

Abstract to *Tactical Silence in the Novels of Malika Mokeddem*

Michel de Certeau's model of strategies and tactics, applied to a postcolonial assessment of both Algerian literature in French as well as Algerian women's stereotyped silence, has prompted this exploration of how the manipulation of silence may be used to challenge a gender-differentiated power system. This book considers the effect of practical silence on the lives of Malika Mokeddem's female protagonists contained in the following novels: *Les Hommes qui marchent* (1990), *Le Siècle des sauterelles* (1992), *L'Interdite* (1993), *Des Rêves et des assassins* (1995), *La Nuit de la lézarde* (1998), *N'zid* (2001), *La Transe des insoumis* (2003), *Mes hommes* (2005), and *Je dois tout à ton oubli* (2008). The notion of deliberate silence also lends itself to a discussion of the reader's efforts in comprehending Mokeddem's textual silences and the author's decision to exclude certain topics from her writings.