

**TEXT AND CONTEXT :
A GENDERED READING OF SELECTED COLLECTIONS OF FILIPINO
SHORT STORIES IN ENGLISH PUBLISHED FROM 1990 -1999**

by

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ABSTRACT

My study, *Text and Context : A Gendered Reading of Selected Collections of Filipino Short Stories in English Published From 1990-1999*, examines the male patriarchal values inscribed in the texts of ten award-winning books of Filipino short stories in English published in the past decade. Specifically, it problematizes how patriarchy or the tradition of male ideology is taken as a social construction that is beyond question in this set of selected short stories. That the way the characters behave are motivated by the invisible hands of patriarchy which force or coerce the characters, men as well as women, to act in one way and not in another. It investigates the strategies of depiction and valorization of these values vis-à-vis the Philippine context.

Inspired by the assumptions made by Arthur Brittan on sex equality, it uses, for its methodology, a post-structuralist strategy of reading called Deconstructive or Symptomatic Reading. This strategy looks into the rhetorical technique and textual content employed by the texts in the social construction of the lives of men and women in the short stories.

The symptomatic reading focuses on the revelation of concealed meanings embedded in key symbolic representations of values used by the authors in the stories. By deconstructing the texts, absences, gaps, silences are given life in the daily mundane sites of everyday life.

The dissertation discovers varying modes or levels of representing men and women in the texts. These varying modes or levels are shown in the stories that (1) affirm patriarchy, (2) contest or challenge it, and (3) redefine it. Stories that support it, valorize the men but degrade the women. The plot of these stories moves in a direction that always emulate the male culture and the values it represent through the help of the basic social institutions, particularly the family. Those that contest or challenge it, foreground the strength of the women characters through various techniques like enchantment, satire, irony, and the comic spirit. And those that redefine it, suggest or offer alternative values to take to provide a new way of looking at or viewing women. These alternative values came about by blurring the distinctions between masculine and feminine and by introducing a new definition of the categories called man and woman.

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