

Abstract

American dream as an ideology has blinded most Americans from being aware of the inequities done towards them. Such an issue can be found in a novel entitled “*Behold the Dreamers*” by Imbolo Mbue (2016), the winner of PEN/Faulkner Award in 2017, as the object of this study. Seeing American dream which promises a better life, as this novel portrays, African Immigrant couple, as the protagonists, who come to America for chasing a dream of a better life but in the end leave back to Cameroon, their homeland, because of the unfound dream. This study aims to show how American Dream is perceived as a false ideal by the main characters in Imbolo Mbue’s “*Behold the Dreamers*”. In identifying the underlying values and ideology in this novel, the writer of this paper employs Greimas’ narrative structure as the main theory. Further, the discovered ideology is examined by using Gramsci’s ideas about hegemony as the secondary theory. In the conclusion, it is discovered that the whole story of this novel shows how the *actants* of protagonists take the quest departing from the illusion to the reality in pursuing their dream. The illusion that is referred to the promises of American dream blinds them from being aware of the exploitation and inequities. However, in the end, American dream is realized as a false consciousness or a lie that they have been fed to be controlled and put them to stay in the subordinate position by the ruling class.

Keywords: *american dream, false ideal, hegemony, ideology, narratology*