

SHURI - BLACK PANTHER

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### Abstract

The objective of this paper is to identify the context of the movie and the social roles that Shuri plays in the movie Black Panther, the influences that shaped her character in the movie, and the socio-cultural influences and identity of the movie character Shuri

Keywords: dress, primary group, In-group membership, tribe, culture, tradition, passing, ideology, social perception, person perception, stereotyping, apparel, artifact.

## SHURI - BLACK PANTHER

Black Panther is a superhero movie that came out in 2018, based on T'Challa: Shuri's brother who came home after their father died, to take his rightful place on the throne. Basically, more than a hundred years ago, five African tribes fought over a meteorite that has vibranium, and eventually, one of the warriors takes in a "heart-shaped herb" affected by the metal and acquires superhuman power, becoming the first "Black Panther." Over the years, the Wakandans made use of the vibranium to improve advanced technology and confine themselves from the world and passing as a third world country.



Here, Shuri is in the outfit she wore to welcome her brother T'Challa, cropped raglan-sleeve blouse, heather gray body, pink sleeves and cape, zip-up closure on rear. Polyurethane oval with Adinkra symbol, hand-painted on, meaning "purpose." This dress can be classified as a cause-related one, the term cause-related is "used to describe an item of a dress that have text, symbols or images that express an opinion or an affiliation with a cause"

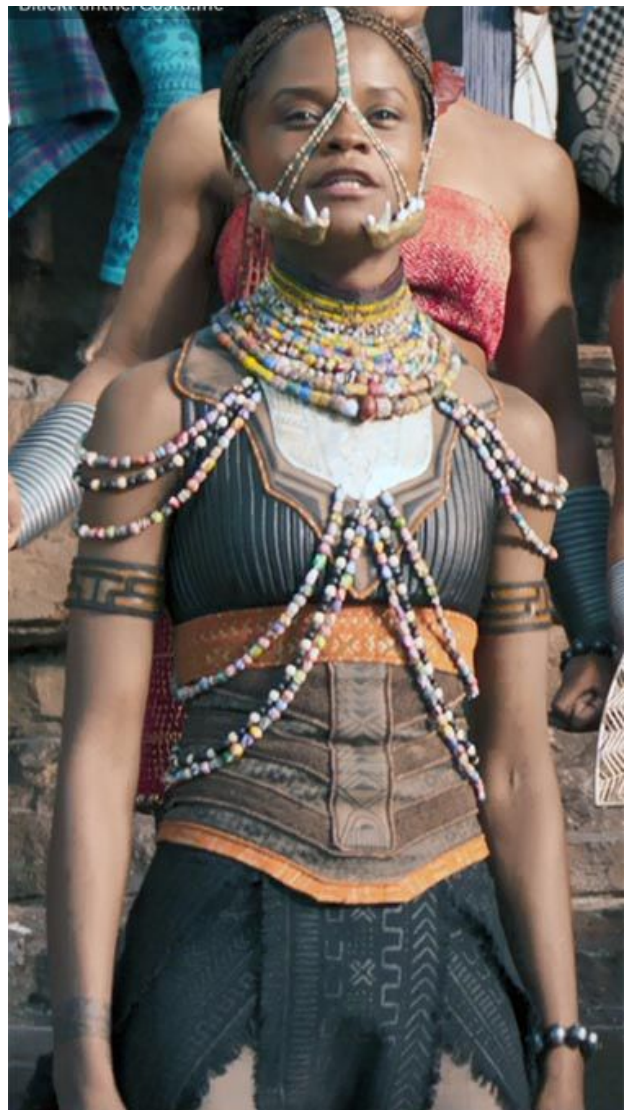
(Lennon, S., Johnson, K., and Rudd, N. (2017). Social Psychology of Dress, NY, Pg 296).

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On T'Challa's return home, at his coronation with members of the community present including his Mother- Ramonda, Sister- Shuri, Okoye- the leader of the Dora Milaje troops and his ex-lover Nakia, the Jabari's leader M'Baku challenges T'Challa for the crown in ritual combat, the ideology behind this was that whoever wanted to take the throne when someone else was also up for it, they would have to fight each other, T'Challa won.

After taking his rightful place as king, a strong enemy returns, T'challa's bravery as a king - and as Black Panther - gets tested when he is pulled into a battle that puts the future of Wakanda and the world in danger. T'Challa confronted with betrayal and risk, must pull together his supporters and use the full powers of Black Panther to defeat his enemies and save his people.

On the right is the outfit Shuri wore to the ceremony, "MC Underbite" jaw headdress, beads made from paper or clay and a spear-corset influenced by Dinka tribe.



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Shuri is an innovator influenced by technology, she is a part of a primary group: “which is a small, informal collections of individuals who interact with each other in personal, direct, and intimate ways; siblings, family members” (Lennon, S., Johnson, K., and Rudd, N. (2017). *Social Psychology of Dress*, NY, Pg 293). She is also a member of an In-group membership- “a group wherein members feel that they share a common bond, shared ideologies, come from a common background, or otherwise resemble other members of the group: family members” (Lennon, S., Johnson, K., and Rudd, N. (2017). *Social Psychology of Dress*, NY, Pg 294).

As the sister to the king, Shuri is not your regular princess, one would form the impression that she is girly and loves only the color pink, quite stereotypical. The costume designer used her appearance to speak that she is an intelligent, strong and vibrant 16-year-old, with beautiful braids and an impeccable sense of humor. She harnesses the Wakanda precious lab of Vibranium to fuel for the country: communication devices, transportation, electricity, the suits, and weapons. Also, being one of the smartest person in the MCU, she is a courageous warrior. If she just stays in her lab all through the day and isolates herself because she is a scientist, it would have been predictable, but as the person next in line for the throne, it makes sense that is is very well trained the same way her older brother is and she definitely shows us she has been trained well throughout the course of the movie. Even as T'Challa's younger sister she is most definitely her brother keeper.

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She wears this white dress in the lab where she shows her brother T'Challa what she has been up too while he has been away, she shows him improvements she has made with technology, like the sound absorbent shoes she calls "sneakers", and the suit that sits within the teeth of the necklace she made for him. The dress is not just some pretty apparel, it is a high-fashion upgrade of something the innovator Shuri would be expected to wear instead of the regular lab coat everyone knows.



When Klaw steals a Wakandan artifact from a museum in London, T'Challa goes on a mission with Okoye and his ex-girlfriend Nakia to Busan, South Korea to

get back the artifact from a CIA agent Ross. While abroad and trying to retrieve the artifact, a fight breaks, and T'Challa needs his sisters help (who was back home in Wakanda) to drive the escape car. Shuri controls the car from her lab wearing this outfit.

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Ross (CIA agent) is badly injured protecting Nakia during the fight, so T'Challa takes him to Wakanda where technology can save him, here Shuri undergoes a change in role as being a healer, and above are the outfits Shuri wore before and after healing Ross respectively while in her lab, this change in role was not signified through her dress.

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Shuri's role changes as she has to fight an army with Nakia and other individuals who were loyal to T'Challa when a war breaks in Wakanda, trying to protect the secret of the community, stopping the jets carrying vibranium weapons from leaving.

She is a warrior and this is signified through the dress she is wearing.



Throughout the course of this movie, Shuri proves over and over again that she is definitely not an average princess. She has all the qualities of a powerful Queen and if at all she has to take over from her brother, she is very much capable of ruling Wakanda.



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