**Introduction to Toril Moi’s Sexual/Textual Politics**

**Introduction:**

The introduction to Sexual/Textual Politics by Toril Moi is a chapter that explains the main purpose and scope of the book, which is to provide an overview and a critique of the two main strands of feminist literary theory: the Anglo-American and the French. The introduction also outlines the main arguments and methods of the book, and situates it in the context of the debates and developments in feminist criticism and theory.

**Main ideas:**

The introduction begins by stating the need for a genuine critical debate in feminist criticism, which is stifled by the absence of clear definitions, principles, and politics. The introduction then defines feminist criticism as a political and theoretical practice that aims to challenge and transform the dominant modes of representation and subjectivation of women in literature and culture. The introduction also defines feminist theory as a critical and creative practice that aims to produce and communicate new concepts and ways of thinking about sexual difference and gender relations.

The introduction then presents the main thesis of the book, which is that feminist criticism today can be divided into two main schools: the Anglo-American and the French. The introduction explains the differences and similarities between these two schools, and the strengths and limitations of each one. The introduction also explains the reasons and criteria for choosing these two schools, and the sources and influences of each one.

The introduction then summarizes the main contents and structure of the book, which is divided into two parts. The first part deals with the Anglo-American school, which is characterized by a humanist and empiricist approach, and which focuses on the images and representations of women in literature. The second part deals with the French school, which is characterized by a poststructuralist and psychoanalytic approach, and which focuses on the language and discourse of sexual difference in literature. The introduction also mentions the main authors and texts that are analyzed and discussed in each part, such as Kate Millett, Elaine Showalter, Simone de Beauvoir, Hélène Cixous, Luce Irigaray, and Julia Kristeva.

**Conclusion:**

The introduction ends by stating the main goals and contributions of the book, which are to provide a clear and comprehensive overview of feminist literary theory, to engage in a critical and constructive dialogue between the Anglo-American and the French schools, and to propose a new and alternative way of doing feminist criticism, which is committed to both political and theoretical issues, and which is open to difference and diversity. The introduction also states the main audience and perspective of the book, which are intended for readers with little or no knowledge of the subject, and which are informed by the author's own feminist and academic background.