



Gender Disparity in Wide Sargasso Sea by Jean Rhys

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Abstract: The present research is concerned with the gender disparity, male detestation towards female and female misfortune with the perspective of suppression of female in the novel 'Wide Sargasso Sea'. The novel *Wide Sargasso Sea* is written by a British female writer Jean Rhys. This novel is written in the result of 'Jean Eyre' and we found the influence of events and incidents in the present novel from the old one. The main female character Antionette suffers from a lot of tensions and hate from others. Her mother also faces these difficulties and she is suffering from these suppressive environments. When we read the character of Antionette we feel sorry for her and we develop some kind of condolence for her. The main purpose of discussing this novel is to observe the gender inequality, male intense disliking regarding female creature, disastrous misfortune of female character Antionette in the novel 'Wide Sargasso Sea'.

We also discussed on a deeper level what are the reasons for her disturbance, why she feels so lonely as a person and what are the circumstances behind her bad future with full of grief and she can't get relief even she was willing to fly like a bird but when she tried to fly the male ego suppressed her desire with rudeness and anger. The females also have no rights to stand but, in that era, they depend on male. Even owning their wealth they can't use without the umbrella and hold up of man. We analyze her whole life passed in grief as a child, as well as in her young age. And after marriage, she can't get the happiness on which she has the right as a human being. The husband she got was the worst choice of her life who has no humanity as a person but he is full of cruelty and gluttonous. He has no sense of love, care and emotions that is highly obligatory for Antionette as a woman, wife and human being.

Keywords: *Gender disparity, detestation of male towards the female, misfortune of female, identity issues.*



Introduction

The word gender disparity has a strong influence throughout feminist history and the behavior issues they are facing from male governing society. In history, many female writers raised their voice for the sufferings they have to face being a female creature. The female character 'Antionette' is very powerful in the novel she catches the attention of the reader. The writer creates the character very sensibly. He presented the main character by showing her life incidents and the way she was suffering from brain weakness and inappropriate behavior due to several tensions and loneliness.

The writer constructed the plot by rising and falling actions and conflicts. The writer Jean Rhys presented the reality in the shape of the disloyalty of people. The double meaning faces and heart they have, from which they catch and ruin the happiness of other people. The writer constructed the characters very brilliantly. The heroine Antionette has already broken down because she is deprived of love and sincerity. Antionette is facing the hate of people toward her and her family from childhood and she feels disappointed with these treatments. Her heart is not able to receive more sorrow in her upcoming future because of the continued sorrows she had been suffering in her past.

This novel is based on real-life touch as we see that every person has some good or bad experiences. The good things motivate them and the negative and bad behavior brings them to anxieties and a world of depression. It also deals with the problems of women she faces as a sensitive human being in the society of powerful male.

As a sensitive human being, she has to face several hurdles. We can see that Antionette is an educated woman but she can't stand against the strength of a male she depends on her husband for property matters and big decisions. Antionette faces the harsh reality of relations we can analyze in the 'Wide Sargasso Sea' in which her husband does not trust her and thinks that she is mad after reading the letter that comes to him from Antionette stepbrother 'Danial COSWAY'. He did not verify the truth from her wife instead of this he formed his mind that the letter was right.



Pathetically this was the wrong practice of humiliating the female in society. The character of Antionette is emotionally disturbed and her mind was not working in the sense of proper dealing with these present circumstances. Her brother wants to destroy her married life and her husband not even watch to listen to what is the matter in depth. He just believes on the surface level based on some descriptions in the letter.

If we visit the character of Antionette in the light of 'Sigmund Freud theory' every person deals with conscious and consciousness. Antionette was disturbed because of past experiences which were in her unconsciousness and because of them she was behaving sometimes like she was not using her consciousness. We can see during her conversation with her husband she can't elaborate the things properly. She is so much emotionally disturbed because her husband does not love her more and not even trust her inner truth. And he betrays her wife by making one-night relation with other girls. She visits her long-term maid for love syrup that makes her husband polite and able to trust her innocence again. These elements become clear how much gender disparity and male destination and female misfortunate focalized excessively in the text of the novel.

Research Statement

This research focal point is it's a misfortune of female to belong to the female gender and analyze the term gender disparity in depth. This research aims to explore the character of Antionette and the sufferings that she faces in her depression of the deprivation of true love from her parents and the side of her husband. She is emotionally distributed with mind and heart. She can't understand how to act in difficult situations and the mixed happy or sad environment. When she feels alone and desires to remain optimistic even, she gets married to achieve faithfulness and support, but she can't become a successful achiever in getting this in the true sense. In fact, the marriage does not reduce her sufferings; on the other hand, her nightmares increase above the dangerous level where she is in a state of madness. The proof is when she acknowledged the disloyalty of her husband. She drinks so much alcohol and screaming with profound sorrow that cut her down from inner happiness. And her husband does not feel any shame on his behaviour; this is the bitterness of gender disparity and the bitter truth of society.



They do not even think about their treatments with others, and this is the thing Jean Rhys presented with full intellectuality in the novel.

Significance of Research

The current research is significant because male treat female as inferior creature in this universe. This research raises the voice for hate, suppressed behaviours and misfortune that she has to face throughout her life. This research focuses on their status of education, money ownership and equal opinion in every type of matter which the male enjoy and show his superiority.

Female is not inferior; she is the same creature. She deserves all the happiness in life that a man holds in his hands. This research article promotes the idea of gender disparity concept that revolves around the importance of education. Education of equality and rights is necessary for removing all kind of different treatments that society promotes. The depth reading of the text explores the concept of gender disparity, male hatreds and female misfortune in an organized and beautiful way.

Delamination of Research

The whole study discusses the character of Antionette, who suffers a lot of grief from family and, after that, the naughty behaviors of other people. She marries a person who betrays her and married her for the sake of her wealth. And the limited thoughts of people that she would become mad one day as her mother had gone mad. It was just because of their negativity that they want to apply to her and tease her with harsh sentences; even her husband, Mr. Rochester, called her 'Bertha', and she forbid him not to call her by this name, but he called her again and again by this name. He puts her into the unavoidable lock of thoughts where she can't see her face. The depiction of male cruelty is mentioned in that she transferred from a young to an old lady in one room without enjoying the beauty of the universe. She has a dream to enjoy the beauty of England. The image in her mind becomes blurred with time because she faces the darkness and his behavior and the bond on her mentally and physically state as a human being from which she can't sprint like ordinary people. Her freedom looked in the area of a locked room. To sum, the whole study revolves around Antionette and her life anxieties.



Literature Review

The Glass Menagerie presents the females as suppressed part of the society, same as other feminism-based novels where we can see the inequality between both genders. The male treatment is different from the female treatment implemented by culture and society (Williams, THE GLASS MENAGERIE, 1944).

As we look at the character Celie in the novel “*The Color Purple*” she suffered from a lot of terrible mature changes in her life at the age of fourteen. For example, when she first wrote letters to God about her pains and rape did by his father. She has no clear picture of God in her mind. As a fourteen-year girl, she shares her miseries with abstract power. The God for her is authoritative and a figure of dependence on whom she can depend. And she tried to find some help to get rid of this abusive life. But she is disappointed and decided to stop writing letters because she thinks God is not listing her pains. At that despair positions, Shug guides her to find God inside herself. The way she treated herself should be transformed into a loving perspective with herself. Shug explains that she also thanks God for the things he gave her. The way someone thinks about God (Walker, 1982).

The novel represents the change in the coming generation towards the treatment of the female gender. This novel is not just a fairy tale. It’s a significant transformation in the writing expressions based on the real issues of life. This novel provides the solution for the unsolved puzzle of suppressed voices and arrogant behaviors of the dominant male gender. The underrated values of female rights should be addressed for the betterment of society (Mardorossian, Vol. 26, No. 2, Spring, 1999).

Tennessee William portrays the miserable situation of female in the novel “*A Streetcar Named Desire*”. Blanche is psychologically disturbed after the death of her husband. This novel also represents the gender discriminations reflections with the help of the main character Blanche. She is educated enough to run her expenses, but the social phenomena of female dependence on males spoil her life and snatch her happiness. Her true relation that is her sister not stands for her independence because she is also a dependent figure of society on the male shoulder (Williams, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, December 3, 1947).



Theoretical Background

The present research throws light on the gender disparity of female that she has to face in her life because some males think that we are supreme power. The purpose of showing the detestation of man regarding female creature becomes the misfortune of her existence. This situation is wonderfully expressed in the novel '*Wide Sargasso Sea*'. This notion represents the emancipation act when blacks are free from the rule of white. Black people show hatred to them; we have the example in the *Wide Sargasso Sea*. Mr Mason, the husband of Antionette's mother, purchased some people for the work on the property. The feeling of despises bring blacks from white, few blacks raise a voice of objection at the door of 'Antionette' and by mistake, they throw the light on the house, and the house comes closer to danger, all family members try to move from the current situation. The important thing here is when Antionette rushes to Tia, which she thinks that her friend holds her hand in the difficult situation and can find peace to come closer to her. The misfortune of Antoinette again hit her in the shape of a stone full of fire comes to her from her best buddy Tia. She suffers from a heavy cut on her forehead with a lot of blood, and this heartbreaking incident shifts her in the condition of illness for many weeks.

Research Methodology

The qualitative thesis method is used in this research because it deals with the original character Antionette who suffers from tortures and sorrows in the text *Wide Sargasso Sea*. This research objective approach is applied and data collected through the original novel '*The Wide Sargasso Sea*', especially the character of Antionette and some definitions of misfortune from the internet she gets and incidents in her life. All the construction of play is highly interesting for the readers and the quality of the writer he organized the happenings together and presented the character Antionette is a compelling character that while reading her character reader feels some sympathy and closeness for should not be done with her. The reader thinks that this woman is helpless and can't handle the situations with intelligence because male society implements extreme injustice with her.



Data Analysis

‘Jean Rhys’ presented the true depiction of virtual work in wide Sargasso in the shape of the character Antionette. She faces the cruel face of a male in her surroundings. We can take the evidence from a few text lines here.

These text lines show us how she loses her loved ones like her lovely parrot and her friend Tia in the wave of hate that spoils her mental piece. Jean Rhys mentions female defeat and lack of equality between two separate genders in her novel in the ‘*Wide Sargasso Sea*’. The male was not in favour of female power because, in this case, they have to lose their own. Gender inequality deals with giving not equal rights of education, expressing themselves clearly, and achieving the same rights in the property. In other words, they have to keep their mouth locked in front of the man. They even not express their feelings freely. We can take this evidence from relating the novel of our research *Wide Sargasso Sea* when her husband, Mr. Rochester, spends a night with other girls without caring about her feelings and deep emotions in her heart for her husband. But she bears this and behaves like a mad girl and drinks a lot of wine in the sorrow of betrayal from her partner’s side again. She has already faced a lot of things since childhood. In her mind, she feels like a slave and her husband rules because women can’t own their property without marrying a male. She gives her whole wealth to him, but he does not feel any shame on his behaviors. Even Christophany, the servant and the black women who serve her mother Annette and grow the girl Antionette like her own mother with love and affection, when she feels the insulted behaviors of Rochester, she pointed his mistake but instead of shaming he rebukes her request of being a kind man for her wife. He forbids to interfere in his life anymore, ‘you are just a servant in this house.’ This is the behaviors of dominant man for female the writer portrays in this novel. This novel operates the patriarchal society, which becomes a kind of obstacle in women’s progress in social, political and educational existence that is the fundamental equitable right among both genders. The novel is also a type of provocation against the suppression of women especially. The character of Mr Rochester is the example of a male-dominated society who feels happy and relaxed to scold women and suppress them when they show their feelings, interests and rights in front of them.



Conclusion

The novel '*Wide Sargasso Sea*' by Jean Rhys (1966) makes us conscious about female rights and needs. The novel also depicts how much justice is necessary among the masses. Both novels '*Wide Sargasso Sea*' and '*Jean Eyre*' (1847) describe the exploitation of humanity. How moral values are ignored to achieve material pursuits.

All the construction of play is highly interesting for the readers, and this is the quality of the writer she organized the incidents together and presented the character of 'Antionette' as a compelling character that while reading her character reader feels some sympathy and closeness to her, that this should not be done with her. The reader thinks that this woman is helpless and can't handle the situations pleasurably because the circle of detestation of male covers her entirely from which she can't fly like a free bird.

This novel also shows how different civilizations of black and white people collapse, which creates jealousy, disastrous and everlasting emotion of hate. The book evokes our sleep thoughts and brings us to the stage of self-actualization. This novel wakes up our sleeping conscience in the true sense. This novel deals with the reality and actual thoughts of different civilizations. This novel also explores how fake relations based on jealousy and greed are just disastrous, not a way of peace for anyone at any cost.

The present study may be a minor contribution to understanding how male power is imposed on women's dreams. The dreams to fly with happiness, freedom and living the life with enjoying her rights that the male is already enjoying. This study is also a slap for male-oriented society how they ignore the sensitive creature female with cruelty and hatred.



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