

ABSTRACT**Mervyn Morris and The Poetry
of Self-Scrutiny**

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The emergence of West Indian poetry since the early 1940s has increasingly drawn the attention and interest of contemporary writers and critics alike. Their recognition of the need to define this body of literature has given rise to debates and discourses as to what really constitutes West Indian poetry.

Poets of the region themselves have been the ones to determine by and large the shape and structure of West Indian poetry. Their reflection and use of the multiple voices of the people have helped to define their poetry as distinctively West Indian. Mervyn Morris, working in West Indian poetry, has unquestionably come to the fore as a leading West Indian poet.

This study of the poetry of Mervyn Morris defines the works of the poet by examining them chronologically, working through his early poems up to his latest collection, Examination Centre (1992). It seeks to validate the poet's act of self-scrutiny which he performs in his poetry. The importance of examining

the self is historically approved as an act that may embrace community. In the final analysis the thesis also suggests that the development of Morris' poetry marks a direction that post-independent West Indian poetry has taken today.