

Abstract

The aim of this thesis is to analyse selected autobiographical works written by Indian trans* authors, namely A. Revathi: *The Truth about Me: A Hijra Life Story*, Laxmi Narayan Tripathi: *Me Hijra, Me Laxmi* and Living Smile Vidya: *I am Vidya: A Transgender's Journey*.

The first part of the thesis will provide a broader perspective on trans* identity issues, including an introduction to the terminology and history. This will be followed by a section relating it to the context of the Indian subcontinent, within which the phenomenon of the hijra as a specific trans* community of the region will be largely addressed.

The second part will deal with autobiographical writing. After introducing the subject and presenting the history of the genre as well as the history of its criticism, the focus will be directed towards the literary genre of autobiography as a tool of self-determination, as a means of asserting one's own identity, of gaining agency and a legitimate place in society, and other ways in which it has been used by marginalised authors.

This theoretical background will be the basis for the third part of the thesis, that is, the actual analysis of the autobiographical narratives. Through the selected areas of analysis, the chosen authorial strategies, the development of identity in the narrative, and the potential of autobiography as a tool for political activism will be explored.