

FEMINIST CONSTRUCTION IN THE NOVEL THE MANGO SEASONS BY AMULYA MALLADI

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Abstract

Culture and Society are the two most importance aspects which created a great impact in the life of women. Any agreement had to make in once life it involves the culture, cultural behaviour and the society that a woman is born into. Understanding that the life is not only dependent on women's choice it equally dependent in the reaction to the house culture and the society's reaction on the decision they make. Amulya Malladi a prolific writer known for her realistic writing of women character in her works. She is born in India which inspired her to bring in the importance of the actual life of women who lives under different roof of culture and society. She brings out the struggle of the female character in the novel and the choices she makes according to her wish which is not acceptable in the name of Cultural difference. Amulya have created women as the result of her life incidence in the novel which she bring her understanding of cultural dominance. Experimenting the feminist theory in the novel to explore the perspective of the female character in the novel. In general it focuses on how the women are left unnoticed in the process of holding on to social, cultural and religious norms. The underlying truth of balancing these and going against once nature of culture is something which cannot be accepted in the society. This paper analysis the female perspective of the novel and draws the conclusion according to the feminist theory.

Key Words- Culture, Society, Feminism, Cultural Dominance

The Rituals and the Women

The Mango Season a story of two different culture of male and female character. Priya Rao who lives in America and returns to her native with a heart that holds her secret engagement with her lover Nick Collin. Priya who belongs to the upper cast Baramin Family who takes rituals, culture and religion very seriously. She followed all these rituals when she lived in India now, she finds it difficult to adapt her life in India. The novel brings the colourfully structure of the mango season, the rituals that followed and the old customs. The novel viewed through the female character Priya Rao who is returning to her home in Hyderabad from United State. She is trying to get back to her home culture but she finds it difficult as she is more used to the culture in the United state. As her parents believe only in arrange marriage her struggle for revealing the truth about her engagement with a non-Indian is going to give her difficult situation to handle with her family. We could see that being an independent women who studied from United State has no influence of their culture nor the American culture, she tries to focus on her life and the decision according to her well-being and for the love she has for Nick. The consequences she faces as the result of keeping her engagement secret from her family, through this we could understand the constructive though the female has to carry on once she is in a family culture. And the family culture and the society question the women and only blaming her and the family for the decision she make for her life.

The wedding monsoon season is the time when she returns to India she is understanding the reality of cultural difference more as she also got used to the American Culture. The feeling of alienation she feels will only lead her to keep her secret from her parents. Priya is twenty seven years old and yet she struggle to find a husband. Amulya tries to make an important note of the age of the female character as we could relate more with the realistic characters in ones life. We could see how the society and certain culture have formed a boundary for women to marriage in certain age and how the men are not taken much into that boundary. The age-old tradition of being married in the right age is followed and through the female character we could understand the typical mindset of Indian parents. Being unmarried at an orthodox family is something not acceptable no matter how

independent and successful the women is in her life. The social construction and the culture the people follow is only to keep women under their control to achieve a family status in the society.

Feminist Construction

The narrative of the character is given in such a way in the adoration for being for oneself. Priya struggles and keep her secret to her parents and worries about Nick as he give her no response to her email. The fight between her inner self and her family who constantly talks against foreign life style and their habit makes her even more bothered about sharing her secret. The struggle between belonging to one culture and its impact created on the women can be see in through her character. Marriage and giving birth to a male child are the two main needs of women that should be fulfilled during their life period, we could gather the sense of alienation through the female character. The following chapter brings distraction in her decision for her love for Nick, as she meets Indian man for an arranged marriage. The family make decision for the daughter no matter what are her concerns, likes and dislike. It is more of a societal status for the family. Priya who faces the conflict for her love and she discloses her engagement to her family.

Amulya Malladi talks about the efforts the female character takes to attain a very basic right for choosing her life partner on her own concerns. Through the character we could see how the decision of any women, no matter the caste they belong it is still a struggle to take decision of their own. The women have to shift between culture and society to make a decision for their life. The characteristics of the female character is the realistic image of the women while making a change in their life which is dependent of the family and as well as the society. Priya Rao who breaks the tradition of being under control of the family and society, the author changes the narrative and the depiction of character in as a modern women who believes in her norms and rules she have in life and takes the courage to reveal her secret to her family knowing the consequences that she has to face. The family regardless of their believes and the tradition they have been following throughout their life, they take a chance on their daughter and agrees for her marriages.

The feminist aspect in the novel is the character sketch of the female character. Amulya Malladi breaks the convection of women of orthodox family and draws a very different notion in understanding of the culture, society and tradition as a whole product of man-made. The author highlights the strong female character who takes the narration through her insights and ideas she has towards the idea of family and culture. The main role of any women is to make a decision in their life according to the wish of her family, which is directly related to the societal status, the hardship one as to face is comparatively more when it comes to the men in the family. The observation made through the work is to stand on what is good for oneself, and accept the consequences that comes along with the truth. The main character here she mirrors the situation of any women born in the orthodox family. Accepting the learned foreign culture, born in to a typical strict, orthodox culture has a different impact in her life to compare and agree with the flaws that is in the society in Indian. The failed attempt to accept the flaws in her family and society, understanding the present life in abroad will lead the main character in a confused state to decide on her life. The later understanding of her choices she makes in life is more important than the family or society which has a larger impact in her life.

Conclusion

The authors experiment with the chances that taken by the female character and the consequences she faces depicted in such a way to give in a broader idea of place the women hold in the family as well as the society. Amulya's craft work has a unique description on love, marriage, society sprinkled it with some humour has disclose with the right emotion and the experiences of the other characters that lead to the outcome of the decision of the Priya the main character, through whom the reader is able to connect with the life situation of the character. The novel as a whole gives a wider idea of the societal construction, family rituals, and cultural background as an important factor in one's life in making their decision over their life. The involvement they have created as a greater

impact that one's beliefs on life. The author effortlessly pictures the importance of women and their choices, and how one has to struggle to accept the life they have created for oneself. The feminist construction that can witnessed through this novel gives the reader the perspective to understand the dogma the society and culture holds for women.

Work Cite

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