



Faculty of Arts

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**Ecofeminism, Transculturalism and Globalization in Selected Plays
by Caryl Churchill and Wole Soyinka**

A Ph.D. Dissertation

Submitted by

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To

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2023

Abstract

Ecofeminism or *Ecological Feminism* serves as a pivot to the major concerns of this study. It is one of the most remarkable movements developed by the French feminist Françoise d'Eaubonne in her 1974 article, *Le Feminisme ou la Mort (Feminism or Death)*. Consideration of its meaning and application in relation to contemporary phenomena of “Globalization” and “Transculturalism” facilitates a detailed exploration and analysis of selected dramatic writings by Caryl Churchill and Wole Soyinka. The analytical, critical and comparative nature of this work begins with charting the parallel journeys of both playwrights - within widely differing cultural contexts- through which both reveal their ecofeminist tendencies and offer a critique of notions of globalization and transculturalism in relation to different cultures. The selected plays for such purpose are divided into two fundamental groups: Caryl Churchill’s plays (1938) and Wole Soyinka’s plays (1934). As for the former, it includes *The Skriker* (1994), *Far Away* (2000), and *Seven Jewish Children* (2009). They form an attempt to explore how Churchill's drama shows a sustained and deepening engagement with

ecological, feminist and transcultural issues. Concerning the plays of Soyinka, a comprehensive analysis of *A Dance of the Forests* (1963) and *The Strong Breed* (1964) will also be presented, but with much critique and commentary upon nationalist discourse.

Key Words: Ecofeminism, Transculturalism, Globalization, Caryl Churchill, Wole Soyinka, the Brechtian Theatre, Nature and Woman, Interconnectedness, Patriarchy, Dualism, Imperialism, Liberation.