

**La disparition de la langue française (2003) d'Assia Djébar : donner voix
aux spectres du passé**

(*The Disappearance of the French Language* (2003) by Assia Djébar: Giving
Voice to the Specters Of The Past)

Julie CATEL
Université de Boulder, Colorado, USA

Abstract: *La Disparition de la langue française (2013) is a novel written by the Franco-Algerian author Assia Djébar. The novel follows the journey undertaken by an Algerian man named Berkane to reconnect with his native country after spending twenty years in France. The novel sheds light on the character's impossible return home. Berkane's Algeria is both a tangible place and a figment of his imagination tainted by his childhood memories. Additionally, Berkane and Algeria share a similar linguistic cartography, characterized by the dichotomy between the Arabic of private spaces and the French of public spaces. In the novel, characters integrate their personal stories into a "third space" and thus through various inventive uses of language. This study intends to demonstrate, by borrowing from Bhabha, that language permits the characters in the narrative to abolish the established boundaries between the two linguistic spaces that mark the Algerian territory and its inhabitants thus bridging the gap between Algeria as a phantasmagoric space and a "perceived" space.*

Keywords: *Assia Djébar; La Disparition de la langue française; Algerian diaspora; Third Space; postcolonialism; spatiality;*