



Feminist Literature

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Abstract.

Feminist literary criticism knows as the critical analysis of literary works based on the feminist perspective. In other words, feminist literary criticism is a kind of literary criticism on the basis of feminist theory or the politics of feminism more precisely. In particular, it also can be explained as using ideological discourses and feminist rules to study language, structure and being of literature. "This school of thought seeks to describe and analyze the ways in which literature portrays the narrative of male domination in regard to female bodies by exploring the economic, social, political, and psychological forces embedded within literature."

Keywords: *Feminist Literary; Criticism; literary works.*

Introduction:

Feminist literature is fiction, nonfiction, drama, or poetry, which supports the feminist goals of defining, establishing, and defending equal civil, political, economic, and social rights for women. It often identifies women's roles as unequal to those of men – particularly as regarding status, privilege, and power – and generally portrays the consequences to women, men, families, communities, and societies as undesirable. Feminist literary criticism has almost gone through two centuries up to now. This literary criticism based on the reflection of women's situation by themselves in a long term and achievement of their specific and practical action. Thus, feminism is the source of feminist literary criticism. Feminism has experienced two waves. The First Wave, also called liberal feminism, usually refers to the social movement that women fought for their legal vote right and the basic civil rights in American and Britain from 1890 to 1920. In the First Wave, women had successfully strived for their civil rights and the opportunity of attending higher education and finding jobs in the specific industry areas. The more important was that this wave was a prerequisite for the deeper and subtle social works by feminists later. The Second Wave also knows as the Women's Liberation Movement, which focused on the differences between female and male and discussed the origin and operation of gender discrimination in ideology, culture and society.

In the 15th Century, Christine de Pizan wrote *The Book of the City of Ladies* which combats prejudices and enhances the importance of women in society. The book follows the model of *De Mulieribus Claris*, written in the 14th Century by Giovanni Boccaccio.

The feminist movement produced feminist fiction, feminist non-fiction, and feminist poetry, which created new interest in women's writing. It also prompted a general reevaluation of women's historical and academic contributions in response to the belief that women's lives and contributions have been underrepresented as areas of scholarly interest.^[1] There has also been a close link between feminist literature and activism, with feminist writing typically voicing key concerns or ideas of feminism in a particular era.

Much of the early feminist literary scholarship was given over to the rediscovery and reclamation of texts written by women. In Western feminist literary scholarship, Studies like Dale Spender's *Mothers of the Novel* (1986) and Jane Spencer's *The Rise of the Woman Novelist* (1986) were ground-breaking in their insistence that women have always been writing.



Conclusion:

All in all, a serious of conception about women: delicacy, vulnerable, sensitiveness, tolerance and considerateness, etc. are the products of society and culture, are formed by male based on their needs but not the results of female's specific physical structure. As a result, Simon De Beauvoir suggested to use "the second sex" this term to substitute for the term "female". She believed that this substitution may probably weaken various prejudice and discrimination which are forced on women by traditional ideology and finally achieve the goal of gender equality.

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