

## ABSTRACT

This study attempts to investigate pre-Independence race relations as they are represented in novels written by nationals of Trinidad during this period.

Chapter I looks at the problem of race, ~~racialism~~ *racism* and race relations in a worldwide as well as Caribbean context, and arrives at the conclusion that ethnicity is the best way to view race relations in the context of Trinidad and Tobago.

Chapter II gives an impressionistic picture of the literary milieu of Trinidad and Tobago during the period under study. It shows a dynamic activity at the level of creative writing, especially when one takes into consideration the social, economic and political situation at the time.

In Chapter III a novel by Guyanese writer, Edgar Mittelholzer, based on his experiences of Trinidad life, is analysed for racial implications, which are compared with those found in the novels to be studied in the following chapters.

Chapters IV, V and VI analyse the novels written by White, Black and Indian writers respectively, looking at racial images and stereotypes, which are compared and contrasted.

Chapter VII summarises the conclusions of the previous chapters.