This paper investigates the process of identity transformation in African fictions of exile. Traditionally, the concept of African diaspora is held to apply mainly to the descendants of African people carried to the New World during the period of the trans-Atlantic slave trade. Of recent however, there seems to have emerged what is being guardedly referred to as the "New African Diaspora" in African cultural discourses. This fresh concept describes mainly the new wave of Africans who, due to reasons ranging from palpable material poverty, lack of intellectual and/or professional fulfillment and to political persecution, violent disturbances and war, has continued to relocate from their home bases to different countries of Europe and America. This new category of exiles includes writers, scholars, intellectuals and other cultural workers. Inevitably, or as it would seem, some of the writers have been reacting to this condition of displacement and loss in their works. It is the aim of this paper to explore the way some of them have continued to negotiate the gulf separating the homeland from an exile location.

Since my focus lies specifically in articulating the identity of postcolonial African diaspora, it is my intention to begin the paper by exploring the different perspectives on cultural identity in general, coming to focus afterwards on diasporic identity in particular. The second part of the paper will then apply the elicited paradigms in a detailed analysis of the works of Ngugi wa Thiong'o, Dambudzo Marechera, Ama Ata Aidoo and Buchi Emecheta, which centralize the questions of exile and migration.