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The concept of relations in Thomas King's novel *Medicine River*

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Abstract

This paper presents the Native American concept of relations as a grounding concept of their ontology and epistemology. It works on the example of Thomas King's novel *Medicine River* and derives from a group of leading Native American scholars, such as Donald Fixico, Vine Deloria, Craig S. Womack, Greg Sarris. Also by presenting the novel as an illustrative example of typical Native American identity quest, which takes the form of the return journey home from the city to the reservation community, the paper traces King's hermeneutical manoeuvres by which he augments the implication of his text giving it the function and significance the old creation stories used to have in traditional tribal societies. The paper also aims at presenting Native American understanding of the important healing function of storytelling as a powerful force of fighting against the overall alienation of contemporary world.

Key words: *Native American, relations, identity quest, storytelling, creation story, acceptance*