

Immigration Journey to Citizenship and Reconstruction of Refugees' Identity

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Abstract

Immigration is a dream of unlimited number of people, particularly, the third world and developing countries people who receive different types of oppression and encounter freedom restrictions in their own countries. They search for better conditions of lives by obtaining the developed countries citizenship. They spend their lives searching for asylum and citizenship, unknowing, sometimes, the hardships waiting for them in such countries, beginning with the restrictions of laws and traditions. Chris Cleave's *Little Bee* (2008) is one of the novels that argue the troubles of immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers. It explores the British attitude towards asylum seekers and refugees in general in immigration detentions. It tells us about a young Nigerian refugee who has just left the British immigration detention center in which she has spent two horrible years. The novel is analyzed and argued from a postcolonial perspective. The study showed the hardships confronted the immigrants, citizenship and asylums seekers. Eventually it turned out to be not an easy life and the immigrants might spend their entire lives attempting to meet the requirements of citizenship and asylums' laws and rules, regardless of the difficulties of assimilation into a community which is completely different from their cultures and traditions and they need to deal with the discriminatory look of the natives in their daily lives. The community does not accept the color people and the immigrants are not welcomed. The narrative showed the negative attitude of British authorities towards immigrants/refugees.

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Introduction

There are many reasons behind immigration and leaving the one's own home to another such as immigration to European countries to get a citizenship or as asylum seekers. Oppression and freedom restrictions are one of the elements that push the people of developing countries to leave their home and immigrate to developed countries, ignoring the negative consequences that may impede their way, on the hope of finding better lives and earning better income that guarantee honorable lives for the immigrants. However, the dreams of better lives may not be fulfilled and the drawn picture in their memory about the developed countries would vanish as soon as they confront the reality of the situation in such countries.

Sometimes, the immigrants would spend most of their lives searching for legal documents and legal residency that help them to live in peace in such countries. The troubles that the immigrants meet in the host countries may lead them to commit suicide and put an end to their miserable lives, particularly if they find their lives are threatened by deportation to their countries which they have left under the hell of war or conflict, oppression and social injustice.

Writing about immigration and its stories, asylum and citizenship seekers/ refugees in the European countries such as Britain, USA, Germany, France...etc. are for different reasons such as political, social injustice and freedom restrictions, escaping from violence and the traditional style of life, based on religious, cultural restrictions and economical reasons: improving the conditions of living and raising their income to improve the conditions of their lives.

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Wars, political conflict, and wealth domination conflict are significant reasons that drive the people of developing countries to immigrate to developed ones to live the American dream of a better life and obtain wealth and money in a world believes only in the power of materialism and money. Chris Cleave's *Little Bee*, a title is used in USA versions of the novel while the novel appeared with another title in UK., *The Other Hand*, reflects the reality of immigration: reasons and consequences, suffering and struggling to obtain asylum or citizenship, on the road of citizenship they may lose their lives, safe shelters and live unknown without pure identities. The immigrants could not cope themselves with the developed countries style of life and they could not meet the requirements of asylum or citizenship that lead them to think of death more than thinking of achieving their dreams of a happy life. The immigrants/refugees feel lost in the developed countries of the western civilization which may not accept them as citizens in a world recognizes only the mercy of laws and materialism. Writing fiction about immigration is not distanced from the real stories of the immigrants who may die on the road of immigration. The writer certainly is very familiar with the stories of immigration in his daily days/work as a British writer and a man who already worked in detention centers.

Chris Cleave's *Little Bee (The Other Hand)*: Rise and Review

Little Bee's story is narrated by Little Bee's point of view and Sarah O'Rourke to show the readers two different worlds and their own troubles. Little Bee fled from Nigeria, her home, escaping from the Oil Company hunters who attempted to kill her and her sister because the two girls were the witnesses of their crimes against the men of the village while the company men were struggling to put their hand on the oil. Little Bee fled to Britain using cargo ship to reach Britain searching for asylum or a British citizenship. As soon as she arrived in Britain, she had been taken to the immigration detention center. The first six months she spent in the detention center were as a hell that drove her to think of many ways to put an end to her life. Her screams in the nights awakened the people of the detention center. Then she started to familiarize herself with the new situation and worked on reshaping her identity that helped her to cope up with the native speakers of Britain. She commenced to learn more about the language, history and culture of Britain that might ease her assimilation into the new community.

Little Bee spent two years in the detention center to be released at random with other three girls by the Jamaican girl's sacrifice, Yevette, who had an affair with one of the immigration men for putting checkmark next of her name in the computer to get her released. The man of immigration center, to distance the suspicious look, he released three other girls randomly: Little Bee, a girl with no name, and a girl called Sari Girl. The girls had been released but without official documents that would facilitate their movement in the city and keep the immigration men away of their way. In the eyes of the police, they were illegal immigrants escaping from the detention center and they deserved to be caught and deported to their home.

After leaving the detention center, a girl with no name could not bear the horrors of immigration detention and started hallucinating, thinking of her daughter in the eyes of the sun. Eventually, she committed suicide. She lived unknown, without clear identity, and died unknown. Little Bee has left to find a way to Sarah and Andrew's house who helped her two years ago in her home, Nigeria, during their vacation on the beaches of Nigeria. Their journey to Nigeria was to save their marriage after the illegal relationship of Sarah with Lawrence. In Nigeria, Sarah saved Little Bee by cutting off her finger to satisfy the demand of the hunters while Andrew could not make it to save Little Bee's sister, Nkiruka, who was taken by the hunters and raped and killed before the eyes of her sister, Little Bee, who stood helpless to save her sister. Little Bee reached Andrew's house in Britain while he was attempting to commit suicide. However, she could not save him, fearing to get caught by the police. She put her life a priority. Sarah attempted to help her to get a legal residency and official documents, but in vain, the immigration men reached her to be deported to her country after two horrible years in the detention center. Sarah and her son, Charlie with Batman costume, accompanied her attempting to save her in Nigeria and Sarah bribed the military men to let them gather information about similar stories to get published and might drag the Nigerian and British authorities to the seriousness of the immigrants' situation and the asylum seekers to take more bold steps to protect the asylum seekers and the immigrants. The Author of *Little Bee*, Chris Cleave, leaves the end open for the readers to imagine the appropriate end they expect throughout the reading of the novel. Little Bee and Sarah could be arrested, or killed or...by the Nigerian police on the beach, or they could succeed to change the public attitude, whether in Britain or Nigeria, towards immigrants and refugees. They may succeed to come back to Britain: Little Bee, Sarah and her son, Charlie, particularly after publishing similar stories of Little Bee to the public.

The courage of Sarah and determination of Little Bee to enfeeble herself from the shackles of oppression in Nigeria or British detention make the reader expect that they will survive and start new sort of lives.

Writing about Little Bee, refugees, asylum seekers do not come out of vacuum, but it is very connected with genuine stories that reflect the struggling and suffering of the immigrants/refugees and asylum seekers in the immigration detention centers. However, the real stories are harsher, more horrible and complicated than the fiction. The immigrants and refugees may spend a large part of their lives searching for legal residency and may not obtain it and find themselves on the way of deportation. No one cares for their miseries and attempts to aid them to begin a new life away of oppression and social injustice. The desperate lives of detention center let them think of committing suicide when they find out their lives in such developed countries useless and it is another stage of loss and struggle, particularly if they fail to obtain the official residency and become exposed to deportation to their home which they flee from because of war or oppression or political turmoil, or social injustice.

The story of Little Bee, A Nigerian girl, is one of many stories of refugees and asylum and citizenship seekers in the developed countries. Most of refugees risk their lives to reach the coasts of the developed countries and most of them may not make it. Their hard voyage would be ended in the mid of the sea and their bodies found floating on the beaches of foreign countries seas. *Little Bee* is a literary work reflects the real situation of the refugees and immigrants. It is a product of Chris Cleave's work in an immigration detention while he was studying in university, beside his childhood memories and experiences in West Africa.

It is the story of struggling of the refugees to obtain the British citizenship and legal residency and the immigrants will be shocked by the hard procedures and they may lose their prime youth in the detention center attempting to achieve their American dream of freedom and peace. They struggle to be assimilated into a world which is very different from their culture, language, color and code. *Little Bee* as a novel gains the sympathy of the readers to reach the bestseller list according to the New York Times and Sunday Times. It was nominated for Costa Book Award in 2008 and Commonwealth Writers' Prize in 2009. Chris Cleave as a British Writer is very familiar with such stories so that the narrative comes moving and realistic in its topic. Chris Cleave has published many novels which captured the admiration of the readers. He worked for The Guardian in London as a columnist.

In one of the interviews with Chris Cleave, the writer of Little Bee, at Boswell Books, he was asked 'if the novel is based on a true story'. Chris replied:

No, but there's one true story in particular that made me determined to write the novel. In 2001, an Angolan man named Manuel Bravo fled to England and claimed asylum on the grounds that he and his family would be persecuted and killed if they were returned to Angola. He lived in a state of uncertainty for four years pending a decision on his application. Then, without warning, in September 2005 Manuel Bravo and his 13-year-old son were seized in a dawn raid and interned at an Immigration Removal Centre in southern England. They were told that they would be forcibly deported to Angola the next morning. That night, Manuel Bravo took his own life by hanging himself in a stairwell. His son was awoken in his cell and told the news. What had happened was that Manuel Bravo, aware of a rule under which unaccompanied minors cannot be deported from the UK, had taken his own life in order to save the life of his son. Among his last words to his child were: "Be brave. Work hard. Do well at school." (Interview with Chris Cleave at Boswell Books)

Another question was addressed to Chris Cleave 'if he has a personal reason to write the novel', he replied: Yes, there was a chance encounter that really shook me up. Around fifteen years ago I was working as a casual laborer over the university summer vacation, and for three days I worked in the canteen of Camps field House in Oxfordshire. It's a detention centre for asylum seekers – a prison, if you like, full of people who haven't committed a crime... The conditions in there were very distressing. I got talking with asylum seekers who'd been through hell and were likely to be sent back to hell... When we imprison the innocent we make them ill, and when we deport them it's often a death sentence. I knew I had to write about it, because it's such a dirty secret. (Interview with Chris Cleave at Boswell Books)

Therefore, rise of the narrative, *Little Bee*, as seen by Chris Cleave, is a necessity to show the public the hindrances impede the road of refugees in the world of civilization, human rights and how the immigration detention centers treat the immigrants and asylum seekers. In fact, the author is not happy with such an ill-treatment that the refugees received and could not liberate themselves from its negative consequences. The message is that refugees are human beings whatever their origin, race, color, language, culture, and home.

They are in urgent need of help and the host countries sympathy. They do not leave their homeland for nothing, they escape the violence and crimes committed against them in their homes and they are helpless and powerless to defend their rights and protect their family members. Sometimes, they victimize their lives on the road of immigration to give a safe shelter and a peaceful home to their children in a world may have better conditions and opportunities than their homes.

Immigration in Postcolonialism: Causes and Consequences

Immigration to the developed countries becomes the dream of under developed/developing countries people who could not continue their lives in social, religious, political restrictions. The people of such countries escape their destiny of oppression, political turmoil, social injustice, ethnicity cleansing and wars. The immigration term, from the first sight, indicates that the immigrants leave their countries willingly. It is not like the other terms, exile and Diaspora, which bring into our memory that they leave their country compulsory. Exile and Diaspora show that the people are enforced to leave by the power of oppression and war. Sometimes the people are enforced to leave because they represent national minority in their country and they could not resist the oppression of the government, for instance, the people of Rohinjya in the contemporary era, or they are running from the places of wars, for example, Syria, Libya, Yemen and other places of conflict and wars. They are escaping from mass killing, ethnic cleansing, religious oppression, political turmoil, and social injustice. They have no option to stay, their staying means more killing and ethnic cleansing.

Who is a refugee who deserved to be received in other countries? A refugee is a person who has been enforced to abandon his homeland for many reasons such as natural disasters: flood, earthquake, and natural fires...etc., or wars, religious oppression, political turmoil, violent regimes, national minority, stateless or poverty. The word of refugee is taken originally from French when Huguenots persecuted Calvinists and enforced them to immigrant to England. In *Escaping from Violence*, Aristider and others (1992) argued that "The term refugees is sometimes also applied to the mass expulsions of foreign African residents, as occurred in Nigeria in 1983 and again in 1985 after the workers attracted by the oil boom were no longer needed" (p. 37). In the contemporary era, there are many refugees movements flow from Palestine because of Israeli occupation, from Syria, Libya, Yemen because of wars and political turmoil and also from Africa as a result of poverty and low income. The life basics are not available in communities ruled by violence and war.

Jacqueline Bhabha (2007) argued that "The physical act of crossing a border between one country and another can be a life saver or a death sentence; a threshold to fame and wealth or a prelude to isolation, ostracism and destitution. The act of moving is in itself (morally, economically, legally and emotionally) neutral, neither good nor bad" (*Women and Immigration Law*, P. 15). The immigrants or the refugees or asylum seekers may not guarantee a better life or reach their destination peacefully. The suffering that may encounter goes beyond the boundaries of their power. Their fate will be in the hands of the host country laws and rules. Sometimes, they have no choice to go through the life they imagined or dreamed of. Desperation and frustration lead many refugees to commit suicide, particularly if they know that their hard journey to the developed world may not succeed and the immigration authorities give no right to them in citizenship and residency, and they will send them back to their homeland. The others look at the first generation immigrants' suffering and struggling as a facilitating step to their children who will enjoy better lives in the future. In this context, Nancy Foner (2010) pointed out that "If today, as in the past, socioeconomic and cultural back ground factors give some immigrant groups advantages over others in facilitating the success of their children, a number of new elements are also involved... As I have already noted, analyses show that remaining engaged with the ethnic community and ethnic culture can help the children of today's immigrants get ahead" (*Women and Immigration Law*, P. 19).

The immigrants find themselves enforced to leave to improve their living or enjoy more freedom in the open, developed countries. However, the term of immigration is not very different from the terms of exile, Diaspora regarding leaving under sever conditions. All of immigrants, refugees, asylum seeker anticipate better lives and more freedoms. They leave their countries unwillingly. Sometimes, they may not succeed to make their journey to the developed world, because sometimes they use illegal ways to reach the western world and they may die on the road to their destination. The rest of them who may be able to reach the western countries, they will be put in immigration detention centers under horrific conditions that are not better than their homeland. They will be forgotten for many years in the detentions that drive some of them to commit suicide inside the detentions.

In the past, colonizers came to the third world countries to make use of their wealth and control the people's lives for their interest. The colonizers such as the British, French, Italian...etc., had left under the impact of the independent and liberation movements that pushed the colonizers out of the third world borders. However, they left behind very bad nationalists who appeared worse than the colonizers and turned the lives of the people into hell. At present, the people of the third world and the under developed/developing countries become searching the peace and honorable lives in the western countries, the open world and non- restriction freedom. The situation is reversed. The people escape to the developed countries: escaping oppression, war, political and social turmoil. To the immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers, the western countries may become a safe refuge for the citizens of the third world. Immigration seems for a while as it is an optional moving, but in actuality it is enforced one by the sever conditions of life in their homeland.

There are two kinds of immigrants: who reach to the developed world and start to write back and narrate the misery they have lived in their homeland and the others who write about colonizers' oppression of their people. In the past, under colonialism, the writers of the colonized countries wrote back to show the disadvantages of living under occupation and its negative consequences on the indigenous identity, religion, culture and the local traditions, now the immigrants leave their countries under hard conditions and move to the civilized western world. They initiate writing back their miseries and traumatic experiences in their homeland under freedom restriction, political conflict, war, and social injustice. At the same time, they work on glorifying the western style of life. However, some immigrants' dream of peaceful and honorable lives vanishes as soon as they are in real contact with that developed world. Refugees, immigrants, and asylum seekers reach the European countries searching safety and peace, escaping war and hard life to find themselves in another sort of suffering, searching for legal residency. They spend many years in detention center, waiting for the official documents that help them to live in peace, but sometimes they may be deported to their homelands after many years of suffering under horrific conditions in the detention centers, if not commit suicide. They are waiting to obtain the official papers that help them to continue living in the host countries, however, they would be shocked because they could not meet the requirements and laws of the citizenship, refugees and asylum's residency. They find out very late that the West only a big lie in which they meet another sort of restriction and destruction.

In *Little Bee*, the Nigerian girl named Little Bee has left Nigeria because of the war of oil companies to control the places of wealth, hoping to find a safe refuge as a refugee in Britain; however, she has met another sort of oppression in the British detention center to be eventually deported to her motherland. Her dream of living in Britain turns out to be a big lie that she has to pay a high price for it. Her miseries in the west increase her suffering and leave psychological scars; regardless the physical scars on her body. She has to live with traumatic experiences that is about to end her life.

Little Bee's Hard Journey to British Citizenship and Identity Reconstruction

Chris Cleave begins the narrative by an epigraph "Britain is proud of its tradition of providing a safe haven for people fleeing [sic] persecution and conflict" (Life in the United Kingdom: A Journey to Citizenship UK Home Office, 2005). This book is to show the immigrants how to prepare themselves to get the British citizenship by learning the culture, etiquette and tradition. However, the narrative shows that British is not that safe haven that can guarantee a peaceful life for immigrants as a result of the negative attitude of the men of immigration detention center which do not show faith in such words. The narrative proves to be as an irony that goes against the interests of the refugees in general. The first paragraph of the narratives shows the dream of the little Bee, a Nigerian girl, who sees in Britain a safe refuge for her, instead of the life of risks and sound of bullets in her homeland, "Most days I wish I was a British pound coin instead an African girl. Every one pleased to see me coming" (P. 1), Little Bee recognizes well that she will not be welcomed as an African girl in Britain because of her color, race and origin as a girl from Africa. The coins which symbolize the materialistic world will be welcomed. The coins are a symbol of globalization. They are moving from a hand to another whatever the country and whatever the person holds. The coins are free to move from a hand to another from a country to another, "It can disguise itself as power, or property, and there is nothing more serious when you are a girl who has neither" (P. 1). However, Little Bee attempts to flee to Britain on the hope to get a British citizenship and lives as a British person, but the narrative will prove that her dreams do not come true. She has spent two horrible years in an immigration detention center to be released without official documents that may help her to live peacefully in Britain. She is in the eyes of the British immigration men an illegal immigrant and she deserves to be deported.

Little Bee lives in two worlds: her homeland, Nigeria and the British world, a developed one, in which she thinks she will live a better life in an open world. Little Bee attempts to escape from Nigeria during the oil conflict that makes the oil company men murder her sister, Nkiruka, because they see the gang of the oil company slaughter the villagers savagely to silence their voice and ease their domination on the oil area without interfering of the locals. Nigeria is not a safe place to go ahead in her life. Little Bee and her sister are the eye witnesses of the oil company men's crimes against the villagers so they deserve, in the eyes of the company gang, to be killed. During the gang's chasing after Little Bee and her sister, they have changed their names as a sort of protection, Nkiruka selects the name of 'Kindness' and Udo selects Little Bee as their names that help them to survive the gang's chasing, fearing to get caught. They try hard to escape their destiny, however, Nkiruka could not make it and she was raped and murdered by the gang's men who did not only kill her but they murdered her savagely. Little Bee manages to survive and escape that horrible world, full of evils and fears, by the help of Sarah, a British editor who came to Nigeria to save her marriage with Andrew after an affair between her and Lawrence.

Her dream is to leave to Britain, the lost paradise, the image which Little Bee keeps in her memory. She will escape using a British Cargo ship to reach Britain and she is handed to immigration detention center as soon as she arrives to Britain to stay there for two horrific years, "I realized that I was carrying two cargos. Yes, one of them was horror, but the other one was hope. I realized I had killed myself back to life" (P. 49). Little Bee's days in the detention center are not better than her life in her homeland. She thinks of committing suicide many times, but her power and desire to live make her resist such an obsession and continue her life in the detention peacefully. She compares between her two lives, but the two worlds, "In my world death will come chasing,... In your world (to Sarah), it will stand whispering in your ear to destroy yourself" (p. 169). Death in Nigeria comes to chase the person till it hunts him/her while in Britain the harsh situation in immigration detentions may drive the person to get rid of himself/herself and may put an end to the physical and psychological pains. The detention life drives the person think a thousand time of committing suicide without interfering straightly from the authorities.

Oppression and humiliation in the developed countries as Britain have no clear rules and death becomes very closed of human beings. In Nigeria, the oil company gang has chased Little Bee and her sister to murder her sister and Little Bee survived by the assistance of Sarah who sacrificed her finger to satisfy the demand of the gang's leader while her husband, Andrew, could not make it to help her sister. Little Bee attempts to forget her traumatic experiences and lives in peace in the immigration detention center in Britain. The strange that points of view, Little Bee and Sarah live two different experiences in both countries, Nigeria and Britain, and both have their traumatic experiences. Such experiences differ from each other. The troubles of the two worlds are different. In the developed countries as Britain the social tissue is torn and the social problems float on the surface while in Nigeria life is led by war and political turmoil. Sarah's illegal affair with Lawrence hopes to be fixed by a journey to Nigeria and may be able to refresh their relationship; however, Sarah does not regret it. Little Bee spends two years away of her people, family, and friends. Her only hope in Britain is the Andrew's business card she found on the beach of Nigeria and he will be her passport to the Andrew's family after getting released from the detention center.

Little Bee's perspective of life has altered in detention, she begins to look at her traumatic experiences and emotional scars as symbols of survival and symbols of power, "we must see all scars as beauty. Okay? This will be our secret. Because take from me, a scar does not form on the dying. A scar means I survive" (p. 9). Whatever the scars we have, physical or emotional, human beings should embrace them as beautiful as a piece of jewelry that decorates the chest of a woman, "Sad words are just another beauty. A sad story means this storyteller is alive" (p. 9). Little Bee attempts to forget her miserable past and control over her story. It is Little Bee's philosophy of life to keep her standing on feet in the dark moments of her life. If a human being wants to go forward in his/her life, he/she should give no much attention to his/her traumatic past. For such a philosophy, Little Bee survives inside the immigration detention center in Britain despite her thinking of suicide at the beginning in the moments of weakness.

In detention, Little Bee begins to think of how reconstruct her identity that would make her life goes smoothly whether inside the detention or outside. She changes her style of life to cope up with the style of the people of developed countries. She recognizes well to focus her attention on her past may kill her. As she replaces her name as a remark of protection and starts a new style of life, she needs to shift her style of life to cope up with the British one. She exerts no efforts to learn the Queen's English in the detention to survive, "every word can defend itself. Just when you go to grab it, it can split into two separate meanings so the understanding closed on empty air" (p. 12).

To recognize the language of Britain with its special accent means keeping yourself away of troubles, the words will defend themselves and it will be easy to be understood. Language is Little Bee's first weapon to survive in a community only appreciate the western culture and tradition. The language of persuasion is prevailing in Britain while in Little Bee's homeland only the language of guns and conflicting interests, Laura Savu (2014) pointed out that "Speaking the Queen's English is, to a certain extent, empowering and liberating, in that it enables Little Bee to stake a claim in the cultural conversation, and thus to assert herself as subject of and for history" (Critique. P. 94).

When Little Bee talks about horror movies in Britain, she addresses such movies as a sort of empowering human being to survive in his/her daily lives while in her country violence is a daily life situation that will lead to destruction and death. Horror films give the audience empowerment and strength to survive the cruelty of life, "Horror in your country is something you take a dose of to remind yourself that you are not suffering from it" (p. 45). To change her name, learning the queen's language, British history, culture and change her style of life mean reconstruction of her identity to enable her living peacefully in Britain and it is a sort of protection from the evils of the people in the streets. Such a behavior and a western style of life help Little Bee to be assimilated easily into the community: the globalized, materialistic and metropolitan world, "I did not come to talk to you about the bright African colors. I'm a born again citizen of the developing world, and I will prove to you that the color of my life is gray" (p. 64). She wants to confirm that she reconstructs her identity to survive in Britain and to protect herself as soon as she leaves the detention center.

For such reasons, what she has learned in detention about the culture, history and tradition of Britain are sufficient to let her deal with that materialistic world which gives a priority to one's interests. Andrews could not cut off his finger to save the life of her sister as a mark of his weakness and his love of his life. Therefore, when she reached Andrew's house after getting released from the detention center and he was attempting to hang himself. She thinks of saving him but at the same time she may jeopardize her life. If she calls the police they may arrest her and deport her to her country. She rethinks her fate and she decides to choose her interest. She puts her safety a priority as Andrew himself puts his safety a priority and rejects to take any step to protect her sister on the beach of Nigeria. In the materialistic world, the individual's interest comes first while Sarah manages to break this rule and she saves Little Bee while Little Bee could not repay Sarah's gratitude by saving her husband as a punishment for his hesitation to protect her sister, but his rejection to save her sister on the beach of Nigeria. Andrew could not respond to the demand of the gang's leader by cutting of his finger to save the Little Bee's sister while Sarah managed to salvage the little Bee's life, "I must save him whatever costs me, because he is a human being. And then she thinks, 'Of course I must save myself because I'm a human being too'" (P. 194).

Little Bee was fourteen years of age when she arrived to Britain and was taken to the immigration detention center, the teen age, that a human being starts to build his experience about the people and the place around him/her. She has to rethink her style of life to survive. She had to face the fears of rape and discriminatory looks of the men of the detention center against refugees, emotional instability, away of family, friends and home. They put her with adults (men and women), careless about her age, "The trouble was, there were men and women locked up together in that place. At night they kept the men in a different wing of the detention center" (P. 52). Their claim that Britain is a safe haven proves to be a slogan that serves only the human rights organizations. They violate the human rights so that everyone he has his/her own ways to keep himself/herself safe.

She had to listen to the advice of the adult women in the detention center which sometimes they are not all correct, "to survive you must look good or talk good, I decided that talking would be safer for me" (P. 52). She had to apply the pieces of advice that may keep her safe in detention. To avoid the suspicious looks of the men of the detention center and protect herself, she attempted to look ugly and undesirable to keep the men away of her, "I wound a wide strip of cotton around my chest, to make breasts small and flat" (p. 53). She wanted to appear smaller than she is to avoid the sexual harassment in the detention.

The life of detention was horrible physically and emotionally, "it was cold, cold, cold, and I did not have any one to smile at. Those frozen years are frozen inside me...in my soul she is still locked up there" (p. 54). They are not only the cold days and nights, she also finds herself isolated from her family, friends and home. She also has to listen to the discriminatory voices inside the detention center, "they say that refugee girl is not one of us. That girl does not belong. That girl is a Halfling, a child of unnatural mating, an unfamiliar face in the moon" (p. 62).

She had to confront different kinds of torment: physically under the sever conditions of detention: the coldness of place, psychologically, fearing of rape, discriminatory looks and verbal words of the men of the detention, fearing of committing suicide, emotionally thinking of passing days of her life without a family, a friend and a safe home.

The narrative shows that the British government does not do too much to save the lives of refugees. Many refugees could not stand the sever conditions of detention, then they have committed suicide the girl with no name, as soon as she left the detention, she hanged herself, thinking of the horrors she passed in. The girls in the detention live inside the detention without a clear identity, the author gave us a clue, the girl with no name, a girl called Sari girl, most of them live without genuine identities and the government did not care to know about the conditions that led them to the detention. The public as taxi drivers and others know too much about the refugees and the horrible conditions they live in, the author's experience of the detention center helped him to depict the situation clearly, "the government does not care about anyone. You're not the first people we've seen, wandering through these fields like Martians. You don't even know what planet you're on? Bloody government. Doesn't care about you refugees, doesn't care about countryside, doesn't care about farmers" (P. 110). The situation is repeated and the taxi drivers and the public in general they meet a lot of refugees helpless to continue their lives in such a country. They started to blame the government for taking no serious steps to protect the refugees and asylum seekers. The refugees left their country, as Little Bee, to avoid oppression, war and conflict to find themselves in other sorts of oppression and loss.

Failure of Familial Relationship in Western World

Sarah confessed to Andrew and Little Bee later on that she had an affair with Lawrence. Sarah does not feel Andrew's depression of such an illegal relationship. She looks at it as "it was never meant to mean. It was just sex...just sex. That's the convention, isn't it, these days?...Just unfaithfulness, just betrayal, just breaking of my fucking heart?" (p. 125). Sarah could not realize the psychological pains she caused to her husband. Later one, Sarah, after Andrew's suicide, realized that she was in charge of his death. She cheated on him with another man "I didn't lose Andrew, Bee. I destroyed him. I cheated on him with another man. That's the only reason we were in bloody Nigeria in the first place. We thought we needed a holiday to patch things up. You see" (p. 123).

The problem of Sarah is a problem of many western families that leads everyday to breaking the social tissue of the community. Many things that affect the life of Andrew and lead him to commit suicide: his feelings of depression and desperation of his wife's illegal relationship. The second one, his journey to Nigeria to save his marriage with Sarah could not help, on the contrary, it added another burden on the shoulder of Andrew when he could not save the life of Little Bee's sister by cutting off his finger to protect her, however, he let the oil gang raped her and murdered her mercilessly. As soon as he came back home, he started to write a book about the refugees' suffering as Little Bee, he sees in such writing an atonement to let the authorities and the public takes positive steps to save the refugees and asylum seekers. The manuscript was found in his office by his wife after his death and Sarah worked on its publication. The community around Andrew did not give him a break to rethink his life, "I think he had truly started to believe that Britain was sinking into the sea. Crime was spreading, schools were failing, immigration was creeping and public morals were slipping..." (P. 135). Andrew could not stand the life around him, whether on the personal level or the public one. Therefore, he has put an end to his life by committing suicide. He could not keep his wife for himself only, at the same time, he could not save the Nigerian girl and he feels his wife more courageous than him to cut her finger off to save one of the two girls. His pessimistic look of life speeds up his end.

On the other hand, Sarah, despite her confession to Bee that she has destroyed Andrew. However, she has not taken a practical step to protect her marriage, only travelling to let Andrew forget her illegal relationship with Lawrence. She does not show sorry or regret but she is talking to Andrew that it is sex, nothing more, nothing less. She looks at her betrayal and unfaithfulness that break the heart of her husband as a minor transgression, not as a sin and an illegal affair she needs to repent of, however, she confessed that she enjoyed the illegal relationship with Lawrence and she adored him, "I gave myself completely to Lawrence in a way that I never had with Andrew...I started to adore Lawrence. To have an affair, I began to realize, it was a relatively minor transgression" (P. 174). She does not see her betrayal a problem, only a minor transgression. Both the husband and the wife work for press. Andrews works as a columnist for The Times while his wife works for Nixie, a fashion magazine. Every one of them has his weak/soft points. Sarah could not break her relationship with Lawrence while she was courageous to cut off her finger to save Little Bee. She could not save her marriage and her husband.

However, the husband has a good heart but he could not cut off his finger to save the second Nigerian girl, Little Bee's sister. Sarah's journey to Nigeria could not save her husband, and her marriage, but it added a burden on her husband's shoulder. He feels guilty because he was not able to save the girl. Eventually he committed suicide. Such problems are the developed countries problems while the developing countries are busy with political turmoil and wars.

Sarah and Little Bee have something in common. Both have lost someone too dear to their hearts. Sarah lost her husband and Little Bee lost her sister and family, but she lost her homeland. Sarah's journey to Nigeria is an attempt to save her marriage, however, she is not serious in keeping her marriage in safety because she does not look at her unfaithfulness as a genuine problem and she does not give it its real size. Even after her husband's suicide, she continues her illegal relationship with Lawrence without waiting to forget the funeral ceremonies.

Lawrence cheated on his wife with Sarah. He lied to her to spend three days with Sarah after her husband's death. He continued his illegal relationship with Sarah. He also did not show any regret regarding the illegal relationship. It is not a passing relationship but it is a lasting one. In the narrative, the relationship of a husband with his wife is based on cheating and lies, "I told Linda, (Lawrence's wife) I was going on management course, he said. Birmingham. Three days. Leadership" (P. 189). Sarah has a husband he has just died, however, she breaks her oath by having an illegal relationship with Lawrence and Lawrence has a wife, but he has cheated on his wife with Sarah.

Sarah needs to repent her sin by doing something good to Little Bee because she could not save her marriage or her husband's life while she saved Little Bee from a certain death. She does not want to fail in such a mission even if she sacrifices her relationship with Lawrence, "Do you really want me to make a choice like that? I cut off my own bloody finger. Do you think I wouldn't cut you off too" (P. 172). She was able to cut a live part of her bloody finger, to save Little Bee in Nigeria. Now she will not hesitate to cut off her relationship with Lawrence if necessary. Lawrence attempts to keep Bee away of Sarah to keep Sarah safe, but actually he wants to harm Little Bee by asking her to go to the police to report herself, "I think you should go to the local police and report yourself. I don't think it's right for you to expose Sarah to the stress of harboring you" (P. 165). The western familial relationship appears torn and based on cheating and selfishness. Sarah and Lawrence are examples of recklessness and they have not taken their illegal relationship as a sin needs to be repented.

British Attitude towards Refugees and Asylum Seekers

From the beginning, Britain gives the immigration detention center to the private sector to get benefit without thinking of the refugees and their human rights. The men of detention center could not offer good treatment to the immigrants and refugees. Little Bee and other girls in the detention show the reader the ill-treatment and the horrible situation inside the detention center. The girls live unknown and without identities: the girl with no name, a girl called Sari girl, Little Bee, only titles that may distinguish between one and another. Little Bee thinks many times to commit suicide but her life and calamities she experienced in her homeland were sufficient to strengthen her desire to live, "After a month, six months, I start to think, Maybe I will grow old in here, Maybe I will die here. Maybe I'm already dead" (P. 110).

The Girl with no name hanged herself thinking about the horrors she experienced in the detention center as soon as she got released. She could not stand the situation. The first refugees' experience was not happy. They had to resist the discriminatory looks of the men/women of the detention because they are not belong to them or their land. The men of the detention also make use of the girls to have an affair with them. The Jamaican girl, Yevette, sacrificed her honor to have an illegal relationship, only to put a check mark in the computer box to get her released. The other three girls are selected randomly and they are very lucky to get released to keep the suspicions away of the men of the detention center.

Lawrence works for the central government. He wants to inform the immigration authorities about Little Bee, ignoring his promise to Sarah to help her to get official documents. Little Bee has threatened Lawrence by revealing his illegal relationship and cheating on his wife and the destruction will be for both. For such reasons, he could not inform the police about Little Bee. However, the first opportunity looms in the horizon he takes advantage of it to let the police know about Little Bee while he keeps himself away. When Charlie, Sarah's son disappears on the beach, Lawrence asks Little Bee deliberately to call the police and she has to wait for them to let them know about Charlie. He knows by such an action he jeopardizes the life of Bee.

He believes that the dog should be a dog and a wolf should be a wolf. This is Lawrence's policy. He does not want to show Sarah that he is responsible of Little Bee's arrest. His plan has succeeded to get Little Bee caught and sent back home.

The British attitude towards the refugees, immigrants, and asylum seekers are not well. Immigrants/refugees have to receive the discriminatory looks and harsh verbal words that belittle their humanity as they are not belong to such people/place, "that refugee girl is not one of us. That girl does not belong". If the authorities have done something good, they have to do it for something. The Jamaican girl and the other three girls have been released when the Jamaican girl responds to the sexual demands of the detention center men. The situation inside the detention centers are horrible and the public they have to deal with many refugees in the street without getting real help from the authorities that make the public heaps curses on their government to stand helpless in defending the human rights of the refugees and immigrants.

Lawrence does not inform the authorities about Little Bee when Little Bee threatens him to inform his wife about his cheating, "I have been in your country two years. I learned your language and I learned your rules. I'm more like you than me now" (P. 243). However, later one he drives Little Bee to be in the hands of the immigrants authorities, a dog is a dog and a wolf is a wolf. Little Bee realized that her life on the edge, when she informed the police about Charlie's loss, however, she wants to repay his mother's gratitude when she saved her in Nigeria. She does not pay much attention to her situation. The authorities have deported Little Bee to her homeland. Sarah will not leave her, she will accompany Bee to Nigeria to support her issue by gathering information about other similar stories to publish them, raise the public awareness and change the authorities' attitude in Britain and Nigeria towards the asylum seekers and refugees. The end of the narrative is open to readers' expectations. Some of the readers see in Sarah and Little Bee strong fighters and they may change the authorities' situation to take serious steps to protect the refugees and asylum seekers. The pessimistic readers, they see the end in arresting Sarah, her son, and Little Bee by the Nigerian authorities under the claims of breaking the Nigerian laws.

Little Bee's color of life is gray as she said. That color is a mixture of white and black to show the readers that her life is a mixture of hopes and despair, "I realized that I was carrying two cargos. Yes, one of them was horror, but the other one was hope" (P. 49). It is involved with loss and depression and unsettling feelings. She does not give up totally to despair and disappointment. Her real name, Udo, means peace. It is the irony to spend her life searching for peace for her soul and body, but she could not reach, her dreams of living in a developed country as Britain increases her miseries and troubles in life. She does not get a part of peace that her name means, the grey color controls her life, "That's the story of my life. Always running, running, running, without one single moment of peace. Sometimes when I remember my mother and my father and my big sister Nkiruka, I think I will always be running until the day I'm reunited with the dead" (P. 233).

Little Bee has put expectations if she gets deported to her homeland, "If they deport me to Nigeria, I will be arrested. If they find out who I am, and what I have seen, then the politicians will find a way to have me killed. Or if I am lucky, they will put me in prison" (P. 145). Her expectation to get killed and may be Sarah and her son will be returned home and Bee sent to the jail. However, the readers see in her fighting a clue of her victory and survival.

Conclusion

Moving from one's homeland to another is not an easy journey. Little Bee, a Nigerian girl, is one of thousands miserable stories of immigration and refugees who escape the violence in the homeland to find another sort of violence in their journey for citizenship in another country. Little Bee found herself lost in an immigration detention center, Essex, Britain under horrific conditions of life that led a lot of detainees to commit suicide. Chris Cleave's humble experience helps him to give a deep insight into a life of one of the refugees in Britain and her thorny journey to escape from violence in her homeland, Nigeria, to Britain with its intensified rules and laws of immigration. Britain does not give them a safe haven for life. Peace and stability are just a dream and a notion in their memory may not be fulfilled. The hard reality and lives of refugees in immigration detention centers in Britain rock the refugees' lives. *Little Bee* showed that the official attitude of British government towards refugees is negative and the British government has not offered honorable lives to the refugees and asylum seekers. After many years that might spend in the detention center, they could not obtain the official documents that might help them to live in peace or keep them living in such countries, however, they are threatened by deportation at any times under the plea of not meeting the rules and laws of immigration. Little Bee has suffered very much and the learning of the queen's language, British culture and history have not help her to get a safe refuge in Britain.

She was fourteen when she reached Britain and she was put in detention center to spend two horrific years and she got released to find herself in the street without valid papers that help her continue her life in Britain. She reconstructs her identity to fit the requirements of British citizenship, but in vain, her life is lost running after official residency.

The girls in detention live their lives without identities and the British authorities are careless to offer them honorable lives. Some of them could not bear the severe conditions of the detention center which are not better than the violence in their homeland and they decide to put an end to their suffering by committing suicide. Life abroad as asylum seekers, refugees, immigrants are not encouraging. Little Bee and her fellows find such a reality very late. The British slogan "Britain is a safe haven" is destroyed by the reality of daily lives in detention centers. The irony is that the writer begins his novel by such words about Britain as a safe refuge to the immigrants and asylum seekers, but the novel proves it is not a safe refuge as it is a new stage of struggling and fighting. The British allegations do not come true.

The novel has been left open to worst or best alternatives that may lead the efforts of Sarah and Little Bee in Nigeria to success as strong fighters and, perhaps, they have managed to push the authorities to take a positive step regarding many miserable stories of refugees. On the other hand, they may fail to take a step forward and they have been arrested by the Nigerian authorities and spent most of lives, if not all their lives, in prison. The irony is that Little Bee's real name is Udo which means peace and her sister, Nkiruka, murdered by the oil company gangs; her name means the bright future, however, she has not lived to see the future. The meanings of their names do not fit their lives of peace and a bright future.

The narrative proved that the western troubles as developed countries are different from the developing countries ones. Sarah's cheating on her husband is a behavior which sees as a minor transgression and she does not need to repent of. She continues her illegal relationship with Lawrence after the death of her husband and cheating on her husband, in his home and bed. Lawrence does not feel shame to lie to his wife about the days he spends in Sarah's house after her husband's death. On the other hand, Sarah struggles with Little Bee to help Little Bee obtain a safe refuge in Britain and Sara does not hesitate to cut off her finger to save Bee's life. The narrative found that the refugees whatever they do to fit the British authorities' laws, they work on reconstructing their identities, as Little Bee, to fit the new community's demands and however, she could not save her from the discriminatory looks of the community which sees her as an intruder and a refugee who do not belong to them. This narrative manifested the recklessness of the British immigration authorities and their negative attitude towards the refugees. The British government does not offer too much to the refugees/ immigrants to aid them, but they have increased their suffering and made their lives more complicated through the British intensified immigration/refugees laws.

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