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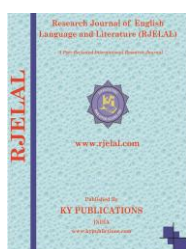
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FEMINISM IN VIRGINIA WOOLF'S Mrs. DALLOWAY

S. MANJULA¹, Prof. M. AMALRAJ²

¹Research Scholar, PRIST Deemed University, Thanjavur.

²Research Supervisor, PRIST Deemed University, Thanjavur.



ABSTRACT

Feminism is a movement to attain constitutional, financial, individual and sociable similarity between the sexes. The novelists like Jane Austen, Charlotte Bronte, Emily Bronte and Virginia Woolf have stamped their feet in the whirlpool of feminist writing. Furthermore, Woolf challenges to male-dominance by saying that there are so many problems that can only be sorted out with the help of men. But men are not ready to do because they think men are superior due to women's inferiority. Therefore, based on this aspect, the present study aims at probing into her novel *Mrs. Dalloway* to find out how the protagonist faces the problems and issues caused both in her family and the society due to male-domination.

Keywords: *feminism, male-domination*

Note: The following abbreviation is used after quotation: *Mrs. Dalloway* – MD.

Feminism is a movement to attain constitutional, financial, individual and sociable similarity between the sexes. Its' a huge approach with women's authority containing the right to vote, to employment, to earn income or equal allowance, to own possessions, to accept higher education, to have equal authority within wedding and to have motherhood allowance. This movement has been to ensure access to protect women and girls from molestation or offensive sexual abuse, and personal violence.

Jane Austen is every popular English novelist. Her plots are mostly comic, highly dependence of women on marriage to secure social standing and economic security. She mainly concentrate on theme of love, marriage, and feminism. *Pride and prejudice* is an evident for economic inequality facing women. Charlotte Bronte was a famous writer in 19th century. Her four novels are regarded as Masterpieces of English literature. Her characters are powerful, heartfelt, fiery, and clever. Bronte's heroines mostly search for their own place in community, and struggle to acquisition

of control over their own lives. Emily Bronte is a famous English novelist. Her novel *Shirley* is the well-known example of feminism. Her *Wuthering Heights* address for women's rights. Feminism is a thesis which deals with examine women's social role gender inequality.

Further, feminism seeks to increase the equality of women in her live just posing the norms and customs of society that is based on male-dominance. This movement demand autonomy for women; they shouldn't treat as passive objects. There will not be any exaggeration if it is reiterated that the goal of this movement is to get equality between masculine and feminine in every sphere of life. It tries to bring out women from the fear of punishment and rejection from the society. It needs to build a new personality for women and awareness for their rights. Feminism disagree a women's only profession of marriage. It's central point on women's education and insecurity. The erroneous views that men have strongly been enrooted physically as well as mentally.

The women in Virginia Woolf's novels appear more extremely great, built-in and bold than men do. While men struggle for prosperity and power for attitude, political territory and education, women attempt to make arrangements, passion and presence. The women work was, although clearly visible, but at heart, it is affectionate. Their aim is to link people, to create relationships, passion and companionship, alternately to waste time in making memorial.

It is essential to say that Virginia Woolf, being recollect both as a feminist and modernized, her novels often travels the inner pleasure of her character ignoring the classical plots. As a young woman, Woolf has shifted with her siblings to Gordon Square, Bloomsbury. The house has become a gathering place for writers, artists and intellectuals and this "Bloomsbury Group" is remembered as an incubator of modern artistic thought. She married a writer and fellow Bloomsbury member Leonard Woolf in 1912, and they found the small Hogarth Press.

In this feminist criticism, Woolf opposition to male-influence. She says that there are so many issues that can only sort out with the help to men. But men are not willing to do because they think men are superior due to women's inferiority.

'Feminist' tends to imply a public agenda. With wide determination, the reader may find that the male author may have his own schedule in mind, alternatively a feminist one. There are so many female critics believe that male authors write inadequately from the female attitude. Therefore, it is not particularly that they believe that women are more capable of writing from the female approach. As a male writers, many philosopher trust that identity is also very important when discussing female authors.

Virginia Woolf in her novel *Mrs. Dalloway*, attempt to question Victorian English society in a more dissimilar process, which is ideal and not one aspect. She signify a full scale showing of the mechanisms of power in English society.

Mrs. Dalloway examines one day in the life of Clarissa Dalloway, an high class Londoner married Richard Dalloway as a Member of Parliament. He always admonish her and says ironically that she

would marry a Prime Minister and stand at the top of a staircase. Clarissa often lament by sensation that such comments are beautifully injurious. Even he calls him the perfect hostess and he adds that she has the makings of the perfect hostess. Throughout Virginia Woolf's address of Clarissa-Richard marital relationship, she emphasizes that marriage is not a assurance of a happy relationship and mutual understanding between a husband and a wife in society, even while having a greedy and arrogant while Richard's is not.

Peter is one of the best friend of Clarissa once he is having a sense of love with her, she rejected his proposal of marriage when she was eighteen, later he married a Richard Dalloway, as a member of parliament.

In her decision to marry Richard, she is accept a solitude over passion. But whenever she thinks of Richard, Undoubtedly she thinks of Peter. Clarissa tries to feel satisfy that she acts wisely in rejecting Peter, but the goodness she assign to Richard as a husband are obviously representing a pathetic attempt to view her married life as a total success. Clarissa need of demonstrative and liberality. She cannot respond to male request of sympathy and is unable to provide her husband with the kind of romantic passion usually expected in heterosexual relationships. She chooses a spacious room as a refuge from the usual female role. This kind of wedding relationship causes a state of loneliness and lack of confidence in marriage. "Woolf clarifies Richard's retraction from his wife, Clarissa, as an attempt to set of some structures, on female desire under the apparel of medical impositions by disinterested men of authority in medical profession". Virginia Woolf calls for excluding all masculine values of essential, contest and dominance. She calls for the society of women as alternative to the domineering structures, and expect on the importance of women's friendship against these structures.

In this novel there are two social scopes clearly identified— one is public and another is private. Usually we can find majority of men belonging to the public. At the same time most of the women belong to private circle, as she the the ones to take care of the households or some

domestic issues like baking, teaching good habits and taking responsibility of their children.

Sally Selton is a friend of Clarissa Dalloway. she also forced to produce of labor and accept the maternal forces. She got married a wealth businessperson and resigns to be a normal mother. Both Clarissa and Sally are conquered because the only accepted female identity.

"But Elizabeth had already opened the front the door; There was a van passing; she didn't answer." (MD139)

Elizabeth has to select between participating in the trivial feminine society of her mother or taking part in the male influence society. None of these choices is acceptable example for the creation of modern women.

This novel is a ceremony of life, in general a woman's life, in particular. Virginia Woolf is not a feminist in the sense that she wants women to have more rights and convenience, but a feminist in the sense that she wants a intellectual acceptance, of women and their world, by men. They are the women who see the world separately, but their outlook is equally important and considerable as that of men. The most important thing about Mrs Dalloway is neither her income, her social condition nor her ideas, but she is a woman.

Feminine creativity and feminine modes of perception are the basic themes of *Mrs Dalloway*, and Clarissa has "that wonderful gift, that woman's gift of making a world of her own wherever she happened to be". Clarissa is creative, aggressive a battle against man's world, the world of self-importance and injurious activities, of war and politics. Almost all the novels of Virginia Woolf celebrate the virtues of women and their world and point out the absurdities of men's world, but among them *Mrs. Dalloway* which is most feminine is a strong protest against the violence practised by the masculine civilization. It is also a strong protest against the use of power in human affairs.

In presenting Clarissa as a creative artist, Virginia Woolf gives a critical view of the various kinds of masculine creativity – law-making, soul-curing, and empire-building. The feminine power stands in sharp contrast to the masculine power. The novel shows how women preserve a culture,

which is nearly ruined by men. In the novel Virginia Woolf has sharply compared the Prime Minister, the symbol of male power, with Clarissa Dalloway, who represents the feminine power. The Prime Minister is known only by the clothes and car and is capable of exerting his power only up to the externals of life, whereas Clarissa is able to affect the inner flux of the people. Virginia Woolf makes an open parody of the masculine authority when she brings Clarissa and the Prime Minister together in Clarissa's party. Thus we see that *Mrs. Dalloway* is a festival of Life and creativity and also of Virginia Woolf's feminism. "Women see, blend, ignite, create potential of emergence, potential of love, potential of seeing 'life' as it is, moments of vision which they as women can offer to a world in which everything seems in a state of dissolution," and hence they are deep and more attractive and respectable than men.

The purpose of the study shows feminism is a struggle for similarity of women, an achievement to make women equal to men. The definition of feminism sees it as the struggle against all forms of patriarchal and sexist attack. This study reveals the development of Indian Feminism and its development. Indian women writers have established the problems of Indian women in general and they have proved their place in the international literature.

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