

Week 5 - Frantz Fanon's *The Negro and Language* and Sam Selvon's *The Lonely Londoners*

Topic 1:

"For it is implicit that to speak is to exist absolutely for the other" (127).

"To speak means to be in a position to use a certain syntax, to grasp the morphology of this or that language, but it means above all to assume a culture, to support the weight of a civilization" (127).

"A man who has a language consequently possesses the world expressed and implied by that language" (127).

Question: To what extent is the black man constructed as *the other* and the *exotic other*? How does language participate in this construction?

Topic 2:

"A Negro behaves differently with a white man and with another Negro. That this self-division is a direct result of colonialist subjugation is beyond question" (127)

Question: Does this apply to our reading of *The Lonely Londoners*? How do black characters behave towards each other and is there a significant difference in the way they behave towards white characters?

Topic 3:

"The wearing of European clothes, whether rags or the most up-to-date style; using European furniture and European forms of social intercourse; adorning the Native language with European expressions; using bombastic phrases in speaking or writing a European language; all these contribute to a feeling of equality with the European and his achievements" (131)

Question: Again, does this apply to our reading of *The Lonely Londoners*? Think about the performances of Englishness (or of being a Londoner). How do they work? Further, for whom do such performances "contribute... a feeling of equality"?