

ABSTRACT

Marie Chauvet and the Postmodern Novel in Haiti

Ayodele Yewande Hippolyte

This thesis examines the evolution of Haitian literature from the Indigenist period which lasted roughly from the 1920's to the early 1960s to the postmodern era which began in the late 1960's and has lasted to the present. The contention in this presentation is that Marie Chauvet is the key transitional figure as Haitian fiction shifted from the modernist phase of Indigenism to the postmodern era. Her trilogy **Amour Colère Folie** published in 1968 marked a definitive break with the poetics of the previous generation and ushered in this new postmodernist phase. This thesis aims to establish the importance and place of this writer in Haiti's literary tradition.

To fully appreciate all aspects of this transition, the cultural and political atmosphere of each period has also been taken into account as Haitian society experienced significant changes over the two periods in question. Marie Chauvet's own literary evolution is also examined as she moved from imitating the dominant narrative to forging one of her own which has defined the

postmodernist sensibility that now characterises this latest phase of Haitian literature. Chauvet's trilogy is not only significant in terms of the evolution of Haitian fiction but it is pivotal to an emerging postmodernist discourse in the wider Caribbean where conventional notions of the role of the writer and literature are being called into question.

Keywords: Marie Chauvet; Haitian Literature; Postmodern; Caribbean women writers; Francophone women writers