

## Abstract

The thesis elaborates upon a question which literary techniques Jeanette Winterson applies in her novels *The Passion* and *Written on the Body* to portray queer body. The thesis conceptualizes queer body as crystallizing in discontinuous relationships between the categories of sex, gender identity and compulsory heterosexuality within Butlerian heterosexual matrix. The possibility of discontinuous relationships between them – gender disorder – is realised in the act of beholding queer body. Conceptualization of queer body embedded within the Butlerian heterosexual matrix has not been elaborated upon in the full scope of Jeanette Winterson's work. Literary criticism deals with the body in *Written on the Body*, not, however, in the context of Butlerian model of heterosexual matrix. Articulation of queer body is realized by deconstructive techniques of Jeanette Winterson's writing. These are comprised in the motifs of mirroring in *The Passion* and palimpsest in *Written on the Body*. Ontological anxiety in *The Passion* brings queer body. Magic realism in the novel gives queer body magical skills which make gender disorder possible. Queer body is abject in the novel. In *Written on the Body* genderless narrator describes queer body as his/her body. It is an adorable and morbid body. The queer body in this novel is disfigured and abject. Wintersonian figures of queer body are on the verge of imagination and reality. The attribute of abjection aligned with the queer body brings attention to a limited access to literary figures of its portrayal. The attribute of abjection also anticipates punishment of queer body. Even though the Wintersonian possibilities of portraying queer body are on the boundary of reality and acceptability, they are made accessible by the novels. These possibilities, however, anticipate social punishment for they endanger the socially hegemonic system.