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## The influence of Western narrative techniques: A case study of Ousmane's selected short stories<sup>1</sup>

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### Abstract

The aim of this paper is to highlight the effect of the rich blend of African culture with western narrative techniques, namely the bringing together of the traditions of two different worlds. What connects the two is the fleshy literary bond embodied in the fact that the modern and the old could be fused to yield what is known as the oral in the written. Africa has its own culture and tradition that came into collision with the western style of written literature. Modern African literature which was largely inspired by contact with the west encouraged African writers to write short stories with oral characteristics mainly. That is, instead of writing typically 'western' short stories, the authors chose to delve into the resources of orality for their compositions. Thus, the narrative techniques used in their short stories are not only influenced by thematic concerns, but they also determine, in their turn, the choice of these themes.

In other words, the interplay of typically West African oral narrative styles and European narrative techniques as reflected in the stories under discussion, "Black Girl" and "Tribal Marks," takes various forms and has led to unique results—they have become compatible in terms of form, tone and tempo.

**Keywords:** *narrative techniques, Modern African literature, orality*

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