The development of the identities of three African female protagonists

A comparative study was conducted between two African female authors, Mariama Bâ and Leymah Gbowee. The study’s purpose was to understand from an African-European Cultural Relations how three African female protagonists reconstructed their identities within their communities. It notes the different ways in which these three protagonists renegotiated their identities. It focuses on a conversation between the protagonists and their societies (customs, family, friends and beliefs). Furthermore, the study demonstrates the clear influence that these protagonists were exposed to when entering secondary socialisation. It illustrates the importance of both primary and secondary socialisation in the development of their identities. This study explains indeed how one can renegotiate their identities within their communities.

In the table below, I have written a few keynotes that I highlighted in comparative analysis.

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| Key elements | Descriptions |
| Primary socialisation | Family influences our socialisation (our beliefs and our way of viewing the world), thus I compared three protagonists to see how their families influenced them. This is to demonstrate how their families influences had an impact on how their approach to certain circumstances. |
| Education | Education is another key element which also falls in the characteristic of secondary socialisation. Education plays a key role because it provides new information which people can use to construct their identities and beliefs. I looked at how the protagonists used education to remap their identities. |
| Silence, Speaking and Speaking for others | Speaking is important, it is what allows a message to be heard, it breaks the silence. I looked at how the protagonists used speaking to reconstruct their identities. I compared their approaches, I looked at if they used their voices to emancipate themselves and build their own identities and if they also used their voices to help others emancipate themselves from societal demands. I compared their different approaches and explained how and why their approaches of speaking are different. |
| African and European influences on the Reconstruction of the Leymah and Ramatoulaye’s Female Identities | It vital to understand that identities are not fixed. And that many factors can influence how one perceives reality. In this session I looked at how African and European beliefs and customs played a role in the development of the protagonists. I compared the ways in which it influenced them and changed how they see themselves in their societies. |