



The Impact of Gendered Oppression on the Psyche of Female Characters in the Novel *The Pakistani Bride* by Bapsi Sidwa

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ABSTRACT

The study aims to explore the impact of gender oppression on the psyche of female characters in the context of the novel "The Pakistani Bride". Hence, the main objective of this study is to investigate what sort of gender roles are assigned to the female characters in this novel what type of sufferings they are going through in terms of the fulfilment of those assigned roles which ultimately push them into an impulsive and neurotic state of mind. Freud (2016) psychoanalytic model has been applied as the theoretical framework of this study along with (Beauvoir, 1949) feministic approach. However, a particular sample of paragraphs from the particular novel has been drawn by applying the purposive sampling technique. The findings revealed that in the novel *The Pakistani Bride*, the female characters are being oppressed by patriarchal constraints and have no right to speak. They are being perceived as subordinates, others, and minor species and have been pushed to the periphery of society by male supremacy in nearly every aspect of human existence. The findings also asserted that the inability of women to speak for themselves is a result of patriarchal oppression and gendered roles that have driven women to suppress their urges and become neurotic.

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1. Introduction

Despite the fact that masculine language dominates the culture's communication network, male domination in nearly every aspect of human existence has relegated women to the periphery of society, perceiving them as subordinates and inconsequential beings in the world. This is a fact, that language is the identifier of a culture, so if that culture is male dominated than there is a huge possibility that language will also favor those males. Beauvoir has also mentioned that, "This has always been a man's world (Beauvoir, 1949)". The literary works are composed of units that communicate all aspects of life and carefully explores psychological facets. Literary criticism and pieces of literature are significantly under the effect of psychology. Psychology investigates the root reasons of a character's behaviors, explicates the connection between dissonance and psychological operations, and then evaluates the character's actions and genuine reasons for that specific behavior or action. So, in a nutshell, literature and psychology are inextricably intertwined. Bapsi Sidhwa is a writer from Karachi, Pakistan. She, as a native, has paid particular attention to the lives of Asian women. According to her study, the female characters in Bapsi Sidhwa's *The Pakistani Bride* are crushed by societal patriarchal constraints and they have no right to speak about the topic of their marriage and are also not allowed to articulate their sexual predilections. She observed their deprivation in making decisions for themselves, whether it's the matter of their study or selection of a life partner. Through her words, she expresses that, men enjoy grandeur and distinction within this society while, women are just considered as a second-class inhabitant.

Feminists propagates that in the male dominated society, the feminine characters whether Western or Asian are bound to the twisted cultural impositions.

These patriarchal impositions have also been underlined by Beauvior's French Feminist Theory in *The Second Sex* (1949). According to certain research, the characters inadvertently and involuntarily try to conceal and suppress sentiments, urges, thoughts and hopes, as well as how they attempt to regain mental stability in the face of their worrisome situation. Because of this, there is an intimate connection among psychoanalysis and the unconscious mind. In the light of Freudian concept of repressed unconscious, the relationship of environmental effect and neurotic problems will be examined to address the root reasons for a character's experiences within the novel. Thus, this story also depicts women from many ethnic backgrounds who face nearly identical society concepts and impositions. Males have abused and exploited them based on their desires. This study will provide insight into the psychology of female characters in various controlling situations as a result of the diversified portrayal of female characters in diverse scenarios. It will also assist in highlighting the cultural pressure that imposed matters and relationships on them, and pushed them to the edge to become neurotic.

1.1. Research Problem

Patriarchal society controls women and does not allow them to decide for themselves. This lack of freedom results in repressing their feelings and emotions. The unmet desires and repressed emotions later act as a leading factor in making them neurotic. Hence, through this investigation, the researcher is determined to explore the sufferings of female characters in the context of the novel *The Pakistani Bride* because this novel is also written by a well-known female Pakistani author Bapsi Sidwa.

1.2. Research Questions

1. To which extent patriarchal oppression and assigned gender roles are depicted in this work?
2. How is the gendered oppression making the female characters neurotic and impulsive?

1.3. Research Objectives

The aim of this research is to study the female characters of *The Pakistani Bride*. This research anticipates to investigate the unmet desires and repressed feelings of Zaitoon and other females in the novel due to the cultural impositions and how those two factors contributed in making them neurotic.

2. Literature Review

According to the psychological theory presented by Freud, there exists a connection between the suppressed and unconscious desires and dreams. In *Literary Theory: An Anthology*, J. Rivkin and M. Ryan wrote that: "According to Freud, the unconscious urges, although repressed, can never be quelled completely". Wellek and Warren (1956) claims that the novel depicts real-life behavior, emphasizes the importance of detailing, and references the reality and deeper psychology. The statement emphasizes that works of literature include all aspects of life and are based on psychological happenings, and also that the complications that appear in literary works are indisputably derivative of the actual-world issues. Women are depicted struggling to live according to their own will throughout literature and history. They were unable to find that position in society, and as a result, they have suffered from a variety of psychological issues as a result of suppressing their ambitions. The researcher conducted an in-depth investigation of the feminine characters in order to better understand their challenges and to propose ideas for the improvement of female's mental health and their place in society.

Sarijaloo and Kiaei (2016) conducted a study on Richardson's novel *Pamela* in which he seems to focus on how the character of Richardson unconsciously works to mask and repress thoughts, notions, expectations, and cravings, as well as how he struggles to achieve mental stability in the face of his fear. As a result, the unconscious and psychoanalysis are seen to be intricately intertwined (Sarijaloo & Kiaei, 2016). Ahmed and Rajput (2020) published a research titled *Psychoanalysis of Female Protagonist in Kamala Markandya's Novel*. The two researchers uncover the main character's underlying flaw that, even if she has won the world on the outside, but she is still shallow on the inside. She is still touched by the patriarchal

society's darkness and disappointment. The writer has enfolded her character's anguish and turmoil while also gave her a universal appeal (Ahmed & Rajput, 2020).

Another study, Alice Munro's *Runaway in the Mirror of Sigmund Freud*, was undertaken by Bahador and Zohdi (2015). The researcher employed a literary work in this study to investigate the female characters' deeper mental realities. In attempt to unravel the psychological components of the *Runaway*, he employed a psychoanalytic perspective. He has used Freudian theory as a foundation for this, using it to investigate the characters' unconscious and identify their unmet and repressed needs. The researcher concludes his study by confirming the presence of unconscious suppression of feelings, as well as the presence of all the Freudian psychological words that females use to hide the things they wanted to do or say but were unable to do or say due to various factors. This psychological issue must be addressed and resolved in order for women to live their lives according to their own desires (Bahador & Zohdi, 2015).

An *Analysis of Society's Role in Creating Neurotics: A Psychological Reading of Pinter's Caretaker* is another work by (Jamil, 2014). In order to investigate the characters in this study, the researcher used Freudian Psychoanalysis theory of neurosis. According to the findings, societal constraints are impeding people's ability to express their actual selves. The societal forces are responsible for a wide range of psychological problems. In many respects, society dictates what people are permitted to do and what they are not allowed to do. Throughout their life, people are bothered by this restraint, they are controlled and are caught-up in an endless loop of expectations. Individuals perceive themselves as slaves of societal powers as a result of these expectations. They are stuck in their inner world and, like a prisoner they attempt to flee but are unable to do so. The character's inner world has been repressed as a result of this. And due to these societal impositions and refusals to allow people to live according to their own will, make them neurotic and psychologically unwell (Jamil, 2014).

In order to comprehend the oppression that females endure in literary works, Assemi, Ebadi, Jabraili, Sheikhzade, and Hajmohammadian (2012) did research on Ernest Hemingway's short stories. They noticed that patriarchal society was causing problems for female characters. This also supports Beauvoir's argument, which asserts that women face mental and social challenges (Assemi et al., 2012). Because the novel *The Pakistani Bride* expresses the expectations and desires of female characters that are not in accordance with reality, the researcher employed psychoanalysis and feminism as a strategy in reviewing the novel. This disparity between reality and wishes is producing conflict, and suppressing desires due to societal pressure has made them neurotic. As a result, this technique will make it easier for authors to understand what constitutes an inner conflict in female characters, as well as how societal pressures contribute to female neurosis.

3. Theoretical Framework

3.1. Freudian Psychoanalytic Theory

Psychoanalysis is a psychological theory proposed by Sigmund Freud and other scholars in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The interactions between the id, ego, and superego, according to Freudian Psychoanalysis, have an impact on human behavior. In this sense, Freud believes that mental illnesses are caused by the unconscious mind. According to him, repressed desires and inclinations such as sexual orientation and aggression are the root causes of mental and neurotic disorders. Furthermore, the societal domain, according to Freud, is a primary cause of psychiatric problems. In light of this, disparities in relationships can be considered as one of the fundamental reasons of individual psychosis. Unmet needs in humans and a repressive environment can contribute to the development of neuroses. The term "neurotic" (a person with neurosis) is widely used to describe someone who has grief or anxiety, as well as depression, dearth of feelings, low self-confidence, or mental uncertainty.

3.2. Simon de Beauvoir's Feminist Theory

Simon de Beauvoir is one of the philosophers whose status as a philosopher was just recently recognized. The theory used in this study is Simone De Beauvoir's French Feminist Theory. The focus of Beauvoir's concept is on women's roles in society and how males have repressed them. Simon de Beauvoir takes an existentialist approach to women in *The Second Sex*, suggesting that males and females both belong to the same world, but with major

differences. She feels that a man's world is defined and characterized by himself, but a woman's world is described and shown solely for the benefit of males (Khan, 2021).

Beauvoir's view of freedom, authority, and the concept of the 'Other' is the subject of *The Second Sex* (1949). The portrayal of females and sexuality in fiction is vital and illuminating for feminist ideology both as a metaphor and an instrument of patriarchal oppression. It is also a particularly accessible manner of grasping the concept of the antithesis between the Self and the Other in the context of underprivileged sectors of society. In a male-dominated culture, cultural imposition has simply established some pre-defined patriarchal and gendered positions that a woman can acquire, such as "daughter," "wife," and "mother." They are simply driven to play that part, whether they want to or not. In her book *'The Second Sex,'* Beauvoir demonstrates how women have been placed in a position of essential servitude. To affirm his sense of superiority as Self, man create subordinate females. She interpreted females as "an inessential as opposed to essential, he is the Subject, Self, he is Absolute—she is the Other" (Beauvoir, 1949). They are never permitted to express their own ideas or to conduct their lives according to their own desires. Where the male gender has been granted freedom of thought and action, they have ensured that women will not be allowed to exercise such rights. Throughout her book, Beauvoir emphasizes the pressure placed on women to be docile and exist solely to obey males. Individual liberty is not available to them.

The theory of Simon de Beauvoir will be ideal for analyzing *The Pakistani Bride* (1983), because it focuses on how othering and female subjugation harms their psychological well-being and causes them to become neurotic. Thus, by merging these two notions, the researcher takes the basis for Psychoanalytic Feminism, which is employed as the basis for the psychoanalytic examination of the female characters in the selected novel. It also emphasizes the patriarchal forces that worked as a driving force in destroying the mental health of the female characters and are responsible for their specific behaviors.

4. Methodology

The study is based on the qualitative paradigm. Kumar (2018) asserted that the qualitative approach has the potential to investigate things, and further it allows the researchers to observe all of the events and characteristics in the particular phenomenon along with people's reactions to those occurrences as well. This method not only responds to "what" questions, but also to "why" and "how" questions. Qualitative research necessitates more effort than quantitative research since it delves deeper into the hidden or in-depth meanings and motivations for events and acts. Qualitative research results are more thorough, and deductions can be made more effectively from the data collected (Marshall, 522). For this reason, research begins with a specific observation that assisted in the selection of a hypothesis and the drawing of a conclusion from the study. The current study's method will be descriptive qualitative, and it will be utilized to examine the female character's actions, perceptions, attitudes and psyches.

5. Data Analysis

5.1. Textual Analysis

Resham Khan has promised us his daughter.... was worth more than the loan due. (Sidhwa, 2008). Throughout the world females have always been objectified. They have always been treated as a commodity or a bargain by males. These textual lines clearly highlight this associated objectification. Afshan's future has been dictated by the decision of a man who is not even her real father. She has been promised to an unknown man for marriage without considering of her consent. As Beauvoir has discussed in her book *The Second Sex*, we come to know that this objectification is not just a myth but a fact stated unambiguously and clearly. In order to pay a loan a man again has used a woman. And the only reason behind this is the patriarchal mentality which negates the existence of females as a human. They are just seen just as an object that can be used according to the masculine convenience. As a return of the debt, by a male is paid by giving the entire life of a female. This evidently signifies the impact of patriarchal oppression on women's lives.

"To begin with, he had thought of marrying the girl himself...decided to bestow the girl on Qasim." (Sidhwa, 1983, p. 14)

While deciding the fate of Afshan the man only gave her to his son out of love for his own son. The fact of not considering the emotions and will of a female has not been entertained for even once. She as a trophy, gained in return to some money was passed on to the other man in power. The irony of these decisions solidifies the thinking of Beauvoir, that women are oppressed and objectified. They even do not have a say in affairs that are directly related to their own fate and not just for the time being but for their entire life.

"She's ten! I can already see her body shaping..... she'll be safe only at her mother-in-law's ... A girl is never too young to marry" (Sidhwa, 1983, p.50)

The predefined roles for females are only to be a wife, to bear and rear children for their male counterparts. As Beauvoir has stated, "...woman is defined exclusively in her relation to man (Beauvoir, pg. 143)." This is the only introduction a woman has. This is also an indication of subjugation, oppression and compulsion of female to be what men want them to be.

"To entertain, a courtesan knows how to elicit laughter... I'd never allow myself to be moody before a man." (Sidhwa, 1983, p.64)

The ultimate goal that, fate or the patriarchal setup has assigned to these females is to please the men. No matter how they feel internally they have to present themselves as happy dolls externally. Their psychological condition is of no concern to the males, they just want their entertainer to be as much entertaining as it can be. These women use repression as a tool to cope in this environment by pushing back what they feel and acting how they are expected by the patriarchal society. From a very young age they were put into training, not living their childhood as other children who are born to the respectable patriarchal male. The patriarchal society of these males is the one that has bestowed this fate to these women and the children they give birth to. Beauvoir has correctly labelled females as 'others' because they are treated as others.

"Four pairs of protruding eyes locked on the girl's body." (Sidhwa, 1983, p.69)
"They might easily have fallen on the girl, tearing, ripping, and dismembering her to satisfy their anguish." (Sidhwa, 1983, p.70)

The objectification of a women is evident by the humiliation of her body and using her for pleasure. Male mentality of a patriarchal society is oozing out from these lines. They do not care for anything but of their animal like wishes to be satisfied. Regardless of any harm they can do to a female physically or mentally, they will act out on their urges to satisfy their need. But being a repressed class, she is entitled to act accordingly without any complain.

"Marriages were the high points in the life of the women... activity centered around them." (Sidhwa, 1983, p.77)

A society in which you live not only affects you socially but also psychologically. In a patriarchal setup the females are taught to behave in an expected manner in order to avoid any rebellion. This psychological interposition of patriarchal thoughts makes them obedient and easy to control. Affected by this, Zaitoon has also turned into one such women. The implanted patriarchal concept has deeply rooted in her because she was aware of the importance of marriage in the life of a female. And all of this was because of the assigned gendered roles set by patriarchal males in order to subjugate and oppress women.

"These men, tall and light-skinned, were gods... crystal torrents of melted snow." (Sidhwa, 1983, p.78)

As the excerpts are evidently showing the mans were answerable to none and were free to go where ever they want to. Being a subject there is no obligation for a patriarchal male. While the women are dictated where to be and that is decided again by those patriarchal males in their lives. At every point or position in life, whether being a daughter, a wife or a mother she is to live according to a male. She has no free will, she for being she is under compulsion and repression.

"You saw the stranger I was talking to? ...I've promised you in marriage to his son Sakhi." (Sidhwa, 1983, p.83)

Marriage is such an important decision in anyone's life. It has to do with the person you are going to live for the rest of your life and share your life with. These excerpts have just shown the mentioning of Zaitoon's being promised to someone. She was given away as a commodity or object, without asking for her decision. The spirit of patriarchal oppression has been served by using another woman's life as something not of her own.

"Yes, yes. I enjoyed myself. I admit, I enjoyed myself." (Sidhwa, 1983, p.96). "She hated what it had done to her... of herself change into a hideously vulgar person. (Sidhwa, 1983, p.96). And the atmosphere of repressed sexuality in Pakistan had not helped." (Sidhwa, 1983, p.96)

Not getting the importance of being heard and understood, she repressed her actual thoughts and acted as she was supposed to act. She used displacement as a tool and said what the other person has imposed on her. She even though has not enjoyed being humiliated, still admits the fact that she did. Gradually this oppression has affected her psychologically and has changed her into something she did not want to be. In an atmosphere of not being able to act according to her will she has lost her innocence.

"Any woman, whether from the Punjab or from America, evokes the same attention." "I ... I felt they were undressing me." "That's why I told you last evening not to go wandering off on your own." (Sidhwa, 1983, p.97)

The feminine gender being an object has long been a victim to male gaze. The men have the liberty to wear whatever they want, but the women have to consider that male gaze while deciding her dress especially in a patriarchal society. It is due to this mentality of males; women don't even feel safe. Carol has experienced this same disgusting feeling of being harassed by the patriarchal male gaze. She felt objectified and does feel difficulty due to this patriarchal oppression.

"She was a cow, a female monkey, a gender opposed to that of the man—charmless, faceless, and exploitable." (Sidhwa, 1983, p.103)

Beauvoir says that "Representation of the world, like the world itself, is the work of men; they describe it from their own point of view, which they confuse with absolute truth," (Beauvoir 143). Things or people are the way men explains them to be. Being a member of that patriarchal society Sidhwa has announced that most women are symbolized with animals. They are like cows and monkeys and are just animals who are nothing as compared to males. They can be used and manipulated and abused as men want.

"This girl had no more control over her destiny than a caged animal perhaps, neither had she." (Sidhwa, 1983, p.116)

These words are the bitter truth of Zaitoon's life. Just the way a caged animal is helpless, she is also dependent on the mercy of the mountain men. Women is the most oppressed gender in that part of the patriarchal society, even more than the plains.

"There was no need for remarks like "Our women are modest ... ridiculed the values she held dear." (Sidhwa, 1983, p.117)

No matter how much the patriarchal males modernize, they still are slaves to those patriarchal norms that are deeply rooted in their mind. Carol has come from a different culture but even after so long she has been still judged on her behavior. She was upset by the comment Mushtaq has earlier made upon the difference of the modesty of the women of his country. She was hurt by the behavior but has not expressed it but rather repressed it. And this further repression has added to her all-other things which she was burying deep in herself.

"A wife was a symbol of status, the embodiment of a man's... commodity indeed, and dearly bought." (Sidhwa, 1983, p.118)

Being something that is precious and important because of her existence was something very far from being a woman. The masculine gender has always been there to further highlight the superiority. Her existence only mattered a little because she was adding to the pride and position of a male. Man has only created female to establish his sense of superiority as Self grounded on binary antagonism. It all goes back to benefit of patriarchal system while women are just subjugated oppressed beings.

"She glanced back at Ashiq standing still and straight by the bridgehead, and she felt a pang of loss." (Sidhwa, 1983, p.129)

Zaitoon for her father's desire has sacrificed her entire life at that moment. She buried the urge of being with Ashiq and of living a different and happy life. Repression of her emotions is evident through these lines.

"Abba," she sobbed, "I don't want to marry." (Sidhwa, 1983, p.132)

"Abba," she begged in a fierce... marry me to someone from the plains." (Sidhwa, 1983, p.133)

Women in a male dominated setup has to act in accordance with masculine will. She has no right to decide or comment on her own fate. Zaitoon was terrified by the fate decided for her and has tried to ask for what she desires and is trying to convince his father to see it the other way.

"That jawan at the camp, Abba, I think he likes me... doesn't tell her father to whom he should marry her." (Sidhwa, 1983, p.133)

All her efforts were of no use. She in a way expressed that she wants to marry the jawan from camp but was silenced. The way she was silenced was again the patriarchal rule that men have created that no women or daughter is allowed to share her opinions and wants in this regard. Throughout this work patriarchal oppression has been seen creating a difficult life for each female character.

"Zaitoon," Qasim whispered in despair... Your place is with...your husband." (Sidhwa, 1983, p.140).

A woman was not even allowed to act as she wanted, the restriction of the relations she was attached to was at every moment with her. Her only important role was of being someone's wife. She always has to care for the dignity of her male counterpart no matter what she goes through.

"Zaitoon's instinct for self-preservation alone kept her going... Now she longingly lived for her promised visit to Lahore" (Sidhwa, 1983, p.145)

Despite of all the miseries she has been living in for so long, she still had a slightest light in her that kept her from breaking. She wanted to go back to where she came from, but was not allowed because of the status of being more of a slave to Sakhi than wife.

"A year after coming to Lahore it had slowly dawned on Carol that the repressed... more than any woman ought!" (Sidhwa, 1983, p.146)

Freud has mentioned that repressed feeling come out later in uglier ways. He was very right in saying so, because Carol was experiencing such emotions in her life. Her fights with Farukh and excessive attention from men was arousing feeling in her which she was trying to suppress.

"Each time Mushtaq stood before her... Carol out of her window, left her enfeebled and breathless." (Sidhwa, 1983, p.146)

Carol was looking for the love she was supposed to receive from Farukh in other men. The reason behind that was the harshness of Farukh's nature and that's why she went looking for substitutes. She was experiencing pleasure by allowing those repressed feelings come out. Being with made her neurotic because she was hiding her true needs in order to not get judged. This neurosis has made her look for the substitute just as a reaction to that suppression of feelings.

"That night Zaitoon resolved to run away... giving herself a chance to heal." (Sidhwa, 1983, p.154)

Running away from home was just a reaction for repressing her feelings because of the cruelty and misery she received from Sakhi. Sakhi has turned out to be a complete opposite what she has thought her husband would be. This patriarchal tortured has destroyed her inner world. She has used running away as an escape or defense against her miserable and painful life.

"Beat her up. Probably kill her... She's been on the run nine days." (Sidhwa, 1983, p.183). "Oh, women get killed for one reason or other imagined insults, family honor, infidelity" (Sidhwa, 1983, p.184)

The victimization of women is prominent in these lines. They have been forever a victim to the cruelty of men. Whether they try to escape or obey silently being abused is the ultimate reality. They have been the most exploited gender, the 'others' living in a patriarchal setup.

"Carol looked away. "Do you think Farukh would kill me?" "Who knows? I might, if you were my wife." (Sidhwa, 1983, p.184)

In a patriarchal setup, after being familiar with the cruelty of these men she was entertaining the thought of her being caught and penalized. As she has seen that there was nothing that is important for a man than his honor. Love is nothing compared to his honor, so she was thinking about the power of her love. Whether it will be powerful enough to her to save her from the wrath of a patriarchal male. But she soon got the answer, as Mushtaq also conformed the superiority of honor over love.

"Women the world over, through the ages, asked to be murdered, raped, exploited, enslaved, to get importunately impregnated, beaten-up, bullied, and disinherited. It was an immutable law of nature." (Sidhwa, 1983, p.187)

Beauvoir believed that women's otherness, is not an indication of inferiority due to any inherent reason, but rather because women are forced to be the Other. The male creates female to establish his sense of superiority. The above taken excerpt is briefly explain what women have faced and are still facing due to patriarchy and oppression by male. The law that enforced all these humiliations over women is nothing else than this patriarchal thinking of males.

"The men had kept her hostage for two hours. When Zaitoon regained consciousness, her body screamed with pain. She wept, putting her trembling legs through the shalwar." (Sidhwa, 1983, p.190)

Another humiliated she faced was by also those mountain men was being raped by them. This confirms her importance as just a body or object. The realization because of which she left her miserable life was being right incident after incident. She again was a victim to the patriarchal civilization where there was no law to protect the honor of a women. She cried over her helplessness and brutality of that man made and male dominated patriarchal society.

6. Findings and Discussion

These findings are drawn after the careful analysis of the textual data derived from Bapsi Sidhwa's novel *The Pakistani Bride* (1983). Freudian psychoanalytic theory and Beauvoir's feminist theory has given a deeper insight into the psychic disturbance along with

the society role in that disturbance. The first question of the study was concerned about the presence of patriarchal oppression and gendered roles assigned to the female characters of the novel. Throughout the textual lines Qasim has used the term 'my word' against the decision of Zaitoon's life. The only reason he had to marry Zaitoon to Sakhi was just because he has given his 'word' the 'word of a Kohistani man'. The importance of the word of a patriarchal male over a female's life decision is enough to highlight the patriarchal oppression. In addition to Qasim's barbarity, Sakhi was even worse. He treated the women of his life as a commodity, which he can treat however he wills. At many instances he stated the words 'my women' and this emphasizes more on his mentality of seeing women as his commodity. His act of beating his wife is significant to show the patriarchal oppression Zaitoon (his wife) has faced. Mushtaq even being an educated men have once mentioned his thoughts of honor killing to Carol (a Western women) whom he loved and this confirmed the patriarchal oppression of the females in the novel.

As far as the second portion of the question is concerned, it is observed through the data that women have been confined due to the assignment of gendered roles. The most basic of them is being a daughter, wife and a mother. They are not allowed to be anything else but these three to be in a male's life and perform the assigned duties according to the relations. Zaitoon has been seen as a daughter to Qasim and also to Mariam as she raised her up. Mariam believed what she has learned over the years of being a part of that society, that women should learn to cook and to rear children. They should not be allowed to study and be independent because no man want such women. Thus, both portions being proved right provide a clear answer that there is a great extent of patriarchal oppression and assigned gender roles for the female characters and they are not allowed to cross those set boundaries.

The study responded the second question in the way that the patriarchal oppression in the lives of the female characters does have made them neurotic. These females have suppressed their emotions because of the oppression they have faced in their lives. Zaitoon at a moment realized the behavior of the mountain people and did not want to marry, but was threatened by her father. Because of that threat she married a male she did not liked and has repressed her urge to marry Ashiq. This suppression and Sakhi's abuse made her neurotic and impulsive. Carol has been scolded for not being in accordance with the culture she was living in. Her Husband even accused of her enjoying the company of her people. She repressed her anger and frustration. At moments, she bursted out saying "yes! I enjoyed it" which was totally opposite to the reality. She repressed all her feelings and that made her neurotic and impulsive.

7. Conclusion

The findings to the questions provide a clear picture of the presence of patriarchal oppression in the novel. It can be inferred through Sidhwa's writing that Patriarchal oppression has been the basic evil behind many deprivations of women. It has taken away their free will and delivered them a life of complete subjugation. Being a main factor of the patriarchal oppression, the gendered role assignment has made sure of the importance of the patriarchal oppression. Male's ultimate goal of subduing women was fulfilled when they have confined them to the set gendered roles, in which they want them to be in. Due to this suppression, the females in the novel were forced to repress their desires in order to live. This repression over the time period has created a frustration among the female characters of the novel and made them neurotic because all of them have repressed their desires and feelings at a certain point in life.

7.1. Limitations and Recommendations

The fact of taking just one novel limit this study. The research only discussed about the females from just one fictional work. So, the future researchers can do a comparative psychoanalytic feminist analysis of two or more piece of arts. They can also do a comparative work on just the female protagonists of different novels. This will provide them with a wide range of data and diversity of writing style of different authors and their fictional feminine creations. Inculcation of more than one writing will also ensure larger number of examples for women and more women readers will be able to relate to them.

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