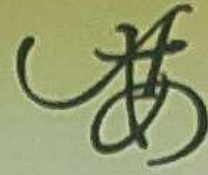




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3. Cultural Identity: A Critical Analysis of Alice Walker's Novels 'The Color Purple' and 'By the Light of My Father's Smile'

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Abstract

This paper subjects the representation of cultural identity in Alice Walker's novels '*The Color Purple*' (1982) and '*By The Light of My Father's Smile*' (1998) to critical analysis. Drawing upon the theories of cultural identity, the paper explores how the characters in these novels hammer out their identities in relation to their race, gender, and sexuality. The paper asserts that cultural identity is a complex and dynamic concept that is shaped by both internal and external factors. According to *Stuart Hall's* theory of '*cultural identity*', our sense of self is a continuous process that happens within the context of our social and historical background, and it's subject to constant renegotiation. Furthermore, the paper demonstrates how cultural identity is often intersectional, meaning that it is shaped by multiple factors and how individuals must navigate these intersections in order to form a coherent sense of self.

Overall, this paper offers a nuanced understanding of cultural identity as a dynamic and multifaceted concept that is shaped by a range of factors, and how it is negotiated by individuals in the context of their social and historical environments.

Key words: cultural identity, relation, complex and dynamic, intersectional, multifaceted, social and historical environments.

Introduction

Cultural identity is an important topic in literature because it shows the values, traditions, beliefs, and customs of a society that are passed down from generation to generation. The concept of cultural identity is not only essential in understanding the cultural heritage of a