

Abstract

The thesis focuses on the perception of African population in Elizabethan England. It attempts to clarify the social context and environment in which the image of an African – a dark-skinned individual – emerged and developed. The main questions the thesis aspires to answer are as follows: what social phenomena had crucial impact on the formation and transformation of the image of the Other, and what form did the image resulting from these take upon; if and how were these factors reflected in the popular culture. The main sources for the analysis are primarily travel literature and theatre production of the Elizabethan period.

Key words:

Elizabeth I; Moors; Negroes; travel literature; George Best; Richard Hakluyt; Elizabethan drama; *Othello*; *The Merchant of Venice*; *Battle of Alcazar*; *Lust's Dominion*; *Titus Andronicus*; Morocco; Berbery