



الذَّكْوَاتُ الْبَيْضُ

اسم مشتق من الذكوة وهي الجمرة الملتهبة والمراد
بالذكوات الربوات البيض الصغيرة المحيطة بمقام أمير
المؤمنين علي بن أبي طالب {عليه السلام}
شبهها لضياؤها وتوهجها عند شروق الشمس عليها لما فيها
موضع قبر علي بن أبي طالب {عليه السلام}
من الدراري المضيئة

{**در النجف**} فكأنها جمرات ملتهبة وهي المرتفع من الأرض،
وهي ثلاثة مرتفعات صغيرة نتوءات بارزة في أرض الغري وقد
سميت الغري باسمها، وكلمة بيض لبروزها عن الأرض. وفي رواية
إنَّها موضع خلوته أو إنَّها موضع عبادته وفي رواية أخرى
في رواية المفضل عن الإمام الصادق {عليه السلام} قال:
قلت: يا سيدي فأين يكون دار المهدي ومجمع المؤمنين؟
قال: يكون ملكه بالكوفة، ومجلس حكمه جامعها
وبيت ماله ومقسم غنائم المسلمين مسجد
السهلة وموضع خلوته الذكوات البيض



نيوان الوقف الشيعي / دائرة البحوث والدراسات

م/ مجلة الذكوات البيض

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته ...

إشارة إلى كتابكم المرقم ١٠٤٦ والمؤرخ ٢٠٢١/ ١٢/٢٨ والخاص بكتابنا المرقم ب ت ٥٧٤٤/٤ في ٢٠٢١/٩/٦ والمتضمن استحداث مجلتكم التي تصدر عن الوقف المذكورة أعلاه ، وبعد الحصول على الرقم المعياري الدولي المطبوع وإنشاء موقع الكتروني للمجلة تعتبر المولفظة الواردة في كتابنا أعلاه موافقة نهائية على استحداث المجلة. ... مع والفر التحدير

أ.م.د. هامين صالح حسن

المدير العام لدائرة البحث والتطوير / وكالة

٢٠٢٢/١/١٤

نسقة منه الى:

- قسم الشؤون العلمية / شعبة التوثيق والنشر والترجمة / مع الاوليات .
- السفارة .

مهتد ابراهيم
١٠ / كانون الثاني

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تُعَدّ مجلة الذكوات البيض مجلة علمية رصينة ومعتمدة للترقيات العلمية.

الذكوان للبصائر



مَجَلَّةٌ عِلْمِيَّةٌ فِكْرِيَّةٌ فَصْلِيَّةٌ مُحْكَمَةٌ تَصْدُرُ عَنْ
دَائِرَةِ الْبَحْثِ وَالدرَّاسَاتِ فِي دِيَوَانِ الْوَقْفِ الشَّيْخِيِّ

العدد (١٦)

السنة الثالثة المجلد الحادي عشر

ربيع الأول ١٤٤٦ هـ أيلول ٢٠٢٥ م

العدد (١٦) السنة الثالثة ربيع الأول ١٤٤٦ هـ أيلول ٢٠٢٥ م
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الذِّكْرُ الْبَيْضُ



التدقيق اللغوي
م.د. مشتاق قاسم جعفر

الترجمة الانكليزية
أ.م.د. رافد سامي مجيد

العدد (١٦) السنة الثالثة ربيع الأول ١٤٤٦ هـ - أيلول ٢٠٢٥ م

عمار موسى طاهر الموسوي
مدير عام دائرة البحوث والدراسات

رئيس التحرير

أ.د. فائز هاتو الشرع

مدير التحرير

حسين علي محمد حسن الحسيني

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أ.م.د. عقيل عباس الريكان

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أ.م.د. صفاء عبدالله برهان

م.د. موفق صبري الساعدي

م.د. طارق عودة مری

م.د. نوزاد صفر بخش

هيئة التحرير من خارج العراق

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أ.د. جمال شلبي / الاردن

أ.د. محمد خاقاني / إيران

أ.د. مها خير بك ناصر / لبنان

الذَّكْوَانُ الْبَيْضُ

مَجَلَّةٌ عِلْمِيَّةٌ فِكْرِيَّةٌ فَصْلِيَّةٌ مُحْكَمَةٌ تَصْدُرُ عَنْ
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العنوان الموقعي

مجلة الذكوات البيض

جمهورية العراق

بغداد / باب المعظم

مقابل وزارة الصحة

دائرة البحوث والدراسات

الاتصالات

مدير التحرير

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لسنة ٢٠٢١

البريد الالكتروني

إيميل

offreserch@sed.gov.iq

hus65in@gmail.com

العدد (١٦) السنة الثالثة ربيع الأول ١٤٤٦ هـ - أيلول ٢٠٢٥ م

دليل المؤلف

- ١- أن يتسم البحث بالأصالة والجدة والقيمة العلمية والمعرفية الكبيرة وسلامة اللغة ودقة التوثيق.
- ٢- أن تحتوي الصفحة الأولى من البحث على:
 - أ. عنوان البحث باللغة العربية .
 - ب . اسم الباحث باللغة العربي، ودرجته العلمية وشهادته.
 - ت . بريد الباحث الإلكتروني.
 - ث . ملخصان: أحدهما باللغة العربية والآخر باللغة الإنكليزية.
 - ج . تدرج مفاتيح الكلمات باللغة العربية بعد الملخص العربي.
- ٣- أن يكون مطبوعاً على الحاسوب بنظام (office Word ٢٠٠٧ أو ٢٠١٠) وعلى قرص ليزري مدمج (CD) على شكل ملف واحد فقط (أي لا يُجزأ البحث بأكثر من ملف على القرص) وتُرَوَّد هيئة التحرير بثلاث نسخ ورقية وتوضع الرسوم أو الأشكال، إن وُجدت، في مكانها من البحث، على أن تكون صالحة من الناحية الفنية للطباعة.
- ٤- أن لا يزيد عدد صفحات البحث على (٢٥) خمس وعشرين صفحة من الحجم (A4) .
- ٥ . يلتزم الباحث في ترتيب وتنسيق المصادر على الصيغة APA
- ٦- أن يلتزم الباحث بدفع أجور النشر المحددة البالغة (٧٥,٠٠٠) خمسة وسبعين ألف دينار عراقي، أو ما يعادلها بالعملة الأجنبية.
- ٧- أن يكون البحث خالياً من الأخطاء اللغوية والنحوية والإملائية.
- ٨- أن يلتزم الباحث بالخطوط وأحجامها على النحو الآتي:
 - أ. اللغة العربية: نوع الخط (Arabic Simplified) وحجم الخط (١٤) للمتن.
 - ب . اللغة الإنكليزية: نوع الخط (Times New Roman) عناوين البحث (١٦) . والملخصات (١٢)أما فقرات البحث الأخرى؛ فبحجم (١٤) .
- ٩- أن تكون هوامش البحث بالنظام الإلكتروني (تعليقات ختامية) في نهاية البحث. بحجم ١٢ .
- ١٠- تكون مسافة الحواشي الجانبية (٢,٥٤) سم، والمسافة بين الأسطر (١) .
- ١١- في حال استعمال برنامج مصحف المدينة للآيات القرآنية يتحمل الباحث ظهور هذه الآيات المباركة بالشكل الصحيح من عدمه، لذا يفضل النسخ من المصحف الإلكتروني المتوافر على شبكة الانترنت.
- ١٢- يبلغ الباحث بقرار صلاحية النشر أو عدمها في مدة لا تتجاوز شهرين من تاريخ وصوله إلى هيئة التحرير.
- ١٣- يلتزم الباحث بإجراء تعديلات المحكمين على بحثه وفق التقارير المرسلة إليه وموافاة المجلة بنسخة معدلة في مدة لا تتجاوز (١٥) خمسة عشر يوماً.
- ١٤- لا يحق للباحث المطالبة بمتطلبات البحث كافة بعد مرور سنة من تاريخ النشر.
- ١٥- لا تعاد البحوث الى أصحابها سواء قبلت أم لم تقبل.
- ١٦- تكون مصادر البحث وهوامشه في نهاية البحث، مع كتابة معلومات المصدر عندما يرد لأول مرة.
- ١٧- يخضع البحث للتقويم السري من ثلاثة خبراء ليبيان صلاحيته للنشر.
- ١٨- يشترط على طلبة الدراسات العليا فضلاً عن الشروط السابقة جلب ما يثبت موافقة الأستاذ المشرف على البحث وفق النموذج المعتمد في المجلة.
- ١٩- يحصل الباحث على مستل واحد لبحثه، ونسخة من المجلة، وإذا رغب في الحصول على نسخة أخرى فعليه شراؤها بسعر (١٥) ألف دينار.
- ٢٠- تعبر الأبحاث المنشورة في المجلة عن آراء أصحابها لا عن رأي المجلة.
- ٢١- ترسل البحوث إلى مقر المجلة - دائرة البحوث والدراسات في ديوان الوقف الشيعي بغداد - باب المعظم)
- أو البريد الإلكتروني: (hus65in@Gmail.com) (offreserch@sed.gov.iq) بعد دفع الأجور في مقر المجلة
- ٢٢- لا تلتزم المجلة بنشر البحوث التي تُخلُ بشروط من هذه الشروط .

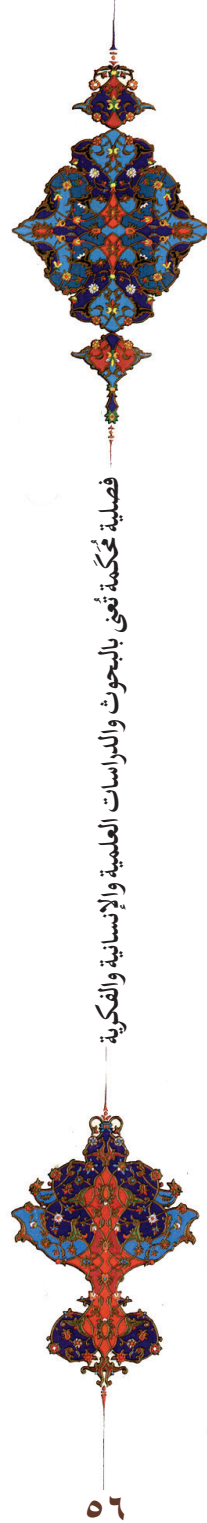
مَجَلَّةٌ عِلْمِيَّةٌ فِكْرِيَّةٌ فَصْلِيَّةٌ مُحْكَمَةٌ تُصَدَّرُ عَنْ دَائِرَةِ الْبَحْثِ وَالدراسات فِي دِيوانِ الْوَقْتِ الشَّيْخِي

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Intergenerational Conflict and Cultural Change in Chinua Achebe's Things Fall Apart

By Asst. Lect. Mustafa Dawood Salman
Aliraqia University
College of education for women





Abstract:

This research paper investigates the intricate relationship between intergenerational conflict and cultural change in Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*. The novel, a cornerstone of African literature, provides a rich portrayal of Igbo society during a transition period marked by the arrival of colonial rule and Christianity. The study employs a qualitative literary analysis to examine how Achebe uses father-son dynamics, particularly the tension between Okonkwo and Nwoye, as a metaphor for the broader clash between tradition and transformation. The analysis highlights how older generations embody resistance to cultural change while younger generations serve as agents of adaptation and continuity. Findings reveal that intergenerational conflict in the novel transcends familial disputes, reflecting deeper cultural negotiations that emerge when indigenous traditions confront external pressures. The study concludes that Achebe presents cultural change as inevitable and disruptive, reshaping not only social structures but also the very identity of the Igbo community.

Keywords: Intergenerational Conflict; Cultural Change; Igbo Society; Colonialism; Postcolonial Literature; Chinua Achebe; *Things Fall Apart*

المستخلص:

يتناول هذه البحث العلاقة المعقدة بين الصراع بين الأجيال والتغيير الثقافي في رواية الأشياء تنداعي (*Things Fall Apart*) لتشيبي. تُعد الرواية إحدى ركائز الأدب الإفريقي، إذ تقدم تصويراً غنياً للمجتمع الإيغبو خلال فترة انتقالية تميزت بقدوم الاستعمار المسيحي والإداري الأوروبي. اعتمدت الدراسة منهج التحليل الأدبي النوعي لفحص كيفية استخدام أتشيبي لديناميات العلاقة بين الأب والابن، ولا سيما التوتر بين أوكونكو ونويو، باعتباره استعارة للصراع الأوسع بين التقاليد والتحول. يبرز التحليل أن الأجيال الأكبر تمثل مقاومة للتغيير الثقافي، في حين تجسد الأجيال الأصغر عوامل التكيف والاستمرارية. تكشف النتائج أن الصراع بين الأجيال في الرواية يتجاوز حدود النزاعات الأسرية ليعكس مفاوضات ثقافية أعمق تنشأ حين تواجه التقاليد المحلية ضغوطاً خارجية. وتخلص الدراسة إلى أن أتشيبي يصور التغيير الثقافي باعتباره حتمياً ومزعزعاً، إذ يعيد تشكيل البنى الاجتماعية والهوية ذاتها للمجتمع الإيغبو. الكلمات المفتاحية: الصراع بين الأجيال؛ التغيير الثقافي؛ مجتمع الإيغبو؛ الاستعمار؛ الأدب ما بعد الاستعمار؛ تشيبي؛ رواية الأشياء تنداعي؛ تشينو أتشيبي؛ رواية الأشياء تنداعي

1. ntroduction

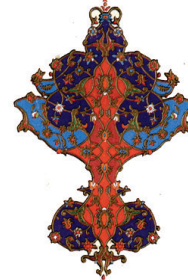
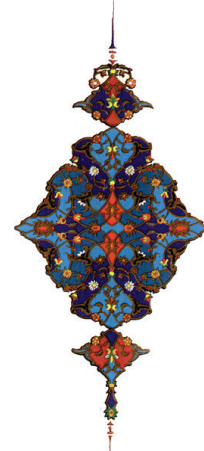
Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart* (1958) is widely recognized as a seminal work in modern African literature, notable both for its literary craftsmanship and its cultural-historical significance.

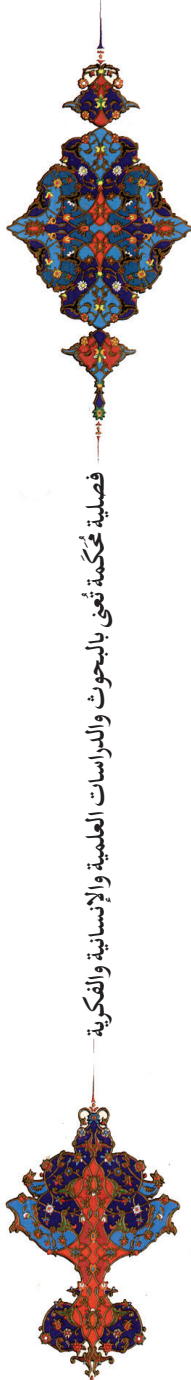
Composed during a period when African societies were frequently misrepresented in colonial narratives, the novel serves as a corrective, providing an authentic depiction of Igbo life before and during the early phases of European colonial intrusion. Achebe meticulously portrays the social, political, and religious structures of the Igbo community, highlighting both its complexity and internal coherence, while also acknowledging its inherent tensions and contradictions. (Eze 45)

The narrative is set at a historical juncture marked by profound transformation, as British colonial forces and Christian missionaries introduced new social, political, and religious norms that challenged the established cultural order. Central to Achebe's depiction of this transformation is the theme of intergenerational conflict. The novel explores how generational differences shape responses to cultural change: older community members often resist adaptation, seeking to preserve traditional norms, while younger individuals may question or embrace new practices. This dynamic is exemplified in the relationship between Okonkwo, the novel's protagonist, and his son Nwoye.

Okonkwo embodies strength, masculinity, and unwavering adherence to tradition. For him, deviation from established customs represents weakness and threatens both personal and communal identity. In contrast, Nwoye is drawn to the values and teachings offered by Christianity, reflecting a search for alternative moral and social frameworks. The tension between father and son functions not merely as a familial struggle but as a metaphor for the broader cultural conflicts within Igbo society during a period of upheaval.

Thus, *Things Fall Apart* offers a profound exploration of the interplay between intergenerational conflict and cultural change. Achebe demonstrates that cultural transformation is mediated not solely by external forces, such as colonialism, but also by internal generational tensions that influence how traditions are preserved, reinterpreted, or abandoned. By framing personal and familial disputes within the larger socio-cultural context, the novel provides a compelling lens through which to examine the processes of societal adaptation and the negotiation of iden-





tity in the face of historical change. (Achebe 13).

1.1 Background of the Study

Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart* (1958) is widely recognized as a landmark in African literature, offering an authentic depiction of Igbo society in pre-colonial Nigeria. The novel provides an intricate portrayal of the social, political, and religious structures of the Igbo community, highlighting its customs, values, and norms. Achebe wrote the novel as a response to colonial narratives that often misrepresented African societies as primitive or chaotic, aiming instead to illustrate their complexity, coherence, and resilience.

The narrative is set during a critical period of cultural and social transformation, marked by the arrival of European colonial powers and Christian missionaries. These external forces introduced new ideas, beliefs, and institutions that challenged established traditions, generating tension and conflict within the community. Central to this period of change is the theme of intergenerational conflict, which reflects the differing responses of older and younger generations to the pressures of cultural disruption. Okonkwo, the protagonist, represents adherence to traditional values, strength, and social authority, whereas his son Nwoye embodies curiosity, openness to new ideas, and eventual adaptation to changing cultural landscapes. Their conflict exemplifies the broader struggles within Igbo society as it negotiates between preserving heritage and embracing transformation. Achebe's narrative demonstrates that cultural change is mediated not only by external influences but also by generational dynamics, personal choices, and internal societal debates.

By situating familial and generational conflict within this historical and cultural framework, *Things Fall Apart* provides a nuanced perspective on how communities experience, respond to, and negotiate the challenges of cultural transformation. (Bodunde 147; Ladipo 110)

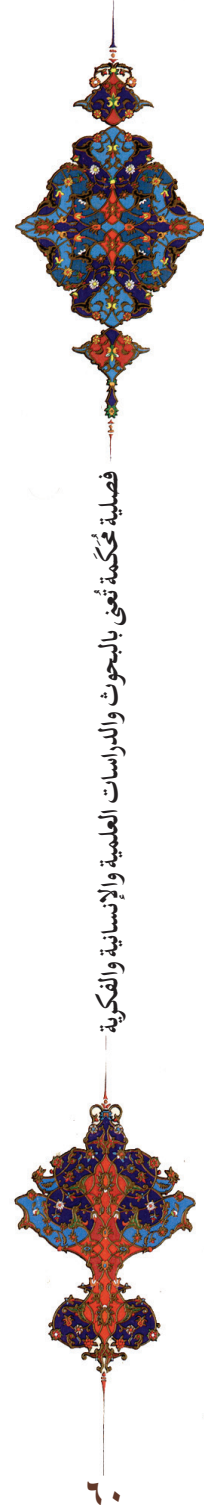
1.2 The Significance of the Novel

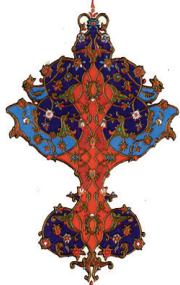
Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart* holds a central place in African literature and postcolonial studies, serving as both a literary masterpiece and a cultural-historical document. The novel

provides an authentic depiction of Igbo society, illuminating its social, political, and religious structures while challenging colonial portrayals of Africa as primitive or disorganized. Through its rich narrative, Achebe demonstrates the complexity, coherence, and moral depth of Igbo traditions, presenting a society that is vibrant, structured, and capable of self-reflection. (Nwankwo 40) The novel's significance extends to its exploration of social and familial dynamics, particularly the tension between generations. Achebe illustrates how cultural continuity and transformation are negotiated within families and communities. The conflict between Okonkwo and his son Nwoye, for example, exemplifies the broader societal struggle between the preservation of traditional norms and the acceptance of new ideas introduced by colonial and missionary influences. This intergenerational tension reflects the intricate processes through which communities confront change, negotiate identity, and respond to external pressures. Moreover, *Things Fall Apart* provides valuable insights into the mechanisms of cultural adaptation, resilience, and fragmentation. By portraying colonial influence not merely as an external imposition but as an interaction with internal generational and social tensions, Achebe emphasizes that cultural change is both inevitable and contested. The novel thus operates as a critical lens through which readers can examine the intersection of tradition, modernity, and societal transformation, making it indispensable for both literary analysis and the study of historical and cultural dynamics in African societies. (Eze 49)

1.3 The Relationship between Intergenerational Conflict and Cultural Change

In *Things Fall Apart*, intergenerational conflict serves as a crucial lens through which Achebe examines the dynamics of cultural change within Igbo society. The novel portrays generational tensions not merely as private familial disputes but as reflections of broader societal transformations occurring under the influence of colonialism and missionary activity. Through the contrasting values, behaviors, and worldviews of Okonkwo and his son Nwoye, Achebe illustrates how generational differences mediate responses to cultural disruption and adaptation.





Okonkwo represents the older generation's commitment to tradition, social hierarchy, and established moral codes. His identity and sense of authority are deeply tied to the preservation of Igbo customs, and he perceives deviation from these norms as weakness or betrayal. In contrast, Nwoye embodies the younger generation's openness to new ideas, questioning of rigid traditions, and eventual embrace of Christianity. Their conflict exemplifies the tension between cultural continuity and transformation, highlighting the challenges that arise when inherited values confront novel social and religious paradigms.

Achebe's portrayal suggests that intergenerational conflict is both a cause and a consequence of cultural change. The novel demonstrates that younger generations, through their willingness to reinterpret or adopt new practices, become active agents in reshaping societal norms, while older generations act as guardians of tradition, often resisting change. This interaction between generations underscores the complexity of cultural adaptation, showing that societal transformation is a negotiated process rather than a linear or unilateral phenomenon. (Okafor 80).

By situating intergenerational conflict within the broader context of historical and cultural shifts, Achebe underscores the inextricable link between personal and collective experience. The novel highlights that understanding cultural change requires attention to how generational perspectives influence identity, authority, and the continuity of social values within a community. (Irele 82; Young 57).

2. Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework of this study draws on intergenerational conflict and cultural change to analyze Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*. These two concepts provide complementary perspectives: intergenerational conflict explains the tensions between older and younger generations, particularly within familial and social contexts, while cultural change theory illuminates how societies adapt, resist, or transform in response to internal and external pressures, including colonial influence and religious shifts.

Intergenerational conflict refers to disagreements or tensions

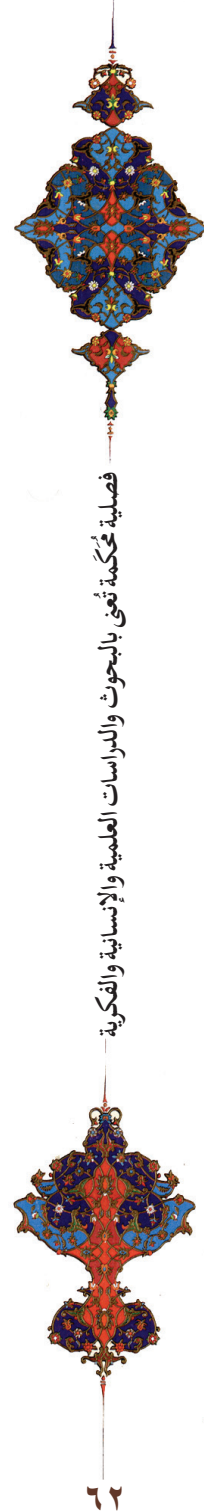
arising from differences in values, beliefs, and responses to social change between generations. In literature, it often serves as a metaphor for broader societal struggles. In *Things Fall Apart*, the conflict between Okonkwo and Nwoye exemplifies this: Okonkwo embodies adherence to tradition, authority, and cultural continuity, whereas Nwoye represents openness to new ideas and adaptation, illustrating how generational perspectives influence responses to cultural transformation. (Achebe 43).

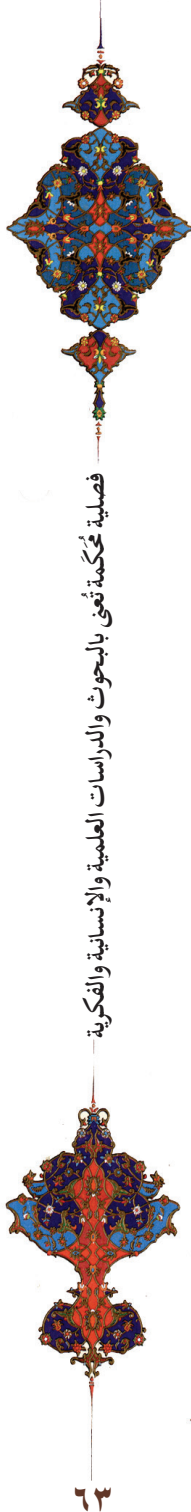
Cultural change encompasses alterations in social norms, beliefs, practices, and institutions over time. These changes can occur gradually through internal evolution or rapidly due to external forces such as colonialism. Cultural change theories highlight that adaptation is often contested and mediated by internal factors, including generational dynamics, social hierarchy, and individual choices.

In the context of Igbo society, cultural change is both external and internal. External forces, notably colonial rule and Christian missionary activity, challenged established traditions, while internal factors, particularly generational tensions and family dynamics, shaped how these changes were received. Achebe's narrative demonstrates that cultural transformation is negotiated through the interplay of these forces: while elders often resist change, younger generations may embrace or reinterpret it, highlighting the complex processes through which communities maintain identity while adapting to new realities. (Okafor 80).

2.1 Intergenerational Conflict

Intergenerational conflict refers to the tensions, disagreements, or differing perspectives that arise between members of different generations, typically as a result of variations in values, beliefs, expectations, and responses to social or cultural change. Such conflicts are especially pronounced during periods of societal transformation, when established traditions and norms are challenged by new ideas, practices, or external influences. Sociological and anthropological studies emphasize that intergenerational conflict is not merely a private or familial issue but often reflects broader social dynamics, serving as a barometer of cultural negotiation and societal adaptability.





Intergenerational conflict often functions as a metaphor for wider social, political, or cultural tensions. It provides insight into how communities mediate the preservation of tradition alongside the necessity of adaptation and transformation. In Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*, the conflict between Okonkwo and his son Nwoye exemplifies this concept in a nuanced and multi-dimensional manner. Okonkwo, the protagonist, embodies the older generation's adherence to cultural norms, social authority, and rigid codes of masculinity. His identity and sense of self-worth are intimately tied to the maintenance of traditional values and the reinforcement of communal expectations.

Nwoye, Okonkwo's son, represents the younger generation's openness to change, critical thinking, and moral questioning. His gradual rejection of certain Igbo customs, and eventual conversion to Christianity, highlight the generational tension between continuity and transformation. Achebe portrays this dynamic not merely as a personal struggle between father and son but as a symbolic reflection of broader societal negotiation. The clash of values between Okonkwo and Nwoye illustrates how generational differences influence responses to cultural disruption and adaptation, and how individual choices can serve as catalysts for broader societal change.

Achebe's depiction demonstrates that intergenerational conflict is intertwined with issues of identity, authority, and social cohesion. It underscores the complexities of cultural negotiation, showing that generational perspectives shape not only familial relationships but also the community's collective response to external pressures, such as colonialism and missionary influence. Through this lens, *Things Fall Apart* positions intergenerational conflict as both a microcosm of familial dynamics and a macrocosm of societal transformation, highlighting the inseparable connection between personal, generational, and cultural change

2.2 Cultural Change

Cultural change refers to the processes through which societies modify, adapt, or transform their beliefs, values, practices, and social structures over time. Such changes may be gradual, resulting from internal evolution and generational shifts, or rapid,

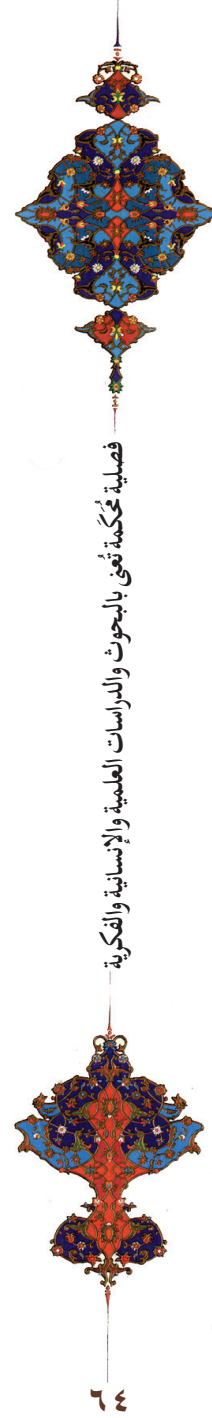
triggered by external forces such as colonization, globalization, technological innovation, or the introduction of new religions. Theories of cultural change emphasize that transformation is rarely uniform; rather, it is mediated by factors such as generational perspectives, social hierarchies, power dynamics, and individual agency. Understanding cultural change therefore requires analyzing both the internal mechanisms within a society and the external pressures that influence it.

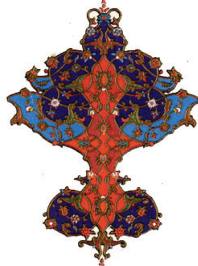
In *Things Fall Apart*, Achebe vividly illustrates cultural change in Igbo society through the arrival of European colonial administrators and Christian missionaries. These external forces disrupt political, religious, and social systems that had previously structured community life. Through the narrative, Achebe demonstrates that cultural change is neither immediate nor uncontested. The Igbo community experiences tension as traditional norms are challenged, with some members resisting these changes while others, particularly younger individuals, embrace or adapt to them.

Cultural change in the novel is closely linked to intergenerational conflict. Okonkwo's rigid adherence to tradition and his fear of appearing weak prevent him from accepting any adaptation, whereas Nwoye's openness to Christianity reflects a generational readiness to negotiate identity and morality in light of new influences. Achebe's portrayal emphasizes that cultural transformation is not imposed passively; it emerges through interaction between external pressures and internal negotiation, shaped by personal choices, generational differences, and community debates.

The novel highlights that cultural change can have both constructive and disruptive consequences. While it introduces new ideas and pathways for adaptation, it also creates tension, fragmentation, and uncertainty within the community. Achebe's depiction underscores the complexity of societal transformation, demonstrating that cultural change involves continuous negotiation between the preservation of heritage and the adoption of new practices, mediated by both individual agency and collective dynamics. (Ngugi 45; Young 57)

2.3 Cultural Change and Igbo Society





In *Things Fall Apart*, cultural change within Igbo society is depicted as a multifaceted process, shaped by both external and internal forces. External pressures, particularly the arrival of European colonial administrators and Christian missionaries, introduced new political, religious, and social systems that directly challenged established norms and traditions. These interventions disrupted the equilibrium of the community, creating tensions between adherence to ancestral customs and the necessity of adaptation.

Internally, cultural change is mediated by generational dynamics, family relationships, and individual agency. Achebe demonstrates that while older members of the society, exemplified by Okonkwo, tend to resist modifications to tradition, younger members, represented by Nwoye, are often more receptive to new ideas. This generational divide reflects the interplay between continuity and transformation, revealing how social adaptation occurs not solely through external imposition but also through negotiation within the community itself. (Lad 110; Nwankwo 40).

Achebe further illustrates that cultural change in Igbo society is neither linear nor uniform. Different segments of the community respond in varied ways, with some embracing the new social and religious paradigms, others resisting, and yet others attempting to reconcile tradition with emerging norms. This tension between preservation and adaptation highlights the complexities of cultural identity, demonstrating that transformation is a contested and dynamic process.

By focusing on the interconnection between intergenerational conflict and cultural change, Achebe emphasizes that personal, familial, and communal experiences are inseparable from larger societal transformations. The novel portrays cultural change as an ongoing negotiation between tradition and modernity, showing how identity, authority, and social cohesion are continuously redefined in response to both internal and external pressures. This perspective provides a nuanced understanding of Igbo society and illustrates the broader mechanisms through which communities confront and navigate periods of cultural

upheaval. (Irele 82).

3. Methodology

This study employs a qualitative research approach to explore the intricate dynamics of intergenerational conflict and cultural change in Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*. The qualitative approach is particularly suitable for literary studies, as it enables an in-depth and contextual examination of textual elements, thematic patterns, character interactions, and socio-cultural representations. Unlike quantitative methods, which prioritize measurable variables, qualitative research allows for interpretative and critical engagement with the text, emphasizing meanings, symbols, and the interplay between narrative and society. (Bodunde 145).

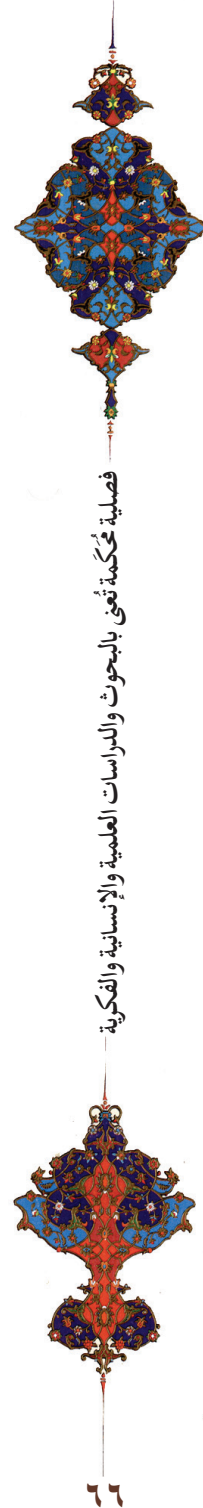
3.1 Research Design

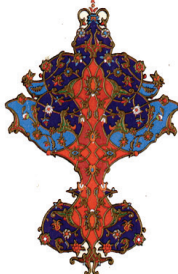
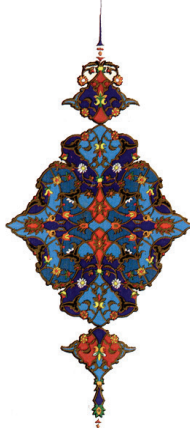
The research follows a literary-analytical design, integrating thematic analysis, contextual interpretation, and comparative evaluation. The literary-analytical design facilitates a comprehensive investigation of the novel's narrative structure, character development, and depiction of social and cultural practices. Special attention is given to the interactions between generations, the manifestation of conflict, and the processes of cultural negotiation. The design also incorporates an interdisciplinary perspective, drawing insights from sociology, anthropology, and postcolonial studies to contextualize Achebe's portrayal of Igbo society.

3.2 Data Collection

Data collection for this study is primarily textual, centered on *Things Fall Apart* as the primary source. The text was examined for instances of intergenerational tension, cultural disruption, and adaptive responses by characters. Secondary sources, including peer-reviewed journal articles, literary critiques, historical accounts, and theoretical studies on Igbo society, colonialism, and cultural change, were employed to provide contextual and theoretical support. This combination of primary and secondary data ensures a well-rounded analysis, grounding literary interpretation within socio-historical realities.

3.3 Data Analysis





Data were analyzed using thematic analysis, a method suitable for identifying, interpreting, and reporting patterns within qualitative data. The thematic analysis focused on several key dimensions:

1. **Characterization and Generational Roles:** Examining how Okonkwo and Nwoye, as representatives of older and younger generations, embody contrasting responses to tradition, authority, and social change.
2. **Conflict and Resolution:** Identifying narrative instances of intergenerational conflict, exploring how tensions arise, escalate, and influence broader cultural dynamics.
3. **Cultural Negotiation and Transformation:** Assessing how Igbo society responds to external pressures such as colonialism and missionary influence, and how internal generational tensions facilitate or hinder adaptation.
4. **Symbolism and Thematic Representation:** Interpreting literary devices, metaphors, and symbols that reflect cultural and generational negotiation, providing deeper insight into the novel's social commentary.

By combining these analytical dimensions, the study establishes a nuanced understanding of the relationship between personal, familial, and societal transformation. The integration of intergenerational conflict theory and cultural change theory ensures that the analysis accounts for both micro-level (family, individual) and macro-level (community, societal) dynamics.

3.4 Rationale for Methodology

The qualitative literary-analytical approach is justified because *Things Fall Apart* is rich in cultural, historical, and symbolic content that cannot be quantified. Understanding generational conflict and cultural change requires interpretive engagement with language, narrative structure, and character psychology. Moreover, this methodology aligns with the study's objective of revealing how Achebe constructs and critiques the processes of cultural transformation within Igbo society.

3.5 Limitations

While the methodology provides an in-depth and theoretically informed analysis, it is subject to certain limitations. First, the

study relies solely on textual analysis, without incorporating empirical field research or interviews with contemporary Igbo communities. Second, interpretation is inherently influenced by the researcher's theoretical framework, which may shape perspectives on character motivation, cultural norms, and generational dynamics. Nevertheless, these limitations do not undermine the validity of the study, as qualitative literary analysis is inherently interpretive and context-dependent, and the methodology employed allows for a rigorous and comprehensive exploration of Achebe's text.

4. Analysis and Discussion

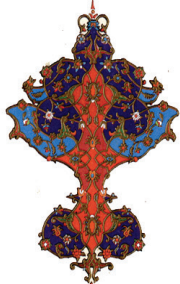
The analysis of *Things Fall Apart* demonstrates that intergenerational conflict and cultural change are intricately linked, revealing how personal, familial, and societal dynamics interact within Igbo society. This section discusses the findings in light of the theoretical framework, highlighting the significance of generational tensions and cultural transformation in the novel.

4.1 Intergenerational Conflict as a Catalyst for Change

The tension between Okonkwo and Nwoye exemplifies how intergenerational conflict functions as both a source of tension and a driver of cultural transformation. Okonkwo's rigid adherence to traditional norms and ideals of masculinity reflects the resistance of the older generation to change, while Nwoye's questioning and eventual embrace of Christianity illustrate the openness of the younger generation to alternative values. This dynamic aligns with sociological theories of intergenerational conflict, which emphasize that differences in perception, expectation, and adaptation between age groups often precipitate social change. By portraying these conflicts in a familial context, Achebe underscores that societal transformation is negotiated not only through external pressures but also through internal interactions. The father-son relationship serves as a microcosm of broader societal processes, showing that generational tensions are instrumental in mediating cultural continuity and innovation.

4.2 Cultural Change and External Influence

Cultural change in the novel is significantly shaped by external forces, particularly colonial administration and Christian mis-



sionary activity. These influences challenge traditional social structures, religious practices, and political authority, creating a space for negotiation and adaptation within Igbo society. The discussion indicates that while older generations often perceive these changes as threats to identity and cohesion, younger generations may interpret them as opportunities for moral, spiritual, and social exploration.

Achebe's portrayal of this duality emphasizes that cultural change is a negotiated process: it is neither entirely imposed nor entirely resisted. Instead, it emerges through the interaction of external influences and internal societal dynamics, highlighting the complexity and multi-layered nature of cultural transformation.

4.3 Negotiation of Identity and Social Values

The discussion also reveals that intergenerational conflict and cultural change are closely tied to the negotiation of identity and social values. Okonkwo's resistance to change reflects his desire to uphold a coherent cultural identity grounded in tradition, authority, and community recognition. Conversely, Nwoye's openness to new beliefs signals the emergence of alternative forms of identity that integrate elements of both indigenous and introduced cultural systems.

This negotiation of identity illustrates that cultural change is not a zero-sum process; rather, it involves selective adaptation, integration, and sometimes rejection of certain cultural elements. Achebe highlights that the continuity of culture depends on the balance between preserving core traditions and accommodating necessary transformations, mediated through generational dialogue and conflict.

4.4 Implications for Understanding Igbo Society

The findings of the analysis have broader implications for understanding the dynamics of Igbo society during periods of social and cultural disruption. Achebe demonstrates that societal adaptation is neither linear nor uniform, but occurs through a complex interplay of generational perspectives, individual agency, and communal negotiation. Intergenerational conflict emerges as a critical mechanism for societal reflection, providing both tension and opportunities for cultural redefinition.

4.5 Integration with Theoretical Framework

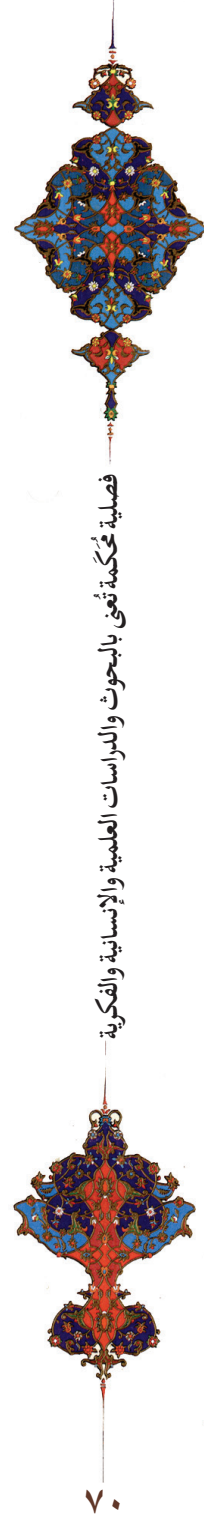
The results and discussion confirm the relevance of the theoretical framework. Intergenerational conflict theory effectively explains the personal and social tensions depicted in the novel, while cultural change theory clarifies how societal norms and structures evolve under internal and external pressures. Together, these theories illuminate how Achebe portrays the relationship between family dynamics, generational perspectives, and societal transformation.

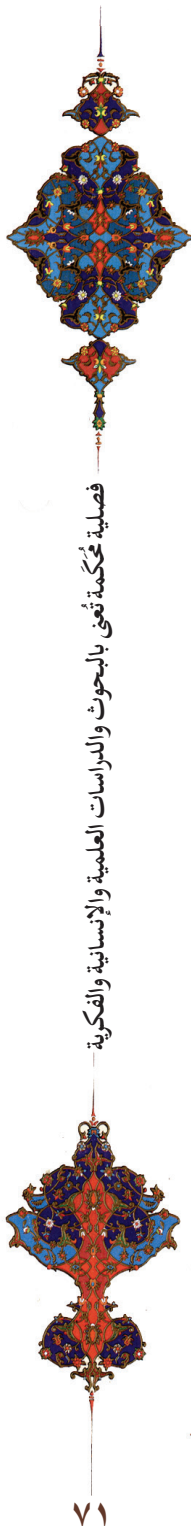
The analysis and discussion reveal that *Things Fall Apart* offers a nuanced and multidimensional exploration of how intergenerational conflict and cultural change operate simultaneously within Igbo society, shaping identity, social cohesion, and the trajectory of cultural continuity and adaptation.

5. Results

The analysis of Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart* yields several significant results regarding the interrelationship between intergenerational conflict and cultural change. First, the study demonstrates that intergenerational conflict functions as a central narrative device, highlighting the sharp contrast between the values of the older and younger generations within Igbo society. Okonkwo's strict adherence to tradition, masculinity, and authority exemplifies the resistance of the elder generation, while Nwoye's curiosity and eventual attraction to Christianity illustrate the openness of the younger generation to embrace alternative values. This generational tension not only reflects personal and familial disagreements but also mirrors the broader cultural negotiation taking place within Igbo society.

Second, the findings reveal that cultural change in Igbo society is neither linear nor uniform. Rather, it emerges as a contested and dynamic process, influenced simultaneously by internal dynamics and external pressures. The arrival of colonial administrators and Christian missionaries introduces new political, religious, and social frameworks that disrupt established traditions. While the elder generation interprets these changes as existential threats to cultural identity and communal cohesion, younger genera-





tions respond with selective adaptation, thereby accelerating the transformation of cultural structures. This divergence between generations emerges as one of the most significant results of the analysis.

Finally, the results emphasize that Achebe portrays cultural identity as fluid, negotiable, and continuously redefined through dialogue, conflict, and adaptation. Igbo society, as represented in the novel, undergoes a process of self-examination in which some traditions are preserved, others are modified, and still others are abandoned. Intergenerational conflict is therefore not merely disruptive, but also functions as a mechanism for cultural reflection and evolution. Through this process, society adapts to changing realities while still striving to maintain its heritage.

6. Recommendations

In light of the findings of this study, several recommendations can be proposed to guide future research, educational practice, and cultural policy:

1. Comparative Literary Studies: Future researchers should broaden the scope by comparing Achebe's *Things Fall Apart* with other African and postcolonial novels that depict intergenerational conflict, such as Ngugi wa Thiong'o's *The River Between*. Comparative studies will provide a more comprehensive understanding of how generational dynamics influence cultural transformation across diverse societies.
2. Sociocultural Applications: The themes revealed in the novel should be utilized by sociologists and anthropologists to further explore how African societies have negotiated identity and continuity in the face of colonialism, modernization, and globalization. Achebe's narrative can serve as a cultural lens that informs both academic inquiry and community-based reflection.
3. Educational Integration: Given the richness of Achebe's exploration of cultural resilience and adaptation, *Things Fall Apart* should continue to be widely included in secondary and tertiary curricula. Its themes encourage critical thinking about tradition, identity, and societal change, offering valuable lessons for students navigating cultural complexities in contemporary contexts.

4. **Interdisciplinary Research:** Scholars are encouraged to adopt interdisciplinary approaches that combine literary analysis with history, anthropology, and sociology. Such perspectives would provide a holistic understanding of how literature not only reflects but also critiques the processes of cultural transformation.

5. **Policy and Cultural Preservation:** Policymakers and cultural institutions may draw from the novel's insights to design initiatives that balance modernization with the preservation of indigenous knowledge and traditions. Achebe's work underscores the importance of adapting to change without abandoning cultural heritage—a lesson that remains profoundly relevant today.

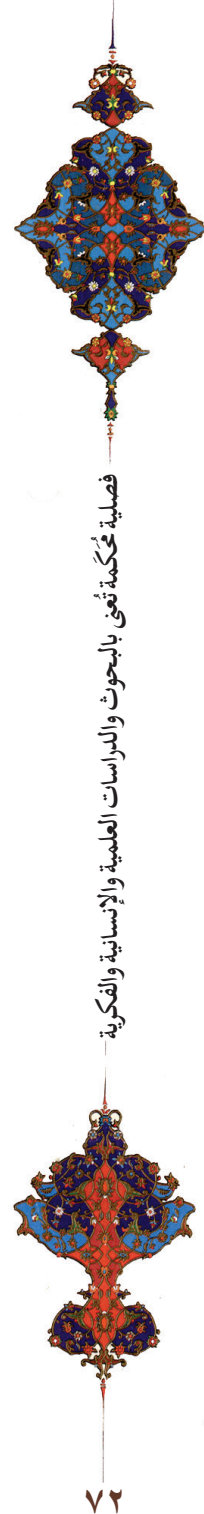
These recommendations emphasize that Achebe's novel is not only a literary masterpiece but also a valuable resource for understanding and navigating the dynamics of cultural conflict and change in African societies and beyond.

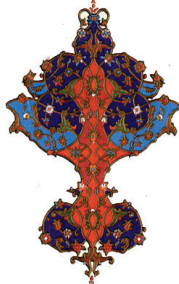
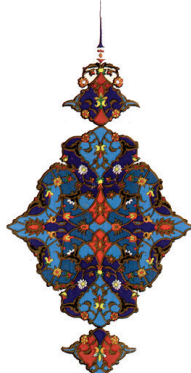
7. Conclusion

This study has examined the intricate interplay between intergenerational conflict and cultural change in Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*. The analysis demonstrates that generational tensions and cultural transformation are deeply intertwined, shaping both character development and societal evolution within Igbo society.

The research findings indicate that intergenerational conflict is not merely a personal or familial issue but a reflection of broader societal dynamics. Okonkwo's rigid adherence to tradition contrasts sharply with Nwoye's openness to new beliefs, illustrating how generational perspectives mediate responses to cultural disruption. This conflict highlights the mechanisms through which Igbo society negotiates continuity, identity, and adaptation in the face of external influences such as colonialism and missionary activity.

So cultural change is neither imposed passively nor resisted uniformly. Instead, it is actively negotiated, involving selective adaptation of traditions and integration of new ideas. Achebe's narrative emphasizes that identity, authority, and social cohesion are continuously redefined through the interplay of tradi-





tion, generational perspectives, and societal pressures.

At the end, *Things Fall Apart* offers a profound exploration of how societies confront and manage the pressures of cultural transformation. Achebe portrays the delicate balance between preservation and innovation, demonstrating that intergenerational conflict plays a central role in shaping both personal identity and communal continuity. The novel underscores that cultural evolution is a dynamic, contested, and negotiated process, providing enduring insights into the complex relationships between family, society, and tradition

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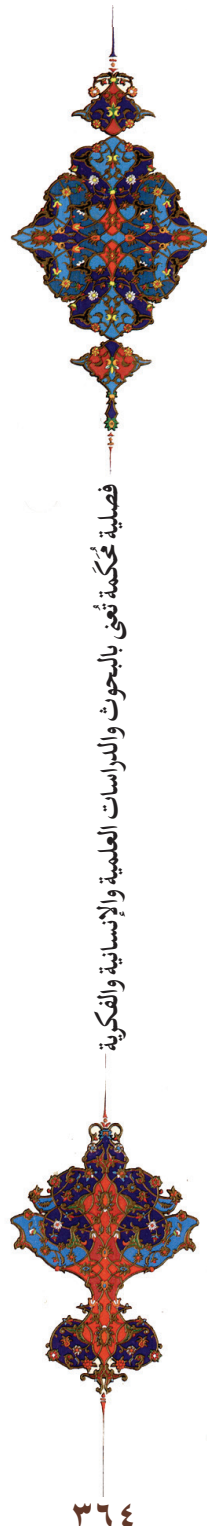
For the year 2021

e-mail

Email

off reserch@sed.gov.iq

hus65in@gmail.com



فصلية مُحَكَّمة تُعنى بالبحوث والدراسات العلمية والإنسانية والفكرية
العدد (١٦) السنة الثالثة ربيع الأول ١٤٤٦ هـ أيلول ٢٠٢٥ م



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