“An Island is a World”: Metonymy and Synecdoche in V.S. Naipaul’s *Guerrillas*

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The island setting of V.S. Naipaul’s *Guerrillas* is unnamed yet recognisably Caribbean. Through the sustained use of metonymy and synecdoche, the novel gradually evokes an idea of the Caribbean and its history, while never directly claiming to be set on an “actual” Caribbean island. Since setting is never solely defined by a given geographic location or even a vague idea of place (such as an island that remains unnamed), the text’s use of these devices in order to evoke an idea of the Caribbean is one which warrants further investigation. Thus, this paper aims to explore how metonymy and synecdoche are used in *Guerrillas* to construct both a Caribbean island and a believable Caribbean history, a fictionalised space which is made to suggest a real Caribbean space.

Through its study of *Guerrillas* as Caribbean space, the paper also examines how Naipaul injects verisimilitude into his text, a reading which can have bearing on how we understand and interpret setting and context in Caribbean works of fiction.

**BIO**

Ryan Durgasingh is an MPhil student in Literatures in English and a part time tutor in Linguistics in the Department of Liberal Arts, St Augustine. His research interests include Creole linguistics, historical linguists and literary linguistics. He is in the process of completing a thesis entitled "The self-conscious protagonist and withdrawn narrator in selected works of Hemingway and Naipaul", a study which uses literary linguistics as its methodology.