

**Carol Shields' *The Stone Diaries*:
Self – Distortion in Modernity**

Thesis

*Submitted as a partial Fulfillment
Of the Requirement to Obtain the Strata One (S1) Degree*



By:

**Elkhaira Ihsan
32289 – 2001**

Advisors:

**Dr. Hj. Kurnia Ningsih, M.A
Dra. An Fauzia Rozani Syafei, M.A**

**English Department
Faculty of Languages, Literature and Arts
State University of Padang
2008**

ABSTRACT

Ihsan, Elkhaira. 2008. Carol Shields' "*The Stone Diaries*": Self – Distortion in Modernity

**Pembimbing : 1. Dr. Hj. Kurnia Ningsih, M.A.
2. Dra. An Fauzia Rozani Syafei, M.A.**

Skripsi ini merupakan analisa novel *Stone Diaries* (1993) yang ditulis oleh Carol Shields. Permasalahan yang dibahas dalam analisa ini adalah sejauh mana karakter (Barker Flett) melakukan distorsi terhadap dirinya sendiri sebagai seorang manusia yang memiliki kebutuhan dasar (self-distortion) dalam modernitas kehidupan dan sejauh mana poin of view dan karakter mengungkapkan distorsi diri tersebut. Tujuan dari penganalisaan ini adalah untuk mendapatkan jawaban sejauh mana novel *Stone Diaries* memperlihatkan distorsi-diri. Selain dengan menggunakan elemen fiksi yang ada, analisa ini juga mengaplikasikan teori mengenai modernitas dan kebutuhan dasar manusia.

Hasil analisa menunjukkan bahwa karakter (Barker) telah mendistorsi dirinya. Hal ini dapat dilihat dari kehidupan (life), pemikiran (thought) dan sikapnya sehari-hari (manner). Dari segi kehidupan, Barker menjadi seorang yang sangat individualis sehingga kehidupannya menjadi monoton yang hanya terdiri dari pekerjaan. Begitupun halnya dengan pemikirannya. Ia menganggap berbagai hal penting dalam kehidupan manusia seperti bersosialisasi, perkawinan, dan agama sebagai sesuatu yang aneh. Dari sikapnya, Barker cenderung bersikap dingin, terlalu menjunjung keteraturan yang pada akhirnya membuatnya tidak mampu melakukan tindakan / membuat keputusan dengan lebih spontan. Situasi seperti ini juga tergambar dari cara ia mengatur keluarganya. Fenomena seperti ini mulai menjadi sesuatu yang sudah biasa dalam kehidupan modern. Manusia tidak lagi menghargai kehidupan sosialnya dengan baik sehingga mereka secara tidak sadar telah melakukan distorsi kepada diri mereka sendiri.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First of all, I would like to send my deepest gratitude to Allah S.W.T for the never ceases his blessing and guidance in my life.

I would thank to my advisors Dr. Hj. Kurnia Ningsih, M.A for her valuable advices that make this thesis as one of the evidences of her dedication. And also for Dra. An Fauzia Rozani Syafei, M.A, thank you for being so kind and for your wonderful advices. My thankfulness is also addressed to my academic advisor Drs. Zainuddin Amir for the spirit given to me. And for all examiners, Desvalini Anwar,S.S.M.Hum, Winda Setiasari, S.S,M.Hum and Muhd. Al-Hafidzh,S.S for their bright suggestion and comments. For all lecturers, thank you for all things, knowledge and guidance that given to me.

Last but not least, my deepest love and thankfulness are addressed to my beloved Parents, brothers and sisters for their unconditional love and prayer. I also thank to my wonderful husband who always be patient, so kind and keeps giving me more spirit. And for my lovely kids, Cha-cha and Rafi ; this thesis is nothing without you. It is both of you who keep me stronger. Finally for all friends and those people who always be with me and always support me. For all of you; thank you and I always know that I am nothing without you all.

Padang, Juni 2008

Elkhaira Ihsan

Table of Contents

Halaman Pengesahan Skripsi.....	i
Halaman Pernyataan Lulus Ujian Skripsi.....	ii
Abstrak.....	iii
Acknowledgement.....	iv
CHAPTER I	
Introduction	
1.1 Background of the Study.....	1
1.1.1 Self-Distortion in Modernity.....	3
1.1.2 The Stone Diaries.....	4
1.1.3 A Brief about Carol Shields.....	6
1.1.4 Previous Study.....	7
1.2 Problem of the Study.....	8
1.3 Purpose of the Study.....	9
1.4 Theoretical Framework.....	9
1.5 Methodology.....	14
CHAPTER II	
2.1 Life.....	15
2.2 Thought.....	23
2.3 Manner.....	31
CHAPTER III	
Conclusion.....	36
BIBLIOGRAPHY	

Chapter I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

The old traditional way of life seems to be varnished forever. People choose to abandon their traditional way of life. They move to a life of modernity. The modernity is concerned with innovations and changes. The most recognizable part of these changes can be observed in economy, education, culture and society.

In terms of economy, technology totally supports the production, distribution and marketing activity. It is based on industrial mass production while white-collar jobs have increased. The pursue for wealth is so high that modern people tend to use materiality as the main parameter in all part of their life. In education, everyone has great opportunity of being educated that the number of persons achieving higher education is rising all the time. It is also improved by technology such as computer and internet that considered as the inseparable tools. Then, in social and cultural aspects, communication media, transportation and many other modern equipments have extremely showed its effects. The ideas of social integration and social cooperation have been eliminated by self-determination and self-reliance ones.

Self-determination and self-reliance, which has been emerged for many years, seem to be identified as two of the modern ideas that focus on one's self (Calhoun 1985). It is based on the thought that people have to empower themselves and believe that nobody or anything else can determine their life but themselves. Further, it asks

them to find as well as using our competence, strength and building our own independency. It encourages people to do their best in modern life. To some extent, it leads individuals to compete each other. This competition has brought them to believe that everyone has a great chance to create such an improvement, invention or any kinds of achievement.

Indirectly, the modern ideas have affected the life, thought and manner of human beings. They live in a more busy and competitive life. Furthermore, they are trapped to perform in modern manner by being professional. To be a professional one, they often do such a distortion toward their own needs and natures. This is where the self-distortion begins. People do no longer care about social and personal relationships. They tend to ignore their social surroundings, even their own family. Instead, they merely focus on their work, researches or other professional things. They do an intense effort to make a new invention or achievement so they could be recognized as the modern one.

Another features that characterize the self-distortion are seen from the thought and manner. People begin to change their way of thinking or point of view. They begin to believe that every activity must have the benefit orientation, whether in the form of material or non-material (appreciation or further the aim at being famous). They often avoid having much time on doing usual things as human being. They might have believed that showing emotional expressions is an old thing. In some cases, these features create such a cool/awkward person that almost has no interest in social life. Thus, modern life often leads people to do self-distortion. They repress, distort or even

eliminate their nature and conventionality as human being. It is all clearly done for the sake of professionalism, technology and modernity.

The above phenomenon of self-distortion above is not only occurred in the real world, whereas it also appears in literary work as well. One of the novels by Carol Shields entitled "*The Stone Diaries*" (1993) depicts about self-distortion in modernity. It is interesting to be analyzed since it shows how the self-distortion happens to the individuals who live a modern life. This self-distortion is presented through the life, thought and manner of the character in the story.

1.1.1 Self Distortion in Modernity

Distortion often leads as negative thing. It is usually unwanted. According to Encyclopedia of Social Psychology (2000) the concept of distortion deals with the condition in which the subconscious alteration of primary characteristics happens to an object. It can be said that distortion is the shift, the unusual condition of a regular or primary form and characteristics. However, in this case, the meaning of distortion is related to the human factors. It is about the characteristics or the nature and the basic needs of human beings. Emile (Veenhoven: 1998) suggests that basically, human beings have some primary needs and condition that have to be fulfilled, as they could be exist as a real person. They are physical, psychological and social needs. Nutrition and education are considered as physical things while belongingness, expression, emotion and relationship to the unknown (religion) defined as the psychological ones. In addition, membership, acceptance or social exchanges come to be the social needs.

These needs, of course, can be distorted due to several factors; one of them is the condition, era of life such as in modernity.

Modernity is considered as the condition where the development of concepts like capitalism, individualism as well as the progress and prosperity rapidly happen. It is also marked by a strict competition in life so people have to do some hard efforts especially in self-actualization activities. This means that they have to show their ability and prove it. To some extent, the efforts have something to do with the self-distortion. Freud in “Society and its Discontent” (1930) defines that modernity often indirectly attracts people to do some repressions, omissions or even distortions toward their own needs and life. Neglecting their surroundings, giving less contribution to social exchange or even loosing the emotional relationships are some of self-distortions. Thus, from the descriptions above, the self-distortion in modernity in this thesis means to expose the self-distortion in which the people make such an alteration, a shift towards some of their basic needs and natures in order to keep surviving in modern life.

1.1.2 The Stone Diaries

The Stone Diaries (1993) is the novel that reveals the self-distortion in modernity. This self-distortion is reflected through the life, thought and manner of the character as the representatives of society that run a modern life.

The character, named Barker Flett is a successful botanist. He has an outstanding busy life. This character tends to be obsessed with his life of being a busy

one in a professional world; doing researches and giving botanical lesson or seminar. He runs a strictly scheduled activity that entails him to lose the prominent connection to their social community, that basically is his prominent nature. The character almost has no intention to have such a gathering or chatting with his surroundings. He also loses his emotional expression. He refuses to show his feeling or being emotional and romantic. In this case, the self-distortion is seen from the ways he unintentionally makes an isolated life for merely professional things and neglecting the nature and the needs as human beings.

The thought that commonly belongs to the character also refers to self-distortion. This can be seen from his unusual views concerning many things and events of life. Furthermore, the character would think that it is a useless thing to have activities other than the ones concerning with the work. He has a tendency to underestimate the spiritual things in life.

Then, the manners of the character indicate that the self-distortion does happen to him, one of the manners is having less spontaneous action. The character looks so awkward in running the life. Normally, people would instinctively make their own movement, ready to make a little change or a joyful thing. Instead, the character tends to stick on his own world with a very less self movement. The conditions lead him to withdraw himself from society.

1.1.3 A Brief about Carol Shields

Carol Shields is American-born Canadian author. She came to the public eye in 1995 with the publication of her novel *The Stone Diaries* for which she won the Governor General Award, The Pulitzer Prize for Fiction and the National Book Critics Circle Award. Shield had in fact been in print since the early 70s. She has written twenty books, including novels, short stories, essays ,plays, criticism and a biography of Jane Austen. *Larry's Party* (1997) that was short listed for Canada's Giller Prize and deserved England's Orange Prize is her another work which is very remarkable. Then, *Unless* (1999) is her final novel that written before her death of cancer. It was widely acclaimed nominated for the Booker Prize, Orange Prize for Fiction and received the Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize.

Shield's success is undoubtedly related with her ordinary themes that also presented through the ordinary characters. As Eleanor Wachtel (2001) said that Shield has a particular kind of humanity. She exposes every part of human life. Furthermore, her interest is related to her own life. As a Canadian writer, Shield notes that she has more freedom to deviate from traditional structure:

“It's been a very good country for writers. We don't have a long literary tradition. People aren't intimidated by the ghost of Hemingway and Faulkner . We are not big on heroes, either, the concept of heroes is alien and I think that's a very telling of our national ethos—no one deserved to be better than anyone else”(Eleanor Wachtel:2001).

Shield thinks that it is not compulsory to have such a hero in writing. She writes as what she sees and feels as a common person who passed various moments in

life. It is what makes the phenomenon of modern life become the background of her story. She also simply shows how places, people, relationships and community make us who we are.

Despite of her literary work achievement, Carol Shield is also noticeable in academic field. She has been Counselor of the University of Winnipeg and has received eight honorary doctorates.

Carol Shields is also admired for her simple straightforward and beautiful prose, describing simple ordinary lives, usually, though not always, lives of women. She can skillfully weave together the voices of several narrators and disguise her fiction as a “real biography”. As Jan Marta (2000) says that the familiar subject of Carol Shield’s writing is how people tell their own stories and how those stories are interpreted by others. Those can be found in *The Stone Diaries*. It explores the ordinary life lies within its ordinary lives of the characters. It is also presented through an autobiography form that can reveal about how people cope with modernity.

1.1.4 Previous Study

The analysis dealing with this novel has not been found yet. In fact, there are two short reviews about the novel that are applicable. One of the reviews was written by Joan Prefontaine (2000) that points the novel as the real diary. Prefontaine states that the novel has a way of addressing her characters’ inner realities with lyrical affection and quiet irony. It also explores the limit of autobiography, lucidly showing that a life is never what it seems on the surface. Meanwhile, Jan Marta (2000) focuses

on its metaphors. Marta claims that *The Stone Diaries* provides the relationships among self and other (characters and their surroundings), self and Other (characters and God), and self as other (characters' roles in community). She explores that the novel also shows how the people live in twentieth century. It adds that the narrowness of a specialist's life is a regular subject of the novel. It is a part of 20th century wisdom that people must specialize in a field to survive.

Further, an article about the life in modern society is written by Richard Armstrong (2000) entitled "Modernity and the maniac". He uses the modern films that represented by one of its most famous actress, Janet Leigh, to discover that modernity is implying moral degradation. Modernity is even marked by the exploitation of sex and violence that further permits its people to do such manipulation.

The reviews and article above have inspired the analysis of this novel in case of the self-distortion in modernity. Unlike the previous reviews, this study emphasizes on the point of view (implied author) and character in exploring the meaning of self-distortion in modernity.

1.2 Problem of the Study

In the practice of modernization, there are many ideas that seem to come in everybody's mindset. Some of them are self-reliance and self-determination. To some extent, these ideas or spirit can lead people to some condition. First, people are going to do and show their best. Second, the self-distortion, in which the people are distorting their nature and needs, is defined as the inevitable part to run these ideas.

This is the problem that is going to be analyzed in this study. This self-distortion is presented through the life, thought and manner of the characters. The research questions to reveal the meaning of the self-distortion in modernity are:

1. How far does *The Stone Diaries* show the self-distortion in modernity?
2. To what extent does the fictional devices such as the point of view (implied author), and character give contribution in revealing the meaning of the self-distortions in modernity?

1.3 Purpose of the study

The purpose of this study is to reveal how far Carol Shield's *The Stone Diaries* reveals the self-distortion in modernity. It is also aimed to find out to what extent point of view (implied author) and character give its contribution in showing the meaning of self-distortion in modernity.

1.4 Theoretical Framework

The analysis of this novel deals with the social perspectives. In this sense, it deals with modernity. Marx (Eyerman: 1998), says that modernity refers to the constitution of subjectivity, the social construction of the modern self, and the political, social and cultural expressions of these phenomena at individuals. These expressions create modern individuals (modern self) who are free to reorient themselves and to reconstruct their world. To support the process of reorientation as well as the reconstruction, individuals emerge some required ideas. Self-determination and self

reliance that focus on one's ability, strength and independency are two of the ideas. In some points, their implementations often make the self-distortion as the acceptable and prominent condition. Self-distortion is commonly considered as the condition that the people subconsciously turns and distorts themselves concerning with their basic needs and natures that caused by several things. In this case, modernity is identified as one of them.

Modernity creates the new modern individuals that also entailed by having a new orientation of life. Marx, then, adds that modern individuals are sharply contrasted with the old ones. They make a condition in which the economic exchange is more important than the social exchange. This, however, indicates the features of self-distortion. People are more attracted to do things that have such economic or futuristic value. So, being intensively involved in social life does no longer get their attention.

Many theorists view this condition differently. Some say that modern life is getting better while others claim that it is getting worse. The recent statement that acknowledges the positive features of modernity is made by Moore and Simon (2000). The views that life is getting better draws on several achievement (technology, prosperity, etc) of modernity. Meanwhile, Freud (1930) is an outspoken example of the theory that life is getting worse. He asserts that modernity necessitates to ever more repression, distortion of natural impulses and needs of human being. Hence he believed that modern life is antithetical to human happiness. It is a mere progressive matter on commodity and prosperity.

Dealing with the above phenomenon, it has to be considered that the nature and basic needs of human being are still the values that possessed even by modern ones. Berger and Luckmann (1996) explain that man is always *homo sapiens*, and in the same measure, *homo socius*. It means that people need to be socially and emotionally related to other human beings. They must have a frame of orientation that can improve his brain development. Further, people do need to have a character structure, which is a substitute for instincts in as much as it permits him to act semi-automatically, without having to make a decision before every action, and to act consistently. These are the man's specific humanity and sociality that are inextricably intertwined. Even if the humans' needs develop due to modernization, those concepts could not be ignored. It still has to be fulfilled as they become a real human being. For Marx, then, an explanation of human nature is an explanation of the needs of humans together with the assertion that they will act to fulfill these needs. In modernity, it seems that people do not try to proportionally complete it. Instead, they distort it by obsessively performing themselves as the modern ones.

Being a modern person, it does not mean that his/her needs could be totally fused in modern characteristics. It still concerns with such a common and basic needs. Marx (Erich Fromm:1979) says some of the basic needs of humans include needs for other human beings, for personal, emotional and sexual relations, needs for food, water, clothing, shelter, rest and more generally, for circumstances that are conducive to health rather than disease. Then, the need of people for a breadth and diversity of pursuit and hence of personal development is also considered as the inseparable

characteristics of human beings. But nowadays, individuals merely care about their personal development while ignoring some other needs. They give too many spaces for works, or any kinds of improvements and leave nothing for their personal and emotional needs.

Another theory of humans' basic needs come from Alderfer (1972) a psychologist as well as a researcher that generally focused on human behaviors. He categorizes it into three major levels: growth, relatedness and existence. Growth relates to competencies (knowledge, attitudes and skill). Relatedness is about relationships, acceptance and feeling's expressions. Then, existence defines as the needs of physiological (food, water or material form in general) and biological ones. These needs, to be more precise, are crucial to humans' life. They have to be fulfilled all together.

Related to modern individuals, it seems that the Growth level has been a dominant. It is clearly shown that modern ones are trying hard to improve their knowledge and skill. Meanwhile, they neglect the relatedness and existence. It simultaneously leads them to do a distortion to themselves. They are accustomed to not giving time, spaces or the opportunity for natural, social or emotional needs.

Then, to reveal the meaning of self-distortion in modernity, it is crucial to examine its fictional devices. For this case, the analysis concentrates to its point of view (implied author). Point of view is the most significant device in finding the meaning of self-distortion in modernity. It is the perspective from which the narrator tells the story (Madden,2002:85). It is formerly found in the story itself.

In analyzing the point of view, it does not emphasize the meaning through what the narrator says. However, it is revealed through what implied author finds. The implied author is the seeming author of the narrative. It is reconstructed by the reader from the narrative. The author, however, cannot be identified with the real author who possibly has some differences in beliefs and attitudes. It is defined as an intermediary between author and narrator that can indirectly suggest whether the narrator is reliable or not. To determine the reliability of a narrator, O'Neil (1996) says that the implied author emerges only from overall reading of the text as a whole. Lastly, the implied author is the one who allow us to see how semantic information should be understood (what the text means) whereas the narrator merely furnishes that information (what the text says). This implies that the story has to be understood very well.

Another fundamental element that will be used in this analysis is character. Character is commonly described as a verbal representation of human being. Dealing with characterization means dealing with who the people in the story are, what motivates them and why do they do something (Literature : 2002). Action, speech, description and commentary of the characters will give description about what human being are likely to do (Roberts : 1999). The good characterization also reflects human types that really exist in life. Therefore, it can be assumed that the character makes the story become real through their existence. In this study, the analysis will be done to a character who intensively involved in modern activities, as a successful botanist.

1.5 Methodology

The analysis will be conducted to its fictional devices; point of view and character. To analyze point of view, it emphasizes on implied author. It is done to catch the ideas that lie behind the text. Meanwhile, the analysis of the characters will be done by determining the appearances and narrator description that show who they really are, what motivates them and why do they do something. In addition, these elements are indisputably linked to some perspectives. In this case, it is the concept of modernity and human natures/needs.

CHAPTER III

CONCLUSION

The self-distortion is clearly revealed in Carol Shields' novel *The Stone Diaries* (1993). Basically, the symptoms can be seen from the distortion towards the natures and needs as human being. It is shown through the life, thought and manner of the character.

The character lives a monotonous life. It is dominantly about the work that prevents him to get involved in social life. This condition entails him to neglect all possibilities of having a personal engagement. This also leads the character to measure everything, such as the happiness of life through his achievement in work. Moreover, the character finally recognizes his nature as human being as strange things that further make him loose his feeling expressions.

In the matter of thought, self-distortion is seen by the character's unusual views concerning many things in his life. This is started by his negative ways in thinking. He regards the unprofessional activities as the invaluable things to do. Then, marriage that means as having own family is interpreted as having the trap in his life. He also values the religion, the most sacred part of human life, as merely a metaphor for human desire.

Then, the manner of the character also reveals that the self-distortion happens to him. This can be seen from his clumsy attitudes. This kind of attitudes further makes the character to be an extremely serious one that unable to enjoy the attractive and joyful things that provided by life. Since everything is done in order, the character

is also unable to make such a spontaneous action in his life. These are the factors that finally make the character withdraw his existence from social surroundings.

The phenomenon above is seemingly become a usual thing that happen to the modern people. In this modern era, people do no longer regard the social or the personal relationships / life as what it should be. They are impressed by professional things that may have a more real and visual result that can be physically enjoyed. This is also caused by the modern ideas that further provide them a wider space in constructing as well as determining the life that they are going to run. The condition indirectly leads the modern people to withdraw their existence from their surroundings and create such isolation that extremely consist of works. Thus, the features or condition above is what we call as self-distortion that happens in modernity.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Alderfer P, Clayton.1972. *ERG Theory*. Retrieved on Thursday, September 13 2007 at 11.30 am.
http://www.12manage.com/methods-alderfer_erg_theory.html.
- Armstrong, Richard.2000. *Modernity & The Maniac: The Fall of Janet Leigh*. Retrieved on Saturday, October 6 2007 at 09.00 pm.
<http://www.journals.com/product/utg/65/pubs.jpr>.
- Bauman, Zygmunt. 2001. *The Trouble with being human these days*. Retrieved on Monday, Augustus 13 2007 at 08.00 pm.
<http://www.findarticles.com/p/troubles/utg/human-html>.
- Berger, Peter L and Thomas Luckmann.1996. *The Social Construction of Reality: A Treatise its Sociology of Knowledge*. New York. Anchor Books. Retrieved on Saturday, October 27 2007 at 08.30 pm.
<http://www.cf.ac.uk/socsi/undergraduate/introsoc/reality.html>.
- Caldwell, Lynton Keith. 2002. *Is Humanity Destinied to Self-Destruct?.* Retrieved on Monday, Augustus 13 2007 at 08.30 pm.
<http://www.indiana.edu/~speaweb/perspectives/humanity4.html>.
- Calhoun, Craig. 1999. *The Infrastructure of Modernity: Indirect Social Relationships, Information Technology and Social Integration*. Retrieved on Saturday, September 1 2007 at 11.00 am.
<http://www.Ssrc.org/staff/Calhoun/publications>.
- Corbett, Bob. 2001. *Civilization and Its Discontent by Sigmund Freud*. Retrieved on Friday, September 7 2007 at 09.30 pm.
http://www.civil.org/corbett_jrs.edu.com
- Encyclopedia of Social Psychology. 2000. *Distortion* . Retrieved on Saturday, November 3 2007 at 10.00 pm.
<http://www.sagepub.co.uk/distortion.prd/encyclo.js/>
- Eyerman, Ron. 1998. *Modernity and Social Movements*. Retrieved on Thursday, September 13 2007 at 10.20 pm.
<http://www.content.cdlib.org/xtf/view?docId=ft6000078s&chunk.id>.
- Freud, Sigmund. 1930. *Exploded Manuscript: Civilization and Its Discontent*. Retrieved on Friday, September 7 2007 at 09.45 pm.
<http://www.Loc.gov/exhibits/freud/ex/180html>.
- Fromm, Erich. 1969. *Human Nature and Social Theory*. Retrieved on Friday, September 7 2007 at 10 pm.

- <http://www.marxists.org/archieve/fromm/work/1969/human.htm>.
- Green, Christopher D. 2000. *The Basic Needs*. New York. York University Press.
- Halsall, Paul. 1999. *Modern History Sourcebook: Sigmund Freud: Civilization & Die Weltanschauung*. Retrieved on Friday, September 7 2007 at 11 pm.
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/freud-avwell.html>.
- Hooker, Richard. 2002. *Modernity*. Retrieved on Sunday, July 8 2007 at 09.00 pm.
<http://www.wcu.edu/~dec/Glossary/Modern.HTM>.
- Literature. 2002. *Constructing Plot*. Retrieved on Saturday, March 1 2008 at 09.00 am
<http://www.literature.com/html>
- Madden, Frank. 2002. *Exploring Fiction-Writing and Thinking about Fiction*. New York. Addison Wasley Longman. Inc.
- Marta, Jan. 2000. *Carol Shields*. Retrieved on Thursday, September 13 2007 at 09.00 pm.
[http://www.litmed.med.nyu.edu/Annotation-action/The Stone Diaries](http://www.litmed.med.nyu.edu/Annotation-action/The%20Stone%20Diaries)
- O'Neil, Patrick. 1996. *Fiction of Discourse: Reading Narrative Theory*. Rev. of Toronto Quarterly. By Greig Henderson. Retrieved on Monday, November 5 2007 at 09.00 pm.
<http://www.utpjournals.com/product/utq/651/discourse4.html>.
- Prefontaine, Joan. 2000. *Ordinary Life*. Retrieved on Thursday, September 13 2007 at 09.45 am.
[http://www booksloved.com/21/Stone-Diaries](http://www.booksloved.com/21/Stone-Diaries).
- Shields, Carol. 1993. *The Stone Diaries*. New York: Pinguin Books.
- Talib, Ismail S. 2005. *Point of View in Narrative Fiction: Some Observation*. Retrieved on Thursday, September 13 2007 at 09.00 am.
<http://course.nus.edu.sg/course/ellibst.Is1.html>
- Veenhoven, Ruut. 1998. *Is Life Getting Better?* Erasmus University Rotterdam. Retrieved on Sunday, July 8 2007 at 08.00 pm.
<http://www.gallup-europe.be/positivepsychology/pos%20Psy/Venhoveen%2>.
- . 2007. *Crisis of Modernity*. Retrieved on Sunday, July 8 2007 at 08.30 pm.
<http://www.leftcurve.org/EdPosition.html>.
- Wachtel, Eleanor. 2001. *Random Illuminations: Carol Shields*. Retrieved on Friday, October 19 2007 at 08.30 pm.
<http://www.gooselane.com/gooselaneditions/?page-id>.