

Women's Representation in Literature: A History

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Abstract:

The evolution of women's roles across centuries has been noted and documented by the history of literature. Women of Yesterday have faced many difficult challenges along the way, including mockery and criticism, which they have bravely faced with grace and tolerance. Despite all the criticism, women have continued on their dangerous adventure. Women have advanced significantly in today's world. As the Strong Fraternity, Long Way emerged. The advancement of women from prehistoric times is covered in the following paper. the most recent ultramodern era. In the paper, women's freedom, issues, and worries are discussed. the literature by means of roles that centre on women. Contemporary women as portrayed by various female writers is talked about as well. Traditionally, women were supposed to be silent, obedient, and constantly accused of being talkative. Because of their inferior standing, women were compelled to comply with men's expectations for an extended period of time. men in a society ruled by men. It should be noted, in fact, that historically, the majority of writers who were published were men. as well as the unquestionably biased way that women were portrayed in literature. The next document examines the idea that an accountable The historical context of the ancient world's rigorous restrictions on literacy rates and the highest percentage of those who could pen were men, and they saw women as little more than a simple instrument for work rather than with a kind and appreciative attitude domestic pursuits.

Keywords: women, Literature, history, scripture, tradition, books, contemporary, evolution.

Introduction:

Literature is a good metaphor for culture; it reflects its values and beliefs. As part of our "Culture," we incorporate lessons from the past into the present. Women are expertly described in the ancient Scriptures, or the Vedas, as both complimentary and enhanced their partnerships with men. In the Vedic era, four names come to mind when discussing prominent female personalities. The first names that usually spring to mind are Ghosha, Lopamudra, Sulabha Maitreyi, and Gargi. Poetry is influenced and inspired by this, and its poems and songs, which also aid in forming the characteristics of women. The way each invention was planned out, though, was different. as did the portrayal of women, from one to another. Some portrayed women as symbols of unity and strength, while others employed is something to be enjoyed. theA patriarchal society's requirements were taken into consideration when selecting and altering the characters. The epics Ramayana and Mahabharata are two examples of these; the contrasting qualities of Sita being a woman and the other women's roles obedient, selfless, and socially unacceptable despite having to endure all the suffering for no fault of her own, in contrast to Known for her astute readings and eloquence, Draupadi has been portrayed as both the central power and the the Mahabharata's cause or rationale. Stereotypical perceptions of women persist.

The stereotype of women has persisted for centuries, and while we can try to modify people's perceptions, we are powerless to alter their mindset. "The images or stereotype has some truth—as

stereotypes often do," acknowledges Tanner. In other words, these negative stereotypes about women actually support certain claims. But in the purest materials, These antiquated viewpoints obscure or distort the facts. For instance, it is said that women talk too much. Actually, there were For sure The expectations placed on women in conventional culture and the English proverb "A woman's silence is her best ornament" (Coates). Therefore, it was once expected of women to keep quiet (Coates, 2004). Women were considered decorative. article only, and they felt compelled Decorative portion exclusively and were compelled to live up to the high standards of the predominantly masculine society. In light of this, eighteenth-century Britain serves as a wonderful example of the contrasting roles that men and women played in that historical period. Olsen emphasized that the "Man" of the house had a responsibility to provide for the entire family by earning a living, whereas the It was expected of women to take care of the home and raise the children.

WOMEN IN LITERATURE CHARACTERS:

Character is a trait that reveals the style, role, and status of each individual in society and can be used to interpret, identify, and represent them. Up until quite recently, men made up the bulk of published authors, and the representation of There was unavoidably bias against women in literature. But one should not undervalue the role that women have played in oral culture. - in folk tales, nursery rhymes, and folk songs; this custom finally found its way into written culture. Women have portrayed themselves in a variety of ways in literature throughout history. How women are portrayed in Literary works are frequently shaped by the personal experiences of their authors or by prevalent society stereotypes about women and their roles. Male authors frequently see society's perceptions of women entirely differently. nature than a writer who is female would. As F. Scott While Fitzgerald depicts his major female character in the 1920s as a victim, Zora Neale Hurston shows her as a powerful, independent, and free-spirited woman just ten years later in.

Chaucer's earlier works, like "The Boke of the Duchess" and "Troilus and Criseyde," heavily feature women, but in "The Canterbury Tales," we only find three women on the pilgrimage: the Prioress's wife; "Another nun," who goes with her but is rarely mentioned again; and more. It has been said that women are evil, cold-hearted, sex workers, mothers, wives, sisters, liars, partners, and confidants. Sobande correctly noted in Rigimo Obirin Ko Se etu that women are both good and bad. People consider them to be inevitable. Life would not be pleasant without a male buddy. He therefore used the Yoruba philosophical idea regarding in particular, on the behaviour of women. According to the masculine gender specification, women only had passive traits that were feminine in comparison to men. attributes. But in other situations, it wasn't the same because some women had more male traits. more than their spouses. Mr. Bennett in Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* is never able to equal his wife's inventiveness in her efforts to provide for their five daughters; In Emily Bronte's *Wuthering Heights*, Edgar Linton is a parody of masculinity; Molly Gibson, an only daughter in Elizabeth Gaskell's *Wives and Daughters*, proved to be a better kid to her father than a son, Osborne Hamley, who fails his parents; Maggie Tulliver is portrayed in George Eliot's *The Mill on the Floss* as a far more powerful, more courageous and resilient personality than more courageous and resilient than her brother Tom. Despite her innocence and beauty, Spenser's heroine Britomart was male. as seen by her experience with her magic spear and her disguise as a knight, a strong heroine who very actively rescued lives while fighting as a knight.

The *Pride and Prejudice* novel presents a positive portrayal of female characters in general. Furthermore, these terms originate from the author's description or from the dialogue of the female characters in the book. Given that Jane Austen is a female author, we can infer that women tend to employ more neutral and positive language rather than negative ones. This type of The language tendency can be linked to the politeness theory, as Coates mentions. Women utilize more affirming words to demonstrate the addressees' harmony and save their faces. Despite women's poorer social standing than men's in The eighteenth century does not imply that they also acquire helpless language.

The civility of women's speech suggests Women's positive behavior, which is generally anticipated. Women are generally expected to behave well, and in fact, they are raised to speak in this manner. Additionally, middle-class women are the most vulnerable to kinds of prestige, according to Coates, and our author happens to be one of them. To be true, Jane Austen is a middle-class woman who makes every effort to demonstrate her social standing by using conventional forms. To win the respect of the public. It explains why standard forms make up the majority of the terms in the table.

When it comes to how women are portrayed in Indian poetry, activist and freedom fighter Mahadevi Varma became the face of Hindi poetry's representation of challenges faced by women. She wrote about women's freedom as well. Her inspiration for her subjects came from the discussion of freedom in traditional Hindu literature. Kamala Das helped to establish a deplorable genre of women's confessional poetry, where the investigation of the partnership between a man and a woman. Other female poets, including Gauri Deshpande and Chitra Narendra, later adopted this technique. Women authors are by definition a group deserving of independent study, as the academic field of women's writing is a distinct subfield of literary studies founded on the idea that women's experiences have historically been influenced by their sex. It is acknowledged by feminist literary criticism that stereotypes and other cultural presumptions are both reflected in and shaped by literature. Consequently, feminist literary criticism studies how literary works either reinforce or challenge patriarchal views, sometimes occurring in the same work.

HOW MODERN WOMEN WRITERS SUPPORT FEMALE CHARACTERS:

AM Irvine's *The Probationer* is the best illustration of the situation of women in the post-Victorian era. The novel, which marks the emergence of Modernism, also highlights the uniqueness of contemporary women's rights by chronicling the professional and personal maturation of a strong and talented female lead. An autonomous and talented female lead's maturation on both a personal and professional level. Her novels are written in a modern and ultra-modern manner. She portrays women in her works in a very unique and unconventional manner. In her stories, romance, love, passion, hatred, and extramarital affairs are all mixed together in a lavish manner. Women use writing as a vital instrument to express their experiences with identity, sexuality, marriage, love, family, and life in general. However, women often find it difficult to express these particular experiences through conventional literary norms and writing techniques. Men have constructed and melded language.

She actually makes an effort to depict the realities of urban and global civilization. Her female characters are westernized and ultramodern, and they don't believe in mythology or philosophy. Shobha De's female characters feel different and violate certain rules. Her books bring to light important realities and raise awareness of the injustices and sufferings that women endure at the hands of their male counterparts in a society that is dominated by men. Chetan Bhagat, an Indian author of current popular fiction, has recently featured the new woman in his works. In his book *"One Night @ the Call Centre,"* where men and women are treated equally and work night shifts, Chetan presents his female characters as pioneers of social reform and equality. Recognize the topics and themes that women writers frequently write about, such as marriage, the family, motherhood, sexuality, the body, love, sisterhood, creativity, art, violence against women, sexual abuse, patriarchal oppression, and feminist practices of political resistance and empowerment.

Conclusion:

Literary history has witnessed the evolution of female characters over time. Since men dominated society and, until recently, the majority of published authors were men, it is undeniable that the representation of women was biased. As a result, women's historical neglect and dominance have been documented throughout literature. Be. either the woman herself, her existence, her character, her function, or her significance. In literature, women were rarely shown as having greater impulses than males. The study concludes that women have been represented in literature in a variety of distinctive

ways throughout its evolution. Women's minor positions in literature are a reflection of their lack of significance and oppression before the middle of the 19th century. As the status of women increased, the main character kept alteration. Through an analysis of these shifts, it is discovered that the characters not only embody the feminine identity but also the. The protagonists become the new roles that women want to be.

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