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Name of Topic: Writing the Self: The Study of Select English Texts by Pakistani Women

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I want to emphasise that the primary goal of my study is how Pakistani literature speaks to the world. Through this thesis, I have highlighted the content and context of contemporary Pakistani writing and the authors' difficult position in addressing national and global forces that have caused human suffering in a world where universal human rights are said to exist. Due to their historical and political complexity, these writings can be most productively used in a cross-disciplinary classroom if read from multiple perspectives and taught in a context that allows contesting interpretations. In their ambivalence, Pakistani fiction and memoirs can identify the challenges of a universal vision of human rights in a post-9/11 world; only then can progress be made.

In short, the final findings indicate how some of these writers 'living' abroad use the locale in the West to depict the realities of Pakistan and how they reimagine the traditional understandings of belongingness and loss, with a fluid self being reflected in the fluidity of their genres. The women writers are problematising the idea of the centre-periphery and are trying to position themselves in the intervening gaps and spaces. These women articulate the self as a 'self in process, constantly negotiating with the constricting societal structures to be able to voice and articulate freely. The thesis, thus, highlights how these texts are not just literary artefacts but works that participate and play an active role in activism and political movements in reimagining alternate realities.