Resistance and Normalization in

Sahar Khalifeh’s *Wild Thorns and Chinua Achebe’s Things Fall Apart*

By

Mousa Ibraheem Fasfous

Supervisor

Dr. Lamia K. Hammad

The Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Masters of Arts In Literature and Criticism at the Department of English Language and Literature at Yarmouk University, Jordan

2015
Resistance and Normalization in Sahar Khalifeh's *Wild Thorns*

and Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*

By

Mona Ibrahim Efasous

Thesis Examination Committee:

Dr. Laila K. Hamoud .......................... Chair

Prof. Nasser Athamneh ...................... Member

Prof. Khalil Al-Sheikh ....................... Member
Abstract

The study investigates the representation of Resistance and Normalization in Chinua Achebe’s *Things Fall Apart* and Sahar Khalifeh’s *Wild Thorns*. In both novels, the novelists provide images from their colonized countries. Normalization is presented as the choice of masses in both Nigeria and Palestine while resistance is represented as the choice of individuals and small groups. In *Things Fall Apart*, Achebe also deals with the ideas of Resistance and Normalization. Normalization in Achebe’s novel is also presented as the choice of the masses while resistance is the choice of those who reject the changes that make them lose their positions in the Ibo community. Cultural Normalization prevails in the novel at the expense of the traditional culture. The Ibos change their religion, customs, names and jobs. The protagonist of the novel, Okonkwo, along with other Clansmen tries to restore the fallen culture, but his efforts are doomed to failure. To conclude, both novels end with the failure of Resistance and the domination of Normalization; both novels give an advantage to normalization over resistance. In Khalifeh’s novel, Palestinians look for a peaceful survival under the Israeli occupation. They seek a peaceful life by which
they can support their families financially. The Palestinian armed groups and individuals are represented in brutal images. They are represented as brutal, violent and static. The novel heavily criticizes the Palestinian armed organizations. The novel demonstrates the internal tensions between resistance and normalization by the characters of Usama and Adil. The study comes out with a conclusion that *Wild Thorns* gives an advantage to normalization over Resistance by showing the failure of the armed resistance.

Key words: Resistance, Normalization, violence, culture, economy, outsider, insider, changes, colonization and community.