

ABSTRACT

DRAMATIC THEORY AND FORM IN SELECTED ENGLISH- AND SPANISH-SPEAKING DRAMATISTS OF THE CARIBBEAN

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This dissertation represents a comparative analysis of the responses of individuals and groups from the English- and Spanish-speaking Caribbean to the colonial/post-colonial experience as represented by six playwrights. These playwrights wrote plays especially during the decades of the sixties and seventies, decades that are viewed here as significant regionally since they signal the main period when countries in both sub-regions were making determined efforts in three main areas. There were attempts to attain political independence, or to assert the right to the independence earned during the previous century, or to underscore yet again the need for independence. It also determines the extent to which the cross-cultural experiences of these countries have influenced the playwrights in terms of dramatic form. The contention throughout with regard to theory is that despite the natural differences in culture and the sense of fragmentation associated with the colonial/post colonial experience, the evolution of multicultural societies facilitates the application of cross-cultural readings that have been articulated from within the region, especially those that speak directly to dramatic production. It also argues that the dramatic production from the sub-regions is distinctively Caribbean since it reflects a definite symbiosis of the non-Eurowestern and Eurowestern heritage in both content and form. Having applied cross-cultural methodologies to plays written by the six playwrights, the study confirms that the region's cross-cultural heritage is celebrated in varying degrees by these playwrights in both content and form and underscores the need for greater communication and interaction among the diverse societies of the Caribbean.

Keywords: Caribbean region and sub-regions; Cross-Cultural Poetics; Creolization; formal Eurowestern drama; traditional; folk and popular heritage; "Sameness"/"Diversity"; reversion/diversion; hegemony.