

THE DEPICTION OF FEMALE EXPERIENCES IN SELECTED POST-2000 SOUTH
AFRICAN NARRATIVES WRITTEN BY WOMEN

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ABSTRACT

This dissertation has examined the representation of women's experiences in three selected South African female authored novels, *Not Woman Enough* (2006) by Jamela E. Robertson, *Shameless* (2008) by Futhi Ntshingila and *This Book Betrays My Brother* (2012) by Kagiso Lesego Molohe. The study has explored the way in which gender, race and class discourses are treated in the selected texts. The three authors, born and bred at the peak of the anti-apartheid movement and women's protests against patriarchy, have witnessed the effects of apartheid on both their families and communities at large, which could have influenced their writing. The study is informed by feminist theories, in particular womanist ideologies postulated by different theorists. It interrogates issues of womanhood, the female voice, class and race in the post-apartheid era from a womanist perspective. The findings of the study show that the three writers are womanist writers in that their women characters, even though they go through terrible hardships, are resilient, strong and determined to articulate their own concerns, rather than allow men to define them.

Key words: Apartheid, Feminism, Prostitution, Sexual violence, Womanism, Womanhood