

Alterity in Moroccan Francophone Literature: Rethinking Postcolonial Reading in Light of an Aesthetics of the Text

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Abstract

The paper deals with the identity problematic and the self/other binary, in particular. It aims at avoiding the risk of mummifying such concepts within the postcolonial discourse taking into consideration that they carry far more significance than what a postcolonial reading would offer. So the adapted strategy is shifting the perspective from a postcolonial treatment of the problematic to an aesthetic one through setting in opposition the postcolonial and aesthetic undertaking of these concepts. The study is carried out at a textual level as it focuses on the aesthetics of the text itself away from any theoretical framework. Two Moroccan Francophone literary texts are subjects to this study: Tahar Benjelloun's *L'Auberge des Pauvres* (1999) and Driss Chraïbi's *Le Passé Simple* (1954). The study of these two works stimulates the reader to reconsider and rethink what have been taken for granted as postcolonial theory has flooded works of the same kind.

Keywords: aesthetic, alterity, Francophone, Other, postcolonial, text