

A FEMINIST CRITICISM ON NIEN CHENG'S *LIFE AND DEATH IN SHANGHAI*

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ABSTRACT

Life and Death in ShangHai is an excellent autobiographical novel written by Nien Cheng. It is her most famous written work. The purpose of this paper is to apply the feminist approach to interpret her novel. The analysis includes Nien Cheng's life in the novel, her point of view as a historical witness of the Cultural Revolution, the novel's tone, structure of the narration, settings, and Nien Cheng's ideological issues as victim and survivor. The themes which reflect Nien Cheng's character in the novel are also discussed. The analysis shows that Nien Cheng's autobiography is a realistic portrayal of her suffering as a victim of political harassment. Her perseverance and strong fate made her become an extraordinary Chinese woman. She tries to depict the violence during the Chinese Cultural Revolution and to share her life as a political prisoner. *Life and Death in ShangHai* is a woman's painful but inspiring memoir for the outsiders to read her heart-breaking story during the Cultural Revolution.