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Identity in the Siyagruva Series of novels: Toward an intercultural

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Abstract

This article explores the notion of changing South African youth identity and how it is depicted in the series of novels for young adults. The article highlights the need for a broadening of literary theory in order to develop an appropriate theoretical approach for new South African youth literature. This theory explores intercultural communication, and the use of, for example, the work of intercultural theorists such as Ting-Toomey (1999), Gudykunst (2003) and others. It is argued that this form of literary discourse is now appropriate as a theoretical paradigm within multilingual contexts, as intercultural communication is becoming a reality. There is also reference to intracultural communication, which is beginning to appear between young people who are perceived to come from the same cultural group. The article focuses on a character in the Siyagruva Series who is perceived as a “coconut” by her friends, and thus finds herself having to negotiate her identity in a particular in-group or culture. The article concentrates on selected novels, though reference is made to other novels published in the Siyagruva Series, twenty in English, and three translated into isiXhosa.

Keywords: identity, intercultural studies, youth literature.

> *Tydskrif vir Letterkunde* Vol. 44 (2) 2007: pp. 74-88

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<http://dx.doi.org/10.4314/tvl.v44i2.29792>

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The rightness of goading the left [Book Review, as shown above, the exciter selects the Equatorial scale.

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