



Confining Spaces, Resistant Subjectivities: Toward a Metachronous Discourse of Literary Mapping and Transformation in Postcolonial Women's Writing

Kinana Hamam

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This book represents a significant contribution to academic knowledge, making a compelling case for a contemporary analytical re-reading of a number of "core" postcolonial women's narratives, such as Erna Brodber's *Jane and Louisa Will Soon Come Home*, Buchi Emecheta's *The Joys of Motherhood*, and Mariama Ba's *So Long a Letter*. These narratives highlight diversity, contextuality, opposition, and metachrony, have a "generative literary function", and anticipate what have now become postcolonial feminist issues and debates. Bringing together feminist writing from a range of postcolonial contexts, the book contributes to a field represented by the critical writings of Francoise Lionnet, Ketu Katrak, and Elleke Boehmer, among others. The deconstructive, cultural approach of the book is mobilised to support an in-depth literary analysis which focuses on female oppression, difference, voice, and agency. Questions of what it means to be "a woman" and to be "postcolonial" are read as central debates which emphasise "multi-vocal and multi-focal" female narratives and perspectives. That is, they highlight the temporal, as well as cross-cultural links and implications of the selected narratives, which give the project a kind of positive complexity and linkage. Above all, the analysis of several unconventional modes and (physical/imaginative) spaces of female resistance, such as prison, widow confinement, and madness, yields some surprising results that are sustained by a close reading of the texts which are not only attentive to questions of genre, structure, imagery and narrative endings, but also oppositional, instructive and reconstructive.

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