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## Literature, Geography and The Poetics of Space

Tracing Historical Narratives Across Literary Landscapes

Sara Ansaloni & Eleonora Gioia (Eds.)

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### 4. The Post-colonial Identity in Morocco: Geo-linguistic Experimentation in *Souffles*

Sara Ansaloni<sup>1</sup>

#### Abstract

The post-independence period in Morocco marked a complex redefinition of national identity, catalyzed by cultural and political upheavals. In this context, the avant-garde journal *Souffles* (1966–1972) emerged as a seminal platform for intellectual and artistic expression. Initially envisioned as a pedagogical tool to counter colonial legacies and redefine Morocco's identity, *Souffles* evolved into a politically charged medium reflecting escalating tensions under King Hassan II's regime. This dual trajectory encapsulates the intricate interplay of identity, resistance, and linguistic experimentation in post-independence Morocco. While existing scholarship often foregrounds the political transformations of this era, focusing on repression and institutional change, this study shifts the lens to the cultural and linguistic dimensions of resistance. The analysis draws on theoretical frameworks developed by Abdelkebir Khatibi and Jacques Derrida, with a particular focus on their

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<sup>1</sup> Department of Romance Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, [ansalsar@unc.edu](mailto:ansalsar@unc.edu)



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concepts of *pensée-autre*, monolingualism, and linguistic plurality. Through a comparative examination of *Souffles* and Khaïr-Eddine's *Soleil arachnide* (1980), this paper demonstrates how Morocco's avant-garde articulated a pluralistic postcolonial identity in the making.

**Keywords:** *Morocco, Avant-garde, post-coloniality, Souffles, identity*



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