Abstract

Memoir, as known today, is used to be defined as a synonym for autobiography, till it develops as a separate genre in the late 1980s. Nawal El-Saadawi is one of the few Arabic female memoirists. Examples of her memoirs are Memoirs from the Women’s Prison (1983), Memoir of a Woman Doctor (First published in 1958), Memoir of a Child Called Soad (1990), My Life, (in three parts 1996, 1998, and 2001, respectively), and My Travels around the World (1986), among many others. This paper attempts to pinpoint how El-Saadawi strongly resists and stands against all forms of oppression. It also tries to relate El Saadawi’s work to the form of memoir and its characteristics as a literary genre, to show how she uses it to express her personal experience inside prison. To do so, the following topics will be discussed: memoir and autobiography, descriptive memoir, memoir as a female form, prison memoir, writing and resistance, memoir as a relational form, revolutionary memoir, childhood memoir and memoir and the memoirist.

Key Words: Memoir, Prison, Resistance