

## EDITORIAL

Human beings by their very nature are narrating creatures. The narratives were the basis for the development of society and culture. The term 'narrative' suggests that as a signifying structure it shares all the elements that go in the making of a text or discourse. It shares the nature of language. It is part of the signifying system that creates significations for certain readers. Because it is text, because it is woven in language, because it is part of the signifying economy, it becomes imperative on the part of the readers (scholars) to remain vigilant of the ideologies that are layered in these kinds of symbolic performatives. The text demands 'readings' that go beyond the illusionary surfaces.

The immediacy of signification, the obvious in the word, is too seductive to resist the temptation. The 'facts' of life are communicated through language that spins the fiction by its very nature and necessity. Language can relate or narrate only allegorically. And that suggests that life narratives or for that matter all narratives are allegories, that demand interpretations to reach the second or the third layer of meanings. The language hides more than what it reveals, and this is truer of life narratives than of other kind of narratives. Why life narratives hide more than other narratives? Because the life narratives simultaneously share the two spaces of language: one of the text that is created in the process of the narrative and the other of the linguistic self that creates the text.

The linguistic nature of the self spinning the narrative makes the narrative more complex because the fictional nature of the self is predetermined and the efforts of the reader to assign truth value to the fictional self is doomed to fail from the beginning. The choice to the reader is limited: he can either create another fiction by his interpretive activity or delude himself and others to be indulging in the activity of interpreting the significations of substance. The choices that we have put forth become evident as the readers go through the articles of this issue of *Dialogue*.

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