

Translator's Note

In translating from the French, I have chosen for the most part to follow the predominant English usage of the masculine pronoun in cases where gender was grammatically determined in the original. My early attempt to correct this throughout by the consistent use of 'he/she', 'his/her', or of 'she/her' alone, produced either an equality or a 'supremacy' of the feminine term, the absence of which this book attempts to analyse and expose. Within this limit, however, wherever it was possible to use 'he/she' as the acknowledged reference to male and female subjects, I have done so.

Terms like *signifiance* and *jouissance*, for which there are no equivalents in English, and the *objet petit a* (object small a), which is intended to function much as an algebraic sign, have been left in the original in the translated texts in order to allow their meaning to develop from the way in which they operate. They are discussed in the second part of the introduction.

It should be noted that this collection is made up of articles from different sources which were originally presented in a variety of contexts – as papers presented to conferences by Lacan, as part of the seminars which he conducted in Paris between 1953 and 1980, and as articles written by other analysts explicitly for his journal. I have made no attempt to give a false homogeneity to the very divergent styles which follow from this deliberate selection.

Each translation is preceded by a brief statement (in italics) introducing the article and placing it in context for the reader.

J. R.