

M. Swetha M.A.

Research proposal .

Fanon's Postcolonial Discourse in the novel The Sellout

Thesis Statement

It portrays the issues of black subaltern people like racial discrimination, loss of history and their black identity. It explores the problem of black People through the eyes of protagonist, the marginalized unnamed black narrator.

Research Questions

- 1.How does Paul Beatty in The Sellout project segregation in post-racial America?
- 2.Would The Sellout be very different if it were narrated by a black woman?

Summary

“The Sellout”, by Paul Beatty, is an African-American novel of satire on race relations in the United States. The book revolves around the unnamed, black narrator who is coming before the Supreme Court on charges of slave holding and re-instituting segregation. The narrator recounts to the Supreme Court the events that brought him to the present time.

The novel gives us a clear picture of the race relations in the American society and the hypocrisy that exists in the communities. The work is deeply entrenched in the race-relations between the whites and non-whites. It offers a scope to understand the dynamics of race

relationships where a particular class of people occupy power positions through hegemonic manoeuvring of identity.

Review of Literature

The objective of the study is not a search for any theoretical answer to the question, but the exploration of how this proposition is constructed. Review of these works shows that segregation in “The Sellout” has not been explored from Fanonian perspective.

Research Tool : Theory

Fanon’s Postcolonial Discourse Theory

According to Fanon, internalization of negro myth and negrophobia on part of whites lead to their concocted vision of white superiority. It states negro myth on part of blacks Lead to their inferiority complex. Fanon’s ideas is to dismantle this racial complex which he calls disalienation of Races; whites of their superiority complex, and blacks of their inferiority Complex.

Chapterisation

Chapter 1 Introduction

The Sellout explores the possibilities and limitations of transgression and the impotence and importance of identity with a deftness and density that I have rarely seen before. Almost nothing comes out unscathed, least of all the narrator, but each scathing feels justified and necessary.

Chapter 2 Fanon’s Postcolonial Discourse in the novel The Sellout

There are three important points which can be inferred, in the light of Fanon's insight, to begin with, a black person is fixated. He is viewed as an epitome of evil. It is supposed that a black person is a missing link in the evolution of human race. All the negative attributes are ascribed to him or her. In this way, criminality is associated with a black person. But these are assumptions about blacks by whites. There is no ontological reality in saying that a black person is habitual criminal. The negative assertion of the protagonist is challenging the dominant discourse of whites about blacks in America.

Chapter 3 Summation

The Sellout has been seen by many as a critique of the idea that American society is post-racial.

Work Cited

Davies, J. E. (2018). *The Sellout by Paul Beatty: "Unmitigated Blackness" in Obama's America*. ETD Archive. 1117 <https://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/etdarchive>

Fanon, F. (1965). *A Dying Colonialism*. (H. Chevalier, Trans.) New York: Grove Press. (Original work published 1959)