

سامية محمد مصطفى



شبكة المعلومات الجامعية

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم



سامية محمد مصطفى



شبكة المعلومات الجامعية



شبكة المعلومات الجامعية التوثيق الالكتروني والميكروفيلم



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شبكة المعلومات الجامعية

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بالرسالة صفحات لم ترد بالأصل



PATTERNS OF RESISTANCE IN SELECTED NOVELS BY ALICE WALKER

A Thesis

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By

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Abstract

Megahed, Manal Ahmed Adel. *"Patterns of Resistance in Selected Novels by Alice Walker."* Ph.D. Thesis, the Department of English Language and Literature, Women's College for Arts, Science and Education, Ain Shams University, 2001.

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This dissertation undertakes to study the patterns of resistance in four novels by the African-American novelist Alice Walker. In the novels, Walker focuses on the characters' insistence on their traditions as a way to develop a self strong enough to resist and conquer the insurmountable obstacles in a racist society.

Chapter I provides an overview of Alice Walker and the influence of her literary foremothers on her works. Besides, the chapter presents the definition of the terms 'resistance', 'resistance writer' and 'resistance narrative.' It shows how Walker as a resistance writer and a champion of social justice, wrote with passion and great enthusiasm against the oppression, racism and inequity that are prevalent in the white society. Chapters II through five consider each of the four novels individually. Walker proves that the most appropriate pattern of resistance for African-Americans is the cultural pattern, which is manifested through different forms of resistance.

The conclusion points out the common features of the four fictional works. It insists on the spirit of resistance, which characterizes the majority of Walker's characters who act as models of resistance and strive to maintain their sense of identity and dignity through their own culture.

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Key Words: Resistance, Walker, Alice, African-American Literature.

Preface

Preface

The purpose of this dissertation is to throw light on the patterns of resistance in four novels by the African-American novelist, poet, essayist and short story writer Alice Walker (1944-). Each of the four novels represents either one pattern of resistance or more.

The novels were written in between Walker's literary career extending from 1970 to 1992. Though they cover only three decades in Alice Walker's life, yet they reflect more than that, from the social history of the twentieth century. The four novels deal with the trials and the triumphs of Black Americans in the United States from the 1920s to the 1980s.

This study is concerned for the most part with the strategies of resistance, particularly the cultural resistance. Besides, different forms of resistance are also analyzed. Several issues and important themes are likewise discussed in relation to the motif of resistance.

The dissertation is divided into five chapters and a conclusion. The introductory chapter, chapter I, provides the background and foundation that will enable an understanding of the subject of resistance. First, there is a survey of Alice Walker's personal history, her cultural background, her activism and her literary career in order to provide readers with a frame of reference. Second, the chapter also throws some light on Walker's spiritual ancestors particularly Zora Neale Hurston. Third, the introductory chapter shows how Walker's resistance to