

**The Subaltern ‘Speaks’: Agency in Neshani Andreas’ *The Purple Violet of Oshaantu*
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SUMMARY

This dissertation critically evaluates the issue of the ‘silencing’ of the subaltern woman in the 1988 version of Gayatri Spivak’s essay ‘Can the Subaltern Speak?’ The conclusions reached are then related to the novel *The Purple Violet of Oshaantu* by the Namibian woman writer Neshani Andreas. Chapter 1 deals with the essay ‘Can the Subaltern Speak?’ and the ‘silenced’ subaltern woman, examining both Spivak’s theory on this issue as well as criticism of this theory by different postcolonial theorists. Chapter 2 presents aspects of both the creative and political practice of women, specifically the woman writer, in certain countries in Africa. Chapter 3 deals with the novel *The Purple Violet of Oshaantu* by Neshani Andreas and explores issues like the ‘silencing’ of the subaltern women in the novel, opposition to patriarchal oppression and the engendering of agency by both the writer and the characters in the novel.

LIST OF KEYWORDS

Agency

Andreas, Neshani

‘Can the Subaltern Speak?’

Colonialism

Namibian Literature

Patriarchy

Postcolonial feminist literature

The Purple Violet of Oshaantu

Spivak, Gayatri

Subaltern subject