

INVESTIGATING ‘RACE IDENTITY’ IN JOSEPH CONRAD’S “HEART OF DARKNESS”: A CRITICAL RESPONSE

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Received: 12 Feb 2019

Accepted: 18 Feb 2019

Published: 28 Feb 2019

ABSTRACT

This paper will revolve the issue of Chinua Achebe accusation of Joseph Conrad identity of race in his famous novel “Heart of Darkness”, his famous critique in 1977 he called him racist in his “An image of Africa” as a defender to Africans identity, first of all, the paper will tackle a theoretical background of the term “identity” itself and it can be navigated in narrative nature and the interrelation between its analysis and the terms connected to it as a tool to explore race in the novel, and how it is connected to both sociological and psychological issues. As a matter of fact, the term identity is connected with human being individuals and a sense of self or it can be produced under cultural circumstances and affected by the environment.

The second part of this paper holds a discussion to show Achebe’s way and how he redefine the way the readers understand the novel, the last part of the paper contains a methodology part to analyze certain extracts with the focus on linguistic devices that used to proof the claim which is not noticed by the critic based on stylistic devices used in the novel and an explanation of the data and the method of analysis which is a mixed method one, finally to give conclusion whether the study proof Achebe’s assumption or not.

KEYWORDS: *Identity, Narrative Discourse, Positioning, Race, Agency, Reflection, Indexicality, Black, Savages*