

DISABILITY AND NORMALCY AS CONSTRUCT IN JUDITH THOMPSON'S THE CRACKWALKER

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ABSTRACT

This article inquiry into Judith Thompson's play The Crackwalker to bring to light the idea that normalcy or disability is socially constructed. These concepts are not innate but a product of socio-cultural construction. The present play is a fine example of how social institutions with power define certain people as normal or abnormal and disabled. The very title of the play suggests the idea of being outside the normative space or discourse. This discourse labels the central character Theresa as mentally retarded and decides not to let her go for motherland because the children that come from her will also be abnormal and disabled. This comes as a result of the fear that the birth of such children will add to the number of unhealthy babies. This is the reason why the doctors want to tie her tubes thereby preventing her from the joys of motherhood. Theoretical ideas about normalcy and disability will be used to show that disabled or able-bodied are categories that are socially constructed and can be challenged and deconstructed.

KEYWORDS: *Disability, Normalcy, Construct, Power, Social Institutions, Challenge, Deconstruct*