Preface

Diaspora was considered to be the catchword during the closing decade of the twentieth century and migration was deemed an excruciating dispersal process as the word *diasperien* itself denoted. The writings from the diaspora often reflected the immigration throes, conflicts and identity crisis experienced by the uprooted, “displaced,” “hyphenated” ethnic oscillating between the home and the host topoi. Moreover, immigrant women writers have also harped on double marginalisation due to patriarchy and culture conflicts. A research schema to examine these concerns will often be based on diasporic identity formations, thereby narrowly compartmentalising migrants into categories. Studies taking an essentialist position will naturally look into the various diasporic formations only, disregarding the multiple formations possible within the same person at different points of time.

The present study aims to examine the “micronarratives” of the Chinese women writers from America and Canada and to trace the characteristics of the diasporic mindscape and landscape. This study gains significance as it will not only problematise the quintessential diasporic formations, but will also interrogate the ideology and politics of such representations and explore the nuances of identities undergoing a process of “becoming,” rather than “being,” transcending cultural and territorial boundaries.