

Copyright is owned by the Author of the thesis. Permission is given for a copy to be downloaded by an individual for the purpose of research and private study only. The thesis may not be reproduced elsewhere without the permission of the Author.

**AN ANATOMY OF THIRD WORLD
LITERATURE: NORTHROP FRYE'S THEORY OF
MODES IN A POST-COLONIAL CONTEXT**

A thesis presented in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of
Doctor of Philosophy in English at Massey University.

Gideon Nteere M' Marete

1992

**Massey University Library
Thesis Copyright Form**

Title of thesis: "An Anatomy Of Third World Literature: Northrop Frye's Theory Of Modes In A Post-Colonial Context"

- (1) (a) I give permission for my thesis to be made available to readers in Massey University Library under conditions determined by the Librarian.
- (b) I do not wish my thesis to be made available to readers without my written consent for 24 months.
- (2) (a) I agree that my thesis, or a copy, may be sent to another institution under conditions determined by the Librarian.
- (b) I do not wish my thesis, or a copy, to be sent to another institution without my written consent for 24 months.
- (3) (a) ~~I agree that my thesis may be copied for Library use.~~
- (b) I do not wish my thesis to be copied for Library use for 24 months.

Signed 

Date 12/2/12

The copyright of this thesis belongs to the author. Readers must sign their name in the space below to show that they recognise this. They are asked to add their permanent address.

NAME AND ADDRESS

DATE

ABSTRACT

Viney Kirpaul (1988; pp144, 145) points out that there is no 'relevant critical framework' within which to analyse the Third World novel, and so the common practice is to consider it a version of the nineteenth-century Western novel. Within a framework based on the first essay of Frye's Anatomy of Criticism, this thesis argues that four different modes of Third World fiction must be distinguished, and that within each mode some forms are episodic (if they develop only a small number of archetypes) and others encyclopaedic (because of their range of archetypes and techniques).

Chapter One deals with the theory and scope of the study. The subsequent chapters analyse twenty episodic and four encyclopaedic works in four different modes, chosen from Africa, India and the Caribbean. A comprehensive glossary explaining the critical terms used in the thesis adds more texts as examples, including some from the South Pacific region.

At the centre of the study are such well-known Third World authors as Ngugi, Raja Rao, Lamming, Bhattacharya, Achebe, Naipaul, and Ayi Kwei Armah, while the glossary adds the works of others, including Narayan, Soyinka, Derek Walcott, Albert Wendt and Witi Ihimaera.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am grateful to the New Zealand Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan for awarding me a Commonwealth Scholarship to undertake research in comparative literature, to Massey University for supporting me financially towards the end, and to the English Department - especially Julie McKenzie - for assistance with the typing and printing of my thesis.

I wish to extend my thanks also to my supervisors, Professors Adrian Roscoe, Dieter Riemenschneider and Richard Corballis, and Dr William Broughton. Any imperfections in this work none of them shares - I acknowledge all these as mine.

I hope that our joint effort, which offers a new and, I hope, worthwhile approach to the study of Third World literature, will benefit all scholars in this field.

Above all, I thank God, without Whom the work would not have been done.

G N M' Marete

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	p.iii
CHAPTER ONE: <i>INTRODUCTION - SCOPE AND THEORY</i>	p.1
CHAPTER TWO: <i>PARABOLIC EPISODIC FORMS</i>	p.13
CHAPTER THREE: <i>THE PARABOLIC ENCYCLOPAEDIC FORM</i>	p.47
CHAPTER FOUR: <i>HIGH MIMETIC EPISODIC FORMS</i>	p.69
CHAPTER FIVE: <i>THE HIGH MIMETIC ENCYCLOPAEDIC FORM</i>	p.103
CHAPTER SIX: <i>LOW MIMETIC EPISODIC FORMS</i>	p.129
CHAPTER SEVEN: <i>THE LOW MIMETIC ENCYCLOPAEDIC FORM</i>	p.163
CHAPTER EIGHT: <i>IRONIC EPISODIC FORMS</i>	p.188
CHAPTER NINE: <i>THE IRONIC ENCYCLOPAEDIC FORM</i>	p.220
CHAPTER TEN: <i>CONCLUSION</i>	p.239
GLOSSARY OF CRITICAL TERMS	p.260
SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY	p.279