

SLAVE OF TIME:
THE WORK OF MOURNING IN ISRAELI HOLOCAUST
LITERATURE OF THE '1948 GENERATION'

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Scholars of Israeli culture and critics of Holocaust literature traditionally date the emergence of the replacement of 'repression and silencing' strategy with the 'coping' strategy centered upon exposure and revelation of the trauma in the early 1960s. Contrary to the prevalent approach, this study argues that the processes described since Freud as the 'work of mourning' were in fact pursued in Hebrew literature as early as the end of World War II, shortly following the atrocities.

Based on psychoanalytic concepts derived from Freud's analysis of the dynamic structure of mental life, the study is the first to offer an interpretation of the variety of ways in which influential authors of the so-called '1948 generation' [*Dor Tashach*], Haim Hazaz, Moshe Shamir and Yehudit Hendel, implemented the principles of the 'work of mourning', despite the political and ideological circumstances that shaped life in Israel. With this 'work of mourning', Holocaust survivors were offered a viable alternative to their inability to incorporate the trauma into the process of forming the new Israeli identity.