okonkwo's fictional finalism and anxiety creates a style of life. In the past, when Okonkwo was a child, he felt ignored and was depressed. He is lack of love and financial. These situations influence Okonkwo's personality development. He becomes an optimistic, realistic, aggressive and egoistic individual. Okonkwo's life is surrounded by the violence in his family especially to his wife, daughters and son.

## **G. Thesis Organization**

The thesis will be divided into four chapters. They are:

Chapter one is introduction. It consists of research background, problems formulation, problems limitation, research objectives, research benefits, and research method.

Chapter two is literature review. This Chapter consists of Literature and Psychology, Individual Personality Psychology Theory of Alfred Adler.

Chapter three is analysis. It consists of the analysis purposed in order to answer the problem statements above.

Chapter four are conclusion and recommendation. The researcher will conclude the study in this chapter and make recommendation to the readers.

## **CHAPTER II**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **A. Psychology and Literature**

Psychology and literature has deep connection in human life. Both deals with the human behaviors, expression, thought, and motivation. Kartono describes psychology as the science of human behavior and physic (Teori Kepribadian, 1980:94). Psychology, broadly defined, is the scientific study of behavior, both external observable action and internal thought ( Wortman, 1994:4 ). Psychology can be used to explore and explain things, phenomena of human life shared in work of literature by applying the principle of psychology in the literary work.

For some conscious artist, psychology may have tightened their sense of reality, sharpened their powers of observation or allowed them to fall into hitherto undiscovered patterns. However, in itself, psychology is only preparatory to the act of creation, and in the work itself, psychological truth is an artistic value only if it enhances coherence complexity, in short; it is art (Wellek & Warren: p.92-93).

Literature art only can be defined by knowing the psychology background. Basically, literature is an expression of the writer. The expression is influenced by the feeling of the writer when he is writing it. This feeling is formed by the situation around the writer and the writer's individual experience.

Psychology always connected with the human life. People can not separate psychology from their life. Psychology explains and describes the basic thing that moves human next life that is motivation. Motivation is the most important thing in achieving and continuing the life that people expected. All things that people already achieve and will achieve are derived from motivation.

Whether realized or not, our everyday life is very complex but it is explainable. Man can understand the problem that they are facing and solve the problem by using psychological theory. By using theory of psychology, the complexity of problems can be made simpler.

Psychology can shape people's mind to recognize the problem as a challenge not as a destiny. All things human face is not as complicated as they imagine. People can solve all the problems if they see it from the positive way. In this case, psychology has an important part to create a positive way of thinking.

Like psychology, literature especially novel also has a connection with human life. Novel is a work of art which contains available value in life. It is a feeling of encouragement and expression from the writer. Novel has relation with the real life. Usually, the writer took the happening in the real life as the basic idea to express their feelings in a novel.

As a novel is a representation or mirror of life, then psychology has a deep connection with novel. Psychology can be used to understand deeper about the message, the characterization and the others elements of the novel. Psychology can help to reveal the reason of character's behavior. It reveals the basic of human behavior and motivation.

## **B. Theory of Alfred Adler**

Alfred Adler was born on February 7, 1870 in the suburbs of Vienna. Adler and nine other members established *The Society for Individual Psychology*

in 1912. He examined personality around the same time as Carl Jung and Sigmund Freud. His best-known work is *The Practice and Theory of Individual Psychology* (1923).

Adler theory is focuses on the individual theory of personality. His theory can be used to reveal the basic motivation that moves other motivation. His theory of six major concepts in personality can reveal the reason and the effect why people do something.

Adler had a tendency to change his theory on personality throughout his life but he ultimately believed that people are focused on maintaining control over their lives. He believed in single "drive" or motivating force behind our behavior, claiming that the desire we have to fulfill our potentials becomes closer and closer to our ideals (Ansbacher and Ansbacher's in *The Individual Psychology of Alfred Adler*).

Adler made consciousness the centre of personality. Man is a conscious being; he is ordinarily aware of reasons for his behavior. He is conscious of his inferiorities and conscious of the goals for which he strives. More than that, he is a self-conscious individual who is capable of planning and guiding his actions with full awareness of their meaning for his own self-realization (Hall and Lindzey, 1978:118).

Alfred Adler postulates a single "drive" or motivating force behind all our behavior and experience. By the time his theory had gelled into its most mature form, he called that motivating force the striving for superiority or perfection. It is the desire we all have to fulfill our potentials, to come closer and closer to our

ideal. Although striving for superiority does refer to the desire to be better, it also contains the idea that we want to be better than others, rather than better in our own right. His use of this phrase reflects one of the philosophical roots of his ideas: Friederich Nietzsche developed a philosophy that considered the will to power the basic motive of human life. (Adler in Hall and Lindzey, 1978:118-120).

Adler studied various types of people and he came to this conclusion. There are the four main types of people, three out of four are negative. The ruling type tries to control others. The getting type tends to be very passive and goes along with others ideas, rarely inventive. The avoiding types try to isolate themselves to avoid defeat. They are usually very cold. The socially useful type, values having control over their lives and strive to do good things for the sake of society.

There are six major concepts of personality theory according Alfred Adler:

a. Inferiority Feeling

Everyone suffers from inferiority in one form or another. Adler began his theoretical work considering organ inferiority, that is, the fact that each of us has weaker, as well as stronger, parts of our anatomy or physiology. Adler noted that many people respond to these organic inferiorities with compensation. They make up for their deficiencies in some different way. Under normal circumstances, the feeling of inferiority or a sense of incompleteness is the great driving force of mankind. In other words, Man is pushed by the need to overcome his inferiority and pulled by the desire to be superior (Adler in Hall And Lindzey, 1978:121-122).

The feeling of inferiority can be used as a stimulus for striving or as a felt blockade and an excuse for not striving. An individual who feels blocked from achievement in one field may cross over to another field and compensate or over-compensate for his feeling of inferiority.

According to Adler, a feeling of inferiority is formed since early childhood. Our childhood experiences are very important in forming our next life development. The situations we grow up in and find ourselves in are extremely important in the development of who we are. Early childhood experiences were significant in the development of personality ( Burger, 1987:79 ).

The weaknesses, smallness, helplessness and dependency in a child are the factors that form inferiority feelings. These factors are the product of overburdening children situation and under burdening children situation. Overburdening childhood situation is provoked by sibling competition, poverty, depreciation, neglect, rejection, disability, abuse and domination. While underburdening childhood situation is provoked by pampering and overprotection condition.

Adler states there are five types of inferiority feelings. First is the physical inferiority feelings which come from the physical weaknesses such as organ deficiencies, physical handicaps, deformity, ugliness, weakness, abnormal height or weight and sickness. As the compensation usually a person will strive for strength, beauty, athletic ability, good health, sensory pleasure, sexual gratification and physical closeness.

Second is the psychological inferiority feeling. Negative character traits whether its real or imagined, feeling or acting crazy, disliked or hated, ashamed of oneself, feeling bad or guilty are some situation which provokes psychological inferiority feeling. This kind of inferiority will form a person who strives for positive character traits, proud of oneself, liked by others, admired by others, loved by someone and self actualizing.

Next is the intellectual inferiority feeling which is formed because of ignorance, illiteracy, feeling stupid, lack of skill, difficulty in learning and boredom. A person in this situation will strive for knowledge, understanding, skill, artistic ability, academic success, enjoyment of music, art, drama, and literature.

Fourth is the social inferiority feeling. It is occurred when a person experience a situation of being alone, isolated, being excluded, not invited, abandoned, socially awkward and being no one in the society. This kind of people will strive for contact with others, membership in organizations, identifying with group, socially adept, social acceptance, social approval and the existence of himself in society. Last is economical inferiority feeling which are provoked by poverty, financial distress, underpaid for work and not keeping up with norm. The compensation is wealth, being rich, good income, financial security, etc.

([www.ourworld.compuserve.com](http://www.ourworld.compuserve.com))

#### b. Fictional Finalism

According Adler, man is motivated more by his expectations of future than he is by experiences of the past (Adler in Hall and Lindzey, 1978:119). The final

goal alone can explain man's behaviour. Experiences, traumata, sexual development mechanism cannot yield an explanation, but the perspective in which these are regarded, the individual way of seeing them, which subordinates all life to the final goal, can do so (Psychologies of Life, 1930:400).

The final goal maybe a fiction, that is, an ideal that is impossible to realize but which is nonetheless a very real spur to man's striving and the ultimate explanation of his conduct. All partial and realistic goals that a person pursues are always in that line, in that direction and towards that goal. And it is this goal, therefore, that determines a person's thinking, feeling, willing and acting. The normal person can free himself from the influence of these fictions and face reality when necessity demanded, something that the neurotic person is incapable of doing (Adler in Hall And Lindzey, 1978:120).

#### c. Striving for Superiority

Adler's first basic assumption was that life is foremost movement and that it must endlessly strive for better adaptation to the environment. This compulsion to achieve a better adaptation is never end. In this case, it lies the basis for concept of striving for mastering, striving for overcoming, striving for superiority. For Adler, everything that people do is designed to overcome their inferiority feelings and establish a sense of superiority ( Hjelle and Ziegler, 1992 : 143 )

Striving for superiority is striving for perfect completion. It is the "great upward drive". The striving for superiority is innate, that is part of life. The striving for superiority may manifest itself in a thousand different ways, and that

each person has his own concrete mode of achieving or trying to achieve perfection (Adler in Hall And Lindzey, 1978:120-121).

The striving for superiority always points out that all psychological phenomena contain a movement that starts from a feeling of inferiority and reach upward. The theory of Individual Psychology of psychological compensation states that the stronger the feeling of inferiority, the higher the goal for personal power. ( Adler in [www.sonoma.edu/users/d/daniels/Adler.html](http://www.sonoma.edu/users/d/daniels/Adler.html) )

A goal of personal superiority is one in which the individual strives to overcome and be above others. This type of goal is pushed further and further out so that the person cannot be outdone anymore. These goals all go in the same direction. They are superiority over others, face-saving, dominance and prestige. All goals of personal superiority are unreachable, fictitious, goals of Godlikeness, of perfection and absoluteness ( Adler in [www.ourworld.compuserve.com](http://www.ourworld.compuserve.com) )

#### d. Creative Self

Creative self is something that intervenes between the stimuli acting upon the person and the responds he makes to these stimuli. The doctrine of creative self asserts that man makes his own personality. He constructs it out of the raw material heredity and experiences. The creative self gives meaning to life; it creates the goal as well as the means to the goal. This creative self can be seen in different views, in the power of evolution, in the power of life, in the power which accomplishes the goal of an ideal completion to overcome the difficulties of life. (Adler in Hall and Lindzey, 1978:124-125).

#### e. Style of Life

Style of life is the system principle by which the individual personality functions. It explains the uniqueness of the person. Everyone has a style of life but no two people develop the same style. The style of life is formed very early in childhood. The attitudes, feelings, apperceptions become fixed and mechanized at an early age, and its practically impossible for the style of life to change thereafter. Individual style of life is largely determined by the specific inferiorities that the person has (Adler in Hall and Lindzey, 1978:123-124).

Mueller states that everyone's world view and style of life contains faults. The greater the fault, the more complications threaten the possessor of a faulty style of life ([www.ourworld.compuserve.com](http://www.ourworld.compuserve.com)). At the very early age, children have an opinion about what is success, and what is failure. This has a considerable influence on the style of life. In life, humans move constantly through circumstances, and are confronted, from birth to death, with tasks, opportunities and difficulties.

According to Stein, the repetitive answer that a person gives in his life, to the situations he is faced with, constitutes his style of life. This core provides a very compelling and consistent influence that dictates how he will view and respond to life. It happens from his earliest childhood into his old age (Stein in [www.ourworld.compuserve.com](http://www.ourworld.compuserve.com))

#### f. Social Interest

As social animals, we simply don't exist, much less thrive, without others, and even the most resolute people-hater forms that hatred in a social context.

Social interest consists of the individual helping society to attain goal of a perfect society. "Social interest is the true and inevitable compensation for all the natural weaknesses of individual human beings" Adler felt that social concern was not simply inborn, nor just learned, but a combination of both: It is based on an innate disposition, but it has to be nurtured to survive. On the other hand, a lack of social concern is, for Adler, the very definition of mental ill-health (Adler in Hall and Lindzey, 1978:122).

In this research, the researcher does not use all six the humanistic major concepts in personality. Researcher uses five concepts of personality. They are inferiority feeling, striving for superiority, creative self, fictional finalism, and style of life. The researcher also applies Adler theory of motivation. It states that a single "drive" or motivating force behind all our behavior and experience. This motivating force is the striving for superiority or perfection.

### **CHAPTER III**

#### **ANALYSIS**

*Things Fall Apart* is a very interesting novel. It contains much value of life. It also gives the reader a new way of seeing a problem from the positive side. It gives moral teaching. The novel gives a lesson that the readers must struggle in life to achieve their goal. People can reach their dream if they have a strong will and effort. It also teaches that everything will change as the time changes. People must adopt with the change.

This chapter is focused on Okonkwo's superiority feeling which is influenced by some factors. In this chapter, the researcher tries to find those factors. The researcher also analyzes the effect of these factors towards the development of Okonkwo.

### **A. The Factor that Makes Okonkwo Striving for Superiority**

Okonkwo was the main character in the novel *Things Fall Apart*. He played a major role in the novel. He was projected as a heroic figure. He was a son of Unoka. He had two sisters. They lived in a village called Ibo in. Most people in there worked as farmer. They usually plant yams, beans, cassava, corn, banana, etc. Ibo people believed in the spirits. They did not have any religion. The religion was centered about the worship of gods and ancestors.

Ibo society was a patriarchy. Man had a higher status than woman. Man had a special right which woman had not. In Ibo, the status and *title* in the society was very important. *Title* was a special honour which was given to someone who won the wrestling contest and participated in the front line of a war. One who had a title or more was more respected than the one who do not have any title. While the high status was derived from the wealth that someone's had. The one who had many wives usually the wealthy one.

In Umuofia, all people could get a high status and got many titles as long as they had ability and power to gain wealth and title. A man was judged based on his worth and not based on the worth of his father.

One which was respected and had a high status in Umuofia was the priestess or Agbala, a woman who gave some advices. One who had ability in medicine or curing the people from ill and the Oracle, the one who could predict something that will happen in future were also respected.

As an individual, Okonkwo's father, Unoka, was a lazy man. He did not like work hard. Whenever he had some money, he will use it to do what he liked, enjoyed and drank palm-wine.

In his day he was lazy and improvident and was quite incapable of thinking about tomorrow. If any money came his way, and it seldom did, he immediately bought gourds of palm-wine, called round his neighbors and made merry. (*Things Fall Apart*, 1992: 2)

He had no ability except singing and playing his flute. He was the one who always enjoy with his flute all the time. Worse, his ability in playing the flute could not fulfill his family needs. As a father, Unoka had failed to make his family happy. His family was poor. He borrowed some money in some of his neighbor to fulfill his family needs. He was a loafer because he never paid back the money he borrowed.

Unoka, the grown up, was a failure. He was poor and his wife and children had barely enough to eat. People laugh at him because he was a loafer, and they swore never to lend him any money because he never paid back. But Unoka was such a man that he always succeeded in borrowing more, and pilling up his debts. (*Things Fall Apart*, 1992:3)

Beside a loafer, Unoka was also a coward. He did not like a war as most men in Umuofia did. He was weak. He did not have enough power in physical. He preferred to enjoy and play his flute rather than go to the war. He did not have any title in the society. That's why he was no one in his society. The people did not respect him because he did not have any title or wealth.

Unoka was never happy when it came to wars. He was in fact a coward and could no bear the sight of blood. (*Things Fall Apart*, 1992:4)

You, Unoka, are known in all the clan for the weakness of your machete and your hoe. When your neighbors go out with their axe to cut down virgin forests, you sow your yams on exhausted farms that take no labor to clear. They cross seven rivers to make their farms; you stay at home and offer sacrifices to a reluctant soil. (*Things Fall Apart*, 1992:14)

Unoka's attitude made Okonkwo and his family suffering from poverty. Their family feels ashamed because Unoka was a loafer. He borrowed some money to others and never paid them back. Okonkwo was the most suffered from these bad situations. Okonkwo was not only ashamed, but also depressed. His father could not fulfill his needs. He must receive the mocking of his friends who said that his father was like a woman or *agbala*.

Even as a little boy he had resented his father's failure and weakness and even now he still remembered how he had suffered when a playmate had told him that his father was *agbala*. (*Things Fall Apart*, 1992:10-11)

In early childhood Okonkwo was forced to face all those bad condition. It made Okonkwo hated everything that his father loved. He felt depressed with his bad past.

Okonkwo was ruled by one passion- to hate everything that his father Unoka loved. On of those things was gentleness and another was idleness. (*Things Fall Apart*, 1992:11)

Okonkwo pushed by the inferior condition. According to Adler, a feeling of inferiority is formed since early childhood. He also stated that everyone suffers from inferiority in one form or another. The weaknesses, smallness, helplessness and dependency in a child are the factors that form inferiority feelings. (Adler in Hall And Lindzey, 1978:121-122).

Okonkwo faced the inferiority in his childhood. By all the bad happening he faced, Okonkwo did not have the good start as many young men had. He did not inherit a barn from his father. His life was incomplete. Okonkwo did not get a good life. His father was not able to give all he wanted. He felt disappointed and helpless. These were caused by the poverty and his shameful of having a failed father.

In this case, Okonkwo suffered from inferiority in economical and psychological forms. Adler has stated that economical inferiority feelings are provoked by poverty, financial distress, underpaid for work and not keeping up with norm. In Okonkwo case, his economical inferiority feeling was caused by the poverty in his family. While a psychological inferiority feeling provoked by disliked or hated, ashamed of oneself, feeling bad and guilty. Okonkwo's psychological inferiority feelings were provoked by the ashamed of his father.

He felt his economical inferiority when his father could not fulfill the family and his needs. His family was poor. He had barely enough to eat. At the same time, his psychological inferiority feelings arouse. It came from the society. In the society, his father was no one. His father was a lazy, weak and loafer. In his inferior condition where he was in poverty, and shameful, his hope of better future had aroused. Okonkwo wanted to be better than others. He wanted to be superior to others. Here, Okonkwo's superiority feeling was formed.

With a father like Unoka, Okonkwo did not have the start in life which many young men had....But in spite of these disadvantages; he had begun even in his father's lifetime to lay the foundations of a prosperous future. (*Things Fall Apart*, 1992:15)

In other words, the economical and psychological inferiority feelings have motivated Okonkwo to be a superior man. These inferiority feelings were rooted from Okonkwo's father failure. Unoka failed in fulfilling his family needs and failed to be a good figure for his wife and kids.

## **B. The Influence of Superiority Feeling towards Okonkwo's Life**

The superiority feeling causes good effect and bad effect in life. If a person has a superiority feeling, he will able to achieve better things and reach his or her ideal in life. On the contrary, if a person does not have a superiority feeling, he will fall down in a worse condition than before. Further, it can cause stress, trauma, and great depression. Worst, one will commit to suicide or acting crazy.

In *Things Fall Apart*, the superiority feeling played an important part. It influenced and dominated the major character's life, Okonkwo. Since early childhood, Okonkwo must face his inferiority feelings, both psychological and economical inferiority feelings. His inferiority feelings were caused by his father. His father had become the terrified memory and experience to remember. His father's failure and weaknesses were the cause of his inferiority feelings.

Okonkwo's childhood was very sad and traumatic. He felt inferior since he was a kid. It was like what Adler said that a feeling of inferiority is formed since early childhood. He also stated that everyone suffers from inferiority in one form or another (Adler in Hall And Lindzey, 1978:121-122).

As has been stated before that Okonkwo's inferiority feelings came from his past childhood. It was rooted on his father failure, Unoka. Unoka failed in his

household and in the society. In his household, he was not able to fulfill his family needs. In the society, he failed to be one of the men who had title and high status in his society. That's why he did not get any respect from his society.

Unoka's failure provoked economical inferiority and psychological inferiority of Okonkwo. Okonkwo's inferiority feelings created both positive and negative effects. These inferiority feelings influenced the whole life of Okonkwo. These also influenced the personality development and life development of Okonkwo.

Okonkwo's economical inferiority feeling rouse the superiority feeling in reaching a prosperous future. His family's poverty when he was a kid had motivated Okonkwo to be a wealthy man in the society. He wanted to have a large compound, much money and many wives.

On the other side, Okonkwo's psychological inferiority feeling provoked the superiority feeling in reaching a prestige status and becoming the respected man in the society. Okonkwo wanted to be a man who had many title and high status in his village.

Later, Okonkwo imagined about how his final life should be. He hoped if in his next few years, he will be the best man in his village. All his thinking, willing, feeling and acting was directed to one goal. It was to be the best man in his society. A man who had the most wealth, the most respected the most title and the strongest. This goal was called fictional finalism. It was the fiction lies in the future, and yet influences our behavior today. According to Adler, the fictional final goal is normally hidden. So does with Okonkwo. He never shows what his

final goal is. He just kept it in mind. He just showed his best work in everything he did.

At the same time when Okonkwo's superiority feelings rose, the creative power or creative self was formed. The creative self gave Okonkwo the power to overcome the difficulties and problems he faced. Adler states that the creative self gives meaning to life. It creates the goal as well as the means to the goal ( Adler in Hall and Lindzey, 1978:124-125).

A person will think and find out the way to solve the problems. They will continually striving to answer questions, to overcome difficulties or the inferior condition they faced. Okonkwo had a strong belief that he could overcome all the problems he faced because he had a creative self. Creative self had the capacity to anticipate, which was what it must do. ( Adler in Hall and Lindzey, 1978:124-125). Creative power gave the meaning in life. It led someone to reach his goal. Further, it gave a solution when a person faced a problem and difficulties in life.

Creative self also managed the movement and the direction with one goal ( Adler in Hall and Lindzey, 1978:125). Okonkwo always thinks and manages his action. He would do something if it gave the advantage for him.

Okonkwo was a realistic man. He knew if he did the best then he would reach what he dreams of. Okonkwo's creative self arouse at the same time when his inferiority feeling arouse. The creative self in Okonkwo has been formed since he was a child. Okonkwo's family was poor. His father failed to fulfill his family needs. As the only son, Okonkwo felt that he must be able to replace his father duty. He had to fulfill his two sisters, his father and his mother needs. At this

moment, the creative self arouse in Okonkwo's self. He tried to overcome his economical inferiority.

Okonkwo's effort to overcome the economical inferiority was slow and painful. However, Okonkwo was motivated by his hope to be superior, to be better than before, and to strive upward. This made Okonkwo became an optimistic person. He was the one who never gave up with the situation. Okonkwo always optimistic in seeing his future. He began to making an income to fulfill his family needs. His father's failure has led his family into poverty and forced him to replace his father duty.

And what made it worse in Okonkwo's case was that he had to support his mother and two sisters from his meagre harvest. And supporting his mother also meant supporting his father... And so at a very early age when he was striving desperately to build a barn trough share-cropping Okonkwo was also fending for his father's house. It was like pouring grains of corn into a bag full of holes ( *Things Fall Apart*, 1992 :19 ).

Okonkwo tried making an income. The motivation of achieving a better future has shaped Okonkwo's mind. He became a realistic man, one who realized who he was, his strength and his ability. He realized that he had a strong physic and ability in farming. He used his abilities to get an income. Then, he tried to borrow some seed-yams from Nwakibie, his wealthy neighbor. Nwakibie was the wealthy and respected man in his village.

There was a wealthy man in Okonkwo's village who had three huge barns, nine wives and thirty children. His name was Nwakibie and he had taken the highest tile but one which a man could take in the clan. It was for this man that Okonkwo worked to earn his first seed yams. (*Things Fall Apart*, 1992:15).

Okonkwo's request to borrow some seed-yams was agreed by Nwakibie.

Okonkwo could persuade Nwakibie by convincing him that he was a hard worker.

He had a strong power and ability in farming. He also guaranteed that that he would not fail. As the tradition in his village, the one who borrowed yams from other must agree with share-cropping system.

I have come to you for help.... I have cleared a farm but have no yams to sow....I am not afraid of hard work.... I began to fend for myself at an age when most people still suck at their mothers' breast. If you give me some yam seeds I shall not fail you. (*Things Fall Apart*, 1992:18).

Okonkwo realized that it would take along time to building a barn of his own and to reach the wealth. Okonkwo had to choose this way because there wasn't other way.

Share-cropping was a very slow way of building up a barn of one's own. After all the toil one only got a third of the harvest. But for a young man whose father had no yams, there was no other way. (*Things Fall Apart*, 1992:18)

Once again, Okonkwo was forced to face the miserable things. He got the worst year in his life. All his crops were fail. There was no harvest. Many farmers desperated with this situation. A farmer even hanged himself in a tree branch.

That year the harvest was sad, like a funeral, and many farmers wept as they dug up the miserable and rotting yams. One man tied his cloth to a tree branch and hanged for himself. (*Things Fall Apart*, 1992:20).

Okonkwo felt depressed with that situation but he realized that he must survive. He always remembered this year as the tragic year in the rest of his life. His motivation to become superior than others made him to be an optimistic man. Okonkwo was a fierce fighter. He succeeds to survive. This gave him a new power in his mind to overcome all failure in his life. He had a strong belief that he could survive from anything.

Since I survived that year, 'he always said, 'I shall survive anything. 'He put down to his inflexible will. (*Things Fall Apart*, 1992: 20)

The next few years, Okonkwo became a wealthy man. The motivation of becoming a rich man led him into his prosperity. His willing, hard work and ability brought him in his succeed in life. Okonkwo succeed in overcoming his economical inferiority. He did compensate his poverty.

Okonkwo's prosperity was visible in his household. He had a large compound enclosed by a thick wall of red earth. His own hut, or obi, stood immediately behind the only gate in red walls. Each of his three wives had her own hut. (*Things Fall Apart*, 1992:11)

Besides economical inferiority feeling, Okonkwo also faced psychological inferiority in his past childhood. His father, Unoka, was a loafer. He had so many debts. His father was also a weak man and a coward. He had no strong physic. Unoka did not have any title because he never goes to a war. He prefers to stay at home rather than to go to war. He did not like to work hard and gain much money for his family. All these things caused Unoka did not get any respect from the society. Okonkwo and his family felt ashamed of Unoka.

Okonkwo felt depressed with his past and his father failure. All his life was surrounded by fear of failure. Fear to be weak, coward like his father. This bad situation motivated Okonkwo to overcome his inferiority feelings. He was motivated by his hope for a better future. He did not want to be like his father. He regarded his father as failure figure. He has failed in everything. Okonkwo hated which all his father loved.

But his whole life was dominated by fear, fear of failure and fear of weaknesses. (*Things Fall Apart*, 1992:10)

That bad situation motivated Okonkwo to reach the higher status and title. He wanted to be superior to others and to be respected in his society. He wanted to be the brave man, strong man and not a coward like his father.

He tried to compensate his psychological feeling of fear of failure like his father, fear of to be weak, fear of to be coward, fear of to be no one and disrespected and fear to be fail. Step by step Okonkwo could overcome his inferiority, all of his fear in the past childhood.

Okonkwo was clearly cut out for great things. He was still young but he had won as the greatest wrestler in the nine villages. ...And so although Okonkwo was still young, he was already one of the greatest men of his time. Age was respected among his people, but achievement was referred. As the elders said, if a child washed his hands he could eat with kings. Okonkwo had clearly washed his hands and so he ate with kings and elders. (*Things Fall Apart*, 1992:5-6)

He showed to his society that he was a strong man. His feelings to strive for superiority shaped a strong motivation in Okonkwo's mind. He believed that he could solve all the problems he faced. At the age of eighteen, Okonkwo followed a wrestling tournament among the villages near Umuofia. For Umuofia and others village, wrestling tournament was a prestigious. The one who won in the wrestling will get famous and received a title.

Finally Okonkwo won the wrestling. He beat the Amalinze Cat from Mbaino, the great wrestler who for seven years was unbeaten. By winning the wrestling, Okonkwo's name became very popular throughout the nine villages. Okonkwo's village, Umuofia, became famous among the others village. By winning the wrestling, eight others village gave a higher respect to Umuofia and to Okonkwo. It proved to others especially to elders that Okonkwo was a brave

and strong man. He also proved to himself that he could overcome his inferiority and his fear of to be weak and coward.

His fame rested on solid personal achievements. As a young man of eighteen he had brought honour to his village by throwing Amalinze Cat. Amalinze was the great wrestler who for seven years was unbeaten, from Umuofia to Mbaino. He was called the Cat because his back would never touch the earth. (*Things Fall Apart*, 1992:1)

Okonkwo was also famous because of his personal appearance. He had a perfect and strong physic. By seeing his appearance, people could see if he was a strong man with severe look. He wasn't like his father. Here, Okonkwo succeed to overcome his inferior feeling, his fear to be weak like his father.

He was tall and huge, and his bushy eyebrows and wide nose gave him a very severe look. He breathed heavily, and it was said that, when he slept, his wife and children in their houses could hear him breathe. When he walked, his heels hardly touched the ground and he seemed walk on springs, as if he going to punch on somebody. (*Things Fall Apart*, 1992:1)

Okonkwo succeed to overcome his fear of being coward. He proved to himself and society that he was a brave man. He never missed a war. He was a brave man. He was the first men that succeed to bring home a human head in Umuofia.

He was a man of action, a man of war. Unlike his father, he could stand the look of blood. In Umuofia's latest war he was the first to bring home a human head. That was his fifth head; and he was not an old man yet. (*Things Fall Part*, 1992:8)

A few days after Okonkwo became the greatest wrestler he had been chosen to carry message war and to make an appointment. A woman, Udo's wife, in his village was murdered by the young man in his neighbor village. Then, Umuofia sent Okonkwo to the village for asking to replace the woman's life by

giving up a young man and a virgin. In doing this mission, Okonkwo had succeeded to do his duty.

That was why Okonkwo had been chosen by the nine villages to carry a message of war to their enemies unless they agreed to give up a young man and a virgin to atone for the murder of Udo's wife. And such was the deep fear that their enemies had for Umuofia that they treated Okonkwo like a king and brought him a virgin who was given to Udo as wife, and the lad Ikemefuna. (*Things Fall Apart*, 1992:23)

According to the elders' decision, Okonkwo must raise Ikemefuna for three years. Finally, Okonkwo started to love Ikemefuna. Ikemefuna was a son that he dreamed of. His real son, Nwoye could not do as what he wanted. Nwoye were like his father, Unoka. He was a weak man.

Three years was going so fast. Umuofia made the decision. The elders in the nine villages had decided that Ikemefuna should be killed like the Udo's wife was killed before. When Ikemefuna was guarded towards forest to be killed, Okonkwo and the elders walked behind him. One of the elders' swung the machete to Ikemefuna's body but Ikemefuna had not died yet. He ran to Okonkwo and asked for Okonkwo to save his life. At this moment Okonkwo confused. He was afraid to be regarded as a weak man. He was forced to kill Ikemefuna. Actually, deep in his heart, Okonkwo loved Ikemefuna but he was afraid to be though as a weak men. So he killed Ikemefuna with his own machete. Once again, Okonkwo succeed to overcome his fear of weaknesses.

As the man who had cleared his throat drew up and raised his machete, Okonkwo looked away. He heard the blow. The pot fell and broke in the sand. He heard Ikemefuna cry, 'My father, they have killed me!' as he ran toward him. Dazed with fear, Okonkwo drew his machete and cut him down. He was afraid of being thought weak. (*Things Fall Apart*, 1992:53)

For some nights, after killing Ikemefuna, he could not eat nor sleep at all. His thought only focused on Ikemefuna. He felt sad with all the happenings. He was down.

Okonkwo did not taste any food for two days after the death of Ikemefuna. He drank palm-wine from morning till night, and his eyes were red and fierce like the eyes of a rat when was caught by the tail and dashed against the floor. (*Things Fall Apart*, 1992:55)

For the first time in three nights, Okonkwo was slept. He woke up once in the middle of the night and his mind went back to the past three days without making him feel uneasy. (*Things Fall Apart*, 1992:66)

Actually, Okonkwo was sad and felt guilty about what he has done but he was afraid to convict it to himself. He was afraid to be weak like his father. He did not want to thought as a feminine, one who used feeling and heart in doing everything.

When did you become a shivering old woman, 'Okonkwo asked himself, 'you, who are known in all nine villages for your valor in war? How can a man who was killed five men in battle fall to pieces because he was added a boy to their number? Okonkwo, you have become a woman indeed.' (*Things Fall Apart*, 1992:56)

After a moment, Okonkwo remembered his past. He remembered his father as a failure figure. His father failed in everything because of his own weaknesses. This made Okonkwo better. He did not think anymore of Ikemefuna execution.

Finally, in all his life Okonkwo was forced to face the worst situation. It changed everything in his life. It was the point where all his life was getting worse. It was the moment of Ezeudu funeral. Ezeudu was a great man. He was one of the elder of Umuofia. At his death, there were only three men in whole clan who were elder, and four of five others in his own age group. Ezeudu had taken

three titles in his life and it was a rare achievement. There were only four titles in the clan, and only one or two men in any generation ever achieved the fourth and highest. When they did, they become the lords of the land. That's why, all the clan was at his funeral. His funeral ritual was great and big.

Because he had taken titles, Ezeudu was to be buried after dark with only a growing brand to light the sacred ceremony (*Things Fall Apart*, 1992:108 )

In Ezeudu funeral ceremony, drums beat violently and guns fire on all sides and sparks as machetes exchange together in warrior salutes. The drums and the dancing began again and reached fever-heat. Last, guns were fired as the last salutation. So did Okonkwo, he fired his guns. Suddenly, the situation became so quiet. It was the body laid on the ground with a pool of blood. Accidentally, Okonkwo's shooting pierced that boy's heart.

It was the dead man's sixteen-year-old son, who with his brother's and half-brothers had been dancing the traditional farewell to their father. Okonkwo's gun had exploded and a piece of iron had pierced the boy's heart. (*Things Fall Apart*, 1992:109)

Because of what he had done, Okonkwo's must be exiled from his village.

For Umuofia, killing a clansman was a crime against the earth goddess. So Okonkwo must go from his village for seven years. In the night, Okonkwo left his village to go to his motherland, Mbanta. Actually, the elder of Umuofia gave Okonkwo two choices. There were the female and the man way. Okonkwo must choose between the female and the male way. He decided to take the female way because it had been inadvertent. He should return to his motherland for seven years. By choosing that way, Okonkwo still had hoped of returning to his village in Umuofia. By his return, he would get all that he had lost before.

The only course open to Okonkwo was to flee from the clan. It was crime against the earth of goddess to kill a clansman, and a man who committed it must flee from the land. The crime was two kinds, male and female. Okonkwo had committed the female, because it had been inadvertent. He could return to the clan after seven years. (*Things Fall Apart*, 1992:110)

In this moment, Okonkwo faced inferior situation. Unfortunately, Okonkwo failed to overcome his inferiority, his fear of weaknesses, at that moment. He chose to go to his motherland, Mbanta. In other hands, this doing was actually Okonkwo decision to overcome his inferiority, his fear to be weak and feminine. He realized if he chose that female way he would return in his village, Umuofia, in the next seven years later. Then, he could build up all of his lost. In other words, Okonkwo was a realistic man. He was a man who was conscious with all his doing.

Again, Okonkwo must face inferiority feelings when his compound was destroyed in the next morning after her leaving to Mbanta. He lost his wealth. His fear of poverty rouses in his mind. And once again Okonkwo suffered from economical inferiority. He tried to figure out about his tragic destiny. He became depressed. The depression led him into greater complexities. It was like his past experiences, the terrified past when he faced inferiority both in economical and psychological. And now, when he thought that he could reach out his goal, his dream to be the leader, everything he has had gone out in just a day.

As soon as the day broke, a large of man from Ezeudu's quarter stormed Okonkwo's compound, dressed in garbs of war. They set fire to his houses, demolished his red walls, killed his animals and destroyed his barn. It was the justice of the earth goddess, and they were merely her messengers. (*Things Fall Apart*, 1992:110)

Okonkwo fell in his terrified mind for several days. Indirectly, Okonkwo had failed to overcome his psychology inferiority for temporarily. Okonkwo's life was filled with one obsession. He wanted to be superior to others. He wanted to be the lords of the clan and land. But it was the condition where Okonkwo was in his deep despair.

His life had been ruled by one great passion-to become one of the lords of the clan. That had been his life spring. And he had all but achieved it. Then everything had been broken. He had been cast out of his clan like a fish onto a dry, sandy beach, panting. (*Things Fall Apart*, 1992:114)

Okonkwo went to Mbanta with his three wives and their children. He was well received by his mother's kinsmen there. As time running, Okonkwo's despair was reduced. Uchendu, Okonkwo's uncle, received warmly to Okonkwo and his family. He also supported Okonkwo. He gave advice and spirit to Okonkwo. Then Okonkwo was given a plot of ground and land to be farmed. Uchendu's wisdom, kindness and advice helped Okonkwo to pass his hard condition.

Finally, Okonkwo was able to maintain his life in Mbanta. In the first two years, his best friend, Obierika, visited him. He gave some money to Okonkwo. It was from the selling of his yams in Umuofia. He told Okonkwo about the coming of the white man, the missionaries. He also told to Okonkwo that one of the man in town were killed by the white man but no one of the people there take action to fight against them. Okonkwo's emotion was rising at that time. This made Okonkwo felt angry and disappointed with his people.

The missionaries coming in Africa especially in Umuofia altered many things. They had spread Christianity and built a church in Umuofia. They also ruled the social norm there. The rule and the belief in the society must be

reconciled their leader, Queen's of British. Their mission was to spread Christianity and conquer Umuofia. They made Umuofia as the common wealth of British. As time keeps running, the missionaries succeeded to recruit some people in Umuofia. These people became their member. They believed in everything the missionaries did. They were the Christ follower. One of them was Nwoye, Okonkwo's son.

The next two years, Obierika visited Okonkwo again. His coming was to inform Okonkwo about his son, Nwoye, who appeared among the white man and became one of their man. At that time, the missionaries had ruled Umuofia. Hearing that, Okonkwo said nothing at all. He was surprised and disappointed with that news.

One day, Amikwu, Okonkwo's cousin, saw Nwoye in the church altogether with the missionaries. Nwoye had become the member of the white men. Later, Amikwu told what he had seen to Okonkwo. Okonkwo was very angry with Nwoye. He was in a great brief to his son.

Nwoye turned round to walk into the inner compound when his father, suddenly overcome with fury, sprang to his feet and gripped him by the neck. (*Things Fall Apart*, 1992:132)

Okonkwo very angry and disappointed to his son. He was a man with all his strength. He did not want himself and his son to be a fail, weak, feminine man. He was afraid if Nwoye would break his famous name. He was terrified by the society' perception to him. He was afraid of being effeminate.

Okonkwo was popular called the 'Roaring Flame'...He was a flaming fire. How then could he begotten a son like Nwoye, degenerate and effeminate? Perhaps he was not his son. No! he could not be. His wife had played him false. He would teach her. (*Things Fall Apart*, 1992:133)

Seven years had been gone. It was the time for Okonkwo to return back to his village. There was always one goal in Okonkwo's mind as long as his life, even when he was exiled in Mbanta. The goal was to be superior to other. He must be the best man in Mbanta, be the leader, be the elder who has the highest status in his village.

When Okonkwo was arrived in his village, he was surprised. He did not get any special ceremony to greet his return. His village had been changed.

Okonkwo's return to his native land was not as memorable as he had wished. It was true that his two beautiful daughters aroused great interest among suitors and marriage negotiations were soon in progress, but, beyond that, Umuofia did not appear to have taken any special notice of the warrior's return. (*Things Fall Apart*, 1992:157)

Umuofia had been changed during the seven years of his exile. Many church had been built there. The new government was formed by the white man. Many things in Umuofia custom had changed too. Many people had become the missionaries' men. Some of them were from the low status and some of them were from the high social and economical status. This made the missionaries purpose to conquer and spread the Christ' teaching became easier.

Umuofia hade indeed changed during the seven years Okonkwo had been in exile. The church had come and led many astray. Not only the low-born and the outcast but sometimes a worthy man had joined it. (*Things Fall Apart*, 1992:149)

By this changing, Okonkwo's obsession to become the best man in his village was getting smaller. He realized if he wanted to reach his goal then he must change the condition in Umuofia to its origin before the coming of the white man. Here, Okonkwo must face psychological inferiority feelings. The feeling of

fear to be no one in his village again caused Okonkwo felt inferior with the situation. He felt so worried and afraid if he did not recover the situation then he would not make his goal comes true. He knew that he must overcome his inferiority feelings in order to achieve his goal.

Okonkwo thought that all men in his village were a coward. They were afraid of fighting back the missionaries. If Umuofia's men did not want to fight against the missionaries, Okonkwo would not able to achieve his goal, to be the leader in his village. Then, he must make his people in a line with his thought. Umuofia's people must get rid over the white man from Umuofia. He and Umuofia elder held a meeting to find the solution. They must exile the missionaries.

Unfortunately, there were a few men who support Okonkwo's idea to fight against the white man. Actually, Okonkwo's greatest fear about the missionaries was that it could destroy the social hierarchy of the clan. If the social hierarchy of his clan was destroyed, he would not reach the leader position in his clan. Most of Umuofia's people feel pessimistic and did not want to fight the missionaries. It happened because the missionaries' strategies were so clever that many people got a better condition by their existence.

There were many men and women in Umuofia who did not feel as strongly as Okonkwo about the new dispensation. The white man had indeed brought a lunatic religion, but he had also built the trading store and land for the first time palm-oil and kernel become things of great price, and much money flowed into Umuofia. (*Things Fall Apart*,1992:153)

Finally, Okonkwo's motivation arouse again. His obsession of becoming the leader in his village was nearly achieved. The elder in Umuofia agreed with

Okonkwo's idea. They decided to make their action. After a church in the village was destroyed, now they agree with the decision to do something substantial.

For the first time in many years Okonkwo had a feeling that was asking to happiness. The times which had altered so unaccountably during his exile seemed to be coming around again. The clan which had turned false on him appeared to be making amends. (*Things Fall Apart*, 1992:165)

Soon the six elders in Umuofia, including Okonkwo, held a meeting. This meeting was to find the way to exile the white men. They decided to hold a discussion and negotiation with the District Commissioner, the leader of white man. Later, they arrived in the courthouse where District Commissioner sat. The white man's leader received them warmly and politely. They discussed about the missionaries wisdom. Suddenly, there was a brief scuffle came in the court. They handcuff the Umuofia elder, include Okonkwo, and then led them into the guardroom.

They were imprisoned for three days without any food and water. They would be set free if they paid a fine of two hundred cowries. Okonkwo was very angry when he was in jail. He swore that he would take revenge if his people did not claim war to the missionaries.

As the fine was paid, Okonkwo and the elders were set free. Okonkwo went back to his house. He felt ashamed with himself. He and the elders went back to their village without bringing any result or profit except receiving that their hairs were shaved off. For Umuofia, the hair is the symbol of self honor and dignity. When a person was shaved off by others, it means that his honor was given to one who had succeeded to shave their hair. Okonkwo remembered the bad treatment which he got when he was imprisoned by the white man. He could

not forget how they have naked off all his honour and dignity. It was the first time in Okonkwo's life where he could not overcome his inferior situation. He was just like a coward and a weak man.

If Umuofia decide war, all would be well. But if they choose to be cowards he would go out and revenge for himself. (*Things Fall Apart*, 1992:171)

Okonkwo was very angry with his people. He was angry because they did nothing to fight the missionaries. If they did not fight it meant that Okonkwo could not reach his goal. As long as the missionaries stayed in Umuofia, then Okonkwo could not be the leader of his clan. Okonkwo swore that he would take revenge to the missionaries, with or without the people's help in Umuofia.

The next morning, there was a meeting. The people of the nine villages in Umuofia were gathered in the meeting place. The meeting was to declare to all people of Umuofia whether they should or shouldn't declare a war. Knowing this, Okonkwo's motivation to string upwards rose up in his mind. He was very happy with that news.

In the morning, all people from nine villages came and gathered in the meeting place. When they were discussing about their next action to fight the missionaries, suddenly five white men appeared among the crowd. They came to stop the meeting. One of them was the head messenger, the one who made Okonkwo felt ashamed. He was like a coward and useless. One who had put off Okonkwo's dignity as a man. Seeing him, Okonkwo became very angry. In a flash, Okonkwo drew his machete and kill the man.

For a moment the situation was very quiet. Okonkwo was staring at the dead body of the head messenger. In his mind, he realized that Umuofia would not go to a war. The people did not do anything to stop the other white man so that the white man could escape from that place. It made Okonkwo disappointed to them.

At this point, Okonkwo's mind went to his long journey in life. For all of his life, he was surrounded by the fear of failure, weakness, and to be no one. For all his life, he tried to overcome his inferiority to be weak, fail and disrespected. He always succeeds in overcoming his inferior condition. His superiority feeling has motivated him to reach success in life.

Okonkwo was obsessed one thing for all his life that is to be superior to other, to be the best man in his clan and village. The best man means the leader of his village, the most prestigious position. By this happening, he realized that it was the point where all of his struggle forced to be ended. He knew that he could not achieve his goal as the leader of the land. He realized that people did not want to fight and declare war to the missionaries. It meant that Okonkwo's final goal would not be reached.

Okonkwo was a man who never failed before. He was the respected figure in his society. He was the strongest man and a warrior. After the head messenger murdering, he had lost all. He had lost his honor as a great man in his village. He was just the ordinary people. He was the same with others. Okonkwo had failed to overcome his fear, the fear of failure. He had lost motivation in life. That's why, he decided to commit suicide.

Then they came to the tree from which Okonkwo's body was dangling, and they stopped dead. (*Things Fall Apart*, 1992:178)

He decided to commit suicide by hanging himself in a tree. It proved that Okonkwo had failed to hold on his principle and conquer his inferiority. By committing suicide, Okonkwo had chosen the female way. It showed his weakness. He became a coward for himself because he could not overcome his inferiority which is caused by the changing in Umuofia.

Even though Okonkwo had failed to compensate his inferiority, he was still the greatest man in Umuofia. His braveness to fight against the missionaries made the people amaze. Okonkwo's tragic life also inspired the District Commissioner in writing a book entitled '*The Pacification of the Primitive Tribes of the Lower Nigeria*'.

Obierika, who had been gazing steadily at his friend's dangling body, turned suddenly to the District Commissioner and said ferociously: 'That man was one of the greatest men In Umuofia.... (*Things Fall Apart*, 1992:178)

On the other side, inferiority feelings also gave bad effects in Okonkwo's life. His inferiority feelings that were caused by his father's failure created the great anxiety and fear. Okonkwo's life was surrounded by the fear, fear to be fail and weak like his father. That's why; Okonkwo hated everything that his father loved.

Okonkwo's fear of being weak influenced his behavior. Indirectly, the fear of failure and weakness influenced Okonkwo's personality. He became a choleric person. According to Adler, a choleric person is the one who always angry all the time. The choleric is, roughly, the ruling type. (Adler in [www.compuserve.com](http://www.compuserve.com)).

Okonkwo's mind was filled with the angry feeling and emotion. He was the one who often showed his bad temper to every one. He was more dominant to others in deciding something. He also solved all his problems by using violence, using rough way.

Okonkwo became a rude person. He had a bad temper. He used violence in expressing his feelings. He ruled his household with heavy hand. His three wife's and all his children's were afraid to him.

Okonkwo ruled his household with heavy hand. His wife, especially the youngest, lived in perpetual fear of his fiery temper, and so did his little children. (*Things Fall Apart*, 1992:10)

Actually, Okonkwo was the one who had love and affection. He loved all his family but he did not show it. Deep in his heart he wanted to show his affection but he could not do it. He thought that showing an affection and love was a feminine way. It was like his father, effeminate and weak one.

Thing that should be showed according to Okonkwo was the anger as the symbol of his strength. Even though deep in his heart he loved his wives and children's, he never showed it to them. He thought that expressing and acting love feeling and emotion was a woman likeness. He was afraid of becoming a woman like, becoming like his father. If he expressed and showed his love emotion then he would become weak, a thing that he hated.

Even Okonkwo himself became very fond of the boy-inwardly of course. Okonkwo never showed any emotion openly, unless it is the emotion of anger. To show affection was a sign of weakness; the only thing worth demonstrating was strength. (*Things Fall Apart*, 1992:24)

Because of afraid to be seen as a weak man Okonkwo used strength in solving all his problems. He would do everything to prove to others and himself

that he wasn't a weak man like his father was. He killed Ikemefuna, the boy that he raised for three years.

His fear led him became a cruel man. "...He heard Ikemefuna cry, 'My father, they have killed me! As he ran towards him. Dazed with fear, Okonkwo drew his machete and cut him down. He was afraid of being thought weak. (*Things Fall Apart*, 1992:52)

Okonkwo was the one whose life was obsessed by the feeling to be superior to other, to be dominant, and powerful. These affected his style of life. At past, when Okonkwo was a child, he feel ignored, depressed, lack of love and financial. These made Okonkwo became an aggressive and egoistic individual.

Okonkwo's life was always directed to one goal that is to be the leader of his clan. Okonkwo realized if he wants to be the leader then he must become the best. He must do everything in his life perfectly. He raised his children with his own way. He mustn't fail in solving his life and achieving his goal. Those made Okonkwo's life was dominated by the principle to be perfect. He was the one who did not like to see unsuccessful person. He hated the weak man. He hated the one who fail.

He had a slight stammer and whenever he was angry and could not get his words out quickly enough, he would use his fists. He had no patience with unsuccessful man. (*Things Fall Apart*, 1992:1-2)

He always disappointed to his son, Nwoye. His son was not as strength as him. He tried to make his son to be the great and success man. Okonkwo's effort to achieve a better future for his son was hard. Nwoye wasn't as strong as Okonkwo He tent to be lazier in doing farming. He also joined with the missionaries. He was the one who became the church member and believed in

One God. Nwoye's behaviours caused Okonkwo became very angry. Okonkwo judge his son as the weak and fail person.

Okonkwo wanted his son to be a great farmer and a great man. He would stamp out the disquieting signs of laziness which he thought he already saw in him. (*Things Fall Apart*, 1992:28)

Okonkwo was inwardly pleased at his son's development,...He wanted Nwoye to grow into a tough young man capable of ruling his father's household when he was dead and gone to join the ancestors. He wanted him to be a prosperous man, having enough in his barn to feed the ancestors with regular sacrifice. And he was always happy when he heard him grumbling about woman. (*Things Fall Apart*, 1992:45)

Okonkwo's bad behavior and attitude caused his family depressed. His wives were afraid of him. They did not have any braveness to refuse Okonkwo's willing or opinions. So did with his children. They grow up with the violence in their house. It made them stress and sad. Nwoye, Okonkwo's son was the most suffered from Okonkwo's attitude. He wasn't like Okonkwo. He tent to be calmer. He hated violence. Finally, he decided to join with the missionaries as his compensation of his father pressure.

Okonkwo's anxiety of becoming no one in the society has provoked the feeling to rule the others. He saw everything from the material only. He would respect anyone if they had higher title and status than he had. His action led to his obsession to dominate the others. He did not make a good relationship with his neighbors whose statuses are lower than his. He showed his dislike feelings to them. Sometimes, he used violence to show his dislike ness. He treated them badly.

Okonkwo's life was dominated by the obsession to achieve success and the fear to be fail. Okonkwo did something by all the strength and ability he had.

He did it by all his heart, his strength. He wanted everything to be perfect and succeed. He could reach his ideal in life. For a few years, he had succeed to overcome his inferiority. He became a superior man, the one who has a high status in the society. He was the great man in his village. It led him to be a very rich man.

In the other side, Okonkwo's obsession of being superior to others led him to his tragic life. Almost all of his life was surrounded by the fear of failure. He did not get peace in life even in his prosperity and his high status. His failure in overcoming his fear to be the greatest man caused him to end his life by committing suicide.

## **CHAPTER IV**

### **CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

#### **A. Conclusion**

Basically, each person has his or her concrete mode to strive for superiority, strive for perfect completion. The striving for superiority will arise if a person experiences an inferiority situation or condition. Okonkwo's striving for superiority arouse when he faced inferiority condition. Based on the preceding chapters, there were two factors that motivated Okonkwo to striving for superiority.

First factor was the psychological inferiority of Okonkwo. Psychological inferiority is the condition where a person acts crazy, feels ashamed of oneself, dislikes, hates, and feels bad or guilty. Okonkwo disliked and hated his father so much. Okonkwo could not accept his family shameful condition. His father had so many debts. It caused him got a humiliation from his friend. All these bad things resulted in Okonkwo's depression.

Okonkwo's psychological inferiority motivated him to reach a better condition. It motivated him to striving for superiority. According to Adler, the one who faced inferior condition such as a shameful would try to be a person who were liked by others, admired by others and proud of himself as his superiority striving. Okonkwo's psychological inferiority which was caused by his father's shameful condition motivated him to strive for being a person who was admired by others. He also tried hard to be the leader in his village for satisfying his obsession and making proud of himself.

The second factor which motivated Okonkwo to striving for superiority was the economical inferiority. According to Adler, the economical inferiority is the condition in a poverty, financial distress, loss of job, losing money, and underpaid for work. Okonkwo's economical inferiority was caused by poverty and financial distress. His family was poor. Okonkwo's father was oppressed by his family life hardship. He could not fulfill his family needs. He had so many debts that he could not repay it. Later it led his family to poverty. Okonkwo and his family did not have a good and enough food to eat. This economical inferiority

motivated Okonkwo to strive for wealth. He wanted to be a wealthy man in the future.

Both factors have motivated Okonkwo to strive for superiority. His psychological inferiority motivated him to strive for high status in the future. At the same time, his economical inferiority motivated him to strive for wealth and prosperity in the future. He must become better than others, rather than better in his own right. Better in his own right meant that it was enough for himself to be a man who can fulfill all of his family needs. But, Okonkwo must become better than others, which meant to be the best man, the leader, in his village.

Both economical and inferiority feelings had a great influence towards Okonkwo's life. It had an important role in forming Okonkwo's superiority feeling. Further, Okonkwo's superiority feelings brought Okonkwo to reach success. The creative self was formed at the same time when the superiority feeling was formed. Creative self gave Okonkwo the power to overcome all of his inferiority, his problem, in life. Okonkwo's superiority feeling and creative self influenced on his view of future. It created a fictional finalism. Okonkwo realized that he had one final goal in life. He wanted to be the best man in his society.

Okonkwo was the one whose life was obsessed by the feeling to be superior to others. His life was obsessed by one thing, to be the best man. It made Okonkwo became an optimistic, aggressive and realistic man. Further, it led Okonkwo to reach his prosperity in life. He also became one of the respected men in his village.

On the other side, Okonkwo's obsession of being superior raised anxiety and fear in Okonkwo's life. His life was surrounded by the child trauma, fear of failure, fear of economical difficulty and the anxiety of becoming no one in this society. He must do everything perfectly. These affected his style of life. Okonkwo was the one who used violence in solving the problem. He never showed any love emotion and affection to his family and to others. He was afraid to be regarded as the weak man, the effeminate.

Okonkwo's obsession of being superior to others led him to his tragic life. Almost all of his life was surrounded by the fear of failure. It conducted him to end his life by committing suicide. He had failed to be the leader in his clan. That is why; he finally hanged himself in a tree.

In short, superiority feelings had two effects towards Okonkwo's life. They were the positive side and the negative side. From the positive side, it made Okonkwo become an optimistic and realistic man. Later, it led Okonkwo to reach his success in life. He became a wealthy man and respected man in his society.

From the negative side, superiority feelings raised anxiety and fear in Okonkwo's life. Further, it influenced his style of life. Okonkwo overcame his problems by using violence. He ruled his household by heavy hand. He became a ruling type of person. The ruling type always tries to control others. Okonkwo was an aggressive and egoistic individual. He also did not get peace in life even in his prosperity and in his high status. In the end, superiority feelings has caused Okonkwo meet his tragic life.

## B. Recommendation

Generally, *Things Fall Apart* is a novel which reflects the fall of Ibo society. Specifically, *Things Fall Apart* is a novel which presents the struggle of a man to reach his dream and his tragic fall to fight against the bad condition around him. According to the conclusion, the researcher suggests that *Things Fall Apart* is a novel which reflects the struggle of Okonkwo to fight against his inferior condition. All his effort was directed to one goal. He wanted to be the best man in Umuofia. The best man here is one who has a respected status and wealth. In general, this novel describes the process of a man to fight against his inferior condition, strive for superiority and reach his ideal in life.

In this novel, the researcher uses *Individual Psychological Approach*. The researcher analyzes the elements of the novel such as the dialogue, and the characterization to find the factors that motivated Okonkwo to strive for superiority and its influences towards Okonkwo's life. It is expected that having read the analysis in chapter III, the readers would have a better understanding on study the factors that motivated Okonkwo to strive for superiority and its influence towards Okonkwo's life in *Things Fall Apart*.

The researcher realizes that there are many parts in this analysis that needs revision and improvement. It is due to the lack of knowledge and references material to make the analysis perfect. For the next researchers who have a strong interest in analyzing *Things Fall Apart*, the researcher would like to give some recommendation for the next researcher:

1. *Things Fall Apart* has a good dialogue, phrase, traditional folksong and other intrinsic elements which need carefulness and a great attention in understanding its content and value.
2. *Things Fall Apart* is a very interesting novel that contains a rich of intrinsic and extrinsic, moral, culture, history, and social value, therefore, the next researcher can analyze this work from different point of view or subject matter.

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