

Simon Tayengwa

**The Portrayal of Adaptation to Family
Disintegration in "She No Longer Weeps"
and "Why Don't You Carve Other Animals"**

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ABSTRACT

This research set out to explore how victims of family disintegration adapt to their quandary as presented in the literary works of Dangarembga and Vera in *She No Longer Weeps* and *Why Don't You Carve Other Animals* respectively. The researcher looked at causes and effects of family disintegration. The African family structure goes beyond the Western nuclear family as it encompasses the kindred. In order to enrich the enquiry and the findings, the theoretical framework the researcher applied originated from the Marxist, Feminist, Post-colonial, Africana Womanist, and Reader Response Theories. Their interwoven dynamic articulation helped in bringing out the outcome. From the analysis of the texts in question, the researcher found out that adaptation to family disintegration is as versatile as are the causes and effects of family discord. Adaptation had its projection from both a positive or negative perspective and the outcome could not be detached from either of the perspectives albeit certain traits could not hint a tallying prediction. It can be inferred that adaptation has its propensity more to intuition and conscious and subconscious response to the environment than reasoning. The researcher recommended a prolific and more balanced approach to family disintegration from the female writer's perspective. A sense of hope had to be instilled in the mindset of victims so that they do not accept the negative impact of fate was another recommendation. The researcher also recommended positive solutions to perennial problems affecting families within literary works as pointing them out was not enough.

KEY WORDS

- **Adaptation**
- **Family Disintegration**
- **Feminism**
- **Perpetrator**
- **Survival Strategy**
- **Victim**

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Table of Contents

CHAPTER ONE 1.0 Introduction	6
1.1 Background to the Study.....	6
1.2 Statement of the Problem.....	13
1.3 Justification of the Study	13
1.4 Research Questions.....	14
1.5 Objectives	14
1.6 Research Methodology	14
1.7 Theoretical Framework of the study	16
1.8 Marxist Theory.....	16
1.9 How the Marxist Theory will help in unravelling the texts, <i>She No Longer Weeps</i> and <i>Why Don't We Carve Other Animals</i> :.....	16
1.10 Feminist Theory	17
1.11 Africana Womanism	17
1.12 How the Feminist Theory and Africana Womanism will be helpful in articulating the texts <i>She No Longer Weeps</i> and <i>Why Don't You Carve Other Animals</i> :.....	18
1.13 Postcolonial Theory	19
1.14 How the Post-Colonial Theory will be used in <i>She No Longer Weeps</i> and <i>Why Don't We Carve Other Animals</i>	19
1.15 Reader Response Theory	19
1.16 How the Reader Response Theory will be useful in articulating the texts, <i>She No Longer Weeps</i> and <i>Why Don't You Carve Other Animals</i>	20
1.17 Delimitation	20
1.18 Limitation.....	20
1.19 Definition of Terms.....	21
1.20 Chapter Layout.....	21
1.21 Conclusion	22
CHAPTER TWO LITERATURE REVIEW	23
2.0 Introduction.....	23
2.1 Factors of Family Disintegration in Zimbabwe	24
2.2 Factors of Family Disintegration in Nigeria	25
2.3 Factors of Family Disintegration in the Middle East.....	26

2.4 Factors of Family Disintegration in Europe.....	27
2.5 Adaptation.....	28
2.6 Summary	31
CHAPTER THREE 3.0 Introduction.....	33
3.1 Causes and Effects of family disintegration in <i>She No Longer Weeps</i>	38
3.2 Victim and perpetrator as victims of circumstance.....	42
3.3 Adaptation to Family Disintegration.....	46
3.4 Conclusion	56
CHAPTER FOUR 4.0 Introduction	59
4.1 Causes and Effects of Family Disintegration.....	60
4.2 Victim and Perpetrator as Victims of Circumstances	67
4.3 Adaptation to Family Disintegration.....	69
4.4 Conclusion	78
CHAPTER FIVE 5.0 Research Findings.....	80
5.1 Recommendations.....	84
BIBLIOGRAPHY	85