

New Historicism: An Exploration in Natasha Trethewey's *Native Guard*

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Abstract: *New Historicism is a study of a literary text by focusing on the author's life and culture with a historical background. In short, New Historicism can be called as a method based on parallel reading of literary and non-literary texts, usually of same time period. The poetry collection Native Guard by Natasha Trethewey includes the history of civil war and the poet's personal experiences as a child of an African-American mother and a Canadian father. Natasha records her history and the nation's history in the format of a diary entry. It also focuses on sufferings of a soldier in Louisiana which is the poet's hometown. The poet's life and history of civil war are explored in the collection. The poet through the representation of soldiers, she insists on preserving the culture. The readers are made to understand the impact of history on individual and collective identities. The poetry collection Native Guard reflects American culture and racial discrimination during the time of civil war.*

Keywords: New Historicism, personal life, literary text, culture, history