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DAINIEL DEFOT'S MOLL FLANDERS – A Tale of Subaltern woman in a sinned system of the society

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ABSTRACT

Defoe's Moll Flanders 1722 is a moving tale depicting the inferiority and misery of the Moll Flanders, the heroine of the novel at the hands of the society and represented as subaltern woman in a sinned system of the society. As subaltern has been expounded in literature frequently by many great post colonial writers and theorist. This paper will throw light on the struggle of the woman around the world politically emotionally and sexually and deprived her of any chance of liberation. She attempts to survive in a society hostile to unattached women.

Key words: subaltern, gender-equality, social upliftment, oppression, hard laws of marriage sinner, prostitution

INTRODUCTION

Moll Flanders, the heroine of Daniel Defoe's depicted as a sinner and embodied as a subaltern woman who was the product of the system of the time and was seduced and oppressed by the male dominated society and the system as she was the only child of a lady who was a thief and a prostitute and Moll inherited these qualities from her mother but once cannot be held responsible for such inheritance. It was only because of law and less social obligation. It was the hard laws of England which does not allow Moll's mother to carry her six months old child to the Virginia and was reared firstly by the gypsies and then ward of the parish of Colchester and hired as a servant to a family, "however it was, this they all agree in, that my mother pleaded the belly. She was respited for about six months.

Moll as a wanderer, sinner and then criminal was started more by the laws of the society and less by Moll herself. It was the hard laws of the society that she remained deprived of her mother's affection and direction. Like a common girl, Moll was also trained in stitching and knitting but considered

inferior as there was no gender equality. It was only through their intelligence and creativity which helps her to get a job at aristocratic lady's house. There was a social condition of that time that beauty and money was considered very important and love has no share. She gave sexual favors to the elder son of her employer to marry him as her husband but one cannot be held responsible of one's aim to get rich husband but she was unable to see through hypocrisy of elder son which sheltered her. Women were considered as a second class citizen and considered as an object of sex to satisfy the sexual appetite of man and she marries the younger son and have a few children during their five – Years of marriage. If a young woman have beauty, birth, breeding, wit sense, manner and modesty and all of these to an extreme, she's nobody, the men play the game all into their own hands Moll has to marry five times because marrying was the only source to get financial stability in the 18th century England and woman has to sold herself in the market to earn her lived hood after the death of the first husband she marries a draper who soon flees the country as a fugitive from the law, she marries yet again and later find out her husband is actually her half –

brother and she leaves him. Her next marriage offer is from banker but she married to a gentleman in Lancashire but this man turn out to be a fraud and both of them part ways to seeks their fortunes separately and married to banker who dies soon after –she lived in poverty, for several years and then begins stealing to earn livelihood and was caught, imprisoned to death with prison at new gate, she reunites with her Lancashire husband who also has been arrested and they both manage to have their sentences reduced and transported to the colonies, where they begin a new life as plantation owners. In America, moll rediscovers, her brother and son, claims the inheritance her mother has left her.

Conclusion

Thus, the story of moll Flanders represents the anger in the heart of the Moll who was considered inferior and decorative object and has no importance in the sinned systems of the society and was considered as a subaltern woman in the era of 18th century and also reflects the hardships of a women in the aristocratic society and was dependent on man to get stability by selling her beauty. Her status was seen by the society as a sinner. In the world of exploitation and hypocrisy, Moll was seduced and exploited by the society in which everything was controlled by man and in which everything was for man and women was absent from the society.

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