

THE STRUGGLE OF A WOMAN IN FINDING
SELF-IDENTITY IN NAWAL EL-SAADAWI'S
MEMOIRS OF A WOMAN DOCTOR

T H E S I S



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ABSTRACT

Nawal El-Saadawi's Memoirs of A Woman Doctor is a novel talking about the struggle of a woman in finding self-identity. The woman in the work is represented by the woman doctor, the major character. Saadawi as a literary woman as well as a doctor is very succesful in portraying the woman doctor.

The writer limites the object of the study to one of the intrinsic elements of the novel namely the character. Therefore he uses a structural approach in this study. More specifically, the writer will concentrate the study on discussing the major character, the woman doctor. However, he will also describe some of the minor characters to support the analysis and to make the descriptions clearer and more easily understandable.

The major character is described as a woman who has not uderstood who actually she herself is. She will not just accept what comes to her. She does not want to be like other women in common. It takes very long time for her to recognize herself during which she must face many complicated problems which lead her to undergo serious psychological or inner conflicts. In this study, the writer is using psychological approach because he will reveal, describe, and analyze those conflicts based on the psychological views.

After analyzing the conflicts of the major character, the writer finds that there are some of her cneptios in findig self-identity which are rather controversial. Therefore, he will show some of his ideas and insights concerning the subject matter which is being discussed. To enable this he employs the theory of deconstruction. It is hoped that this thesis will be beneficial for everybody reading it.