

Expression of Racism Problems in “White Teeth” By Zadie Smith

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ABSTRACT

Racism is ideology, or a system of views, that fixes the division of people into races and asserts the superiority of one race over another. Simply, this means ideas about dividing people into superior and inferior races of which the former are the only creators of civilization and are called upon to dominate the latter. The implementation of racist theories in practice sometimes finds expression in the policy of racial discrimination. From early years this occasion was main problem and caused much chaos between people and even countries. In order to show its cost effects, writers attempted to create novellas or other masterpieces. One of the salient examples is Zadie Smith. So, this article focuses on one of the most famous novels “White teeth” by Zadie Smith and how she conveyed attitudes of racism in her work.

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INTRODUCTION

It is considered that “White Teeth” is really the first great novel of the new age. The author chose the title so metaphorically, so it can be easily noticed by readers. The writer pays tribute to post-impressionism by turning the initially very successful metaphor “white teeth” into a kind of universal and deliberately exaggerated, cross-cutting theme - a kind of “leitmotif” about teeth. Here are the titles of the chapters: 2) Toothache, 5) Root Canals of Archibald Jones and Samad Iqbol, 7) Molar Teeth, 10) Root Canals of Mangala Pandey, 12) Fangs: Tearing Teeth, 13) Root Canals of Hortense Bowden. At first, scholars did not analyze the main theme of the novel. For example, “Smith is an obvious conformist, her ideological and political position is thoroughly saturated with bourgeois-imperialist prejudices, and her works show obvious traces of processing by official propaganda.” As for the literary style and form, according to E. Shelestyuk: [“The novel indicates the features of postmodernism, which manifests itself in an abundance of grotesque, parody, in a pejorative deconstruction of historical events and deliberate primitivization of their assessments. »] The ideological and political position of Zaidi Smith, expressed in the novel, is extremely clear. It is simply hard to imagine how E. Shelestyuk did not notice the humanistic ideals of the English writer, the merciless criticism of British colonialism, her resolute condemnation of racism, both white and black.

MAIN PART

“The title of the novel, unusual and unexpected, is based on a very interesting metaphor. As we learn from an unpleasant but stunning scene (when the children [of the main characters of the novel - V.P.] visit old Mr. Hamilton), Africans can be seen in the dark thanks to their white teeth. All people have white teeth, regardless of the color of our skin. We can ruin our teeth by not taking care of them properly, losing them in an accident, but at the beginning of life, white teeth unite us all.” In other words, the novel “White Teeth” is supposedly a book about all of us, about the inhabitants of the planet, regardless of skin color and citizenship, about “multiculturalism” on a planetary scale.

We have already noted that "White Teeth" is a modern epic about the life of ethnic minorities in the UK. But at the center of any epic there is traditionally a private history of the life of a family or several families, whose fates are intertwined with the fate of the country. The novel covers the time period from 1974 to 1999. In the center of the story are two families: the Jones family, the Englishman Archie and the Jamaican black woman Clara, and the Bengali family from Bangladesh, Samada and Alsana. As for the Englishman Archie Jones, he is ready to meekly endure not only Samad's impartial criticism of his "blood brothers", but also the unambiguously racist attacks of his colleagues towards his black wife. In one episode of the novel, Mr. Kevin Hiero, Archie's boss, invites him into his office for a chat. The purpose of the conversation is one - to explain to Archie that he should not come with his black wife to the annual party with partners from Sunderland. After all, a month ago, when they held a gala dinner for their company, everyone felt "very awkward, very unpleasant in her presence." "Don't think, Archie, that I'm some kind of racist..." It is hard to imagine that the time of action is the middle of the 70s of the twentieth century. Professor K. Hewitt states: "The English reader perceives the conversation between Kevin and Archie as something extremely funny." After all, the action in this scene takes place even before the adoption of the "Act on Racial Equality". Well, firstly, you, my laughing ones, were a bit late with the adoption of this Act, and, secondly, everyday racism is in the heads and souls, it cannot be expelled from there by strict regulations [1].

It should be noted that, despite the unequivocal praise for Z. Smith's first novel's creative characteristics, not all British critics share the same opinion on the work's central theme. Most, alas, are attempting to claim without evidence that there is no racial discrimination in today's Britain, and that Z. Smith's novel is about such a multicultural, happily coexisting Britain. "Her attitude to complexity and conflict, love and hate," Anna Krisholm wrote in *The Sunday Telegraph*, "is largely molded by her own life in the melting pot of different cultures, and is not just post-imperialist, but also post-racist." Zadie Smith is undoubtedly not a racist, but A. Krisholm is attempting to persuade us that the British society shown in *White Teeth* has also reportedly overcome the wounds of racism and is now "post-racist." "Post-racist society" is a highly contentious term that should be used with caution, according to Stephen Moss, who was responding to a colleague's statement [1,7].

Surprisingly, when you try to talk to the British about interethnic problems in the country, they fall silent and shift the subject of conversation. "Multiculturalism" appears to be a sacred cow about which one can only speak well or not at all, as if speaking to a dead person. But, first and foremost, multiculturalism is not yet dead; nonetheless, in order for the patient to live, meaningful debate of interethnic cohabitation issues at all levels of English society, including journalism and literature, is required. Only such a "council" can assist in locating the appropriate and timely treat me.

We believe that the plot of the novel "White Teeth" develops owing to complete coincidences rather than logical patterns. There are other examples in the story, including Archie and Clara's meeting, Samad's immigration to England, Airi and Milat's "re-education" in the Chalfen family, Markus's connection with Majid, and so on. To some extent, this can be explained by the peculiarities of the comedy genre, but it was most likely influenced by the famed English writer, because, as a researcher of his work noted: "...> chance becomes a necessary moment in the building of his novels." Chance meetings, eavesdropping, and strange coincidences...> become a fundamental component of Dickens' creative process [3].

CONCLUSION

To sum up, actually racism is chosen as a main theme in this novel so professionally, in which you can see issues of race and ethnicity. Racism is not only the problem of past, but also today it escalated in degree and intensity. This novel shows racism as a today's condition. Because globalism is gathering different people together. As the author says, this is the century for all kinds of people to gather in the same place. Moreover, [in the review of *White Teeth* in 2000, Anne Chisholm wrote in the *Sunday Telegraph*: "One of the endearing qualities of her sharp-eyed but warm-hearted book is that it makes racism appear not only ugly and stupid but ludicrously out of date, like the politician referred to as 'E. Knock someone or other'."

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