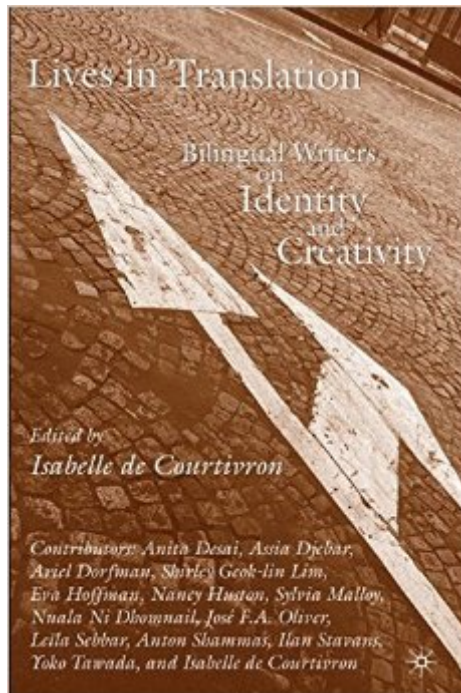


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Lives In Translation: Bilingual Writers On Identity And Creativity



Synopsis

Many writers work in a language other than their mother tongue. In this collection, writers explore the role that bilingualism has played in their creative lives and their sense of self. Contributors include Anita Desai, Ariel Dorfman, Eva Hoffman, Nuala Ni Dhomnail, Ilan Stavans, Assia Djebar and Yoko Tawanda.

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Language, writes Ariel Dorfman, "contains the seeds of immigrants' most intimate identity." Thus, living in two languages presents a challenge to that identity. How does a writer, whose medium is language, confront such a challenge? De Courtivron, herself an immigrant to the U.S. from France and a professor at MIT, has gathered essays from more than a dozen authors exploring these issues. They come from all over the world and speak a multitude of tongues: Anton Shammas, an Israeli Arab, wryly relates his fumbling effort as a boy to buy sunflower seeds in Hebrew; Sylvia Molloy, raised bilingual in Argentina, writes of "shuttling between languages," which she finds "liberating" but also "laborious"; Yoko Tawada, a Japanese writer who lived for years in Germany, considers how words determine perception and describes her "multilingual web." Readers need not be bilingual to appreciate these fine essays; anyone fascinated by the mysteries of language and the art of writing will find much to admire here. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc.

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'Fascinating reading for anyone with an interest in or first-hand experience with bi- or multilingualism'
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