

ABSTRACT

Writing for Ourselves: West Indian Popular Fiction

Andrea Patricia Humphrey

The purpose of this thesis is to explore an alternative reading strategy for West Indian popular fiction (the fiction produced by resident and non-resident authors of West Indian descent who employ the popular genres such as romance novels and science fiction) to the traditional politically inflected reading strategy of canonical West Indian literature.

Novels from various popular genres, including the romance (both contemporary and historical) crime fiction, erotic fiction and science fiction, have been studied using a critical approach that blends a structuralist analysis of the characteristics of the genre and a semiotic analysis of the imagery and iconography that the various authors employ in their work.

This study will demonstrate that popular fiction is not merely a reproduction of foreign ideology but that it is multiaccultural and may be used to explore multiple perspectives and cultures.

Keywords: Andrea Patricia Humphrey; West Indian popular fiction; Culture; Identity; Language.