

THE COST OF BEING A WOMAN: AN ANALYSIS OF NAWAL EL SAADAWI'S WOMAN AT POINT ZERO

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ABSTRACT

A glance at women in the Maghreb showed that they have several 'mountains' on their backs. Thus, to identify the 'mountains' we used literature as a tool. This is because, in analyzing the place of African women in a modern African setting, literature is, certainly, a domain of visibility and audibility. But, since the movement that encourages people to write varies from one period to another and one social reality to another, our focus lied on Nawal El Saadawi's Woman at Point Zero. Thus, the reading of the novel has not only proved that women are marginalized but also and mainly the thematic concerns raised by Nawal informed us about the peculiar living conditions of women in Egypt. The research supported that as each particular region of Africa has its particular problems; the literatures, as well, are quite naturally different from one another. That is, though all women have a fundamental unity in the suffering and in their desire for liberation, the cry of women in the Maghreb is not as same as the cry of other women from other countries. Such is the message that Nawal reverberates on the pages of Woman at Point Zero.

KEYWORDS: *Woman at Point Zero, Aesthetics, Female Self-Assertion*