RACIAL EXILES IN TWENTIETH CENTURY AFRICAN AMERICAN AUTOBIOGRAPHY AND FICTION: LANGSTON HUGHES, RICHARD WRIGHT AND RALPH ELLISON

Marius Jucan Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca

Abstract: Reviewing the tradition of autobiography in African-American culture and realizing the relevance of the portraying of the black hero in the two autobiographies of Langston Hughes, the novels of Richard Wright and Ralph Ellison, the paper attempts to find out different modes of describing the victimization of the black individual in the interwar segregated America, remarking on the continuation of the tradition instilled by the promoters of the Harlem renaissance, but also on its disrupture and innovationg stages, yielding into bringing into light other means of representing blackness. Revisiting the artistic and moral articulation of the before mentioned works should count not only as proof of literary revisionism, but rather as a way of ascertaining the democratization of American culture.