

*Ileana Botescu-Sireteanu*  
Transilvania University

***NEGOTIATING LANGUAGES, TRANSLATING THE SELF:  
THE EMERGING SELF IN JEANETTE WINTERSON'S ART AND LIES***

***Keywords:*** *difference, identity, self, feminine writing, postmodern feminist theory*

***Abstract:*** *The present paper focuses on Jeanette Winterson's 1995 novel Art and Lies as it aims at identifying the sources of the Self in the continuous negotiation among the various languages and narrative voices that Winterson's novel foregrounds. Winterson's purposeful resistance to establishing any hierarchy as concerns narrators, narratives and languages as well as her marked intention to discard the very idea of centre are investigated as translating a problematic and fragmented self which only emerges as a negotiation among the various linguistic codes and the various narrative instances in the novel. The paper also concentrates on the concept of difference which is crucial to Winterson's entire body of fiction and whose understanding is in her case essentially different from the one it had in the traditional Western thought. As a determining factor in identity construction, difference transgresses the classical binary opposition and emerges as a constructive negotiation. Winterson's understanding of difference challenges the traditional dialectic definition of the concept and proposes a positive, liberating and rewarding vision instead. Consequently, the Self emerges as a collection of liberating and very constructive differences that stem from a very much welcomed diversity and pluralism.*