

Carlos Bulosan's "America is in the Heart" as a Study of Filipino

Immigrants and his Definition of America

Yasuaki Shibata

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Abstract

Carlos Bulosan describes Filipino immigrants in the United States in the 1930's and 1940's in his autobiography, *America Is in the Heart*. His novel depicts Bulosan's understanding of America from his view to democracy and contradictions in the U.S. In spite of the sharp criticism against racism and discrimination, the contents, at the same time, shows us Bulosan's opinions on what was required of America to be a better America and, on the meaning of what it was to be an American in terms of the ethnic minority in American society. In my research paper, I will examine two themes; the first topic is the history of class and racial discrimination against Filipinos in the Philippines and the United States. Although Bulosan faced harsh discrimination through his life, he kept his eyes on the social problems and tried to attack it. The other will look into Carlos Bulosan's definition of becoming American by referring to several important scenes and comments of Bulosan, as well as many researchers. After arriving to America, Bulosan gradually discovered the meaning of the writer as a worker, and the reason to stay in the United States.

An Analysis of the Relationship between Nisei and Kibei in

Monica Sone's *Nisei Daughter* and

Minoru Kiyota's *Beyond Loyalty: the Story of a Kibei*

Haruka Yokoi

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Abstract

Monica Sone's *Nisei Daughter* and Minoru Kiyota's *Beyond Loyalty: the Story of a Kibei*, reveals tension between two different types of second-generation Japanese Americans. Nisei were born and raised in the United States. Therefore, their values were close to that of Caucasian Americans. Conversely, Kibei were born in the United States but they were culturally attached to Japan. This is because they had spent their formative years in Japan and then came back to the United States. They were similar in that they struggled with dual identity and racism. However, the Kibei and the other Nisei disliked each other for some reason. The purpose of this thesis is to examine two novels written by Nisei and Kibei respectively to clarify the cause of their frustration. The introduction includes information about the authors, a brief history of Japanese-Americans, and a clear explanation of the difference between Nisei and Kibei. In chapter one, the focus is on how Nisei portrayed Kibei. In contrast, chapter two is about how Kibei described Nisei. In chapter three, the cause of their tension is discussed, analyzing how Sone saw Japan and Kiyota conceived the United States. Finally, the conclusion summarizes the entire thesis.

Guilt and Reconciliation at the Dawn of a New Nation:

A Study of Ngugi wa Thiong'o's *A Grain of Wheat*

Satoshi Kato

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Abstract

Ngugi wa Thiong'o's *A Grain of Wheat* is an excellent study of the connection between past and future. The story takes place at the dawn of Kenyan independence. Ngugi portrays Gikuyu men that reflect on the past during the struggle for independence against England. Painful experiences press each of them into making moral compromises for the sake of their personal security, and subsequently plant in each a sense of guilt. The best way of dealing with past is to learn from it. Retrospection gives these Gikuyu men strategies to create a hopeful future at the new birth of Kenya.

This thesis examines the guilt and reconciliation of Mugo, General R. and Karanja, the three characters facing individual crises at the dawn of Kenyan independence. It seeks to justify Mugo's ultimate heroism arising out of his act of treachery. The focus is on Mugo's sense of guilt and ultimate reconciliation. Mugo's sin was the betrayal of Kihika, a leader of the independence struggle, to the English. Possessed by a sense of guilt, Mugo decides to confess the truth in front of a whole community to lift the burden of guilt from his heart and shoulders. Mugo's sacrificial braveness to face his enormous guilt in the past encourages other Gikuyus to overcome their similar failings and betrayals. Mugo's heroism thus prepares the whole Gikuyu community for founding of a new peaceful nation.

A Study of Women's Emerging Self-consciousness and Dilemma in Buchi Emecheta's *The Joys of Motherhood*

Yukiko Nagasawa

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Abstract

Buchi Emecheta is one of the most remarkable writers of postcolonial literature. She produced a lot of significant works which represents the African women's perspective. Most of her novels' female characters are conflicted and confused among tribal traditional values and so-called civilization brought by Westerns. Through those sufferings, they struggle to figure out their own identities and give their lives substantial meanings almost being torn apart. In this thesis, I will discuss African women's emerging self-consciousness by exploring Emecheta's fifth novel, *The Joys of Motherhood*. It has been provoked by the unfulfilling motherhood as institution torturing women in the traditional tribal society. This thesis will consist of three chapters. In the first chapter, I will introduce the author of *The Joys of Motherhood*, Buchi Emecheta and social structures of Igbo society. In the second chapter, I will focus on Ona's, the mother of the protagonist, attempt to have firm control over her sexuality as the means of maintaining her dignity in the perspective of a psychologically independent woman. In the third chapter, I will examine the consciousness towards selfhood and the emergence of feminism among African women deeply trapped in the traditional society through the various contrasts between Adaku and Nnu Ego. In the conclusion, I will write about Emecheta's intention to detach institutional motherhood from women's self definition.