

CONTENTS

The Story Began Long Ago . . . 1

I. Commitment from the Mirror-Writing Box 5

The triple bind	6
Silence in time	6
Rites of passage	8
The Guilt	9
Freedom and the masses	11
For the people, by the people, and from the people	12
Vertically imposed language: on clarity, craftsmanship, and She who steals language	15
A sketched window on the world	20
The infinite play of empty mirrors	22
Writing woman	28

II. The Language of Nativism: Anthropology as a Scientific Conversation of Man with Man 47

The reign of worn codes	47
The positivist dream: We, the natives; They, the natives	49
A Western Science of man	55
A Myth of mythology	59
What "man" and which "man"?	64
Gossip and science: a conversation on what I love according to truth	67
Nativist interpretation	70
See them as they see each other	73

III. Difference: "A Special Third World Women Issue" 79

The policy of "separate development"	80
The sense of specialness	86
The question of roots and authenticity	89
Infinite layers: I am not i can be you and me	90
The female identity enclosure	95
Third World?	97
"Woman" and the subtle power of linguistic exclusion	100
Subject-in-the-making	102
Ethnicity or womanhood: whose duality?	103
The Gender controversy	107

IV. Grandma's Story 119

Truth and fact: story and history	119
Keepers and transmitters	121
Storytelling in the "civilized" context	123
A regenerating force	125
At once "black" and "white" magic	128
The woman warrior: she who breaks open the spell	129
A cure and a protection from illness	135
"Tell it the way they tell it"	141
"The story must be told. There must not be any lies"	143

Notes 153

Selected Bibliography 161

Index 169