

Abstract:

Diasporic writers Bessora and Fatou Diome stand out through a literary aesthetics that seeks to portray the dialectical relationships between the “Self” and the “Other.” Constructed within intersubjectivity, these relations distort both interpersonal and interstate interactions. Beyond this, the deliberately cynical and ironic act of enunciation interrogates human existence through the trajectory of the migrant subject. These novels centre on the quest for autonomy from the ideologies of the mythic West, which since the colonial period has manifested a radical alterity in relation to this “Big Other,” in the sense proposed by Jacques Lacan. This article proposes to examine, in the light of the theory of Jacques Derrida, the scriptural techniques used to deconstruct the so-called hegemonic discourse of the West, which contribute to a re-reading of the relationship between identity and alterity.

Keywords:

identity; alterity; marginality; relation; multiculturalism.