



**BIGOTRY BEYOND RACE: SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS IN
ZAKESMDA'S *WAYS OF DYING* AND BESSIE HEAD'S *WHEN RAIN
CLOUDS GATHER***



Beri Mary Shey

University of Yaounde I (Cameroon)
Faculty of Arts Letters and Social Sciences
Department of English
Specialty: Commonwealth Literature
Republic of Cameroon

ABSTRACT

This article examines bigotry beyond the confines of race in the context of South Africa. It seeks to prove that race is not the only factor that informs bigotry in the South African society as evident in the selected works of ZakesMda and Bessie Head. Beside race, bigotry is evident in the areas of ethnicity, gender, class, politics, family and communality. The incidences in the works of Mda and Head are in dialogue with the realities of their society and so, calls for a New Historicist approach in the analysis

in this article. Despite the fact that both authors wrote at different historical moments of South Africa, their sense of ensuring a better society is evident. As authors with different sexual orientations, their approach to some issues differs at some levels. Both authors view bigotry as a pervasive human attribute with severe consequences and call for harmony across gender, ethnicity, class, family and communality.

KEYWORDS : *bigotry, class, ethnicity, gender, communality*