Frances Burney and Female Friendships: Some Notes on "Cecilia" (1783) y "The Wanderer" (1814)

Maria del Carmen Fernández Rodríguez

Abstract

British eighteenth-century fiction is rich in presentations of female friendship, a literary convention which permeated all genres and the works of women writers with different ideological backgrounds, ranging from Mary Wollstonecraft's radical views to Jane Austen's conservative ones. This paper analyses the oeuvre of the well-known novelist, playwright and diarist Frances Burney (1752-1840) by taking into account Janet Todd's ideas on female ties and the female spectrum in Burney's productions. The English authoress took part in a feminist polemic. Here I maintain that the complexity of the relationships between women in Cecilia (1782) and The Wanderer (1814) is directly influenced by class and social constraints. On the other hand, there is an evolution towards a more benevolent view of woman which needs revision.

Full Text:
PDF

DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.18172/jes.167

Refbacks

- There are currently no refbacks.

© Universidad de La Rioja, 2013
ISSN 1576-6357
EISSN 1695-4300

Burney's tough comedy offers a satiric view of complacent middle-class insularity that echoes Godwin and Wollstonecraft's attacks on the English social structure. Also known as Frances Burney and, after her marriage, as Madame d'Arblay. Frances Burney was a novelist, diarist and playwright. In total, she wrote four novels, eight plays, one biography and twenty volumes of journals and letters.