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Faculty of Letters and Languages

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Dessertation for

ACADEMIC MASTER

Domain: letters and Foreign Languages

Field: Language ,Literateur and Civilizatio

Submitted by Kadi Nabila /Ben Moussa Achwak

Specialty: **Literature and Civilisation**

Black Female Identity in Maya Angelou's

'I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings'

**Dissertation Submitted to the Department of English as a Partial Fulfillment of
the Requirement for the Degree of << Master >> in English Literature and
Civilization.**

Discused by Publicy on:

June 09,2021

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Academic Year:2020/2021

Dedication

To Our beloved and ever-loving parents for their unconditional support throughout our lives.

Thank you for giving the strength to chase our dreams

**To our sisters and brothers ,thank you for sharing with us good and bad moments, thank
you for your encouragement and support.**

Nabila, Achouak

Acknowledgments

«first praise to Allah, who guided us to this; and we would never been guided if Allah had guide Us» Second, we would like to express our deepest and sincere gratitude for our supervisor Dr Saadoune Farida For her guidance, the thoughtful comment and unfailing support all along our journey ,To make this humble work .We are truly grateful for her efforts in revising and correcting this dissertation , and all advises that she provided.At last our special thanks to our families and friends for sharing with us the good and bad moments; Thank you for your encouragement and support .

Abstract

The term postcolonial refer to a historical transition (colonial period,post colonial period , independence) literature and criticism produced under the influence of the situation created by imperialism is literature and postcolonial criticism from there arises the problem of post colonialism, focusing in Maya Angelou autobiography *I Know Why The Caged Bird*. This research also focuses on the development of identity of the protagonist and the Development of her own voice to define her individual identity is ,parting from the Insecurities and the discrimination the protagonist face during her childhood.

Keywords: postcolonial theory, identity, autobiography ,racism ,feminism, Trauma.

ملخص

يشير مصطلح ما بعد الكولونيالية الى الانتقال التاريخي (الفترة الاستعمارية ,فترة ما بعد الاستعمار ,الاستقلال) فلأدب والنقد الذي كتب بتأثير من الوضع الذي خلقتة الامبريالية , مركزين على السيرة الذاتية لمايا انجلو اعلم لمادا يغرد الطائر الحبيس , هذا البحث أيضا يركز على مراحل تطور هوية بطلة القصة وتطور صوتها لتحديد هويتها الفردية بعيدا عن عدم الأمان والتمييز التي تعرضت لها الأخيرة خلال طفولتها .

الكلمات المفتاحية: نظرية ما بعد الكولونيالية,الهوية, السيرة الذاتية, العنصرية , صدمة.

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1 جدول



General Introduction

General introduction

Post-colonialism or post-colonial theory draws its key ideas and concepts developed in the anti-colonial struggle. Colonialism can be described as the process of settlement by Europeans in Asia, Africa and South America territories. It has found its climatic moments in eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. It was an exploitative mechanism that exploits the economic resources, the use of native people, the conquest of territory and market included diverse class, race etc. Of the colonizers and native. Thus post colonialism is way of depicting of social and cultural situations of the colonial power.

The research will explore the issue of identity in postcolonial literature and world and how they viewed and presented their ideas about constructing identity in former colonized countries. This research also investigates postcolonial novel and theorists considered the issue of identity as one of its essential discussion and we choose Erik Erikson theory of identity and identity crisis. The method undertake applying postcolonial theory on our novel.

Black women in particular in South Africa had little education, no leisure time to write, and many suffered from economic deprivation. Those who wanted to write politically charged work against apartheid had to flee the country. Autobiography became one form of testimonial to survival and the establishment of identity.

African American author Maya Angelou's *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* was first published in 1969 her iconic memoir provides some of American literature's most stunning insights into black life in the early 20th century.

Maya Angelou autobiography recaptures her own subjective experiences throughout this novel, she describes the personal, social cultural, and historical influences which shaped her own identity and her relationship with the family, the community and the world. Of course, the divergent experiences which she confronts in her life, represents the stages of her spiritual growth and awareness. Her work echoes her conception of herself as human being. The memoir *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* examined personal experience of the writer, contains many enduring themes, including post-colonialism, travel, oppression, motherhood, and identity; racism, as many of Maya's struggles are the direct result of racism and racist policies during segregation; finding community, as Maya finds a sense of community in unexpected locales; and the power of the word, as speaking and silence are explored as forces of both destruction and healing.

The research investigates the identity of the black girl Maya from the age of three to seventeen. She is the representative of the African community living in the American soil and

portrays the problems of colonization and its effects on her life. American who saw themselves as the epitome of purity and considered themselves as whites, exploited and often insulted the African people whenever possible. The novel consists of many such incidents which could be analysed through the post-colonial reading.

Statement of the problem

This study attempts an exploration of the literary theory of post colonialism. and how it effects on various aspects of lives .Referring to colonial and postcolonial novelist Maya Angelou

Research question

1. What is the experiences and traumatic event that led the main character as Black girl to identity crisis during postcolonialism in African American Society? and how the protagonist succeed in recovering her self identity at the end?

Objectives of the study

The objective of the study is to analyse the postcolonial element in Maya Angelo's autobiographical and the most celebrated novel *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* .and exploring the identity of Maya Angelou during her childhood experiences and traumatic event that she experienced to build her identity .and come-up at the end to recovery ,from the postcolonial perspective which contain a theoretical presentation of the African-American society and literature in the 20th century.

Methodology and general approach

The study is analytical in nature ,for it looks to at experiences and the identity of black girl in Angelou's novel.in addition, to textual analysis of the novel from the perspective of post colonial literary theory.This research consists of two chapters ;theoretical framework and practical part in which we have collected data from different books ,articles ,and thesis. Thus, the study is descriptive analytical based on corpus analysis where pertinent passages are selected from a third of the corpus.

Definition of key terms

Postcolonial theory : it is a theoretical approach analysing the literature produced in countries that were one colonies .Also deals with effect of colonization on cultures and societies. (Gandi ,L 1998)

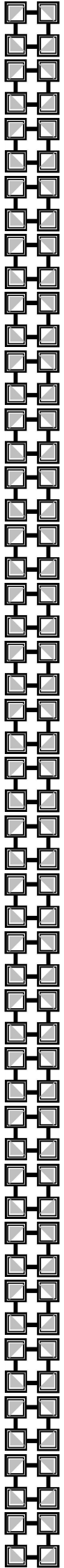
Identity : it is ways in which individuals and groups define themselves and are defined by others on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion ,language, and culture.(De William 1990).

Racism: the belief that humans may be divided into separate and exclusive biological entries called 'races'; that there is causal link between inherited physical traits of personality ,intellect ,morality, and other cultural and behavioural features(Schmid ,T 1996)

Autobiography: the biography of oneself narrated by oneself .autobiographical works can take many forms ,for the intimate writings made during life that were not necessary intended for publication (including letters ,diaries ,journals ,memoirs, and reminiscences) to formal book length Autobiography..

Trauma: it's emotional upset or a disorder psychic or behavioural state resulting from serve mental or emotional stress physic injury.(Block 2020)

Chapter One: The Theme of Identity and
Identity Crisis in Afro-American
literature



1.1.Introduction

In this chapter we will explain the meaning of identity and Identity crises in literature and in postcolonial study which is one of the major themes in *I know why the caged bird sings*.and will explore Colonialism or postcolonial theory experienced by the Black people in America.at the last part will explain Erik Erikson Theory of Identity and Identity crisis and it is relation to the novel.

This chapter includes definition of identity and identity crisis since its the main theme in the novel .Also postcolonial literary theory development, also we will focus on Erik Erikson theory of identity and identity crisis . Or the simple reason that he considered one of the one who laid the cornerstone of this theory and also is helpful in our analysis of the protagonist identity formation during her childhood period. This chapter also composed of thirty paragraph and three main titles which are: Identity in Literature in which we discussed and define the theme of identity and identity crisis from different perspectives, the second title was entitled Postcolonial literary theory in which we discuss the origin and development of the theory and the most famous theorist of postcolonial .the last title was entitled Erik Erikson theory of identity and identity crisis in which he proposed in his stages of identity development from childhood to adolescence. Five of Erikson stages theory of identity development reflect Maya the protagonist of the novel.

1.2.Identity vs Identity crisis in literature

The term identity has undergone many changes since 1690,When John Locke introduced the idea that a sense of personal Identity is composed of relativity stable and enduring consciousness .The word identity derives from Latin *idem*, meaning ‘same ‘thus creating a theoretical conundrum for contemporary theorist who have the more current usage from twenty century idea of identity as a personal possession.

The term identity also a term used to describe the concept of a person and its expression of his individuality and his relationship With groups (such as religion ,nationality ,ethnic...etc.).It’s the most controversial issue in postcolonial time and literature and it can be regarded the most important because of its crisis exist in all postcolonial communities. Due to circumstances of post colonial era and problematic condition that faced newly freed nation and countries in their search and formation of self identity the crisis floated on the surface. The issue of identity not clear and fixed concept as it many imagined, that led to the crisis and became phenomena as Mercer argues ‘identity only becomes an issue when it is in crisis, when something assumed to be fixed, coherent and

stable is displaced by the experience of doubt and uncertainty ‘.In the following of World war II, the act of decolonization and liberation of nation under colonial rule provoked a noteworthy move in the direction of recreating social and individual identities.

The term ‘identity’ used especially in sociology and psychology According to psychologist and narrator-logiest Michel Bam-berg, Identity «designates the attempt to differentiate and integrate a sense of self along different social and personal dimension: such as gender, age, race, occupation ,gangs, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, class, nation status, or regional territory»(2013).This definition reveals the complicity of the term. Many narratives have focused on issues of identity ,and the majority of studies he address identity as it is anathematized in literary narratives: e.g., life-writing, autobiographies ,interview ,reading logs, language corpora ,film, and theatre.(De William et Bloom 1990)

The question of personal identity has engaged philosophers for centuries ,and a common dilemma in approaches found in the western tradition is how one can preserve sameness in sense of self. The way we about self-hood and identity is also constantly evolving the humanist model, for example, defined the ‘self’ ‘‘a conscious being who had the power of logic and rationality to discover the truth about the working of the world, and was able to act and think for himself/herself ,independently external influences’’.

In the psychological sense, identity does not preclude change ,but the changes that occur with progressing age do not undermine the sense of self .Identity formation is an ongoing process of adaptation to mutable environmental condition .In their teenage year, people experience corporeal, mental, and social vicissitudes more overtly identity confusion .yet identity crisis or personality breakdown can occur later in life ,when your professional career takes a downturn when your marriage comes to end, or when you feel that you disappointed others or have not accomplished your purpose in life, self-loathing or depression may ensue.

Identity crisis is a persuasive notion that bring together the bio-psychological source of infant’s identification with his or her caregivers with the adaptation of social norms.It is the core element of theory connecting the individual with society by the way of stressing the importance of satisfactory identification for personality integration .A psychologically healthy person is one whose ego identity is clearly delineated and recognizable as much as to self and others.

The term identity crisis became widely so used, first in US and than throughout the western world, that is cannot be attributed to Erikson’s perceptive and successful work alone. it must be seen also as giving expression to the Zeitgeist of the mid-20th century .the world

had gone through a horrendous war encompassing the greatest genocide in history .million were orphaned ,uprooted, and displaced .Decolonization was in full swing ,forcing the white man to reflect on his role ion his history and perhaps ,on his identity .at the same time, new forms of production and consumption Furthered individualism and self-reliance ,to the extent that may were increasingly at a loss to find their place in society(De Friedberg 2020)

Consequently, we can understand that ,the concept of identity and identity crisis came to be Transferred from individual to groups, small and large .Just ad individual strives for psychological security by identifying with the behaviour and values of significant person in the environment ,people who share some common features ,such as ethnicity ,religion, and nation, will strive to evoke a shared sense of identity.

1.3.The Origin and the development of Postcolonial literary theory

Further movement which draws on the more radical implication of post structuralism is the study of colonial discourse, or what usually termed 'postcolonial criticism _although we should offer a caveat about settling too neatly on name for this internally diverse cluster or writers and writing .analysis of cultural dimension of colonialism/imperialism is an old struggle against it: such work has been staple of anti-colonial movements everywhere .it entered the agenda of metropolitan intellectuals and academics as a reflex of a new consciousness attendant on Indian independence (1947)and as part of a general leftist reorientation to the 'Third-World' struggles (above all in Algeria) from the 1950s onwards . Frantz fanon's *The Wretched of the Earth*(1961) was and remains an inspirational key text (it had an important preface by the metropolitan 'convert', Jean-Paul Sartre).Thereafter, 'postcolonial studies' overtook the troublesome ideological category of 'postcolonial studies' to emerge in the 1980s as set of concerns marked by the decent redness otherwise associated, philosophically, with particularly deconstruction The appearance of postcolonial criticism therefore overlapped with the debates on postmodernism, though it brings ,too, an awareness of powerful and parodist, or anesthetizing post modern neglected or been slow to develop .from a post colonial perspective ,western value and traditions of thought literature ,including version of postmodernism, are guilty of a repressive Ethnocentrism.(Bill Achcroft,al 2005)

Post-colonial theory has continued to rapidly expand and diversity .while argument about term itself continues unabated and certain classical themes from the colonial discourse theory of Said? Spivak ,and Bhabha remains prominent ,the last ten years has seen post-

colonial theory employed by growing variety of fields of study and discipline .The term post-colonial has been adopted in this period characterize concerns in fields ranging from politics and sociology to religion studies environmental studies ,migration studies, anthropology and economic theory 5e.g Darby 1997; Castellino2000.)while post-colonial theory was a creation of literary study, it has provided a methodology for this wide range of disciplines because it has acknowledged the very specific forms of colonial and Neo-colonial power operating in the world today .

Identity in postcolonial novel is a focal point in which imaging the crisis and the conflict of the colonizer' struggle to find a way for the identification between the previous native heritage and history and the power of dominant culture that's imposed by the colonizers. This idea is discussed by Edward Said that the national re-establishment of society, affirmation of identity, and the appearance of new cultural practices instigated as mobilized force and then advanced the struggle against Western domination every were in non-European world. (said1993.p,218)

The foremost themes of postcolonial novel are varied but mainly depict struggles of native peoples against the difficulty to establish their own identification, beside the flux of economy and cultural confusion. So, the postcolonial novelists portray the hesitant cultural and national identities of communities that were endeavouring to construct their nations after being liberated from colonial control. In a psychological level many novels explored the tension of keeping equilibrium of the former colonized lives and the immigrants lives in the face of struggle between their new ruling system and the Europeans standard of living .besides ,the theme of homelessness and expressing the conflict of the immigration experience in colonizer places and cities is one of the considerable face of postcolonial novel that writers included in a wide range of their writing.

Homi k Bhabha's emphasis on cultural difference ,social authority ,and political discrimination suggest a common platform for those who have price of their 'difference' for the Dominant culture or white people. postcolonial literature was a framework emphasizes race, class ;and cultural oppression .the common them in postcolonial literature are 'assimilation ,appropriation ,hybridity ;diaspora and subaltern .The consciousness id due race and identity can be considered as a result of colonial and postcolonial setting.it includes also the suffering of the individuals for struggling to make sense of understanding .So, colonization was actually a continuation of civilization in which the colonial world have the superiority over the colonized people In the colonial word .There exists colonizes and colonized ,problems of cultural identity and economic situation which goes correspondence to

the mortality .Decolonized people makes an interaction with colonized people in term of class, sex, caste, and race. The writing of postcolonial litterateur were analyzed the social and cultural attitude of the subaltern people ,makes their subject matter as resistance to the colonial culture .It depicted the rest were constituted by the colonial people. writers like Toni Morrison, Alice Walker, and Gloria Naylor etc .Have been able to reconcile two cultures by women writers were suffering from multiple level of oppression .patriarchy as well as hegemonic power of class caste and colour oppressed them .These woman writers address and challenge all these forms of oppression in their writing .They also writing about colonial subjugation of subaltern man women ,racism ,identity ,motherhood etc...for this they use narration as course of power .Apart from them ,Maya Angelou the prominent Afro-American woman writer, uses narration as a source of power to talk about the her experience as black girl in postcolonial era in her celebrated autobiography 'I know why the Caged Bird Sings'(Birhan Assefie 2012)

Thus, postcolonial theory described about the manner in which colonial ideologies, racism were included in the literary texts .postcolonial theory were emerged in the second half of twentieth century among the colonized countries and people, struggled for the freedom and gained their political independence .The major postcolonial critics ,Edward Said, Homi K Bhabha ,and Gayathri Spivak are called the holy trinity of post colonialism .therefore ,I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings one of the works urges to regain the earlier nationalism ,glory of insightful Africa from the clutches of American dominancy and thus is closely related to the post-colonial writers whose aim to recover the past life through their writing and live in full freedom.

1.4.Erik Erikson Theory of identity and Identity Crisis

Erik Erikson(1951,1968)developed widely used model of identity development that focused of development of identity via exploration and commitment .Erikson used the term identity in ways synonymous with what others have termed self-concept .however, the term identity can also conceptualized as a way of making sense of some aspect or part of self-concept.

Erik Erikson is the primary theorist identified with of development of psycho-social theory Postcolonial theory full of theorist who deals with identity and identity crisis because it an important theme of the theory, but we are going to deal with Erikson theory and we also going to talk about the his development stages of personality .Erik Erikson was no less influential in the Development of 20th century psychology .like Freud ,Erikson viewed human

being as a developing through series of 'stages', but he broke with Freud in term of social development, versus sexual development .

Erikson was the major theorist to question Freud's emphasis on the Oedipus Complex and the Electra Complex in respectively influencing a boy's or girl's development, Erikson conceived of what he called eight 'psychological stages, or conflicts based not solely upon the relationship between parent and child but upon the child and the larger community .the conflicts inherent to the stages were based upon social dynamics of which sexuality .was but one factor.

In his Classic book ,childhood and society, Erikson (1950/1963)proposed his eight stages of psychology development at each stage Erikson identified the main psychological conflicts or crisis Resolution of these crises results in new ego skills or emerging core pathologies Erikson's model ,period of life were given names such as oral sensory ,or puberty and adolescence , but no ages this approach reflected Erikson's emphasis on individual time table for development guided by biological maturation and cultural expectation

Erikson gave a name for his stages which are called 'psycho-social' in nature because they allow for the influence of peers and other relatives to change the developmental trajectory of the child with environmental influence outside the home, however, Erikson did believe that development proceeded in a series of 'conflicts' between opposing influence, and if those conflicts were not resolved, then the individual would continue to struggle with specific issues pertinent to the stages. without such a resolution, the child remain forever in state of 'arrested development'.

For Erikson identity is the best to characterized on a continuum ,with healthy outcomes being represented on one end of the scales by identity achievement (commitment to self-determined sets of identified ideals, goals; and values)and dysfunctional outcomes presented on the opposite by identity diffusion (the inability to develop and commit to set of self-identified ideals'.

Erikson conceived of the psychological crisis of each life stage as polarities ,for example trust Versus mistrust ,and autonomy versus shame and doubt. These contrasting condition suggest the underling diminution along which each psychological crisis is resolved. according to psychological theory ,most people experience both positive and negative ends of the continuum .the inevitable discrepancy between one's level of development at the beginning of the stage and society's push for new level of functioning by the end of creates at least a mild degree of the negative condition. The outcome of the crisis at each stage is a balance or

integration of two opposing .Or each person .the relation frequency and significance of positive and negative experiences .Will condition to resolution of the crisis that lies along a continuum from externally positive to extremely negative. Here are a description of Erikson stages of personality development:

Age	Conflict	Focus
1	Trust vs mistrust	Developing trust
3	Autonomy vs shame	Self-control
6	Initiative vs guilt	Creativeness
12	Industry vs inferiority	Skills and social norms
18	Identity vs role confusion	Personality integration
30	Intimacy vs isolation	Love
Adulthood	Generativity vs stagnation	Family, career
Old age	Integrity vs despair	Existential identity(one's life)

Table 1. Erik Erikson's stages of personality development. (book selfhood and personality :The Sychology of Identity)

This table contains Erikson psychological development theory has eight stages that span throughout a person's life time .at each stage, people face conflicts that result in gaining psychological strength or being left with a weakness(De Barbara M et al 2020)

'Erikson first stage of human Development ,trust vs mistrust ,addresses the individual's infantile experience with the world other than him self .in this stage the child need to his parent .it begins at the birth and lasts until the child is around 18 mounths old .according to Erikson ,it is the most important period of your child's life ,as it shapes their view of the word as well as their overall personality(Culittan 2011)

The second stage of personality development encompasses 'autonomy .Vs shame and self Doubt 'and involves the struggle for personal control and separation from others .this occurs during toddler-hood ,or the age of three when the child arrest his willpower .any parent of a tol- der is familiar with this stage , given a toller's fondness for saying 'no!' during this stage, the child must establish positive sense of self and identity, separate from other object of the world .he no longer sees himself as wholly integrated with his environment like an infant .the child also began to feel a sense of competency as he or she gains the ability complete life tasks by him or her self (such feeding ,going to the toilet alone, etc.).if the child does not successfully attain a state of autonomy during the period, he or she will feel shame and alienation and be insecure in his or her ability to behave autonomously. The child also must learn when acceptable to ask for help and gain a sense of his or her own strength and imitations.

From the ages four to five children experience a crisis consisting “of imitative vs guilt”, which is characterized by imitation of parent. Erikson (1959) suggests that the imitation results from children's high admiration for their parent. However, they also experience guilt due to their occasional immoral thoughts or behaviours” (Garrett 1995, p.210). During this stage, “individuals take new-found skill and autonomy concept to pursue new tasks” although these tasks may also create sensation of guilt if the child feels he or she is abandoning his or her parents (Vogal -scibilia et al, 2009, p.408).

Then, “from the age of six to puberty, children encounter the industry vs. Inferiority crisis. Industry is displayed by the children's need to obtain knowledge via books, films...inferiority comes into existence when children undergo a sense of inadequacy due to certain failures, “such as failure to make friends and feel content in school (Garrett 1995, p.210). During this phase, the child's social circle begins to widen, encompassing not simply parent and siblings, but also peers. Peers play an extremely important role. In this stage, determining how the child feels he or she ‘measures up’ others. Once again, note the significance of social relationships, a critical difference once again that is manifested between Freud and Erikson --Freud attributes far less significance to what he calls the latency period, but for Erikson this stage is critical in setting the tone for future relationship in adolescence.

According to Erikson, the adolescent stage of this phase of life encompasses “the crisis of identity vs identity diffusion ...the main theme in life is for the establishment of an identity. People in general particularly adolescents, have the need to seek internal and external understanding and acceptance” (Garrett 1995, p.211). An adolescent during this stage may ‘try on’ many different personas that seem radically different in the eyes of his or her friends and family, but ultimately some stable sense of self must be established for this stage to be resolved successfully, otherwise the adolescent will be forever emotionally adrift.

Although young adulthood is not always conceptualized as a crisis in the same manner as adolescence, Erikson views it as such : “The intimacy and solidarity vs, isolation crisis occurs in during young adulthood wherein efforts are made to establish a nurturing relationship with member of the opposite sex as well as those of the same sex. When the attempts are unsuccessful, there may be episodes of isolation which can lead to loneliness “(Garrett 1995, p.210).

According to Erikson, this stage is very important because it was vital that people develop close committed relationship with other people. In addition, those who are successful at this step will develop relationships that are committed and secure. Since each step built on skills learned in previous steps, Erikson believed that those with poor sense of self tended to

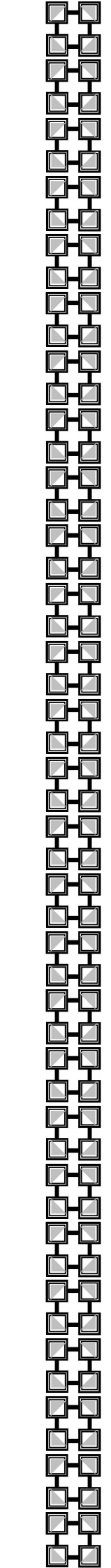
have less committed relationship and were more likely to suffer emotional isolation, loneliness, and depression. In this stage, relationships are important events, and social relationships learned during the preceding stage are built on the from lasting close relationships such as a best friend or husband or wife.

Finally, Erikson's eighth stage, the integrity vs. despair stage occurs at the time the mature adults develops the peak of adjustment; integrity. In this stage the adult is able to trust, is independent and dares the new.

In this stage the individual work hard, has found a well-defined role in life, and has developed a self-concept with which he is happy (Wagner, 2007). This individual capable of being intimate without strain, guilt, regret, or lack of realism; and he is proud of what he creates, such as his children, his work, or his hobbies. If one or more of the earlier psycho-social crisis have not been resolved, he may view himself and his life with disgust and despair. This is stage where reflection on one's life occurs, and older adults need to look back on life and feel a sense of fulfillment. Success at this stage leads to feelings of wisdom, while failure results in regret, bitterness, and despair (Wagner, 2007)

Erikson's stages of psycho-social development can be utilized by mental health providers when treating patients who are facing period of adjustment or turning point in life. When taken in the appropriate context to social and cultural factors, it can be means for patient to argument awareness and understanding of themselves while many stages focus on period early in life.

It can serve as a conceptual and possibly actionable guide for those later in life. Erikson's developmental maturity in mid-life is studied alongside global cognitive and executive function, as well as emotional health.



Chapter two: Marguerite Identity in I
Know Why the Caged Bird Sings

2. Marguerite Identity in *I know why the caged bird sing*

2.1. Introduction

In this chapter we will analyse Maya Angelou's novel *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sing* to show females' writers can conceptualize their voices through their autobiographies. the conceptual framework for the study would be postcolonial in general and Erik Erikson theory in particular. We will explain the most theories of post-colonial which analyse Maya Angelo's work .and we discuss the most traumatic event that effect Marguerite's identity as Black child ,and the reason in which derive her to identity crisis and how succeed to be a strong, confident girl at end.

The novel *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* flows the identity formation of the main character from childhood to adulthood .The novel is development of the identity of the protagonist .The development of her own voice to define her own identity parting from the insecurities and discrimination the protagonist face during her childhood ,beside personal experiences ,and how people that surround Maya inspire her to embrace the individuality of her community.

The major themes like social discrimination, oppression, celebration of black beauty, self acceptance ,in her autobiographical novel .By means of her autobiography novel we understand the fact that Maya Angelou was the first African-American writer did not dare to evoke their nugatory lives in writing .But Maya Angelou succeed in exhibiting her acclaimed .though her novel account different stages of her life .Which reveal unifying themes like quest for identity ,identification of black gender and acceptance of motherhood.

The novel exhibits the contemporary situation in the south during 1930s and 1940s .the novel can be considered 'Bildungsroman 'which mean a novel of education as the novel begin when Marguerite was a child of 3 and ends when she giving birth to her son at the age of 16.Marguerite Angelou life was so hard, in this novel portrays how she experienced many traumatic event that psychologically effected her and shaped her personality ,these incidents and experiences that she faced at the early age and contained till her teenage years led her to think about her identity .Thus, we will talk about the most important traumatic event that made Maya physiological crisis and consequences of these crisis.

2.2.The issue of Race

Marguerite was born on April 4th, 1928 in St. Louis Missouri. her parent are Bailey Johnson and Vivian Baxter. They are from the black race when Angelou was three years old, her parent got divorced. She live with her brother in Stamps, Arkansas with her grandmother who is strict, religious, and protective and her disable uncle

Angelou spent her difficult formative years moving back and forth between her mother's and grandmother's place. Marguerite develop her consciousness for social justice and manifest her dis-conformity on the issues that affects her and her family. how Discrimination affected her identity is more visible in I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings. where Marguerite as a child ingrains biases against her skin colour of her skin, the kinkiness of her, and fullness of her lips all contribute to socially engendered feeling of physical inadequacy boarding on self hatred.

“made from a white woman's faded purple throwaway. it was long like an old lady's dress, but it didn't hide my legs. The faded color made my skin looks dirty like mud, and everyone in church was looking at my thin legs because I was really white and cruel magician had turn me into a big negro girl, with kinky black hair and brood feet, and space between her teeth that would hold a pencil (Angelou, 1.2)

This quote above shows One of the most significant issue she struggles with her childhood and young adulthood is feeling ugly and awkward and never feeling attached to any place. Marguerite imagines that even though people judge her unfairly by her awkward looks. she believes that she is beautiful, blond white girl. This signifies the racism rampant in the society in which she grows up that has entered her mind.

2.3.Displacement

Marguerite is transfer to seven different homes between the age of three to sixteen, from California to stamps to Los Angelo's to Garland to San Francisco to Los Angelo's to San Francisco. as it shown in the novel overwhelmed by the triple oppression that are racism, sexism, and classism. Young Marguerite Degraded at every turn, making her feel uncomfortable staying in one place. Looking back to her childhood experiences, Marguerite notes that she not only fell to suffering in an unfriendly, racist and sexist society, but to other social forces as well, including the displacement she felt from her family.

“If growing up is painful for the southern Black girl ,being aware of her displacement is the rust on the razor that threatens the throat.it is unnecessary insult”(Angelou 1969,p.6)

Marguerite feels displaced primarily because when she was three years old, her parent sent her away to live with her grandmother .This early separation ,as well as subsequent ones ,leaves her feeling rootless most of her childhood .Her constant awareness of her own displacement –the sense of belonging associated with any one or any place becomes ‘unnecessary insult’

2.4. Segregation

It’s well known that African-American living in the southern united states with abhorrence by majority of whit people. The nation was divided by segregation- a formal policy in which black people weren’t allowed to attend good school, get high paying jobs, live in valuable houses or receive proper medial treatment for diseases. They weren’t even allowed to sit among white people on public buses, or drink from the same water sources, as thy were considered to be unworthy of equality

“Alight she had been pulled down between the Black community and all things white, but one could see through it enough to develop a fear -admiration- contempt for the white “things”-white folks ‘cars and white glistening houses and their children and woman, but above all their wealth that allowed them to waste was the most enviable”

For the young Marguerite world is so completely trapped is Black community that she often find it hard to imagine what people look like. That was so confusing for young girl in her age and make her feel in confident about herself.

2.5. Identity Deconstruction

When Marguerite was three years old, her parent got divorced .her father sent her and her brother to live with their grandmother in Stamps Arkansas like she states in her autobiography

“our parent had decide to put end to their disastrous marriage ,and father shipped us home to his mother. We lived with our grandmother and uncle in the back of the store’(Angelou,1969,p,3)

Since she had been twice sent away by her parent to live with her grandmother, it is no surprise, that the young Marguerite had insecurity and identity problems. because the child in this age children build the foundation of trust the world, however ,it important for young children to begin developing a sense of personal development and control according to Erikson theory of identity .But they need also someone to believe their abilities. For years

Marguerite thought their parent were dead suddenly at seven years old .Marguerite and her brother receive charismas present from their parents which bring painful realities and questions . Especially for children like Marguerite who feels uncomfortable with the societal role of specular object assigned her by Angelou.

2.6 .Racism and Rejection

The role of Angelou's novel associates Marguerite with the abhorrence of racism and seclusion.in broad terms, racism and gender segregation have been revolved as the thematic unit through the entire novel, the reflection of all the black women who lived in united state of America .When Marguerite and her brother Bailey were sent to their patriarch grandmother's place, Stamp. Momma the strict woman was running a store where Maya lives as a solace being helpful to Momma .but there is a treat in the name of Ku Klux Klan a white sheriff came in search of the black men to kill due to race segregation brutality. so, as a strong black woman Momma in order to protect her uncle she has hidden him inside the vegetable bin on the whole night .

Later on ,Momma was get insulted by the white girls as Angelou calls 'powhitetrash'' girls mock her grandmother by posing the physical appearance of the big Black old mother as an ape .they continue the act of mocking up to the hand stand of one of them without any cover of the body in front Momma .Maya observes the scene from the place where Momma told her to be .she became emotional against the white children who show rudeness and crudity ,and she wishes to stone them .the event causes Maya to react with helpless anger and humiliation

''they finally to stand on the ground in front of Momma at first they pretended seriousness. Then one of them wrapped her right arm in the crook of her left, pushed her mouth and start to hum .I released that she was aping my grandmother .Another said 'now Halen, you ain't standing like her .This is here4s it ''then she lifted her chest ,folder her arms and mocked that strange carriage that was Annie Henderson Another laughed ,'Now ,you can't do it .your mouth ain't pooched out enough.it like this(p29)

At the first ,Maya reaction to the 'powhitetrach' girl is anger ,and defencelessness .when the girl ape her grandmother posture, Maya weeps, think of getting her uncle's rifle ,and wants to throw lye and pepper on them and scream at them .When they leave and Momma politely calls good-bye to them .however, Marguerite realize that her grandmother has achieved something had won it.Th at there is more effective strategy of fine resistance.

‘when I was around ten year old, house scruffy children caused me the most painful and confusing experiences I had ever with my grandmother [...] I want to throw handle of black pepper in their faces ,the throw lye on them, to scream that day were dirty ,scummy peckerwoods ,but I know I was as clearly imprisoned behind the scene as the actor outside were confined to their roles(Angelou p,31)

In addition to that Marguerite cavity issue was also leads with the great example of racial discrimination because of the doctor who insisted as instead of treating her rotten tooth, he would rather clean the dogs mouth and denied giving treatment to her. Like this various kind of incidences has proven in the way of mocking the black people.it brings the existence of racism in the novel. Race also made Maya loss her identity.

‘Annie?’ ‘yes, sir, Dentist Lincoln.’ ‘He was choosing word the way people hunt for shells ‘Annie, you know I don’t treat nigra. coloured people ‘ ‘I know ,Dentist Lincoln .but here is gust my little grandbaby; and she ain’t gone be no trouble to you...’ ‘Annie everybody has a policy .In this world you have to have a policy .now, my policy is I don’t treat colourer peopleMy policy....’

What makes the discrimination not to treat Maya the worst thing of racism and rudeness is that dentist is the man who received much money at the time of great depression from Marguerite grandmother .

At the age of ten ,Marguerite worked the white man’s house called Mrs. Cullinan, who changed the name of Maya to Mary and all we Know the name is part of our identity.

‘...she called me by the wrong name .Miss Glory and I were Washing up the lunch dishes when Mrs. Cullinan came to the doorway. ‘Mary?’ ‘Miss Glory asked, ‘who’ ‘Mrs .Cullinan, sagging a little, knew and I knew. ‘I want Mary to go down to Mrs. Randal’s and take her some soup. She’s not been feeling well for a few days .’ ‘Miss Glory’s face was a wonder to see. ‘you mean Margaret. ma ‘ma .her name’s Margaret ‘ ‘that’s so long .she’s Mary from now on (Angelou p.105)’

Maya dislike Mrs. Cullinan for changing her name ,and its really painful to let a white woman rename you for her convenience following her brother’s advice ,she dropped and broke Mrs Cullinan’s favourite dishes .Here, it shows how Marguerite expresses her internal feeling without any hesitation

2.7.Sexual abuse

Maya’s father showed up again and took her and her brother back to St Louis , where thy live their mother. When Marguerite was eight years old, she was sexually abused by her mother boyfriend as she wrote:

He said ‘‘just stay right here, retie, Jami’s gonna hurt you ‘‘I wasn’t afraid-a little uncertain may be, but not afraid. Of course, I know that lots of people did it’’ and they used their ‘‘things’’ to do this deed, but no one I know had ever done it to anybody Freeman pulled me to him, and put this hand between my legs (Angelou p72).

This quotation above showed that Marguerite was sexually abused by her mother boyfriend, but as young girl she was confused what Mr freeman did to her, she didn’t understand what just experienced. Mr freeman forbade her to tell anyone. Maya felt miserable and pain and she lose her confident, her behaviour changed.

‘‘his legs were squeezing my waist ‘‘pull down your underpants’’i hesitated for two reason: he was holding me too tight to move ,and i was sure that any minute my mother or Bailey would run in the door and save me ‘‘we were just playing before’ ’he released me enough to pull down my underpants ,and then dragged me closer to him, Turning the radio up loud to loud, he said ‘‘if you scream ,I’m gonna kill you ,and if you tell, i gonna kill Bailey(Angelou p,78)

When her brother spoke to her, she told him about the abuse. And her brother eventually shared the information with the rest of the family. Marguerite hospitalized and her mother boyfriend was arrested and quit in jail for a day. And for days later. She was found dead after being severely beaten shortly after the incident Angelo stopped speaking completely because she believed that if she spoke, her mouth would produce ‘‘something’’ that would kill people ‘‘randomly’’

After this psychological crisis Maya resolves never to speak to anyone other than Bailey. she connects the violation of her body and devaluation of her words through the depiction of her self-imposed ,five year long silence. because she is afraid of the destructive power of words.

‘‘in those moment I decided that although Bailey loved me couldn’t help ,I had sold my self to the Devil and there could be no escape .the only thing I do was stop talking to people other than Bailey .instinctively ,or somehow ,but if I talked to anyone else that person might die too(Angelou p84)

2.8.Questioning Gender

Marguerite face very different dilemmas with gender identity as result of sexual abuse .one of psychological points in I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings Marguerite suffer from being dissociated from herself several time .Maya is typical a teenage girl ,becomes interested in sex and sexuality .one night she confesses to her mother with great difficulty that

she believes something is 'growing' on her vagina. She explained that she noticed ,and her mother sits her down and has her to read about female anatomy in the encyclopaedia .

Marguerite Deeply relieved to realize she had been experiencing normal sexual maturation .she confides in her mother that she thought she was becoming lesbian .this makes mother laugh, but not in mean Marguerite feels Revealed and comforted.

‘a lesbian? Where the hell did you got that idea’? ‘those thing growing in my ...vagina ,and my voice is too deep and my feets are big, and I have no hips or breasts or anything .and my legs are so skinny’(Angelou 279)

However ;some weeks later ,Marguerite has a friend sleep over and catches sight of her breasts while she changing .she feels moved in some way by the sight of it ,and worries again that she attracted to a women. she decides she need to have sex with a man ,and proposition a boy who lives down the street ,he agrees, and they have awkward ,unromantic intercourse .Marguerite doesn't feel different afterward ,and still Questions her own sexuality .three weeks later ,however, things do change .

‘thanks to Mr Freeman nine years before ,I had had no pain of the entry to endure ,and because of the absence of romantic involvement neither of us felt much had happened ,At home I reviewed the failure and tried to evaluate my new position .I had had a man .I had been had .I not only didn't enjoy it ,but my normalcy was still question(Angelou 283)

2.9.Identity construction

The female figures in I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings are certainly strong ones. The two most important female figures in Marguerite's life are also the main financial providers in the household. As Momma on Marguerite Angelou's life points out, Ms. Henderson sold basic commodities and "made wise and honest investments" The shop in the rural area of Stamps, allows them to endure the economic difficulty that the Great Depression left in America. Marguerite 's mother is also the main incomer in the house, a nurse and an entrepreneur who thought of herself as the original " .

Black women have always been required to do both housework and hold a job outside of home . From the role models Marguerite has, she does not separate home labor from outside work. However, the fact that these women have a job and have to also maintain their household is an inevitable requirement to combat poverty. So it is debatable whether the concept of the middle-class working women would be liberating for poor women who do not

work under the same conditions. It is also questionable how society values the selflessness of mothers as a virtue.

"Marguerite 'struggle demonstrates the tensions inherent in belonging to a group that values these notions of family, while living in a larger society that devalues them. Angelou demonstrates the importance the community has for black women to help them raise their children, compared to the mother's isolation in the middle-class family. Angelou show that the established concepts of both motherhood and woman in the workforce are not represented appropriately by the mainstream middle-class.

While domestic labor alone leaves them in a marginalized position, doing both household and outside work does not guarantee a comfortable lifestyle. Therefore, Marguerite realizes the importance of unity in Stamp.

After the dentist event Marguerite noticed no open confrontation from her Momma against the racist whites, and she known that is out of Momma philosophy. the act created by Marguerite herself highlights that subtle resistance is not enough as overall strategy for responding to racist oppression .on the other hand, the fantasy passage anticipates the kind of outright confrontations between oppressed black and racist oppressor .Although it is openly confronting a racist white ,and thus is the first hint that such confrontation is possibility.

Marguerite was impacted by Mrs. Flower a woman of means and influence in the black community of stamps .Mrs Flower knew that Marguerite was bright and voracious reader. She encouraged Marguerite to read every book in the library and convinced her that words were not nearly as meaningful if they were not spoken .Mrs. Flower helped Marguerite overcome her muteness and once again be able to use her voice. Marguerite become more attuned to the rhythms and pull of poetry .Marguerite 's love of poetry continues through her childhood and early adulthood.

Marguerite expresses the power of word to uplift her race. At Marguerite 's eighth - grade graduation ,the students ,as a reaction to white man who belittles their capabilities ,sing a poem by James Johnson known as the Negro national anthem ,which make them feel strong and proud once again .Maya would have never become a writer without Mrs. Flowers, who she develops a close relationship to and who helps Maya to read and to regain her voice. Consequently is Flowers also a symbol of feminism, as she is self- respectful, financially independent, caring and helpful of other women, including young Angelou.

Later, Momma decide to send her grandchildren to their mother in San Francisco. California, to protect them from the dangerous of racism in Stamps. Maya attends George

Washington High School and studies dance and drama on scholarship at California Labor School when she was 14 Years old, before Graduation

Marguerite success to be the first Black female cable car conductor in San Francisco. Attaining the street-car conductor's job becomes not only a victory for civil rights ,as a result ,but also a personal victory for Marguerite 's sense of self .the active resistance and outright protest ,that is Maya's persisting and breaking the 'colour line' of the San Francisco street-car company. While still in high school .

'women had replaced men on the street-cars as conductors and motormen, and the thought of sailing up down the hills of San Francisco in dark-blue uniform ,with money changer at my belt, caught my fancy[...] mother was as easy as I had anticipated [...]to her question of what I planned to do, I replied that i would get a job on streetcars ,she rejected the proposal with' 'don't accept colored people on the streetcars''i would like to claim an immediate fury which was followed by noble determination to break the restricting tradition(Angelou p 284)

Marguerite visit her father in southern California one summer and has some experiences pivotal to her development .She derive car for the first time when she must transport her intoxicated father home from an excursion to Mexico.

Motherhood is one among the various experiences of Black woman demonstrated in the novel. Maya Angelou exposes the stereotypes against African-American mothers as breeder and matriarch, and present them as having a creative personality fulfilling roles.

Marguerite become a mother at the age of 16.She has a duty to care for her child. Once she gets pregnant on a single meeting with the guy, the rest of the pregnancy caries lie with Maya.as she puts it: 'the father had stopped speaking to me during my forth month''(p280).though the motherhood is the event that is addressed briefly at the end of the novel. its one of the shared experiences of Black women in America.

Finally ,Maya self-realization has provoked and fetched a change not only for herself but also it transmits the whole black history .She realized the actual meaning of beauty lies not in the white skin rather in every one's desire. She brings into being the black people are beautiful and compensates her appearance and abilities on the moment of her graduation day. Maya as well as became versed in language and literature to express her thought independently in literary genre.

I Know The Caged Bird Sings makes realize that as we mature and relate to others, we all struggle for a meaningful identity ,although rarely against such horrific cultural condition and personal difficulties as Angelou faced .

This chapter analysis racial and gender trauma evoking the tormented the society of the narrator, Maya in I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings .Based on cultural trauma , the novel expresses the experience of African American girls who suffered from identity crisis in certain period of their life .The narrator struggles to develop her dignified self and nonconformist outlook comes to block her after she was raped by her mother's boyfriend .the mysterious murder of her rapist creates the guilt, shame in her psychic as she think that she is responsible for his murder. The protagonist suffering from the guilt and self-loating results in her psychic turmoil. She stop speaking to people except her brother .Angelou tries to raise the voice of black woman to achieve dignified identity in the white racist and sexist American looking back to childhood experiences. This chapter show several event which shape the protagonist identity in African American society in postcolonial era .



General Conclusion

General conclusion

Postcolonial criticism and theorists considered the issue of identity as one of essential discussion, and as Sheoran states ‘the major themes in the works written in postcolonial period have been the fragmentation and identity crisis experienced by the once colonized peoples and expressed the condition of identity crisis that emerged in postcolonial period .Their novels rarely avoided or escaped from the presence of diasporas and exile and matters that connected to identity .the novelists and writers in postcolonial era have been inclined to deconstruct the sign power by showing its insignificance claim of being fixed idea of truth in western realist novel in the nineteenth and twentieth century as McCarthy claims . ‘One of the main principle preoccupations of these writers ,in their fictions or non-fictions ,is the theme of ‘hybridity and ambivalence towards the received tradition, value and identity’

The terrible lives of Black woman in American is mirrored by Maya Angelo in her famous autobiographical novel, *I know why the caged bird sing*, its characterized miseries, suffering and struggle that the main character Maya encounters throughout the novel. The experience resembled that each and every Black woman who has been silently suffering the dominance of whites in America over them.

Maya Angelo’s depiction of the possessed people in the Black community of stamps exemplified how African-American were subjugated due to the racial discrimination by colonized the protagonist had a strong desire for being like white people at the beginning of the novel.

Finally she raised her voice and stood along with the Black people. post-colonial in it’s all forms is evident in the novel hence it triggers the relevance of the work. The colonization and its after effects were serious issues that people faced all the time in one way or the other. therefore such a novel that protest and raises the voice against the harmful said of colonization in the society bears the value great relevance and importance.

It mirrors the harm that caused the Black people especially Black women who have been residing in American land by introducing a unique point in autobiography, reveal that her live experience is described through a narration who is strong and reliable, growing as Black female from south, growing through the phases of chilled and .

To conclude, searching for own identity is one of the important issues that newly freed nation from colonial authority obsessed with different perspectives and arguments presented by the theorists and novelists themselves about the issue of identity .but ,in all cases there is general argument that crisis one of the aftermaths of colonialism and its policy in which

conducted during their ruling of colonized countries .the crises in one way or another also related to the fact that societies and individuals once were colonized ,now they are confused to find their real identity. they find themselves between past and present, they feel they detached from previous history and not attached to present atmosphere of decolonization.



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Abstract

The term postcolonial refer to a historical transition (colonial period,post colonial period , independence) literature and criticism produced under the influence of the situation created by imperialism is literature and postcolonial criticism from there arises the problem of post colonialism, focusing in Maya Angelou autobiography *I Know Why The Caged Bird*. This research also focuses on the development of identity of the protagonist and the Development of her own voice to define her individual identity is ,parting from the insecurities and the discrimination the protagonist face during her childhood.

Keywords: Postcolonial theory, Identity ,Autobiography ,Racism,Trauma.

Resumé

Le terme de postcolonial critique désigne une transition historique(période colonial, périod postcolonial,et indépendance)que la littérature el la critique produis sous L'influence de la situation engendrée par l'impérialisme sont une littérature et critique postcolonial . Cette recherche se concentre également sur le développement de l'identité du protagoniste et le Développement de sa propre voix pour définir son identité individuelle est analysée en se séparant des insécurités et la discrimination du visage du protagoniste pendant son enfance.

Mots-clés: postcolonial théorie, l'identité, autobiographie, Racisme. Trauma.

ملخص

يشير مصطلح ما بعد الكولونيالية الى الانتقال التاريخي (الفترة الاستعمارية ,فترة ما بعد الاستعمار ,الاستقلال) فالأدب والنقد في ذلك الوقت كتب بتأثير من الوضع الذي خلقتة الامبريالية , مركزين على السيرة الذاتية لمايا انجلو اعلم لماذا يغرد الطائر الحبيس , هذا البحث أيضا يركز على مراحل تطور هوية بطلة القصة وتطور صوتها لتحديد هويتها الفردية بعيدا عن عدم الأمان والتمييز التي تعرضت لها الأخيرة خلال طفولتها.

الكلمات المفتاحية: نظرية ما بعد الاستعمار ، الهوية ، السيرة الذاتية ، العنصرية. صدمة