

**Abstract : Rhetoric and philosophy in Edouard Glissant's novels: draw up an epistemological program in order to make Caribbean able to take civic acts**

As for the rhetoric and philosophy of Glissant, a West Indian novelist and philosopher, whose works have marked a turning point in literary and intellectual history. They could act as an epistemological break in contemporary geocultural thought in that they propose a new critical approach, based on a new geopoetics, which is the *poetics of Relationship*. In fact, the Martinican writer criticizes all forms of standardization, which model cultures to which he proposes an eccentric thought.

It is precisely in that context that our rhetorical investigation reexamined the question of Glissant's poetical intention by relating it to the oratorical genres and by treating it in the light of their respective aims. Indeed, the argumentative intentionality is enriched by the judicial impetus, the epideictic eloquence and the deliberative aim in order to be able to embrace the past, the present and the future of Caribbean thought and culture.

It goes without saying that Glissant used a phenomenological approach to promote a new alliance between philosophy and eloquence. This alliance puts philosophy at the service of rhetoric and poetics of novelistic fiction.

In sum, the fiery indictment that the writer has drawn up against the oppressors is inextricably linked to a plea made to defend cause of West Indian culture, by exhorting the Caribbean people to recover their historical memory and to take their destiny into their own hands. In seeking to educate (*docere*) his readers, the novelist-orator applies himself to showing wisdom (*phronèsis*), sincerity (*arétè*) and sympathy (*eunoia*) to them. These are the modalities which have been used, among others, to guarantee pragmatic efficiency of novelistic *logos*. In other terms, the writer tries to gain the widespread adherence of his readers that he intends to convince by his epistemological, cultural and poetic project, which also has to be ambitious on the political level.

The motto of this philosophical, poetic and political vision is : "Think globally, act locally".