

## **CHINUA ACHEBE'S ROMANTICS AND THE LIMITS OF DISCOURSE**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*Many readings of Chinua Achebe's novels come with expectations as regards the protagonists, that they would be pushing the cultural/nationalist agenda. To those whose expectations are not met, the tendency is to unleash moral judgments on these characters. Reading with an 'open' mind, on the other hand, really amounts to reading against the backdrop of the whole literary tradition, which would allow the spotting of similar and contrasting features to exist in other literary works. Attempting such a reading is what enables us to see shared features with whereby there is a literary tradition. Such is the romantic traits we see reappearing in the characters. In this paper, we shall explore the way in which the romantic traits of the characters in Achebe's novels reflect in their judgments and actions, and often in the key choices (proairesis) on which the sequence gains a definitive orientation, namely, in Achebe, the tragic turn.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Discursive Formations, The Law of Necessity, Practical Discourse, Romanticism, Tragedy*

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