

English Grammar

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In the video that I watched on Youtube, I believe her thesis is about books. She grew up reading foreign books about white people. So she grew up thinking that if she wrote a book, it would have to be about foreigners as well. She talked about how all her characters ate apples. She talked about the weather like snow. She also talked about the sun and how the characters would drink ginger beer. These are things that she would write about for her characters but nothing that she could relate to personally in her life. She was not a foreigner. She is African American writing with the foreigner's perspective. She talked about how every one's lives, cultures, are made up of many stories. Adichie found herself in her own culture. She warns people that if we only hear a single story about another person or country, then we will have many misunderstandings.

Adichie felt and thought that a person like her could never fit inside of a book or literature. She only read about foreigners so that is all she knew. Later she discovered that there were books written by African Americans which saved her. When she turned eight they got a new house boy. He is boy from a poor family. His name was Fide. Adichie only saw Fide as a poor boy and family until she saw something her family made. Sometimes we make judgement on people before knowing them.

Adichie left Nigeria to go to a University at the age of nineteen. She had an American roommate that was shocked to have a roommate from Nigeria. Her roommate asked her where she learned to speak English so well. Adichie said that English is a common language spoken and learned in school. She was confused to know this. She asked if she could listen to her tribal music. She was disappointed when Adichie gave her a tape of Mariah Carey. Her roommate also thought that she didn't know how to use a stove. Adichie said that her roommate felt sorry for her even before she saw her. She had a judgment because Adichie was from Africa. Her roommate

only knew one story about Africans and that is all she knew. This was a story about catastrophe. In her roommate's story there was no possibility of Africans being similar to her in any way. Africans were not equal to her in her story.

Adichie said that when she came to America, she then identified as Africa because of the people. She spent a few years in America and now understands her roommate. Adichie talked about that if she didn't grow up in Nigeria and all she knew about Africa is what she said in a book or story, her thoughts would be different as well. Africa is sometimes shown with beautiful animals and some nice place and then also poverty, aids, and people fighting. She would see Africa as people that can't save themselves and they are waiting for a kind white foreigner to come and save them. Adichie was reminded of Fide's family and how she thought about them when she first met them. She only saw Fide's family as poor and not able to do anything. This kind of thinking about African's comes from Western Literature.

Adichie was writing a novel. When she gave it to the professor, the professor told her that it was not authentically African. The professor said that the characters were too much like him. They were educated and middle class. They drove cars and were not starving. This was the professor's single story thinking about African Americans. Adichie later talked about visiting Mexico during times where immigration and politics was very bad. This was dealing with mostly Mexicans talking about how they use the system and cross the border. Adichie visited Guadalajara and felt ashamed. She saw so many things in America about Mexicans that she only had that one thought too. She judged the Mexican people. She felt very ashamed. She only had the single story about Mexicans. She realized this when she saw the people.

Adichie learned that if you show someone one story and only that story, people will think about only that one story. This single story brings power. Power is not just telling the story about

a person but making people believe that story about the person. Africa for example, their story starts with the arrival of the British. They start the story with the failure of the African state and not the colonial creation with the African states. How you tell the story is powerful. Single story creates stereotypes. Stereotypes can sometimes be true but they are also incomplete. We should always be able to talk about all the stories from a place and not just focus on the one story.

Adichie said that one story becomes the only story. When you do this in a single story it robs people of their dignity. It makes the equal humanity difficult. It tells how people are different instead of being similar. We need to have a balance of stories.

I think about my own story being Korean or Asian and how others think about us. Some people think that all Koreans like kimchi which is the spicy cabbage. People think that all Koreans know Tae Kwon do, which is like Karate. Some other stereotypes is that Koreans eat dogs, work too much, terrible drivers, and rude. Some of these are a little bit true. Some parts of Korea they do eat dog. Not everyone is bad driver or rude. I have some friends that do not eat kimchi and cannot eat spicy food. A lot of times people will ask me the same questions about Korea or ask if I am Chinese. This shows me that a lot of people have one story about Koreans or Asia. They think all the same thing. Korean is a growing country with so many people. The capitol is Seoul and is similar to New York.

I think it's sad that we still live in a world where there is judging and fighting. People are all equal. In America I feel bad, sometimes people love their animals more than other people. We are all the same people. When I get cut I bleed red just like everyone else. I think about God. God made all people in his image and likeness. In God there is all people but people can't see this. I think if people will know God they will see other people. If I can say it like his, all people's stories is written in God and God wants to share all people's stories. One day I hope that

there will be not more fighting. I really like this video. It was hard to understand so I turn on caption and write down what she was saying. Then I go back and translate from English to Korean to understand. She is good speaker. I really enjoyed how she told the story and make everything connect. She is from Africa and I am from Korea, our stories maybe different but the author is the same. I hope one day everyone will see this and stop fighting. I hope that one day we stop focusing on the differences and realize how similar everyone is. I laughed thinking about this. One stereotype about African Americans is that they love fried chicken, watermelon, and speak so loud. I laughed because one thing that is so true about Koreans is we love friend chicken, watermelon, and we speak so loud too. We are all the same people.