Social Impacts on American Detective Fiction:
Race, Class, and Gender

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Abstract
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This thesis studies the effect of social conflicts such as race, gender, and class on the 20th century American detective novels. The discussion of this topic will be limited to three novels: Walter Mosley's Devil in a Blue Dress (1990), Raymond Chandler's The Long Goodbye (1953), and Sara Paretsky's Blood Shot (1988). The impact of the three types of social conflicts is shown through the differences that occur in the characteristics of the detective novels, the characteristics of the different characters in general and mainly the detectives "PIs", the setting, the causes of the crimes and the subjects that are discussed in the hard-boiled detective novels. The study contends that unlike the past generation of the detective fiction which represents the detective novel as an imaginary one that focuses on discovering the criminal and solving the crime at the end of the novel, the new phase of detective novels is a realistic one that reflects the real life in America and pays attention to law corruption. So, reference is also made to the characteristics of the previous generation of detective fiction to illustrate the shift between the period under discussion and the past.

Keywords: Detective, hard-boiled novel, Crime, Race, Class, Gender