
Abstract

ANGLOPHONE IDENTITY AS CROSS-CULTURAL TRANSACTION: A STUDY OF SELECTED CARIBBEAN FICTION FROM 1970

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This dissertation examines the representation of identity as cross-cultural transaction in selected novels from Anglophone Caribbean fiction. The focus is on the period from 1970 onward. It does so against a background of the emergent theory on the subject and within three specific frames, namely the issue of nation both within and beyond borders, of Indo/Afro-Caribbean relations and of women's voices. The study reveals that this phase of Anglophone identity is in fact a relatively new stage in the continuing fictional exploration of the quest for self both at the private and public levels, and that the process involves a shift from the dichotomies of nation, race, and gender to notions of cross-cultural exchange. It is evident, however, that such a paradigm of relations is by no means idealized since cross-cultural transaction is fraught with the tensions of competing identities.

Key words: identity; Anglophone Caribbean; tensions of cross-cultural transaction; theory and fiction; nation, race and gender.