

**Biracial Identity in *The Girl Who Fell from the Sky*, *Killing Karoline*,
and *Caucasia*: A Cultural Approach**

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Abstract

This study aims to shed light on biracial characters in literature by studying their cultural identities. Cultural identity for each person is the result of his/her interaction with the community, and it is shaped by the attitudes and the interactions between the individual and his/her community. This thesis explores the biracial identity by analyzing three novels which are Danzy Senna's *Caucasia* (1998), Heidi W. Durrow's *The Girl Who Fell from the Sky* (2010), and Sara-Jayne King's *Killing Karoline* (2017) by using a cultural approach, specifically Stuart Hall's theory of cultural identity. According to Butler (Butler 1997, as cited in Marn, 2018), there are no simple definitions or clear meanings for race and racial groups; rather, descriptions assist to produce the groups being described. The term "biracial", likewise, has been variously defined in academic research. Biracial as a label is defined as "concerning or containing members of two different races" (Cambridge Dictionary). In this thesis, each novel's protagonist is biracial, and each one of them faces many obstacles and difficulties in their lives and with their communities. In my study, I analyse literary works by using cultural theory in an attempt to integrate literature with cultural studies. The three

authors of the books under study are considered to be modern era writers; two of them (Heidi W. Durrow and Danzy Senna) have best-selling novels in their resume. In the three novels selected in this study, the protagonist is biracial and was previously profiled by their colour or race. Each writer shows the obstacles and difficulties these characters face in their lives and societies due to their difference from others, their dual ethnic affiliations and their difficulty in communication within their societies; in addition, these biracial individuals have to overcome their own confusion about the positions they have to take.

Keywords: Biracial identity, cultural studies, Stuart Hall, Danzy Senna, Sara-Jayne King, Heidi W. Durrow.