ABSTRACT

Jazz (2001) is a novel written by Toni Morrison. The novel tells about African American life in Harlem in 1920s. One of many issues that are presented in the novel is about stereotypes of African American.

The analysis is seen in how African Americans are stereotyped and how the stereotypes of African American are contested in the novel through its two characters, Joe Trace and Violet Trace. Joe is attached with a stereotype as a murderer and Violet is found with a stereotype as a violent maker. The practice of stereotyping is analyzed in the construction of 'otherness' and exclusion, the relation of stereotype and power, and the role of fantasy. Then the stereotypes are contested by reversing the stereotypes and providing positive and negative images. In reversing the stereotypes, Joe is presented as a lover and Violet is presented as an honest woman. In positive and negative images, Joe and Violet show the diligence as positive image instead of laziness that is considered as negative image of African American.