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Form through history in Sam Selvon's The Lonely Londoners

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Abstract

Lonely Londoners, written in 1956, brings a "new style and form" in Standard English, introducing a new "language," a mixture of Caribbean vernacular English with Standard English. The narration takes a vis-à-vis form. Moses, the main character, represents a built-in progress narrator, whose role is fully recognised by the end of the novel. The author's writing proposes to the reader the everyday language as a form of literature using the direct speech as an instrument for narration. To appreciate form in Sam Selvon's *The Lonely Londoners*, it is necessary to know the history and literary tradition before the writing of this book. Therefore, it is important to know that the author is one of the first West-Indian authors to write in Great Britain, and that his new writing finally expresses the living conditions and concerns of a minority whose voice has never been raised before, and heard by the majority.

Keywords: West-Indian, post-colonial literature, fabricated language