

GENDER DIFFERENCE IN THE POETRY OF ANDRIENNE RICH

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Abstract :

American poet, essayist, and feminist Adrienne Cecile Rich is generally regarded as one of the 20th century's most read and influential writers. After her birth on May 16, 1929, Adrienne Rich quickly rose to prominence as a leading figure in the American feminist movement. A lot of the themes in Rich's poetry revolve with women, feminism, and the importance of family. Topics discussed in this article include how Adrienne Rich's poetry indirectly bridges the gap between the Anglo-American and French feminisms on gender and diversity.

Keywords: Feminism, Social, feminist, Gender, Woman, male-oriented, dominance

Introduction :

This paper takes a feminist point of view to critically examine several of Rich's poetry. Women are portrayed poorly as Aristotle claimed that women are female because of a lack of attributes, while Thomas Aquinas described women as "imperfect man and the accidental person," as Beauvoir pointed out. The good principle generated order, light, and man, whereas the negative principle created chaos, darkness, and women, as Pythagoras put it. These representations and assumptions about women have been fiercely contested by Rich in her writings and criticism that exhibited women's superior drive and inventiveness.

Woman With The Nerves Of A Panther :

By channeling one of her female personas, we learn that this poet is "sworn to lucidity," meaning that she sees the issues at hand and, with a "desire to transform" the decadent society, she proposes solutions that might prove to be pivotal.

Therefore, Rich was forced to write in masculine styles since she lacked a female role model. Whatever the case, it motivated her to go deep into the history of female poets who have since been forgotten in creation.

Female, Power Of Language :

For the powerless, language is a final recourse in the struggle against injustice. Ludwig Wittgenstein, a philosopher of language, once said, "The boundaries of my language indicate the limits of my reality." In Jane Austin's "Persuasion," Miss Eliot tells Captain Harville, "Men have had every advantage over us in creating their own tale." Harville had questioned Miss Eliot's consistency on many occasions because of her own inconsistencies. I refuse to believe anything that is written in books. Women are who they are now because of the language we use. Women have been worshipped and loved for their beauty, elegance, and vulnerability since the start of civilizations, yet they have also been mistreated and condemned for these same traits. The linguistic barrier is the only explanation. In this case, words have real meaning and impact [1]. And Elaine Showalter, in "A Literature of their Own," attempted to show that a female language is necessary for women's liberation (1977).

In "the missing nouns," Rich personifies the essence of the feminine character, which is overlooked in the realm of males. The concept of "the verb living only in the infinitive" may be interpreted in two ways: either as an extra linguistic unit, or as a symbolic representation of something infinite and unending, which the average human mind has trouble understanding and categorizing.

In order to break free from the roles of "lost nouns" and "verbs surviving in infinitive only," women needed to take the creative reins, compose their own plays, and take the spotlight. Because of the misogynist's "dead language" and skewed portrayal of women in his plays, women had to forge a new, more genuine, more intrinsic identity for themselves.

Female Depression Through Symbolism :

The symbolist movement greatly impacted Adrienne Rich, and her poetry displays many of the characteristics of symbolism. Her poetry is full with meaning. The research article "A Symbolic Reading of Adrienne Rich's An Unsaid Word" is an excellent example of a study of symbolic allusion in Adrienne Rich's poetry. Many of Adrienne Rich's poetry focus on depressed women [2]. Poem titles include "Aunt Jennifer's Tigers," "Snapshots of a Daughter-in-Law," "Living in Sin," "I Dream I'm the Death of Orpheus," "My Mouth Hovers Across Your Breasts," and "etc." Symbols of women's depression are shown here. While studies on symbolism are common, no studies have yet been undertaken on Adrienne Rich's work using the lens of symbols to examine the experience of depression among women.

Language is the way through which man's power is spread, since it is via symbols that we make sense of the world (Hassan 58). The "process of symbolic action does more than establish the ideal model of dominance," in the view of poststructuralists. It's an active participant in the making of ideas, trying to put order into experience (Kirsch 42). Poems by

Adrienne Rich often include symbolic imagery. The poem "Aunt Jennifer's Tiger" is one of her works. Aunt Jennifer comes from symbolic representations provided by the speaker.

In the poem "Living in Sin" the woman's mental state is explored via a psychoanalytic lens. Poem's female protagonist "daydreams and hopes her love will never experience trouble and suffering while expecting a wonderful ending." Down the road, however, her fancy played tricks on her and reality took control [3]. The typical female existence is not one she would anticipate. For them, the dream stays just that. Snapshots of a Daughter-in-law, written by Adrienne Rich, is a powerful feminist poetry that delves deeply into the many elements of a woman's existence that are plagued by pain and male exploitation. The word "daughter-in-law" appears in the title, suggesting disjointed, disorganized snaps of a lady who is in a relationship with the protagonist's son. Because she has never really been an autonomous daughter but a dependent daughter-in-law, Rich has chosen the term "daughter-in-law" rather than "sister" or "daughter" to describe her. This means that the women's sadness is a metaphor for the men's monstrosity.

Gender Discrimination :

From the beginning of time, females have been expected to perform certain responsibilities. They have no choice but to spend their lives in kitchens and their only purpose in life is to have children. One of the dolls in the dollhouse. Realizing this, women began to question the patriarchal system, which led to the development of feminism. In her article "We should all be Feminists," Nigerian author Chimamanda Adichie argued for women's equality and defined feminism in the twenty-first century. She argues that the term "feminism" refers to a movement rather than an ideology, and that its goal is to achieve gender parity rather than enslave women.

Aunt Jennifer's Tigers, a poem explores the mind of a woman who is subject to male tyranny. The poem "The Trees," a symbolic poem about trees that begin their journey inside a house before making their way to the wild. The trees are symbolic of a woman's inherent qualities. The 'trees' in this context represent the women who are stifled by domestic confinement and yearn for freedom.

Aunt Jennifer utilizes the tiger to symbolize her subjugation in "Aunt Jennifer's Tigers," while in "The Trees," the lady expresses her desire for independence via the metaphor of a tree.

Conclusion :

This article will help us recognise how Adrienne Rich symbolises feminine despair in her works. A language that is sensitive to both men's and women's wants and needs may be reborn via the resurgence of semiotic aspects within symbolic masculine language. Rich openly and radically protests the patriarchal systems that have, throughout history, undermined women's

agency. In her last collection of work, *A Wild Patience Has Taken Me This Far*, Adrienne Rich abandons the male, turning instead to a fully female aesthetic and a strictly feminine writing style, pushing for a purely woman-centered vision and a truly female art form in her poems.

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