

Fantasy Flourishing in Hardship: Construction and Reconstruction of Vietnamese Childhood in Subsidy through *Window (Cửa sổ)* of Ta Huy Long

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Abstract

While the mainstream discourses about Vietnam's Subsidy period (1975-1986) are mainly unfolded through the lens of adults, children's narratives and their childhood memory receive little attention, especially in literary studies (Maclean, 2008). This article seeks to explore the Vietnamese Subsidy's childhood memory through Ta Huy Long's (2014) graphic novel—*Window*, particularly examining how the ideas of children and childhood have been reflected in this work. Three ideas of children: children as the socialisation subject, children as authors of their childhood, and children as agents of their own representatives will be identified and analysed in this article. Through which, the authors that Vietnamese childhood in the Subsidy era has been shaped by contemporary cultural-political factors (i.e., the constraints of collectivisation mechanism, the poor material life, or social norms towards children). Children also contribute to the understanding and reconstruction of the Subsidy period's history, as well as challenge the dominant narratives that are usually constructed from adults' perspectives. Placed in the broader context, childhood memory in *Window* also contains compelling details of Asian childhood, such as fears and taboos. Considering *Window* as the pioneer of children's books exploring children's experience in the Subsidy era, the authors intend to pave the road for further studies concerning indigenous children and their childhood in Vietnamese literature.