



# What We Say, Who We Are: Leopold Senghor, Zora Neale Hurston, and the Philosophy of Language

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In *What We Say, Who We Are: Leopold Senghor, Zora Neale Hurston, and the Philosophy of Language*, Parker English explores the commonality between Leopold Senghor's concept of "negritude" and Zora Neale Hurston's view of "Negro expression." For English, these two concepts emphasize that a person's view of herself is above all dictated by the way in which she talks about herself. Focusing on what he identifies as "performism," English discusses the presentational/representational and externalistic/internalistic facets of "performism" as they relate to the ideas of Senghor and Hurston. English ends his work by closely examining Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God* in light of his discussion of "performism," and draws new, intriguing conclusions about the extent to which Hurston's main character exemplifies W.E.B. DuBois's concept of double-consciousness. *What We Say, Who We Are* will certainly pique the interest of scholars interested in Africana studies, African-American literature, and the philosophy of language.

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