



AN EVALUATION OF THE PORTRAYALS OF SURVIVAL IN CONTEMPORARY WOMEN'S WRITING IN AMERICAN CONTEXT

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Abstract

This particular study focuses on how the women's body has been stigmatized in different American writings. The female body and women have been used as passive in different kinds of literature. The genre of contemporary women's writing is dealing with challenging this concept. This study aims to determine the traditional concept and re-establish the importance and role of women in literature and for the well-being of society. In terms of establishing the main aim of this paper, it has been chosen the literature work by Maya Angelou, "*Still I Rise*".

Key words: *American writings, female body, women's writing, trauma, Maya Angelou*

Introduction

As stated earlier, women have been treated badly and have become a victim of body shaming and other kinds of bullying. It has been found that the exploration of the trauma fiction in American literature has given unpleasant experiences to the reader (Schielein, 2020). In this context, this study has been designed and aims to evaluate how the recent contemporary American literature has challenged the treatment of women and the female body. The revolutionary novel by Maya Angelou "*And I Still Rise*" has also focused on this issue (Angelou, 2013). According to the opinion of the researchers, this piece of literature work is mainly the reflection of the past sexual assaults that the author Maya Angelou has faced in her childhood. The line "*You may trod me in the very dirt*" can evident this assumptions, as the scholars says, 'vey dirt' in this line represents the felling she has been given by the molester. Therefore, in this study, a set of research questions have been formed. As a method of research, secondary qualitative research has been proposed. Later the significance of the research in the context of modern America has been mentioned.

Trauma and Female body

The influence of women in the field of literature has crossed different broad spectrums in the present and this practice is ongoing even from the past. As stated earlier, women and the female body has been treated passively and continuously criticized in the past. Apart from that, the contribution of females to literature

and society has always been ignored in the literature. The physical suffering of the female writers is depicted in their writings. Their physical suffering alters the way they think and even drives them into trauma. In their creations, the survivors' suffering is depicted. The treatment of women's bodies in different kinds of literature has given rise to severe Trauma and that indirectly leads to depression among the female (Ahmadi, 2021). In Maya's writings, the factor of cultural differences she uses to carry within the American culture was also prominent. According to the autobiographies and interviews of Maya, racism also influences the sexual assaults African girls use to face in the American context. The trauma fiction in the literature has given rise to unpleasant experiences for the reader. This treatment has not been accepted at all. Maya Angelou's in "Still I Rise" she portrays the perseverance in the face of extreme adversity. This poem addresses the oppression and suffering that black communities—and black women in particular—have endured and she explores fortitude and tenacity in the face of tyranny. Although this is a recurring theme, Angelou is also addressing the historical persecution of African-Americans in particular. She displays a strong desire to avoid becoming a target of this persecution in her writings. She opposes anyone who would subjugate or keep her back. She won't laugh or appear defeated, with "bowed head and lowered eyes," but rather, she will be conceited or sardonic. Therefore there is a basic need of changing the stigma and to re-establishing the importance of women in the literature. Therefore, this particular area is considered highly important for the well-being of society. As per the opinion of Lacan, trauma takes place during the second or similar occurrence of the past terrific experience. Therefore, the feeling of trauma can mentally haunt the one who has been faced the sexual assaults until death, in every similar occurrence. In the past, there are different studies have been conducted for elaborating on the situation of Women. *Beloved*, by Toni Morrison, is considered an example of this as it described the destructive legacy of black women in the time of the American civil war (Morrison, 1988). This novel is also considered a remarkable piece of art in this particular field. This particular study will consider a secondary qualitative analysis by analyzing different ongoing research articles, and novels on this particular topic. Inspired by the study of Pollock *et al.* (2020), regarding the stigmatization of women in literature, the approach of this research will be of a deductive type to scientifically investigate the treatment of the female body and women in the field of modern American literature. This study will consider secondary qualitative research by considering different novels, and journals on this particular topic. Interpretive philosophy is going to be adopted here to strategically work on this particular topic. The work of Wei *et al.* (2021) has influenced the present study for choosing positivism philosophy. The study of Van, (2019), has taken the descriptive type of research design and has drawn an effective conclusion for their research, influenced from this, this present study will choose, a descriptive type of research design.

As a part of the secondary research analysis, different data regarding this field and different novel will be considered here. Along with that, the literature, published from contemporary women's writing in

American literature has also been considered here as an important resource. The collection of the data is through digital platforms. Therefore, all the data collected with the help of Google scholar. Apart from that, the literature published in contemporary women's writing in American literature will also be considered an important source of resources.

It is expected that with the help of this research, an idea regarding the treatment of the female body and the women in the literature will be derived. This will be helpful in changing the perspective of women. However contemporary American literature has challenged the situation of women in modern literature and is determined to do that in future. Apart from that, as this research sturdy is focusing on the mental trauma and behavioural changes among the children due to the sexual assaults with the accounts of Maya Angelou, this going to help in improving the condition of the children who are victim of this pathetic situation. These challenges in their writing can help determine the position of women in the literature. Future writers can be influenced by this and present women as an integral part of society.

Conclusion

In conclusion, it can be stated that this research will help analyse the importance of women in the field of literature. This is a protest against the oppressors. She continues to encounter prejudice and injustice despite no more being a slave. She tries to live a joyful life in spite of this oppression rather than wallow in the resentment that results from it. The tough past her forefathers had to suffer is mentioned in the penultimate stanza. With the same empowering refrain of rising, she replies to the past. The female characters in women's literature are those who have been mistreated or hurt by the patriarchally structured society they live in. Discrimination is needed to be banned and the practice of this kind of behaviour, in literature, is not advised to be stated in the literature. Discrimination indirectly gives a rise in trauma for the reader.

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