

Double Humor in Double Consciousness: An Annotated Bibliography

Adichie, Chimamanda Ngozi. *Americanah*. New York, Random House, 2013.

This novel addresses and critiques a Nigerian national who experiences being a member of a minority in America. Adichie critiques Africans in America who do not want to be identified as black because blacks are treated worse than other minorities. Part of Adichie's main character's argument is that immigrants from Africa lose the ability to define themselves by their home country when they come to the United States. They become black and resistance is futile.

Adichie writes from the perspective of a Nigerian living in America. She is aware of the struggle to define one's self instead of letting society do it for her. Adichie uses humor to make her point, which will provide examples for my paper.

Burciaga, José Antonio. *Drink Cultura: Chicanismo*. Santa Barbara, Capra P., 1992.

This collection of stories touches on the experiences of living on the US-Mexico border. Like Adichie, Burciaga uses humor to talk about the complexities of being a member of a minority in America. Being from Mexico and living on the U.S.-Mexico Border, Burciaga's experience as a minority is different from Adichie's main character.

Burciaga wrote from the perspective of a Chicano living on the US-Mexico Border. He was born in El Paso. His essays are a product of his experiences growing up in that border city. His humor, which I will discuss in my paper, is also from a minority, but it distinct from the African humor in Adichie's book.

Du Bois, W.E.B. "The Humor of Negroes." *Mark Twain Journal*, vol. 36, no. 1, 1998, p. 8.

JSTOR, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/41641441>.

In this essay, nearly 40 years after the *Soul of Black Folk*, Du Bois writes humorously about humor and race. Drawing attention to minorities often being laughed at, Du Bois defines what is and is not funny when it comes to race.

Du Bois's landmark discussion of humor and race provides a context for discussion and examples for both Adichie's and Burciaga's humor.

---. *The Souls of Black Folk*. e-book, *Project Gutenberg*, 2008,

<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/408/408-h/408-h.htm>.

In the forward to this book, a collection of essays about race, Du Bois identifies the concept of double consciousness and "the problem of color line." Writing in 1906, Du Bois deftly addresses the tender topic of race in the United States at the beginning of the twentieth century. Part of Du Bois' goal was to start a conversation about what it was like to be a minority in the United States and the social issues associated with it.

Du Bois was the first African American to earn a doctorate and one of the founders of the NAACP. Du Bois's ethos comes from both his education and personal experience. His discussion of double consciousness will be the cornerstone of my paper.