

-According to Derrida, meaning is not static, so deconstruction attempts to find out the multiple layers/levels of meaning embedded/latent/implicit into texts.



-Deconstruction also seeks to dismantle/break up binary oppositions and hierarchies that are based on power relations, such as gender (man/woman), class (upper class/lower class), race (white/black) etc.

-Deconstruction is used in literary criticism and literary studies to reveal hidden assumptions, representations, messages and ideologies in literary texts.

-Deconstruction is also used by feminists to subvert/undermine/challenge male dominance/patriarchy/androcentrism through their writings/texts.

-Deconstruction is to a large extent employed by postcolonial writers and critics to unravel/unfold/show cultural, racial, ethnic stereotypes and ideologies embedded in colonial texts and discourse.

-Examples of feminist literary texts :

.Laila Abou Zeid's *Year of the Elephant*

.Fatima Mernissi's *Dreams of Trespass...*

-Examples feminist theories :

.Simone de Beauvoir's *The Second Sex*

.Judith Butler's theory *Gender Performativity*

.Gayatri Spivack's essay « *Can the Subaltern Speak ?* »

-Quote from Derrida's *Dissemination* :

« A text is not a text unless it hides from the first comer, from the first glance, the laws of its composition and the rules of its game. A text remains, moreover, forever imperceptible. Its laws and rules are not, however, harbored in the inaccessibility of secret ; it is simply that they can never be booked, in the present, into anything that could rigorously be called a perception. »