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A prospective study of feminism waves, phases, issues and critical analysis

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Abstract

Feminism refers to a social movement to empower women. Feminist believe that women should enjoy the same rights in society as men and that should share equally in society's opportunities. This article offers a very basic introduction to feminist, and several prominent schools of thought in feminist literary criticism there are in three ways namely first wave and second and third wave feminism and also give the gist of phases of feminism. Feminist represents an attempt to give a voice to women and the female perspective. This paper explains major challenges facing feminism are feminist frontier, media, glass ceiling, social inequality and violence against women and also it deals the feminism in critical way.

Keywords: Feminism, waves, phases, major challenges, feminist frontier, media, glass ceiling, social inequality and violence against women and critical analysis, etc

Introduction

Feminism is a movement which gained potential in the twentieth century, marking the culmination of two centuries 'struggle for cultural roles and socio-political rights-a struggle. There have been several prominent schools of thought in feminist literary criticism there are in three ways namely first wave and second and third wave feminism. The movement gained increasing prominence across three-phases waves-the first wave is political, the second wave is cultural and the third wave is academic. According to Toril Moi also classifies the feminist movement into the three phases and feminism faces many problems and feminism is illogical, unnecessary and evil.

Men's Treatment of Women: First Wave Feminism (Political)

Early stage of feminist criticism, critics consider male novelists' demeaning treatment or marginalization of female characters. The first wave of feminism, in the 19th and 20th centuries, began in the US and the UK as a struggle for equality and property rights for women, by suffrage groups and activist organizations. First wave feminist fought against chattel marriages and for political and economic equality. An example of first wave feminist literary analysis would be a critique of William Shakespeare's Taming of the Shrew for Petruchio's abuse of Katherina.

Gynocriticism: Second Wave Feminism (Cultural)

The second wave of feminism in the 1960s and 1970s was characterized by a critique of patriarchy in constructing the cultural identity of women. The prominent motto of this phase, the personal is the political was the result of the awareness of the fair distinction between women's domestic and men's public sphere.

Gynocriticism seeks to appropriate a female literary tradition. Gynocriticism involves three major aspects.

- ❖ Examination of female writers and their place in literary history.
- ❖ Treatment of female characters in books by both male and female writers -- consideration.
- ❖ Discovery and exploration of a canon of literature written by women.

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Third wave Feminism (Academic)

The third wave feminism in the post 1980, has been actively involved academics with its interdisciplinary associations with Marxian psychoanalysis and post structuralism, dealing with issues such as language writing, sexuality, representation, etc. it also has associations with alter sexualities, post colonialism.

Phase of Women's writing

Feminist movement into the three phases namely the female is biological, the feminist is political and the feminine is cultural. The main aspects in the phases of women's writings are Female writers tried to adhere to male values, writing as men, and usually did not enter into debate regarding women's place in society. Female writers often employed male pseudonyms during this period.

Central theme of works by female writers was the criticism of the role of women in society and the oppression of women.

Women writers were no longer trying to prove the legitimacy of a woman's perspective. Rather, it was assumed that the works of a women writer were authentic and valid. The female phase lacked the anger and combative consciousness of the feminist phase.

Feminism Facing Issues

Today sexism can seem an insurmountable obstacle. Obviously, the one main issue facing modern feminism is men, and, though we don't want to kill all or even any of them, there's no point hiding behind words like "sexism" or "patriarchy" when considering who's really in charge today, and who has the power to prevent us from climbing up there on the phallic plinth beside them. It's men, pure and simple. But before you start calling us aggressive-looking man-hating harridans; let's break that down a bit for the uninitiated.

Final feminist frontier

Our feminist talk about housework are entrenched ideas that housework and childcare are women's work and, because women are paid less than men, they're more likely to give up their jobs to enter a world of underpaid drudgery. It should go without saying that making the choice to stay at home is as admirable as any work, and a choice that deserves social recognition rather than eye-rolling snipes about "desperate housewives", but the point is that many can't make a choice when their hand is forced financially or socially.

Media

Body anxiety can be hard to know where to start when it comes to media sexism. Campaigns against lads' mags and the Sun's Page Three have been gaining ground for a while now, and adding your signatures to these is a step in the right direction. Organizations such as Media Smart, Endangered Bodies, Feminista and Anybody are campaigning hard on these issues, while young feminists are lobbying advertisers and engaging in sticker sabotage. Every little helps.

Glass Ceiling

Many commentators rightly pointed out after the death of Margaret Thatcher that Maggie "made it through the glass ceiling, but pulled the ladder up after her": a phrase that

reminded us all of how reinforced that glass really is. Thatcher herself wanted none of the feminist cause, frequently referring to herself as an anomaly amongst the weaker sex; women successes of the modern age are slightly more charitable.

Social Inequality

Around 58 per cent of carers are female according to the Office of National Statistics, with women in full-time work still more likely to be carers than men in full-time work. Transgendered women remain extremely likely to be prejudiced against; lesbian women tend to experience higher levels of discrimination than gay men. Black African women who are asylum seekers in the UK have an appallingly high mortality rate, estimated at 7 times higher than for white women. This rather depressing state of affairs shows that issues of race, disability, sexual orientation and gender often combine to create a reality of extreme disadvantage for certain groups. Most of the time, these groups are female.

Violence against Women

Sexism today can seem an insurmountable obstacle, despite all of our past collective achievements. But it's worth remembering that often, just drawing attention to inequality can be enough to get people on board with tackling it; consider the huge popularity of Everyday Sexism. If you don't know where to start, places like UK Feminista have a campaign for every form of stigma, ranging from discussions of why people assume that Muslim women wearing headscarves "don't have a voice", to policing plastic surgery adverts in magazines. It's still a tough world out there for The Ladies, and we hope that we've demonstrated how sexism remains at work in 2013. Here's hoping modern feminism will tackle it; as we all know, a fight on many fronts greatly improves our chances.

Critical Analysis

Many educationists, feminist analyses the feminism in various modes and criticize it as unnecessary illogical evil concept and it is analysis below

Feminism is unnecessary

Modern feminism is unnecessary because its entire part is the unquestioned assumption that women are and have historically always been worse off than men. The fact that men and women are fundamentally different and want different things makes it difficult to compare their welfare directly, to assess which sex is better off. It is also not true that women are the "weaker sex." Physically and psychologically girls require greater medical and psychiatric care than boys. Another fallacy on which modern feminism is based is that men have more power than women. Among mammals, the female always has more power than the male, and humans are no exception. It is true that, in all human societies, men largely control all the money, politics, and prestige. They do, because they have to, in order to impress women.

Feminism is illogical

Modern feminism is illogical because, it is based on the vanilla assumption that, but for lifelong gender socialization and pernicious patriarchy, men and women are on the whole identical. An insurmountable body of evidence by now

conclusively demonstrates that the vanilla assumption is false; men and women are inherently, fundamentally, and irreconcilably different.

Feminism is evil

Feminism is evil because it ultimately makes women (and men) unhappy. Women used to be a lot happier than men despite the fact that they made much less money than men. Now women make as much as, sometimes even more than, men do. As a result, today women are just as unhappy, or even unhappy than, men are. The feminist insistence that women behave like men and make as much money as men do may not be the sole reason for women's rising levels of dissatisfaction with life; a greater incidence of divorce and single motherhood may also contribute to it. At any event, the culpability of modern feminism in making women steadily unhappy, because it is based on false assumptions about male and female human nature, is difficult to deny.

Conclusion

Sexism and discrimination exist in all social institutions. Feminist theory giving a voice to women remains as the greatest contribution. The present day feminism in its diverse and various forms such as cultural or radical feminism black feminism or woman materialist or neo-Marxist feminism, continues its struggle for a better status for women. Beyond literature and literary theory, feminism also finds radical expression in arts, painting and architecture.

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