

Perspectives of feminism in the Black Prince of Iris Murdoch

P. Ananthan
Ph.D. Research Scholar
Annamalai University
Chidambaram

Dr. K. Padmanabhan
Asst. Prof. English
Annamalai University
Chidambaram

Abstract:

Iris Murdoch is a British novelist who is well known writers of 20th century British literature. She deals with all side of social issues in her writings. Her presentations are known for reality, good , bad and sexual relationship . She depicts the reader with the use of her characterization. She uses concept of feminism in her writings. She talks about the equality of women in her most of her writings . Aim of this paper is to explore the expectations of Iris Murdoch for women. in order to get some status to women , her writings are used . it has given some space to improve the lifestyle of female society . This kind of elements is discussed in this paper.

Key Words: Female, Sympathy, pain, strong, difficulties

As a female writer, Murdoch has given some more concentration on female society. Her Characters are example of female society. She gives some new perspectives to manage difficulties and challenges faced by the females. With the use of different female Characterizations, she nicely presents all evil side of female society. She keeps the traditional ways of writings. Major problems of female are recorded by Murdoch in her writings. She is an expert in using powerful narrative technique to project her inner thought. Women have issues in their day to day life. It was discussed by Murdoch in successful manner. She creates image for herself through her variety of characterization. In her Black Prince, The delineation of the women characters in this novel evokes the empathy of reader with the use of more efforts to create their own female image and identity. Murdoch would like to build a well secured image

on female. She tries to give the completeness of female individuality in independence manner. In order to overcome the Male supremacy, her characters are struggled to maintain some distance, idealism.

Julian

Julian is a young woman the daughter of Arnold and Rachel Baffin. She puts her goal of life, works out according to her wish and expectations instead of her parents' and social expectations. Julian is lived with more freedom to take her own decision about her whole life. She was loved by Bradley. She is not a successful student. She has never been studied proper. But unfortunately she decides to become writer. Her knowledge is not up to that level. Her lack of knowledge in knowing about Homer and Dante were poets. She has two goals in her life. One is become writer another one is having love with Bradley. She has problem to understand the relationship with Bradley. It becomes unexpected problem in her life goal. Her parents are now angry on her behavior which does not understood by Julian. She slightly failed in her love affair with Bradley. While she is really and seriously hurt, her goal of life, youngness suggests trouble. She could not relieve herself from illusionary world which was framed by her in order to get self identity. Feminist thought become trouble to Julian in this male oriented society. Her illusions finally will be shattered when Bradley makes violent love to her. He has lust on Julian rather than love. The nature and reality of Bradley was understood by Julian very later. She feels differently due to her expectations in the male oriented society. She looks sympathetically by the readers. Few Critics states that she has foolishness. As Virginia Woolf states in her "A Room one's own", women want to primary things to lead their life freely with their wish. That is money and privacy which are need of female society. The same thing like Virginia is referred by Murdoch to get female identity which can ensures the women live with respect and dignity.

Priscilla Saxe

Priscilla is a sympathetic character who is sister of Bradley. . Most of the pages in these books tell about the ruined life Priscilla in moan manner. Her life is disliked by her due to unlikable marriage. Her life is painful which gives only bitter experience whereas she longs for better one. As a female, she is in compulsion to overcome more difficulties.

Through this characterization, Murdoch explores the pain experience of female society. Her great regret is the abortion which gives untold bitter experience. From her abortion, she could not able to have child. It gives great impact on her life. Her life become miserable .Her sadness helps only in way of changing her brother character. Nothing happens to her newly. Older customs are basic reason for her struggle. She is a character of traditional. No male characters here are ready to rectify her difficulties in patriarchal society. She is the under the control of male society. It gives the sense of impossibility. She has no way to go away from her husband. She is in critical situation. Her brother Bradley does not help in any manner. She becomes helpless. She becomes hopeless. Finally her marriage leads to end of her own life

Christian Evansdale and Rachel

Bradley Pearson's ex-wife is Christian Evansdale. She is a confident, strong and bold woman. She remains very beautiful and attractive while she is aged. She lived in America for the past few years. She is a powerful woman. Though she is aged, attractive and admirable, she is sympathetic who has given more strength to her character .Arnold wife is Rachel who is forceful woman whom both Arnold and Bradley underestimate. Rachel mostly builds up her image better than remaining characters in this novel. She has bold enough to face all difficulties in her life. She survives in her problematic marriage life. It is a good quality of Rachel, Arnold nicely seems to think that all is good between him and his wife; Bradley regards Rachel as a benign, older woman. Rachel's firm speech and tone of strong, however, suggests the power within her personality. Rachel herself predicts her fierceness when she tells Bradley that she still has "real fire" in her old age. Her boldness is projected here. As feminist writer, she presents all aspects of women life in clear manner to understand the male society for adjust with them. In terms of male perspectives, there is chance to get some changes after reading writings of Murdoch. She has done such great help to female society. Rachel improves herself to live in this society. Self improvement is the only way to achieve their goal. They must work towards it. Speaking feminism is too easy task whereas implementations are difficult task. Christian and Rachel are strong enough to live in this society. But every female does not have boldness in their life. Self improvement only can give boldness and courage which will help them surely to their life freely from the male dominated society.

References

S. Byatt. (1994). Degree of Freedom London: Vintage. Friedman, Susan Stanford. (1998). 'Beyond Gender': The New Geography of Identity and the Future of Feminist Criticism. Mappings: Feminism and the Cultural Geographies of Encounter. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 17-35.

Gerstenberger, Donna Lorine. (1975). Iris Murdoch. London: Associated University Press. Khogeer, Afaf Jamil. (2005). The Integration of the Self: Women in the Fiction of Iris Murdoch and Margaret Drabble. New York: University Press of America.

http://www.aijssnet.com/journals/Vol_3_No_3_May_2014/14.pdf

<https://www.sparknotes.com/lit/blackprince/characters/>