

# Exploring Intersectionality in Contemporary English Fiction: Race, Gender, and Sexuality in the Works of Zadie Smith, Jeanette Winterson, and Bernardine Evaristo

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**Abstract:** *This paper explores how contemporary English fiction engages in intersectionality, particularly in the works of Zadie Smith, Jeanette Winterson, and Bernardine Evaristo. "White Teeth" by Zadie Smith explores intersectional identities through the character Irie Jones' mixed-race heritage and struggle with cultural identity. In "Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit," Jeanette Winterson presents a story of a young lesbian growing up in a religious community that highlights the relationship between sexuality and religion. In "Girl, Woman, Other," Bernardine Evaristo presents Amma, a black lesbian playwright who exemplifies racial, gender, and sexual conflicts. A study examining religion, gender, and multiculturalism throughout the lives of the two families illustrated the tensions resulting from colonialism and multiculturalism. According to Winterson, gender and sexuality are shaped by social expectations in Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit because of the clash between a strict religious upbringing and a queer identity. Throughout, Girl, Women, Others, and Evaristo explore how race, gender, and sexuality intersect among Black British women. This paper argues that these authors use their narratives to challenge traditional views of identity, demonstrating that race, gender, and sexuality are not isolated categories but are deeply interconnected. In conclusion, this paper focuses on how these works contribute to broader discussions of social justice and representation, emphasizing the importance of intersectional perspectives in understanding both literature and lived experiences..*

**Keywords:** Intersectionality, Multiculturalism, Gender, Sexuality, Heteronormativity, colonial identity, Queer Identity

