

AUTOBIOGRAFIA, APROPRIAÇÕES E SUBVERSÕES: A LITERATURA NEGRA ABOLICIONISTA NOS ESTADOS UNIDOS OITOCENTISTAS

AUTOBIOGRAPHY, APPROPRIATIONS, SUBVERSIONS: BLACK ABOLITIONIST LITERATURE IN 19TH CENTURY UNITED STATES

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Resumo

Este artigo examina duas narrativas autobiográficas escritas por ex-escravos nos Estados Unidos no século dezanove: Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave. Written by Himself (1845) e Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl. Written by Herself (1861). Analisa, também, o modo como Frederick Douglass e Harriet Jacobs (sob o pseudônimo de Linda Brent) se apropriam do discurso político-teológico vigente, pautado em interpretações questionáveis do texto bíblico, e subvertem signos e metáforas que os colocam na posição de seres subumanos, desprovidos de razão e autonomia. Nesse processo de reinserção e reescrita do “eu” no discurso sócio-político-teológico da época, Douglass e Jacobs confrontam a tradição que os oprime ao apropriarem-se do discurso dominante e expõem os seus alicerces ideológicos.

Palavras-chave: *Autobiografia, Escravidão, Religião, Bíblia, Cristianismo.*

Abstract

This article examines two autobiographical accounts – Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave. Written by Himself and Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl. Written by Herself – produced by two of the most prominent figures of the anti-slavery movement in the nineteenth century in the United States: Frederick Douglas e Harriet Jacobs, both of African descent. This essay examines the ways in which Douglass and Jacobs (under the pseudonym of Linda Brent) deconstruct political-theological discourses founded on racist and skewed interpretations of the biblical text. It demonstrates how both authors subvert biblical signs and cultural metaphors which placed them in the category of subhuman, deprived of reason and autonomy. In the process, they gain not only power over their minds and bodies, but also re-insert and re-write themselves into the history of the country, thereby challenging existing cultural and theological assumptions about their race.

Key words: *Autobiography, Slavery, Religion, Bible, Christianity.*