

Abstract

In recent years, there has been a growing interest in exploring the unique experiences of marginalized communities and how their experiences are reflected in contemporary literature. This thesis analyzes and focuses on young African American women and their environment, specifically how the environment that surrounds them becomes reflected in parts of their identities. The particular features analyzed in this bachelor thesis include the contemporary African American feminine identity, political views as an identity feature, and a sense of security, all concerning the concept of environment. These distinct elements are explored in two contemporary novels by young African American women writers: *Nightcrawling* by Leila Mottley and *The Other Black Girl* by Zakiya Dalila Harris. The goal of this thesis is to show how much young African American women are affected by their surroundings and what it means to be a young Black woman in contemporary American society. Most importantly, this thesis explores how vital of a role femininity, one's political views, safety and security play in one's life. One of the outputs of this work is a short comparison of several intense situations that the main characters of the two novels experience. This thesis also briefly introduces the various terms and concepts that are significant for the aims of this work. After establishing essential terminology, the focus of the discussion turns to the exploration of the contemporary African American novels mentioned above. An analysis of the main characters and themes is offered. The terminology knowledge is used to bridge the concepts concerning the novels' characters and themes in each of the chapters. Respected secondary sources are employed as well. The work also investigates how these literary representations link with broader social, political, and cultural challenges affecting African American women. In conclusion, this thesis helps us grasp young African American women's perspectives and experiences more deeply. Shedding light on the intricate relationship between race, gender, politics, and the environment in post-modern America, it examines the major themes they have in common and the character

development. Furthermore, this thesis emphasizes the need to focus on the experiences of young African American women as expressed from their own perspective while addressing social and political dilemmas in contemporary American society.

Key Words

contemporary African American feminine identity, identity, young African American women, safe environment, political views, security, intersubjectivity, authenticity vs. success, social classes, racism, intersectional vs. white feminism