

ABSTRACT

A Discourse of Alternative Sexuality in Anglophone Caribbean Literature

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Fictional discourse is one means by which those whose sexual orientation falls outside heterosexual norms re-appropriate their identity, find agency and voice, redefine gender roles, and attempt to de-stigmatize their sexual behaviours. Diasporic English-speaking Caribbean novelists and short story writers have begun exposing gay/lesbian/queer Caribbean psyches and experiences of literary characters that live within Caribbean settings and also within foreign cultures. The thesis analyzes how these authors negotiate language, and story elements like characterization, point-of-view and structure to explore this theme, which is largely taboo in the Caribbean. Literary linguistics, theories on gender and sexuality, and close readings are primarily employed in such an analysis. Irony is revealed as a predominant trope that subverts heterocentrism, heterosexism and homophobia, thereby producing a counterdiscourse on alternative sexualities.

Keywords: Geraldine Elizabeth Skeete; counterdiscourse; sexualities.