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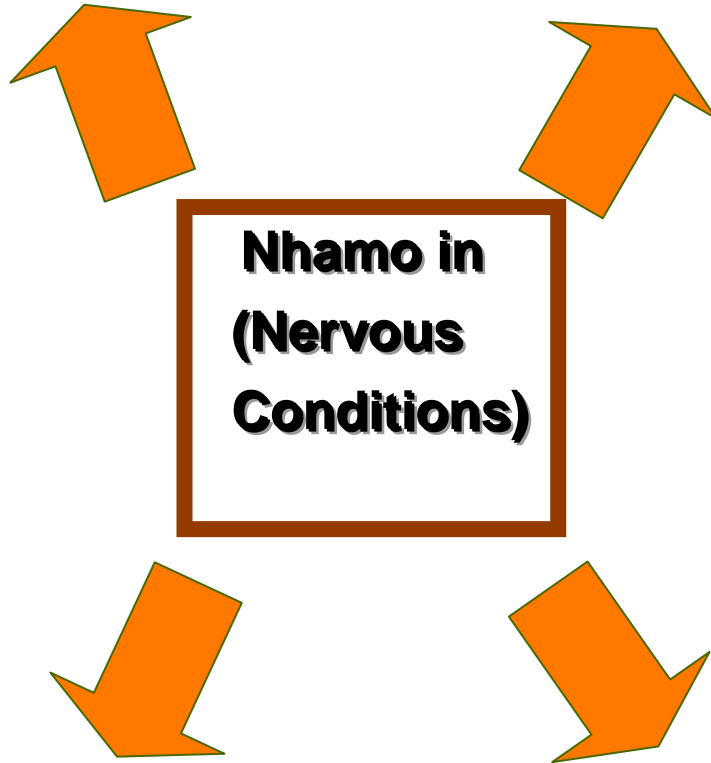
**COLONIAL AND POSTCOLONIAL,  
AFRICAN LITERATURES**

## EDUCATION.

Nhamo was top of his class.  
Nhamo achieved good results.  
and was advanced academically.

## BEHAVIOR

Pride (Superior)  
Authoritative  
Sexist and patriarchal  
Lazy



## PERSONAL. DEVELOPMENT

Fit and muscular.  
lighter in complexion.  
Shiny smooth skin.

## RELATIONSHIP WITH FAMILY

Sabotages Tambu's efforts to go back school which  
results in conflict between the two.  
Seldom home visitations

There have been multiple changes in Nhamo's personal development and his relationship with his family, ever since he left home to pursue his education at the mission. His behavior brings about negativity and is clearly evident throughout the novel. He experienced a very different lifestyle at the mission, one that was off high standards and an advanced lifestyle in comparison to his lifestyle at the village, one that everyone dreams of but eventually pride enters him and he loses all humility, considering the fact that he grew up in humble beginnings, a poverty-stricken home, he eventually reacts differently towards poverty and towards his family.

Nhamo achieved good results at school, he was advanced academically and he eventually became top of his class, but he had a different perspective towards his life and his education, he felt that he was meant to be educated because he is a man. He felt that Babamukuru chose him for the right reasons instead of choosing anyone else; he feels that Babamukuru has made an ideal choice of choosing him because he would be the only one who would lift the family branch from the squalor in which they live in. Nhamo has been socialized into a system that is both sexist and patriarchal, a system where he believes that he has not been exposed to anything different, unlike his sister who is a woman and when she asks him "why she cannot go to school?", he says: "It's the same everywhere. Because you are a girl." (21). Nhamo clearly displays a behavior which is sexist. He feels because he is a man he is entitled to be educated, and reap all benefits and advantages. It is at this point that Tambu stops being concerned about him: "My concern for my brother died an unobtrusive death" (21). Nhamo therefore sabotages all her efforts to go back school by stealing her maize cobs that she planted to get enough money to go back. Selling those maize was her only chance and opportunity to go back school, she later then finds out that her brother was the reason behind her maize being stolen, that adds many conflicts to his relationship with Tambu and they then fought over it at Sunday school.

Nhamo became lazy with family chores. He had a lack of interest in helping out at the fields or with livestock. Before he went to the mission he was always willing to help out, but now he avoids helping out with any tasks. He eventually became irresponsible and his laziness progressively increased. It suddenly became a bad joke to him. He avoids any matter of helping out and finds

excuses of not helping out. Tambu says that “he reminded us that we had managed without him in the previous year” (7), this shows that he is not willing to labour or give a helping hand.

Nhamo boasts and brags about his education and lifestyle at the mission. Pride enters him and he annoys his sister Tambu by elaborating on how he wants his lifestyle to be when he's at the mission. He continues by saying that he wants to wear shoes, socks, wear brand new clothes and eat with a fork and knife. He also states that “I shall no longer be Jeremiah's son” (48), which seems that his mindset and lifestyle has completely changed. Babamukuru will provide all luxury so therefore it will be as if he is Babamukuru son. He has a different mindset, one of superiority. He feels he is superior since he is well educated which makes him conceited. He loses all core quality values and adapted a different attitude which was unnecessary; he should have been more humble about his blessings. His sister was then infuriated with his 'braggy ' talks.

Nhamo's physical appearance started to change, as Tambu says that “The change in his appearance was dramatic” (52). He was fit and muscular, he was not scrawny anymore. This shows that he is well fed at the mission. He became lighter in complexion, several tones lighter than he used to be, and his hair was shiny and was smooth combed. It's not hard to take notice that he is well taken care off at the mission and he has a new change of look. He has also forgotten how to speak Shona which was a huge change.

Poverty began to offend Nhamo. He was embarrassed of his homestead at the village, so much so, that he often became unsociable when he visited his family, “Thus Nhamo was forced once a year to return to his squalid homestead” (6). It was as if he was not even there. His behavior changed so much that he no longer had any claim towards the homestead, even though it was a squalor , but before he went to the mission he still accepted it because it was all that they had. His lifestyle at the mission is a complete ' turn around change' than the lifestyle at the village, so he reacts differently towards the village.

After going to the mission Nhamo stops coming home to stay during the short vacations. He came back home to stay only once a year when the school year ended and the maize began. He detached himself from his family, and very seldom visited them, so much so, that during the April and August holidays he refused to come, saying "It was necessary to read his books ceaselessly in order to pass his examinations at the end of each year" (6), this shows that his number 1 priority was on his education and nothing else mattered, not even his family. His concentration was only on his books and that became primarily to him.

During Nhamo's visitations at home he was often very authoritative. He deliberately gets Tambu and Netsai to fetch his luggage, just to make them do things for him. He only wanted to demonstrate to them and himself that he had power. He carried a lot of authority and was demanding, which made his sisters feel uncomfortable. Tambu disliked his ways and attitude, she even felt guilty about it, in fact she preferred his absence.

No matter what turn life gives you, whether it's positive or negative, it's important to always remember where you came from, because humility is the most important quality that one can acquire and in Nhamo's case, his life had a positive outcome but he has clearly forgotten about his roots and upbringings. His 'change' made him into a selfish, self-centered person which displayed a negative character. In the process he detaches himself from his family and had conflicts with his sister. He should have been humble enough about his blessings instead of boasting towards his sister and stopping her chances of going back to school, he shouldn't have tried to take away her rights and her beliefs, so that was Nhamo's major downfall. Nothing lasts forever, that is why it is important to appreciate the people around you and to never change who you are, and sadly Nhamo did the opposite of that and sadly he died due to an illness.

# BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- *Only study guide for ENG2603 ( Colonial and Postcolonial African Literature)*