

BODY LITERATURE: GENDER, IDENTITY, AND CULTURAL REPRESENTATION IN LITERARY TEXTS

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ABSTRACT

This paper explores the concept of “body literature,” examining how the human body functions as a site of meaning, identity, and cultural representation in literary texts. Drawing on feminist theory, postcolonial studies, and cultural criticism, it analyzes how gendered embodiment and bodily metaphors shape narratives of power, resistance, and belonging. Through close readings of selected texts, the study demonstrates that the body is not merely biological but a cultural archive, inscribed with social hierarchies, political struggles, and identity negotiations. The paper argues that “body literature” provides a critical lens for understanding how literature reflects and contests cultural norms.

KEYWORDS: *Body Literature, Gender, Identity, Cultural Representation, Feminist Criticism, Postcolonial Studies, Embodiment*