

## The Concept of the Author

**Objective:** To historically place the idea of author with reference to autobiography. The scholar is expected to have an understanding about the relationship between author, text and reader.

**Outcome:** The scholar is expected to constitute the theoretical frame work within which the question of authorship in autobiography can be addressed.

### Unit I

*Author: New Critical Idiom* - Andrew Bennet

### Unit II

What is an Author – Foucault

Death of the Author – Roland Barthes

### Unit III

Witness or False Witness?: Metrics of Authenticity, Collective I - Formations, and the Ethics of Verification in First – Person Testimonies – Sidonie Smith And Julia Watson

### Unit IV

*Authority Matters: Rethinking the Theory and Practice of Authorship* - Edited by Stephen Donovan et al.

### Unit V

Chapter III *Reading Autobiography: A Guide for Interpreting Life Narratives* - Sidonie Smith and Julia Watson.

### References:

- Bennet, Andrew. *Author*. New York: Routledge, 2005. *The New Critical Idiom*.
- Barthes, Roland. "The Death of the Author". *Authorship: From Plato to Postmodernism: A Reader*. Ed. Burke. Edinburgh: Edinburgh UP, 125–30.
- Foucault, Michel. "What is an Author". *Textual Strategies: Perspectives in Post-Structuralist Criticism*. Ed. Josué V. Harari. London: Methuen, 1979. 141–60.
- Sidonie, Smith and Julia Watson. "Witness or False Witness?: Metrics of Authenticity, Collective I - Formations, and the Ethics of Verification in First – Person Testimonies". *Biography* 35.4. 5 (Fall 2012). 590 – 630
- Donovan, Stephen et al. ed. *Authority Matters: Rethinking the Theory and Practice of Authorship*. New York: Rodopi, 2008.
- Smith, Sidonie, and Julia Watson. *Reading Autobiography: A Guide for Interpreting Life Narratives*. Minneapolis: U of Minnesota P, 2010.