Abstract

As I began thinking about this introduction, I began wondering not only what to say but also what to call it. Introduction, opening, framing remarks ...? Finally I decided on the last of these, "Framing Remarks." But as I began writing, the title gradually became "Framing Exile." Why? Framing of course, means bracketing, structuring, constructing, or laying out the terrain of a topic-as in "providing a framework." This helps to define and differentiate one topic from another; it helps each topic stake a claim to its existence-an important strategy in alternative discursive formations. Framing also means delimiting the topic, boxing it in, predetermining it-as in "encasing the topic." This is something that my Ph.D. advisor, Teshome Gabriel, who has contributed an essay to this volume, had long ago warned me against doing. He'd say something like: "Don't clearly define concepts like 'third cinema' because then they'll be appropriated and dismissed." By that definition, framing can become a means of control and domestication, and the refusal to frame becomes an oppositional strategy. Further, as the dictionary tells us, framing could also mean prearranging or concocting with a sinister intent-as in a frame-up.
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