

FORMALISM OR “THE REGIME OF TRUTH”: A READING OF ADRIENNE RICH’S

A CHANGE OF WORLD

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ABSTRACT

Formalism in Adrienne Rich’s first book, *A Change of World*, has attracted different critics and scholars so far. In their interpretations, it seems that they have taken it for granted that Adrienne Rich was a formalist. But none of them has ever presented the cause for the emergence of formalism in Adrienne Rich’s early poetry. In this paper, I draw upon Michel Foucault’s theory of “repressive power” and demonstrate that formalism was actually “the regime of truth” which determined ‘true/false’ poetry for the young poet and excluded some poetic discourses and permitted only some particular ones to come into being in her first book.

KEYWORDS: Adrienne Rich, *A Change of World*, Formalism, Michel Foucault, Discourse Analysis, Repressive Power, Exclusion, Truth, The Regime of Truth