

The Representation of Violence in the American Literature of 20th Century : a Girardian Reading

My investigation is divided into three interrelated segments that each of them covers a specific image of violence in the contemporary American literature of the 20th century . Fanaticism , Racism and Sexism are the three main categories of this dissertation , for which I have chosen three main American Authors from three different era of the 20th century : William Faulkner , Flannery O'Connor and Cormac McCarthy . Each of these three authors are represented by two prosaic works --respectively -- *As I Lay Dying* and *The Light in August* , *The Violent Bear it Away* and *Wise Blood* , *Blood Meridian* and *Child of God* .The approach of this study is based on the theories of the René Girard , the French philosopher of the 20th and 21st century . His theory of the *mimesis* , as an instance , is a brand-new perspective , though cemented by the Greek and Roman mythology , that introduces the object of desire as the main trigger for almost *every* case of violence that has ever occurred .