

Mothers and Daughters Memories/ Notes

By *Gitte Skytte* and *Isabelle Reynaud*

The two narratives remember from different perspectives. The memory also has an element of interpretation or understanding which stems from the present moment.

There are different ways of telling a memory, using your physics, emotions etc., all depending on the personality and the abilities of the story teller.

The memory can be seen as emotional property, and the person revealing it, can feel protective.

The person telling the memory, incorporate elements in the memory, in order to make it seem truer. It is also part of trying to consolidate the feeling of ownership.

Confronted with other versions of a memory, can make the narrator question the memory or even feel lack of trust in her own ability to remember.

The person telling the memory reflects on the memory when confronted with another version of the memory. Does the same pattern also appear when forming the memory?

The memory can be experienced as more true for the observer, if the person telling the memory is showing emotions when telling. But it can also result in the opposite; if the emotions shown, during telling the story, does not correspond with the age of the narrative in the memory and thereby do not correspond with the ability to understand and interpret the full aspects of the situation at that time. Then the memory becomes less true, as we tend to believe, that the emotions stems from being presented with the truth of the situation at a later time in life and becomes a "false" emotion connected to the memory.

The observer has a tendency to trust older people. We see the older person as wise, purely by the fact that they are old.

Telling a story, with suppressed emotions, makes the emotions more obvious for the observer.

Can a memory be purely fiction, stemming from the unspoken issues in a family or a relationship?

Some people have a symbolic value for us and we sometimes endow them with statements that might not have been said, but even though becomes part of our memory.

Are the moments we choose to remember, conscious or unconscious, connected to feelings of deceit/disappointment/hurt/pain and so on?

In a theatrical situation, it is very significant, that Orit talks about her mother in 3rd person.

The force of theatre is that there are different realities and it becomes interesting, when they don't fit.

Sometimes smells, a sound, the sensation of a fabric or imagining the picture in your mind, can jumpstart a memory.

Patterns of storytelling is also part of who the storyteller is and the way she sees the world.

How can we make the audience as concerned with the truth as we are, when listening to stories that concern our own life and memory? Is it possible and is it at all necessary?

The combined facts and feelings will make the betrayal of the documentary.

The tension, where it comes from, is not really important for the audience; tension gives to the story and makes it interesting, moving.

Telling memories has also become a process of learning, as we become more conscious about how to tell a story at the same time. We organize the elements of the memory, in order to make the memory a better story and at the same time understandable for the observer/ listener.

When the memory is told without feelings, the focus is on the chronology. When told with feelings, the focus becomes the relationship.

The minute you start a story, you define a narrative.

The mother has to go to the hospital / the story about the mother..

The daughter follows her mother to a hospital... / the story about the daughter..

The mother and the daughter is in a hospital.../ the story about the relationship..

The mother and daughter witness the life of the other, each of them remember parts, which the other had forgotten. This reoccurs again and again.

One condition in the relationship between mother and daughter is that the mother provides parts of the biographical formation, from the years before the child is aware of its own place and presence in live. These elements of constructed memories supports the understanding of the daughters own character and becomes memories that proof of who the child is.