

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ABSTRACT

Without God, the completion of this paper would have been impossible. To
and be the glory.

**The Concept of Self and Non-Self in the Novels
of Margaret Laurence and Jean Rhys**

My deepest gratitude to my family, especially my mother and sister, and my

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This research paper discusses the concept of self and non-self in the novels of Margaret Laurence and Jean Rhys. It concerns itself with the female protagonists' quest for self in the novels of these two writers, with specific reference to the areas of childhood and male female relationships, the two chapters into which this paper is sub-divided.

An examination of the female self's interaction with the non-self, i.e. parents and later with lover/spouse, reveals that there are similarities in the hardships which these women encounter but major differences in their responses to these difficulties.

The conclusion endeavours to show that though the concerns of these two writers are similar, their visions are not. Laurence's characters attain degrees of independence whereas Rhys' characters find life impossible without being dependent on someone.