



TWINNED NATIONALISM: AUSTIN CLARKE'S PERSPECTIVE WITH REFERENCE TO *MORE*

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Abstract: This research delves into the portrayal of twinned nationalistic feelings embodied by the character Idora in Austin Clarke's novel *More*. Through a close examination of Idora's actions, dialogues, and interactions within the socio-political context of postcolonial Canada, this study aims to elucidate and elaborate on the concept of twinned nationalism described by the author. By analysing Idora's relationships, struggles, and ultimate trajectory, this research contributes to a deeper understanding of how nationalistic sentiments manifest in individuals within a broader cultural and historical framework.

IndexTerms - Nationalistic sentiments, Twinned Nationalism, socio-political context, struggles.

INTRODUCTION

Literature refers to a collection of written works but is also used more narrowly to refer to writing that is considered an art form, such as prose, fiction, drama, and poetry, and includes printed writing and it includes digital texts. Canadian literature involves the works written by Canadians. Due to this country's dual heritage and official bilingualism, Canadian literature can be divided into two main areas: English and French. Canadian novels often deal with the country's multicultural makeup. The authors explore the experiences of immigrants, Indigenous peoples, and diverse cultural communities, reflecting the rich spectrum of Canadian society.

One such famous writer of that period was Austin Clarke (1934–2016). He was a Barbados-born Canadian novelist, essayist, and short story writer. He is known for his contributions to Canadian literature, particularly his exploration of issues related to race, identity, immigration, and the African diaspora. Clarke immigrated to Canada in 1955 and became a prominent figure in literary circles. Clarke's literary career spanned several decades and was known for his novels, short stories, and essays. Much of his work focused on the experiences of black Canadians and the challenges they faced in a white-majority society. One of Austin Clarke's most famous novels is *The Polished Hoe* (2002), which won the Giller Prize, one of Canada's most prestigious literary awards.

More may be one of the crowning achievements of Clarke's career. The novel carries readers into the lonely life of an immigrant domestic woman named Idora who was abandoned years before by a faithless husband, her life devastated by her son's involvement in gang culture and crime, and her remarkable journey from tragedy back to the light. An unforgettable portrait of the black immigrant experience, it is a novel to be read and remembered.

Nationalism is a feeling of belongingness towards a particular country. It often involves pride in one's nation, its history, culture, language, and often seeks to promote its interests above those of other nations. Usually people coming as an immigrant will have two feelings. One is that either they will start loving the new country and hate their own native land. Second is that they will always love their own nation and will not have a feeling of affinity towards the nation that they have come. But when both these scenarios are coincided for an immigrant, it is a unique feeling.

This research deals with the theme of nationalism since it is subtly dealt by the author. It deals with how Clarke has introduced a concept called "twinned- nationalism" in his work *More*. Here author has presented this idea of having a feeling of affinity towards two nations through the character of Idora. In the novel Idora comes to Canada as an immigrant from Barbados and lives there for more than three decades. She comes to Canada knowing all the rules of it for the immigrants. In spite of knowing that she agrees to be in Canada.

In the novel, Idora's feelings of nationalism are complex and multifaceted. She grapples with the tension between her desire to embrace her Jamaican heritage and her experiences as a Black woman in Canada. Her nationalism is influenced by her experiences of racism and discrimination, as well as her connections to her ancestral homeland. Clarke portrays nationalism as a

dynamic and evolving aspect of Idora's identity, shaped by her personal experiences and the socio-political context in which she lives.

Idora's sense of nationalism towards her Canadian identity is depicted as complex and nuanced. Throughout the novel, she grapples with issues of race, belonging, and cultural identity, which shape her understanding of what it means to be Canadian. While she may feel a deep connection to Canada, her experiences as a Black woman living in a predominantly white society also influence her perspective on nationalism and belonging. Clarke's portrayal of Idora's nationalism reflects the multifaceted nature of Canadian identity and the challenges faced by marginalized communities in navigating their sense of belonging within the nation.

Idora experiences a strong sense of nationalism towards her Canadian identity. This feeling is portrayed through her actions, thoughts, and interactions throughout the story. Idora's connection to her Canadian identity likely stems from various factors such as her upbringing, cultural background, and personal experiences living in Canada. Despite all the racism and discriminations that she faces in Canada, Idora still feels glad to be in Canada. She feels it like her own land.

The research explores the concept of twinned nationalism in two perspectives. The first one is the author's perspective and the second one is the character's perspective. Both are more or less the same since it is indirectly the perspective of the author but there lies difference in it with respect to the life of author and the characterization of the character of Idora. Both the perspectives deals with having affinity towards both the countries, Canada and Barbados.

First one is the character's perspective. Idora is the main character of the novel and her perspective of possessing the feeling of nationalism towards both the countries expressed throughout the novel. She is an immigrant from Barbados and she has been residing in Canada for more than three decades and this has become the reason for her interest in living in Canada. Even though knowing all the discriminations and racism that was prevailing in Canada, she wanted to live in Canada.

Idora's love for her native land is inevitable in the novel. She always feels proud to be called a Barbadian more than a Canadian. she wanted to cherish her own culture and heritage of her own country. she felt happy whenever she recollected memories of her native land. Throughout the novel she tends to get back to her old memories with her native and feels happy. When her son was born she wanted him to learn about her native land so she sent him to Barbados in his initial years.

The character of Idora is the model for the concept of twinned nationalism. She loves Barbados very much but she also feels glad to be in Canada. This nature of her having nationalistic feeling for both the countries defines what twinned nationalism is. She is unable to let down both the countries. This perspective is a bit different from the author's perspective because this is from a female's point of view. She is an abandoned wife, a good mother and a fighting woman who knows how to handle life at any situation.

Idora doesn't want to become a white woman, she loves her own identity of being a Barbadian, but she wants to be made accepted among the white people in Canada. She doesn't want anyone in Canada to see her as an immigrant. It is all because she loves both countries and is unable to let down one for another and this is the concept called "Twinned Nationalism" from the perspective of Idora.

Secondly, in author's perspective, Clarke is the narrator and his perspective can also be analysed to some extent. His perspective is a bit different from Idora's perspective because here one could connect Clarke's own life experiences with this concept of twinned nationalism. He was also an immigrant from Barbados and resided in Canada till his death. In all his novels he has mostly concentrated on the theme of black experience in Canada. He had spoken about the racial discriminations that was prevailing in Canada and has also taken significant steps to eradicate it through literature.

Clarke can also be compared with the character of Idora with respect to the love that they possess for their own native land Barbados. Clarke moved from Barbados to Canada not for the interest of residing in Canada but he felt that American racism was more brutal than Canadian racism. He did not have hatred towards the country but he has also not mentioned anywhere that he loved Canada more than Barbados. This is the perspective of a man being an immigrant.

The concept of twinned nationalism defines that an immigrant might always possess love for their own native land but they may also not let down the country in which they are residing. Maybe the love for one nation can dominate the other but they can never hate one nation for the other. This is the concept that Clarke has introduced in his last novel *More*.

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