



Abstract

The thesis deals with the commitment of Beninese women in literature in the contemporary era and emphasizes the contribution of their works to the socio-political functioning of the country. Beninese authors are part of a feminine literary tradition, addressing themes related to the status of women, like their colleagues - Mariama Bâ, Aminata Sow Fall, Simone Kaya, Nafissatou Diallo Niang, and Aminata Maïga-Ka - who have built the African feminine literary tradition. Women's writing in Benin is young, but already rich because it draws from two sources, on the one hand the oral tradition and on the other hand the lived experience of its writers: the results are perceptible at the level of the authorities of consecration, such as schools - through the inclusion of works in secondary education programs - as well as the results of the various literary prizes. It is therefore a feminine writing linked to the political role that literature must play within society. Women writers in Benin aim for symbolic capital according to the field established by Pierre Bourdieu who establishes four positions of writers, distinguished by their degree of politicization.

Because of the generally very high rate of illiteracy in Africa, particularly in Benin, Beninese women authors convey orally to illiterate women the feminist message contained in their literary works. They have also created collective works to reinforce the message they want to convey. This collaboration makes it possible to have an increasingly strong impact on the status of women, thanks to literary support. The publication of the collective works of women writers from Benin marks a high point in the social commitment of these women in literature. By each giving their point of view on the condition of women and also by recounting their personal experience, in what is original and in common, the Beninese authors reach a readership that is both disparate and more important, all, thanks also to the generic variety of their writings. Like their ancestors, the Amazon women, Beninese writers fight for their cause by writing resolutely committed to social combat. The writers of the new generation have taken hold of the novelistic genre, the success of which is part of a quantitative increase in literary production. The novelistic genre allows Beninese women authors to express their analyzes of social problems in which the real is veiled. Another field of investment for women authors is children's literature, a field in which the traditional role of women as educators finds its full dimension. The women writers of Benin seize the French language to tell what they cannot express in their languages of origin. French becomes the language of combat, denunciation, affirmation and commitment for Beninese authors. Women's writing in Benin is therefore committed writing that immediately joins the fight led by national and international organizations in the service of the cause of women.