

The Influence of James Baldwin's racial background on his writings

Mirta Alisjahbana, author

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Abstrak

James Baldwin is a Negro writer who has received sufficient public interest. He is regarded as one of the Negro leaders and as a spokesman for his people, because of his unique and vivid descriptions of the Negro situation in the United States. His polemic essays have been an important factor in helping; him attain recognition as a writer. I have chosen James Baldwin as a subject of study for my thesis, because Baldwin is very interesting in that he has been either overpraised or fiercely attacked as a literary writer. It is very difficult to evaluate a contemporary writer, particularly because we tend to rely on the criticism of established critics in judging a piece of work. The influence of established critics often makes us reluctant to form our own opinions and to differ from them seems sacrilegious. Yet people interested in literature should form opinions of their own. The controversy between the opinions of critics about Baldwin's literary writings has stimulated me to write this thesis as an exercise in evaluating an author independently. In this paper I also want to analyze Baldwin as a Negro writer. His writings are naturally influenced