

Abstract:

This reflection aims to demonstrate, in the light of the novel *Le courage qu'il faut aux rivières* by the French author Emmanuelle Favier, the process and the stakes involved in the reconstruction of gender identity as a social construct. Indeed, Manushe and Adrian are two sworn virgins whose encounter makes it possible to break social constraints and to live a romantic relationship despite their biological identity. Drawing on the approaches of Gender Studies and narratology, we analyse this reconstruction of gender identity in four stages. First, we examine the identity crisis experienced by the two heroines; next, their existence lived in a masculine role; this is followed by the blurred or uneasy identity that characterises them; finally, we question the writing of fluidity and the emancipation of gender identity in Favier's work.

Keywords:

reconstruction; gender identity; gender studies; narratology.