

NAWAL EL SAADAWI'S *MEMOIRS FROM THE WOMEN'S PRISON: VOICES OF RESISTANCE*

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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