

The Reflection of Feminist Ideas and Aesthetics in the Creation of Art and Literary Works

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Abstract

The feminist movement with its assertion to defend women's rights is one of the most controversial topics of the modern era that has evolved widely in recent decades in a variety of contexts. Today, feminist theory is a collection of intellectual minds, political parties, and all genera of mental and behavioral tendencies of women that have been incorporated into various fields, including works of art and literature. The challenge has constantly existed in the history of art and aesthetics to recognize women's power in the creation of art and literary works and to emphasize the fact that women's artistic creativity has been overlooked throughout history. Therefore, this movement has employed various strategies in the creation of these works and has attempted to emerge with the introduction of feminist thoughts and ideologies. Among the feminist tendencies that have had a significant impact on the art of contemporary Iranian artists is the postmodernist intellectual trend. A new door has been opened to reflect feminist thought in Iranian art and literature. Hence, through a descriptive method and by the use of library research, this paper seeks to study and analyze feminist approaches in aesthetic features of women's artistic and literary artwork. The results of this study show the profound effects of feminist thinking on the phenomenology of postmodernism in art and literature, more evident in the works of contemporary artists.

Research objectives:

1. Investigating feminist ideas and aesthetics in the creation of art and literary works.
2. Examining the components of feminist tendencies in artistic and literary works.

Research questions:

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1. What the reason for female artists to be anonymous in the history of art?
2. Is the essence of female artwork similar to male artists?

Keywords: Feminist Movement, Postmodernist Approach, Feminist Aesthetics, Works of Art and Literature.

Introduction

Throughout history, women and their related issues have been an integral element of human societies, and outlooks towards women has changed throughout time. Women could only publish their artistic and literary works if they had a social status. To achieve this position, a movement took place that eventually led to a movement named feminism. Feminism is a movement that, through its political and legal approach to achieving women's lost rights, eradicating gender discrimination and combating man-centered discourse and manifestations of patriarchal thinking, has been able to express its ideas and demands as a discourse to other communities.

Today, feminism has presented its most dynamic and broadest form in relation to postmodernism. Feminists have used artistic and literary capacities as the most effective tools and media to expand their ideas. Therefore, given the fundamental developments that have taken place over the last several centuries in various fields, including philosophy, science, economics, culture and art, which have had a profound impact on human relationships and social attitudes, the importance of attention and the depth of the issue in different realms, including the realm of art and literature, is becoming increasingly apparent.

In general, one of the most imperative indicators for providing a precise definition of a flow is the consideration of the motivation it generates and the various factors that influence the birth and development that specific social flow. The feminist movement, which is one of the political and social movements that emerged in the twentieth century, gained general popularity. Proponents of the movement, including George Lukacs, called for equal rights for women with men. According to Sarse, "Feminism is the struggle for equality between men and women and the elimination of discrimination against women" (Sarse, 2006: 9).

The main goal of feminist processes is the equality of men and women. "Women's rights advocate" or "feminist" refers to a person who advocates for the political, economic and

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social equality of men and women. Therefore, this movement supports the legal and social changes needed to achieve this goal (Shibelight, 2010: 20). In the meantime, the formation of feminist art, one of the most prominent subject-oriented artistic currents in the contemporary art movement, began to coincide with feminist movements (Lucy Smith, 2003). Art emerged from a feminist perspective in all aspects including poetry, literature, architecture, abstract forms and sciences, with an intermediate position between abstract meanings and concepts embodied in the material world.

Women as creators of works of art have accepted a lesser role in art history (except for a specific era and that due to their belief in the central role of women and, in a word, women's matriarchy, in which according to their social role were patrons of many arts). Hence, they were not regarded as artists but as a producer of the everyday objects required by humans and this intensifies the minor role of women. But what needs to be emphasized is that the main decline in the attendance of women is due more to social conditions and religious differences than to factors such as women's inefficiency or their inherent inadequacies and abilities. But with the rise of feminist currents in the 60s and 70s, uncertainty arose regarding the relation between women and art by feminist intellectual leaders. Addressing these issues from a specific viewpoint of feminists, due to the extremist and unrealistic view, has become a struggle. Rather than seeking to prove women's talents and abilities, it sought to challenge the common tradition of men in creating works of art (Lucy Smith, 2006: 285). Paying attention to the causes of women's deprivation is the most significant argument in feminist history that can be examined in two respects: changing society's view of the causes of women's weakness and separating gender and its differences. These two issues have led feminist discourses in the last thirty years to focus mainly on gender and social construction and to seek to identify the causes of women's weakness in this construction (Yousefi, 2003: 43). Thus, this extremist view of the feminist movement further exemplifies the need to examine more and more the foundations and principles of feminist aesthetics in relation to art and literature.

Following what was mentioned above, this research aims to introduce a number of the artistic and literary works that fall under feminist art and to explore the ideas of feminist artists through the passage of art and ideas intertwined with artistic creativity. And on the other hand, women are intertwined with social issues and at the same time rooted in feminist debates and movements. Therefore, this descriptive and library-based research attempts to analyze these ambiguities according to the feminist perspective. In order to

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limit the scope of the subject under discussion, a limited number of these work: including poetry, novels, paintings and drawings are studied upon.

Conclusion

Feminism was a social movement that, like other influential movements in the West, first formed in literature and arts and then entered the field of political and social issues through literary and artistic works. As such, woman-centeredness has become one of the most serious subjects of contemporary art and literature for discussion. In the meantime, many women writers have chosen novels and poetry to represent the social status of women of their own age from various literary genres. Throughout history, attempts to revive women's rights and to display women's oppression have been a common feature of women's literature in the East and West, and the viewpoint of feminist writers influenced by their thinking and beliefs about man and the world reflects the attitudes of the feminist movement.

Likewise, among the arts such as painting and drawing, the influence of modernist views and new schools of thought is clearly evident. But in the meantime, since artistic painting originates from Iranian cultural roots and is very closely associated with mystical thought, the influence of the feminist movement and the postmodernist movement is less visible. This art is deeply connected to the traditional and inevitable beliefs of its predecessors.

In the eyes of contemporary Iranian artists, a shift away from indigenous culture entangles us in the abyss of Western culture; consequently, the acceptance of modernity should not lead to the deprivation of national identity. However, with the spread of postmodernist ideas, while portraying Iranian women's rights in their artworks, a spread of postmodernist feminist tendency has led to the elimination of patriarchy. Therefore, based on the pervasiveness of this view, a sense of extremism is emerging in the course of recent feminist thought that is evident in contemporary Iranian art and literature.

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