

ang071 S/Ü "Key Concepts in Cultural Studies"

Assignment 1: Identity, Discourse, Media – Print Media: Slave Narrative

This assignment is a mandatory part of your portfolio and needs to be handed in on time. You can receive feedback upon request and, additionally, a sample solution will be published on the Institutswiki

Please analyse the following passages by addressing the tasks below:

Mr. Covey was a poor man; he was just commencing in life; he was only able to buy one slave; and, shocking as is the fact, he bought her, as he said, for a *breeder*. This woman was named Caroline. Mr. Covey bought her from Mr. Thomas Lowe, about six miles from St. Michael's. She was a large, able-bodied woman, about twenty years old. She had already given birth to one child, which proved her to be just what he wanted. After buying her, he hired a married man of Mr. Samuel Harrison, to live with him one year; and him he used to fasten up with her every night! The result was, that, at the end of the year, the miserable woman gave birth to twins. At this result Mr. Covey seemed to be highly pleased, both with the man and the wretched woman. Such was his joy, and that of his wife, that nothing they could do for Caroline during her confinement was too good, or too hard, to be done. The children were regarded as being quite an addition to his wealth. (*Narrative* 57)

Douglass, Frederick. *Narrative of the Life of Frederic Douglass, an American Slave*. 1845. Oxford: OUP, 2009. Print.

1. Formal and media-specific analysis

1. Comment on relevant formal aspects (narration, focalization, etc.).
2. Identify various discourses in the given passages by considering terms / vocabulary; settings / institutions; subject positions / roles.

2. Functional analysis: Toward a problem-oriented sample analysis

Based on the data generated through your formal and media-specific analysis, provide a **coherently written** analysis with a clear research problem that addresses the following points:

1. the discursive construction of identity through representations in the media;
2. the relevant contexts (historical, cultural, literary, generic, etc.).

3. Comparison and/or contrast: Second passage

Suggest one other passage from the text that contrasts and/or corresponds with the given passage in an aspect relevant to your research problem. Briefly discuss how both passages relate to the problem by addressing differences in representation and their possible functions.

4. Lecture

In a short concluding paragraph, relate your analysis to the discursive constructedness of periods in American literary and cultural studies (Prof. Butler; Prof. Kirchhofer; Prof. Wurr).