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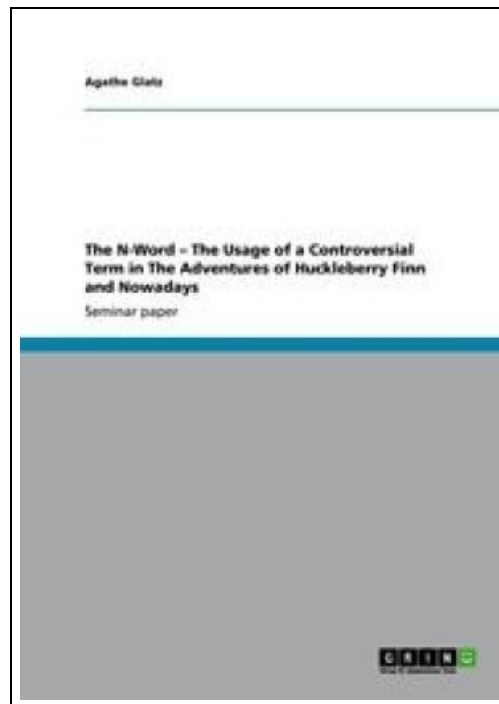
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GRIN Verlag Mrz 2011, 2011. Taschenbuch. Book Condition: Neu. 211x34x15 mm. This item is printed on demand - Print on Demand Neuware - Seminar paper from the year 2009 in the subject English - Literature, Works, grade: 3,0, Justus-Liebig-University Giessen (Anglistik), language: English, abstract: 2 Usage of the N-Word in Huck Finn In the following section I will first examine how the N-Word was used in general in former times, then how Mark Twain used it in Huck Finn and finally why he employed it so often. Before I begin I would like to say that I am going to use the word nigger a lot of times in this paper. I do not want to insult anybody, but I have to mention it sometimes as I write about the term. I also dissociate myself from some quotations you will read on the following pages, where the word is used in an offensive way. 2.1 Former Usage of the N-Word and that in Huck Finn At the beginning, I would like to quote Thomas Jefferson, who claimed that '.their [the blacks'] existence appears to participate more of sensation than reflection' . At the time of 'the Enlightenment', a human being was characterized by reason. This was underlined by the philosopher Descartes who stated 'cogito ergo sum' ('I think therefore I am'). In the quote by Jefferson, the black community is considered as a people who does not think, but rather feels. It implies that blacks lack the most important feature of a human being, which is reason, and therefore cannot be considered as 'human'. Before the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s, this argument was a very common legitimation for slavery and for the use of nigger to refer to African Americans. The term itself was, for instance, used to...

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