

CAN TWO WALK TOGETHER? A CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF MALE-FEMALE LOVE RELATIONSHIPS IN TWO CARIBBEAN WOMEN WRITERS' NOVELS

Ebere Nweze*

*Dr., Botkyrka Folkhogskola, Hallunda. Sweden, ebynweze1@yahoo.com

Abstract

The thematic issues of love and family are prevalent in Caribbean literature. Often these relationships are fraught with conflicts between men and women. However, the dynamics of these relationships are presented from different perspectives in both male and female authored texts. Caribbean literature Essentially, male writers from the Caribbean have transferred the image of the subservient woman prevalent in patriarchal western society into the literature written about their societies. It is no wonder then that the women writers accuse their male counterparts of collaborating with colonial and slave masters to distort the role and image of the Caribbean woman in relation to their men especially in the immediate post slavery era. The women writers continue to counter this gender biased portrayals. The two women writers whose novels are analyzed in this paper look at the different shades of relationships that exist between men and women in the Caribbean. In their portrayals, they try to reclaim the dignity of women in these relationships. They emphasize the strength of the woman rather than portraying her as a subjugated victim who is subsumed within the male definitions of the gender relations.

Keywords: patriarchy, gender, literature, man, woman, relationship, love.