

Representation of Female Experiences by Upcoming African Women Writers: A Case Study of Three Post-2000 South African Narratives

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Abstract : This paper examines the feminine representation of women's experiences in relation to womanhood as depicted by selected three South African female authors. The study examines the challenges, difficulties and strategies used by various female characters' to deal with situations in a typical apartheid and post-apartheid society. It also explores the way in which gender, race and class discourses are treated in the selected texts. The three authors, born and bred at the peak of the anti-apartheid movement and women's protest against patriarchy, witnessed the effects of apartheid on both their families and societies at large which could perhaps have influenced their writing. The study is informed by both the feminist and womanist ideologies postulated by different theorists. In particular, the study of *Not Woman Enough* considers issues of motherhood, womanhood and racism; while that of *Shameless* focuses on the importance of women's narration of their own stories, sexuality and racism; and the depiction of sexual violence, class, and women's roles in the fight against oppression is explored with regard to *This Book Betrays My Brother*. Thus, the study concludes on the social makeovers that include women in all the spheres of life, such as education and the economy, which were largely dominated by men but are no longer defined by economic status, physical attributes, class nor sexuality.

Keywords : apartheid, feminism, prostitution, sexual violence, womanism, womanhood

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