

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I wish to express my thanks to Professor Kenneth Ranchand of The University of the West Indies for his ability to inspire and encourage. His thoughtful comments and support as an interested and critical observer are appreciated.

I am indebted to Doc Sharmila Nisha Harry of Memorial University of Newfoundland.

This study examines the West Indian immigrant experience in Canada in selected writings by Austin Chesterfield Clarke. These include, The Meeting Point (1967), Storm of Fortune (1973) and The Bigger Light (1975) - Clarke's trilogy. Specifically, the paper focuses on two major issues that arise out of the immigrant experience in Clarke's trilogy, namely, racial discrimination and cultural conformity, and the impact of this on the immigrants' identity. The three novels of the trilogy are linked in terms of theme, character and action.

Racial discrimination that the immigrants encounter in their early life in Canada is a major agent in their psychological crippling, dehumanization, degradation and humiliation. It is a factor in their early experience of alienation and marginalization and their eventual desire to conform to the 'host' society. In conforming to Canadian cultural lifestyles, in order to belong and to be accepted, the West Indian immigrants experience psychological chaos, spiritual sterility and psychological disintegration.

Keywords: Sharmila Harry; Austin Clarke, Immigrant Experience.