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A study of the representation of women in Veronique Tadjo's Le royaume aveugle and Loin de mon père

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ABSTRACT

The emergence of feminine writing on the Francophone African literary scene presents new multiplicities of fictional representations of women. These representations usher new insights to our understanding of femininity. This study examines women representations in Véronique Tadjo's *Le royaume aveugle* (1991) and *Loin de mon père* (2010), to investigate how different narrative styles from a single writer can express idiosyncratic feminine identities. The present research aims at examining whether Tadjo highlights feminist ideals in *Le royaume aveugle* and *Loin de mon père* and if so, how this is achieved. The study employs African feminist literary criticism to critically analyse the various literary feminine representations in the two texts. The thesis is divided into two main parts – the first one which focuses on feminine representations in *Le royaume aveugle* and the second one which looks at *Loin de mon père*. The study concludes that although the author employs different narrative styles in her novelistic writing of both texts, it all results in rich literary feminine identities. Also, it becomes evident that various feminist aspects are present in both novels. Secondly, the study concludes that in her portraits of women, Tadjo, unlike early African feminist writers, does not seek to necessarily relegate men to inferior positions but, rather, she proposes that men and women are equal partners in fighting not only feminine oppression, but also many other forms of inequalities which stem from socio-political problems in the images she depicts.

DECLARATION

I declare that this dissertation is my own unaided work. It is submitted to the Faculty of Humanities, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, for the degree of Master of Arts in French. It has not been submitted for any other degree, or for examination in any other university.

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Namatai Takaindisa

March 2014.

DEDICATION

To all the women of this world.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Abstract	i
Declaration	ii
Dedication	iii
Acknowledgments	iv
Table of contents	v
INTRODUCTION	1
CHAPTER ONE	
Le royaume aveugle: of politics and the feminine challenge	12
1.1 Introduction	12
1.2 Synopsis of the novel	12
1.3 The question of allegory and feminine representations in *Le royaume aveugle*	14
1.4 Blindness / Sight	19
1.5 Feminine revolt: rebellious wifehood	23
1.6 Feminine resistance: rebellious daughterhood	26
1.7 Women as bearers of tradition and spirituality	28
1.8 The unquenchable thirst for truth	40
1.9 Women as bearers of hope	47
1.10 The other side: the perpetuations of masculine rule	51
CHAPTER TWO	
Autobiography and feminine representations: *Loin de mon père*	53
2.1 Introduction	53
2.2 Synopsis of the novel	54
2.3 Autobiography and the feminisation of heroism	57
2.4 Far from the father: the disappointing paternal figure	68
2.5 Rebellious wifehood	79
2.6 Nina as an agent of peace and reconciliation	87
CONCLUSION	91
Bibliography	101