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KEY=JULIA - MELENDEZ VALENTINE

Desire in Language

A Semiotic Approach to Literature and Art

Columbia University Press Traces the origin and development of the novel and analyzes how meaning is conveyed in fiction and art

An Objective Handbook of LITERARY THEORY

Exclusively for The NET/SET/JRF Aspirants

Authors Tree Publishing This book is very useful for the NET/SET/JRF aspirants because it has a short description of all the literary theories with Objective Questions with answer keys at the end of each chapter. Moreover, It provides an additional Practice Test - I and Practice Test - II with solutions. Literary Theories are made simple for readers to understand. This book is acclaimed as one of the first of this kind in the book industry. Therefore, students of UG, PG, M.Phil, and Ph.D. research scholars, assistant professors, literary theory -aspirants can make use of this book. This book covers chapters such as structuralism, poststructuralism, deconstruction, phenomenology, hermeneutics, postmodernism, postcolonialism, new historicism and post-humanism, feminism and ecocriticism.

Language, Madness, and Desire

On Literature

U of Minnesota Press As a transformative thinker of the twentieth century, whose work spanned all branches of the humanities, Michel Foucault had a complex and profound relationship with literature. And yet this critical aspect of his thought, because it was largely expressed in speeches and interviews, remains virtually unknown to even his most loyal readers. This book brings together previously unpublished transcripts of oral presentations in which Foucault speaks at length about literature and its links to some of his principal themes: madness, language and criticism, and truth and desire. The associations between madness and language—and madness and silence—preoccupy Foucault in two 1963 radio broadcasts, presented here, in which he ranges among literary examples from Cervantes and Shakespeare to Diderot, before taking up questions about Artaud's literary correspondence, lettres de cachet, and the materiality of language. In his lectures on the relations among language, the literary work, and literature, he discusses Joyce, Proust, Chateaubriand, Racine, and Corneille, as well as the linguist Roman Jakobson. What we know as literature, Foucault contends, begins with the Marquis de Sade, to whose writing—particularly *La Nouvelle Justine* and *Juliette*—he devotes a full two-part lecture series focusing on notions of literary self-consciousness. Following his meditations on history in the recently published *Speech Begins after Death*, this current volume makes clear the importance of literature to Foucault's thought and intellectual development.

Pouvoirs de L'horreur (English)

Columbia University Press Essay

Fan Culture

Theory/Practice

Cambridge Scholars Publishing Fan Culture: Theory/Practice brings together the most current scholarship on fan studies, in a way that makes it accessible and usable for both students and teachers. The essays in this collection explore the relative influence of academic and fan perspectives in the current group of scholar-fans and the ethical dilemmas that sometimes emerge from this interplay of identities, the impact of the increasingly reciprocal relationship between textual producers and consumers, and gender differences in fannish meaning-making and interaction. Fan Studies addresses these current issues through some of the most popular fannish texts, including *Doctor Who*, *Torchwood*, *Star Wars*, *Star Trek*, *Supernatural*, *Smallville* and *Twilight*. Fan Culture: Theory/Practice is thus designed to challenge some accepted notions, while asking relevant questions about pedagogy. How do we understand the state of the field, and teach fan studies both effectively and responsibly? The essays contained in this volume explore the dominant themes in the field, and seek to situate fan studies as a discipline with a pedagogy of its own.

Julia Kristeva

Speaking The Unspeakable

Pluto Press Anne-Marie Smith's concise introductory study examines Kristeva in the light of her contemporary activity as writer, teacher and psychoanalyst.

Religion and European Philosophy

Key Thinkers from Kant to Žižek

Taylor & Francis Religion and European Philosophy: Key Thinkers from Kant to Žižek draws together a diverse group of scholars in theology, religious studies, and philosophy to discuss the role that religion plays among key figures in the European philosophical tradition. Designed for accessibility, each of the thirty-four chapters includes background information on the key thinker, an overview of the main themes, concepts, and concerns that occupy his or her attention, and a discussion of the religious and theological elements present in his or her thought, in light of contemporary issues. Given the scope of the volume, Religion and European Philosophy will be the go-to guide for understanding the religious and theological dimensions of European philosophy, for both students and established researchers alike.

The Design of the Psalter

A Macrostructural Analysis

Wipf and Stock Publishers Good poetry is like a good painting: the more you linger over it, the more it reveals. It is a deep well that never runs dry. And that is why the Psalter, like a good painting, keeps giving. In the last four decades, Psalms scholarship has found remarkable fruitfulness in reading the Psalter as a book—that is, in reading the Psalms as a unified composition with a metanarrative across its 150 poems. Pivotal questions associated with this approach really boil down to two questions—how and why? How are individual psalms sequenced, if at all, and what is the design logic behind that macrostructure? This volume seeks to answer those questions. In essence, the Psalter unfurls the story of the Davidic covenant. While interest in the editing of the Psalter remains high in recent Psalms scholarship, this interest has not led to clear consensus. The specific and timely contribution of this volume is twofold. First, it consolidates the results of studies on groups of psalms. Second, it integrates poetic and thematic approaches that are typically separated in Psalms scholarship. Readers will find results of this study surprising and their implications sobering.

Strangers to Ourselves

Columbia University Press This book is concerned with the notion of the "stranger" -the foreigner, outsider, or alien in a country and society not their own- as well as the notion of strangeness within the self -a person's deep sense of being, as distinct from outside appearance and their conscious idea of self. Kristeva begins with the personal and moves outward by examining world literature and philosophy. She discusses the foreigner in Greek tragedy, in the Bible, and in the literature of the Middle Ages, Renaissance, Enlightenment, and the twentieth century. She discusses the legal status of foreigners throughout history, gaining perspective on our own civilization. Her insights into the problems of nationality, particularly in France are more timely and relevant in an increasingly integrated and fractious world.

Kristeva and the Political

Psychology Press Julia Kristeva is one of the most influential French thinkers of the twentieth century and is best known for her work in linguistics. Even though her work has been very influential, the political implications of her writings have so far been neglected. *Kristeva and the Political* is the first book to explore the relation of Kristeva's work to the political and casts new light on her work, connecting her to recent developments in literary theory, political theory, and cultural studies. In particular it shows how Kristeva's account of the unconscious and psychoanalysis generally, widens the notion of the political. Each chapter introduces a fundamental theme in Kristeva's work, highlighting a specific period of development in her thought and drawing on texts from the 1960s through to the 1990s. Themes addressed include Kristeva's theory of discourse, the theory of the subject, the notion of alterity, feminism and marginality and her theory known as the 'politics of meaning'. *Kristeva and the Political* also shows how Kristeva's notions of the political draw on a rich array of thinkers and writers, from Freud, Melanie Klein and Lacan, to Proust and Marguerite Duras.

The Severed Head

Capital Visions

Columbia University Press Julia Kristeva turns her famed critical eye to a study of the human head as symbol and metaphor, as religious object and physical fact, further developing a critical theme in her work--the power of horror--and expanding the potential for the face to provide an experience of the sacred. Kristeva's study stretches far back in time to 6,000 B.C.E. with humans' early decoration and worship of skulls, and follows with an examination of the Medusa myth; the mandylion of Laon (a holy relic in which the face of a saint appears on a piece of cloth); the biblical stories of John the Baptist and Salome; tales of the guillotine; modern murder mysteries; and the rhetoric surrounding the fight for and against capital punishment. Drawing numerous connections between these "capital visions" and their experience, Kristeva affirms the possibility of the sacred, even in an era of "faceless" interaction.

Black Sun

Depression and Melancholia

Columbia University Press Looks at the psychological nature of depression and discusses its portrayal in literature and art

Abjection, Melancholia, and Love

The Work of Julia Kristeva

Beginning with a previously unpublished essay by Julia Kristeva, this collection offers profound insights into work central to current linguistic and psychoanalytic thought, and marks Kristeva as a leading theoretician of desire.

Nations Without Nationalism

Columbia University Press Underlying Julia Kristeva's latest work is the idea that otherness - whether it be ethnic, religious, social, or political - needs to be understood and accepted in order to guarantee social harmony. *Nations Without Nationalism* is an impassioned plea for tolerance and for commonality, aimed at a world brimming over with racism and xenophobia. Responding to the rise of neo-Nazi groups in Germany and Eastern Europe and the continued popularity of the National Front in France, Kristeva turns to the origins of the nation-state to illustrate the problematic nature of nationalism and its complex configurations in subsequent centuries. For Kristeva, the key to commonality can be found in Montesquieu's *esprit general* - his notion of the social body as a guaranteed hierarchy of private rights. *Nations Without Nationalism* also contains Kristeva's thoughts on Harlem Desir, the founder of the antiracist organization SOS Racisme; the links between psychoanalysis and nationalism; the historical nature of French national identity; the relationship between *esprit general* and *Volksgeist*; Charles de Gaulle's complex ideas involving the "nation" and his dream of a unified Europe. In the tradition of *Strangers to Ourselves*, her most recent nonfiction work, *Nations Without Nationalism* reflects a passionate commitment to enlightenment and social justice. As ethnic strife persists in Europe and the United States, Kristeva's humanistic message carries with it a special resonance and urgency.

Reading Kristeva

Unraveling the Double-bind

Georgetown University Press "... both an excellent introduction and a thoroughgoing analysis of Kristeva's writing." —Signs "The book is a brilliant combination of a recuperative and a critical reading of Kristeva's work." —Changes: An International Journal of Psychology & Psychotherapy "... a thorough, detailed, and critical analysis of the writings of Julia Kristeva." —Elizabeth Grosz "... the most involved and engaging study of Julia Kristeva's work to date..." —The Year's Work in Critical and Cultural Theory This first full-scale feminist interpretation of Kristeva's work situates her within the context of French feminism. Oliver guides her readers through Kristeva's intellectual formation in linguistics, Freud, Lacan, and poetics. This comprehensive introduction to Kristeva makes accessible her important contributions to philosophy, linguistics, and psychoanalytic feminism.

Amending the Abject Body

Aesthetic Makeovers in Medicine and Culture

State University of New York Press Examines the implications and meanings of the makeover and aesthetic surgery industry in American popular culture. Feminist theorists have often argued that aesthetic surgeries and body makeovers dehumanize and disempower women patients, whose efforts at self-improvement lead to their objectification. *Amending the Abject Body* proposes that although objectification is an important element in this phenomenon, the explosive growth of "makeover culture" can be understood as a process of both abjection (ridding ourselves of the unwanted) and identification (joining the community of what Julia Kristeva calls "clean and proper bodies"). Drawing from the advertisement and advocacy of body makeovers on television, in aesthetic surgery trade books, and in the print and Web-based marketing of face lifts, tummy tucks, and Botox injections, Deborah Caslav Covino articulates the relationship among objectification, abjection, and identification, and offers a fuller understanding of contemporary beauty-desire. Deborah Caslav Covino is Associate Professor of English at California State University Stanislaus.

Environment, Space, Place - Volume 5, Issue 1 (Spring 2013)

Zeta Books

Maternal Performance

Feminist Relations

Springer Nature *Maternal Performance: Feminist Relations* bridges the fields of performance, feminism, maternal studies, and ethics. It loosely follows the life course with chapters on maternal loss, pregnancy, birth, aftermath, maintenance, generations, and futures. Performance and the maternal have an affinity as both are lived through the body of the mother/artist, are played out in real time, and are concerned with creating ethical relationships with an other - be that other the child, the theatrical audience, or our wider communities. The authors contend that maternal performance takes the largely hidden, private and domestic work of mothering and makes it worthy of consideration and

contemplation within the public sphere.

Romani Writing

Literacy, Literature and Identity Politics

Routledge The Roma (commonly known as "Gypsies") have largely been depicted in writings and in popular culture as an illiterate group. However, as *Romani Writing* shows, the Roma have a deep understanding of literacy and its implications, and use writing for a range of different purposes. While some Romani writers adopt an "oral" use of the written medium, which aims at opposing and deconstructing anti-Gypsy stereotypes, other Romani authors use writing for purposes of identity-building. Writing is for Romani activists and intellectuals a key factor in establishing a shared identity and introducing a common language that transcends linguistic and geographical boundaries between different Romani groups. Romani authors, acting in-between different cultures and communication systems, regard writing as an act of cultural mediation through which they are able to rewrite Gypsy images and negotiate their identity while retaining their ethnic specificity. Indeed, *Romani Writing* demonstrates how Romani authors have started to create self-images in which the Roma are no longer portrayed as "objects", but become "subjects" of written representation.

Gender Trouble

Feminism and the Subversion of Identity

Routledge Since its initial publication in 1990, this book has become a key work of contemporary feminist theory, and an essential work for anyone interested in the study of gender, queer theory, or the politics of sexuality in culture. This is the text where the author began to advance the ideas that would go on to take life as "performativity theory," as well as some of the first articulations of the possibility for subversive gender practices. Overall, this book offers a powerful critique of heteronormativity and of the function of gender in the modern world.

About Chinese Women

The Monstrous-Feminine

Film, Feminism, Psychoanalysis

Routledge In almost all critical writings on the horror film, woman is conceptualised only as victim. In *The Monstrous-Feminine* Barbara Creed challenges this patriarchal view by arguing that the prototype of all definitions of the monstrous is the female reproductive body. With close reference to a number of classic horror films including the *Alien* trilogy, T

Classic Readings on Monster Theory

ARC Reference Companion volumes *Classic Readings on Monster Theory* and *Primary Sources on Monsters* gather a wide range of readings and sources to enable us to see and understand what monsters can show us about what it means to be human. The first volume introduces important modern theorists of the monstrous and aims to provide interpretive tools and strategies for students to use to grapple with the primary sources in the second volume, which brings together some of the most influential and indicative monster narratives from the West.

Our Lady of Emmitsburg, Visionary Culture, and Catholic Identity

Seeing and Believing

Rowman & Littlefield This ethnography uses a lived religion approach to explore devotion in contemporary Marian apparitional movements. It investigates how individuals understand and express Catholic identity in the modern world through beliefs, practices, and relationships with individuals, institutions, and divine figures.

At the Risk of Thinking

An Intellectual Biography of Julia Kristeva

Bloomsbury Publishing USA A Choice Outstanding Academic Title of the Year Finalist for the 2021 Prose Awards (Biography & Autobiography category) *At the Risk of Thinking* is the first biography of Julia Kristeva--one of the most celebrated intellectuals in the world. Alice Jardine brings Kristeva's work to a broader readership by connecting Kristeva's personal journey, from her childhood in Communist Bulgaria to her adult life as an international public intellectual based in Paris, with the history of her ideas. Informed by extensive interviews with Kristeva herself, this telling of a remarkable woman's life story also draws out the complexities of Kristeva's writing, emphasizing her call for an urgent revival of bold interdisciplinary thinking in order to understand--and to act in--today's world.

Critical Theory Today

A User-Friendly Guide

Routledge *Critical Theory Today* is the essential introduction to contemporary critical theory. It provides clear, simple explanations and concrete examples of complex concepts, making a wide variety of commonly used critical theories accessible to novices without sacrificing any theoretical rigor or thoroughness. This new edition provides in-depth coverage of the most common approaches to literary analysis today: feminism, psychoanalysis, Marxism, reader-response theory, new criticism, structuralism and semiotics, deconstruction, new historicism, cultural criticism, lesbian/gay/queer theory, African American criticism, and postcolonial criticism. The chapters provide an extended explanation of each theory, using examples from everyday life, popular culture, and literary texts; a list of specific questions critics who use that theory ask about literary texts; an interpretation of F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* through the lens of each theory; a list of questions for further practice to guide readers in applying each theory to different literary works; and a bibliography of primary and secondary works for further reading.

The Portable Kristeva

Columbia University Press As a linguist, Julia Kristeva has pioneered a revolutionary theory of the sign in its relation to social and political emancipation; as a practicing psychoanalyst, she has produced work on the nature of the human subject and sexuality, and on the "new maladies" of today's neurotic. *The Portable Kristeva* is the only fully comprehensive compilation of Kristeva's key writings. The second edition includes added material from Kristeva's most important works of the past five years, including *The Sense and Non-Sense of Revolt*, *Intimate Revolt*, and *Hannah Arendt*. Editor Kelly Oliver has also added new material to the introduction, summarizing Kristeva's latest intellectual endeavors and updating the bibliography.

Sigur Rós's ()

Bloomsbury Publishing USA Words like "inspiring," "expansive," and "moving" are regularly used to describe Sigur Rós's (), and yet the only words heard on the record itself are a handful of meaningless nonsense syllables. The album has no title--or rather, its title is no title: just an empty pair of parentheses. The intention being that listeners will fill in the parentheses with their own title, their own interpretation of the sounds on the record. The CD sleeve consists of twelve pages that are essentially blank, lacking song titles, liner notes or production credits. Instead, it contains only semi-translucent frosted images of abstract natural scenes (tree branches, clouds, etc.), on which the listener is free to inscribe their own notes--or no notes at all. And then there are the lyrics, sung in a deliberately unintelligible tongue called "Hopelandic" which the band invites listeners to interpret freely. Ethan Hayden's book doesn't try to fill in the gaps between the album's parentheses, but instead explores the ways in which listeners might attempt to do so. Examining the communicative powers of asemantic language, the book asks whether music can bring sense to nonsense. What happens to the voice when it stops singing conventional language: does it simply become another musical instrument, or is it somehow more "human"? What role does space play on ()? And how do we interpret music that we cannot possibly understand, but feel very deeply that we do?

The System and the Speaking Subject

Walking Shadows

Reflections on the American Fantastic and the American Grotesque from Washington Irving to the Postmodern Era

BRILL *Walking Shadows* focuses on the American fantastic and the American grotesque, attempting in this manner for the first time to establish an overview of and a theoretical approach to two literary modes that have often been regarded as essential to an understanding of the American cultural canon.

Australian Fiction as Archival Salvage

Making and Unmaking the Postcolonial Novel

BRILL *Australian Fiction as Archival Salvage* examines developments in the Australian postcolonial historical novel from 1989 to the present, including seminal experiments in the genre by Kate Grenville, Mudrooroo, Kim Scott, Peter Carey, Rohan Wilson and others.

Genetic Criticism

Tracing Creativity in Literature

Oxford University Press This book introduces genetic criticism as a reading strategy which investigates the origins and development of texts over time. Using case studies including Samuel Beckett and Ian McEwan, Van Hulle discusses the concrete and more abstract dimensions of this approach.

The Abject of Desire

The Aestheticization of the Unaesthetic in Contemporary Literature and Culture

BRILL *The Abject of Desire* approaches the aestheticization of the unaesthetic via a range of different topics and genres in twentieth-century Anglophone literature and culture. The "experience of disgust", which Winfried Menninghaus describes as "an acute crisis of self-preservation", is correlated with conceptualizations of gender in theories of the abject/abjection. In view of this general crisis of identity in the experience of disgust, the contributions to this volume discuss examples of the aestheticization of the unaesthetic in cultural representations and locate conceptual (re)codings of the body, gender, and identity with regard to the abject as an immediate and uncompromising experience on the one hand, and a social and political phenomenon on the other. Considering a variety of cultural narratives by writers as diverse as Samuel Delany, Sarah Schulman, Joyce Carol Oates, Leslie Marmon Silko, Paul Magrs, J. G. Ballard, Stevie Smith, T. C. Boyle, Joseph Conrad, Poppy Z. Brite, and Will Self, by film directors John Waters and Peter Greenaway, playwrights Girish Karnad and Mahesh Dattani, and "body artist" Gunter von Hagens, the contributors to this volume scrutinize different implications of the ambivalent concept of the abject/abjection.

My Word!

Plagiarism and College Culture

Cornell University Press "Classroom Cheats Turn to Computers." "Student Essays on Internet Offer Challenge to Teachers." "Faking the Grade." Headlines such as these have been blaring the alarming news of an epidemic of plagiarism and cheating in American colleges: more than 75 percent of students admit to having cheated; 68 percent admit to cutting and pasting material from the Internet without citation. Professors are reminded almost daily that many of today's college students operate under an entirely new set of assumptions about originality and ethics. Practices that even a decade ago would have been regarded almost universally as academically dishonest are now commonplace. Is this development an indication of dramatic shifts in education and the larger culture? In a book that dismisses hand-wringing in favor of a rich account of how students actually think and act, Susan D. Blum discovers two cultures that exist, often uneasily, side by side in the classroom. Relying extensively on interviews conducted by students with students, *My Word!* presents the voices of today's young adults as they muse about their daily activities, their challenges, and the meanings of their college lives. Outcomes-based secondary education, the steeply rising cost of college tuition, and an economic climate in which higher education is valued for its effect on future earnings above all else: These factors each have a role to play in explaining why students might pursue good grades by any means necessary. These incentives have arisen in the same era as easily accessible ways to cheat electronically and with almost intolerable pressures that result in many students being diagnosed as clinically depressed during their transition from childhood to adulthood. However, Blum suggests, the real problem of academic dishonesty arises primarily from a lack of communication between two distinct cultures within the university setting. On one hand, professors and administrators regard plagiarism as a serious academic crime, an ethical transgression, even a sin against an ethos of individualism and originality. Students, on the other hand, revel in sharing, in multiplicity, in accomplishment at any cost. Although this book is unlikely to reassure readers who hope that increasing rates of plagiarism can be reversed with strongly worded warnings on the first day of class, *My Word!* opens a dialogue between professors and their students that may lead to true mutual comprehension and serve as the basis for an alignment between student practices and their professors' expectations.

The Exercise of Power in Communication

Devices, Reception and Reaction

Springer This book explores the various choices speakers or communicators make when expressing power relations in modern societies. The volume brings together several disciplines, such as linguistics, sociology, communication studies and social psychology, to give insight into how interactants co-construct different aspects of power in their everyday life.

This Incredible Need to Believe

Columbia University Press "Unlike Freud, I do not claim that religion is just an illusion and a source of neurosis. The time has come to recognize, without being afraid of 'frightening' either the faithful or the agnostics, that the history of Christianity prepared the world for humanism." So writes Julia Kristeva in this provocative work, which skillfully upends our entrenched ideas about religion, belief, and the thought and work of a renowned psychoanalyst and critic. With dialogue and essay, Kristeva analyzes our "incredible need to believe"--the inexorable push toward faith that, for Kristeva, lies at the heart of the psyche and the history of society. Examining the lives, theories, and convictions of Saint Teresa of Avila, Sigmund Freud, Donald Winnicott, Hannah Arendt, and other individuals, she investigates the intersection between the desire for God and the shadowy zone in which belief resides. Kristeva suggests that human beings are formed by their need to believe, beginning with our first attempts at speech and following through to our adolescent search for identity and meaning. Kristeva then applies her insight to contemporary religious clashes and the plight of immigrant populations, especially those of Islamic origin. Even if we no longer have faith in God, Kristeva argues, we must believe in human destiny and creative possibility. Reclaiming Christianity's openness to self-questioning and the search for knowledge, Kristeva urges a "new kind of politics," one that restores the integrity of the human community.

The Kristeva Reader

Columbia University Press An easily accessible introduction to Kristeva's work in English. The essays have been selected as representative of the three main areas of Kristeva's writing--semiotics, psychoanalysis, and political theory--and are each prefaced by a clear, instructive introduction. For beginners or those familiar with Kristeva's work this is a good complement to *The Portable Kristeva* with a convenient selection of articles from Kristeva's earlier work some of which are otherwise hard to come by.

Hegel and the Foundations of Literary Theory

Cambridge University Press Habib argues that the basic principles and assumptions of modern literary theory derive from the thought of German philosopher Hegel.

Digital Fandom

New Media Studies

Peter Lang "This book re-evaluates the way we examine today's digital media environment By looking at how popular culture uses different digital technologies, Digital Fandom bolsters contemporary media theory by introducing new methods of analysis Using the exemplars of alternate reality gaming and fan studies, this book takes into account a particular "philosophy of playfulness" in today's media in order to establish a "new media studies." "Digital Fandom augments traditional studies of popular media fandom with descriptions of the contemporary fan in a converged media environment. The book shows how changes in the study of fandom can be applied in a larger scale to the study of new media in general, and formulates new conceptions of traditional media theories." "In this web 2.0 world, where community and not content is king, the fan marks a new form of interactive subjectivity that deconstructs the usual categories of consumer and producer. Paul Booth's Digital Fandom breaks new ground in the investigation of this subject, demonstrating how it reorganizes and reorients the field of new media studies" ---David J. Gunkel, Presidential Teaching Professor, Northern Illinois University, Author of Hacking Cyberspace and Thinking Otherwise" "From blogs to ARGs, wikis to social networking sites, Paul Booth provides an in-depth tour of how fans straddle and traverse the boundary between television and digital media. With a theoretically rich analytic eye, Digital Fandom breaks new ground for the next generation of media scholarship" ---Jason Mittell, Middlebury College, Author of Television & American Culture"--BOOK JACKET.

Text, Context and Construction of Identity

Cambridge Scholars Publishing Language is central to our existence and it happens to be the most sophisticated product of the human mind. It is inconceivable to think of ourselves, our societies, our ideas, cultures or identities without language. It is the primary means of socialization, and whatever we know is a result of it. It is the primary medium of construction and dissemination of knowledge, and structures our thought processes in important ways that constitute our identity. In very complex ways, it interacts with the social, political and economic power structures that remain significant in defining the identities of individuals and societies. The essays in this volume create an awareness and understanding about the role of linguistic context in negotiating identity. The book explains identity and the complex relations between language and several aspects of our society. It explores identity through text and context, and will serve to trigger a novel discourse around the centrality of identity in contemporary society.