

Traces of the Ordinary: Observational Memory in

Annie Ernaux's *Exteriors*

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ABSTRACT

This study analyses the observational narrative technique used by Annie Ernaux in *Exteriors* to represent everyday life in suburban Paris. Unlike her earlier works, which focus on personal memory and inner emotions, this text emphasizes external observation and present-time reality. Ernaux adopts the role of a detached observer and documents routine activities occurring in public spaces such as trains, supermarkets, and streets. Through these observations, the work highlights the social dimensions of ordinary life and reflects the influence of culture, class, and temporality on modern existence. The study argues that Ernaux's observational approach transforms individual perspective into collective social representation and provides insight into the contemporary urban experience.

Keywords: Observational narrative, Memory, Everyday life, Public spaces, Reality.

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