

Abstract

20th century's female writers personalized their writings by privatizing their personal erotic feelings and experiences through the construction of self-narrative in a biographical or semi-biographical style. These self-narratives sought to truly depict their experiences and perspectives from their own individualized identities. Situated in the urban setting, these narratives unfolded and revealed the material and erotic desires of these female writers explicitly and broke away from the traditional conception of female desires as being suppressed or hidden. In doing so, these female writers emphasized their individualized identities, self-consciousness, and desires. The self-identity of women shifted from the mere sexual and biological nature to an identity that self-consciously defined itself within a culturally situated milieu.

This thesis described, analyzed, and explicated the inner world of women, their self-consciousness, and the individuation of their self-identities in their writings. In privatizing their personal lives and desires through their writings, these female writers sought to scrutinize and transcend the limits imposed by their inner world of anxieties. In attempting to come to term with their inner world, their writings also identified and acknowledged the inner state of their own being.

However, the writings of these female writers in the 1990s were also being driven and 'corrupted' by market forces. Such literary works and standards were being compromised as they were oriented towards a commercial

environment and the demand of the market for mass consumption. As a result, such writings were not merely serving the purpose of women themselves coming to term with their lives or manifesting their own identities, or self-appraising their own existence, or as a means of self-construction. In the process of boosting the production and sale of these female 'personal' writings, literature itself became commoditized.