**POST-COLONIALISM AND GENDER RELATIONS IN IFEOMA CHUNWUBA’S *WAITING FOR MARIA***

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**Abstract**

Over the years, colonialism has violently destroyed the norms of and values of the Africans. Though living in the 21st century where colonialism is supposedly no more in vogue, the draconian effects are still very much with us. As a way of recuperating the cultural and language traits of the African people, post-colonial African writers have taken it upon themselves, the herculean task of defending that which is truly African in their literary productions. Going by the above premise, Ifeoma Chinwua writes in defense of her culture as much as the rights of the womenfolk, especially as they concern their living conditions and care in prisons. The paper through the post-colonial lens, has analysed Ifeoma Chinwuba’s *Waiting for Maria* from the perspective of the following post-colonial discourse: hybridity, appropriation, abrogation, untranslated words and affiliation. Through this process, the paper attempts to establish the extent to which each of the above listed post-colonial elements plays out in the content and style of the text under study. The paper therefore, concludes that Igbo (Nigeria) indigenous people and culture did not simple succumb to western influence, but rather demonstrated reasonable resilience in time with the core ideology of post-colonialism.

**Key words**: Post-colonialism and Gender