

THE LANGUAGE OF AFRICAN LITERATURE

NGUGI WA THIONG'O

PICTURE OF NGUGI

ABOUT NGUGI

- He is a Kenyan novelist, essayist, playwright, journalist, editor, academic and social activist.
- He was born in 1938 in Kenya into a large peasant family.
- He was educated in Kenya and Britain.
- When he was growing up, Kenya was a British Colony (1895-1963) and as an adolescent he lived through the Mau Mau War of Independence (1952-62)

Famous Works & Awards

1. THE BLACK HELMET - PLAY
 2. WEEP NOT CHILD – NOVEL
 3. THE RIVER BETWEEN – NOVEL
 4. A GRAIN OF WHEAT - NOVEL
- He is the recipient of many honours and seven honorary doctorates

The present prose piece is from Decolonizing Mind

- Main Ideas put forth in this essay
- Language is the carrier of culture
- How the use of foreign language alienates an individual from his own culture?
- Alienation from one's own culture is accompanied with a hatred for it and a reverence for the coloniser's culture.
- Decolonizing the mind is an attempt to free the native's mind from the coloniser's control by rejecting his language and adopting one's native language.

MEANINGS

- **Extended family:** a family which extends beyond the nuclear family to include grandparents and other relatives.
- **Inflexion:** 1.GRAMMAR
 - a change in the form of a word (typically the ending) to express a grammatical function or attribute such as tense, mood, person, number, case, and gender.
 - "a set of word forms differing only in respect of inflections"
 - *synonyms:* conjugation, declension; More
 - 2.the modulation of intonation or pitch in the voice.
 - "she spoke slowly and without inflection"
- **Nuance** a subtle difference in or shade of meaning, expression, or sound.
 - "he was familiar with the nuances of the local dialect"

suggestive: sə'dʒestɪv/

tending to suggest an idea.

"there were various suggestive pieces of evidence"