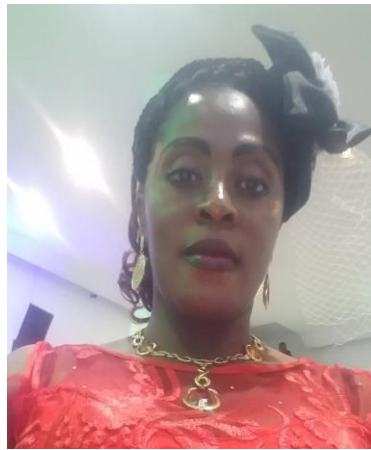




**Epitome : International Journal
of Multidisciplinary Research**

ISSN : 2395-6968

**RENEGOTIATING SPACE IN ISDORE OKPEWHO'S *CALL ME BY MY
RIGHTFUL NAME* AND BUCHI EMECHETA'S *KEHINDE***



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ABSTRACT

This work set out to paint vivid pictures of different societies where displacement and renegotiation of space have become an integral part of the lives of Blacks both in Africa and the Diaspora. Emecheta in Kehinde portray the ordeal undergone by displaced people in order to adapt to the diverse cultural practices they encounter in the new environment. Caught in this web of conflicting cultural values, some migrants opt to negotiate space by returning to their roots while others combine the different cultures and become hybrids.

*The work is based on the hypotheses that, as a result of displacement, characters in Isidore Okpewho's *Call Me by My Rightful Name* and Buchi Emecheta's *Kehinde* find themselves in cultural contexts in which they are marginalized, and are compelled to renegotiate existential space for themselves and their values.*

*Using the Postcolonial theory as critical framework, this work is built on the hypothesis that as a result of displacement, characters in Isidore Okpewho's *Call Me by My Rightful Name* and Buchi Emecheta's *Kehinde* find themselves in a socio-cultural*

context in which acute marginalization and discrimination compel them to renegotiate existential space for themselves and their values. The work depicts that both authors, Okpewho and Emecheta, believe that renegotiation of space is the ultimate way out for Black people who are oppressed and discriminated against across the colonial spectrum.

Migration therefore has been a major preoccupation of our contemporary context right from the pre-colonial to the post-colonial era. This has made the explanation of issues of displacement and renegotiation both in the diaspora and Africa especially Nigeria a very important venture. The works of Isidore Okpewho and Buchi Emecheta from Nigeria, attempt to give a broader spectrum of the realities of pre and post-colonial societies which in most cases are similar although different in migratory circumstances. Both writers vividly regenerate the complexities of space and identity for migrant subjects, either within or without their home locales.

KEYWORDS

Renegotiating, space, displacement and diaspora