

Isabel Allende's *La Casa de los Espíritus*: The Crossing of Sex/Nation from Reality to Magic

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«Abstract»

Magical Realism could be said the main-stream “discourse” of the Latin-American literature, in which has the subversive characteristic for speaking to the First World, but it is still regarded as the feature in the male’s writing. Isabel Allede is one of the rare female writers who adopted that discourse. She became famous by her novel *The House of Spirits* that was highly valued by the critics of both magical realism and feminism. However, it also brings up a question: since she used the Latin-American male writer’s style, does the voice of women really come out? Or is there any contradiction behind this question? This study attempts to discuss in the veil of her identity as a feminist, how Allede re-interprets the writing form and socio-political concern that consistently emphasized in Magical Realism. Moreover, as a female writer of the third world, her appropriation also indicates another level of implication/connotation. In short, this paper aims at investigating the following questions: based on the Latin-American common rhetorical strategy, what does *The House of Spirits* keep on? What does it subvert? In particular, by the mean of written discourse known as Magical Realism, how can the issues of gender and national identity in terms of the female perspective get resolved?

Keywords: Magical Realism, feminism, male writing, the third world