

Literature re-members History: the Algerian war in *Un regard blessé* of Rabah Belamri and *La Malédiction* of Rachid Mimouni

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The use of French Language: the idea of "Francophonie"

- Independence of Algeria in 1962
- The word "francophonie" used for the first time in 1885 to qualify the spread of the French language in Africa after the share of colonies made in the Congress of Berlin
- The evolution of the language: it became the language of freedom with a specific renewal of the French language

Why choosing Rabah Belamri and Rachid Mimouni?

- Two French-speaking writers who lived at the same time
- Novels focusing on different aspects linked to memory (*Shattered vision* and the Algerian war, *La Malédiction* and the Islamist upheavals of 1991)
- Titles which can be exchanged (a blind narrator who cannot be cured because of the war.)

Literature as a way of re-membering culture

- The perception of the war and politics in both novels
- History, Literature and pieces of memory
- Theory of re-construction. Re-construction of the text and characters' histories
- Literature, a process of resilience (reparation of social link, Boris Cyrulnik)

Narratives and Identity

- The characters who confront the present and the past of Algeria (Mimouni's novel)
- Storytelling process. The Ancient Soldier in Mimouni's novel. (Text 1) Re-membering the past: inventing the future. How to create an imaginary boundary? Role of Literature. The text of Mimouni as a recollection of short biographical stories (The character of El Msili as the prototype of bureaucratic career)
- Literature re-members the narrative identity. Alger as a symbolic character in Belamri's novel (Description, text 2)

The process of resilience (re-structuring the collective identity)

- In Mimouni's novel, the doctor (Kader) as a real curator. Link between different generations. Text 3
- Belamri's novel. The non-curable disease. Text 4
- No acceptance of the fatality of History
- Novels which deal with the social groups rejected in Algeria and in France (*harkis*)
- Re-building the injuries of the past. Full blindness at the end of Belamri's novel and necessity of building something else at the end of Mimouni's novel.

Conclusion: the vision of Literature in the quest of collective identity

- The state of French-speaking Literature in Maghreb countries: a way of questioning and remembering pieces of memories
- The part of French-speaking Literature in postcolonialism

Ania Loomba, *Colonialism/Postcolonialism*, London, New York, Routledge, 2005, p. 63: "Literature is a place where 'transculturation' takes place in all its complexity".