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A comparative study: Virginia woolf and mary wollstonecraft's feminism descriptions in their books

Dr. Sirous Abedini

Ph.D Of Linguistics, Gelisim University,Istanbul,Turkey (Turkiye),

Email: sabedini@gelisim.edu.tr

Abstract--This study attempts to compare the meaning and importance of feminism and similarities of the ways in which Virginia Woolf and Mary Wollstonecraft's description feminism in their books. The reason this topic was chosen in the study is to investigate the importance of feminism and how it happened in past times. The main reason these two writers were chosen is because they were two very important and powerful women writers for feminism. According to the results of the study, women and men were expected to be in separate areas in society during the time the authors lived. Men were expected to go to work, while women were expected to be at home and take care of household chores. These two powerful women writers have argued in their works of feminism: men and women are equal and women's place is not just home.

Keywords-- *feminism, woman, equality, feminist, gender.*

Introduction

1.Introduction and Literature Review

1.1 Virginia Woolf

Majeed mentioned it his thesis up until now, Virginia Woolf's novels and non-fictional works have notably dealt with women's personal and domestic lives, their circumstances in the public sphere as well as their image in it. In her writing, Woolf is extremely aware of the perspective of patriarchal standards and narratives, and she writes to interrupt them. Woolf has been believed as a significant feminist author within the area of Western culture and her significance continues even today. As a result, throughout this investigation, we can realize that Virginia Woolf as great powerful feminist author has sought to eradicate the dominant patriarchal regulations which has been enforced to women. Yıldız addressed this issue Adeline Virginia Woolf is essayist, novelist and publisher,

critic, especially known for her feminist writings. She is one of the literary figures in English literature in the twentieth century. The feminist approach of Virginia Woolf supports woman's existence as an individual. Feminism is a movement that aims to obtain equal rights for woman as well as men in the society. It attacks the superiority of men and the inferiority of women. Both women and men should be given the same rights in social, political economic and cultural fields. "At the beginning of twentieth century, women had not had the privilege to take part in an election.

As the Victorian period was ended, women's actions accelerated; however, the growths in women's rights have taken place gradually. Virginia Woolf's feminism gives the reader chance to inspect and study the intelligence of women of that period. However, she has lived in a period in which the predictable repression has been comprehensive on women. Woolf has been aware of customary oppression on women. She has paid a strong attention to justice between women and men." (MAJEED / 2019) Abdulquader stated that in *To the Lighthouse*, Virginia Woolf presents a woman's struggle to gain freedom, autonomy, and identity. However, this desire is often hampered by the patriarchal society. Throughout the novel, there is a conflict between male and female ideologies. The writer uses a nonconformist character, Lily Briscoe, to criticize the dictates of a society dominated by male values, where women are not allowed to take on roles other than those traditionally assigned to them. This female character ideally represents the feministic values by opposing men's dominant position in society, in order to achieve identity and autonomy. And indeed at the end of the novel, Lily completes her painting which helps her to form an identity as a free female artist. Sacir tackled about Woolf also mentions about the poverty women are driven into as another problem and she criticizes the laws that prevent women from owning property or wealth. She utters the impossibility of women to earn money or she underlines the fact that, even if they managed to earn it, they cannot possess it.

This is also the explanation of why the name of the book is *A Room of One's Own*. Because without enough space, a woman cannot be productive and in order to have that space, a woman should have enough money. In addition, these are facts that are true for everybody but the problem is while men can have a room for their own and have enough money to live on, women just can't. As a result, being independent economically is a must for women. Koc researched about Virginia Woolf's perception of feminism : Virginia Woolf is known as one of the feminist writers of the 20th century. Her ideas on women and their position in the patriarchal society have provided her to be labeled as a feminist. Most probably, her hatred for father and sexual abuse by her stepbrothers in her past and the book named *A Room of One's Own* (1929) in which she expressed her thoughts upon 'woman and fiction' has become effective in her defined as a feminist writer. However, her perception of feminism is different from classical thoughts of other feminists in that period. When Woolf is compared to feminists, her 57 ideas remains more restricted and do not appeal to every part of society. Surely, she defended the existence of women and became against the humiliation and being ignored of women. Oral stated that Woolf's female characters symbolize her vision and become her voice about marriage. For her, marriage should not be a place where woman lives a slave- like life under the strict control of her husband. What Woolf seeks in marriage is a little bit freedom. In *Night and Day* (1919), Kocakaya

wrote that in Woolf's *To the Lighthouse*, one can see the effects of the feminist movement on females thanks to a female character named as Lily Briscoe and also thanks to Mrs. Ramsay's daughters Nancy, Rose and Cam as they reject the traditional roles of women in society.

These female characters can be thought to be examples of the women Woolf supports and they are also closer to the figure of the independent women Wollstonecraft dreams of. In Ogut's opinion According to Woolf, who defended the view of androgyny in his own room, especially because of the impossibility of writing as a single sex, "it is lethal to be a woman and a man in a simple and pure manner; one must be masculine-female or feminine-male." Gumus stated that Virginia Woolf, on the other hand, writes her book "three cents or the social function of a woman " as the daughter of an educated father-as an upper - middle-class woman-and the women she subjects in the book are likewise the Daughters of educated fathers. Woolf mentions that these women do not have the income to provide for their own livelihood, that they need their fathers and their families to survive, and that they are therefore constantly constrained and unable to move freely by their fathers, their families and other men. Karabagli stated that it is often looked at Virginia Woolf's 'A Room of her own' to find out her views on feminism. She argues in fluent language that women should have a room of their own in order to be good writers, and stresses that the most fundamental solution for women's freedom is economic freedom.

2.1 Mary Wollstonecraft

Kumcular stated that What we are suffering from in the world is philanthropy, according to Wollstonecraft it's not, it's Justice. Mind when men and women must climb the arduous ladder of knowledge together you have to not accept that you have to be dependent on a man. Women if you train like men, says Rousseau, as long as women look like men, they are Wollstonecraft's goal is that women should have power over themselves, not over men. Wollstonecraft believes that the mind will prevail in society under the influence of the Enlightenment period. According to him, an egalitarian and libertarian order will be achieved through the destruction of the traditional structure through reason. Wollstonecraft, who was involved in the "human nature" debates of this period, provided insights into what social change would be like, including women. According to him, people who are rational beings have a natural right to be human regardless of their gender (*Tursunovna AK, et. al., 2019; Alghamdi AG, et. al., 2020*). Wollstonecraft states that these rights cannot be eliminated by the influence of various traditions and prejudices.

According to him, man's intellect and natural rights are due to the existence of the creator. (Demir / 2019) Karakus stated that Mary Wollstonecraft wrote her book "justification of women's rights "based on the"Declaration of Human Rights " with the views and ideas of the French Revolution. " I defend the rights of my own breed - I am not pursuing my own interests " was the basic sentence of this book. Mary was passionate about the equality of men and women from the beginning to the end of the book. Kaya wrote that Justified Mary in women's rights, women are incredibly repressed, is critical to growing as individuals who only care about their appearance, and men for women "shallow" or "stupid" opinions, such as

acknowledges, although he said they were the main reasons for this Caglar stated that much of her book *The defence of women's rights* is devoted to the critical review of Jacques Rousseau's book *Emile or on education*. In his book *Wollstonecraft*, Sophide defends the opposite of the ideal of femininity embodied. It asks for an equal chance of education within both sexes. Yazar researched about that When Wollstonecraft reviews the rights that men have, she freely stresses, argues and writes about that women should also have the rights to education, inheritance, work, and women's right to know their own body. All she wants is for women to be able to use their talents freely, just like men. Aydar stated that Mary Wollstonecraft made pseudo-scientific claims, exposing the hypocritical nature of misogynists who say that men are men and women are women, and that they have no common denominator. "Women are created to feel rather than to reason, and can only gain the only power they can have with their work and weakness, "he argues," to treat women with dazzling epithets and as mental creatures, rather than seeing them as creatures trapped in a constant childhood situation, unable to stand on their own." Akyigit talked about that .

"If the woman is not raised as the male's companion through education, she will be a hindrance to the spread of knowledge and virtue, for truth must be attainable to all, or else it will be ineffective in general practice." Wollstonecraft, who took his sentence as a motto, learned to read and write while learning to read was a privilege peculiar to men at that time, he himself learned to read and refused marriage, which was the only livelihood of girls, and ran away from home and defied the patriarchy in the UK of the time. Uzun stated that Mary Wollstonecraft (1759 - 1797) : Despite her short life of 38 years, her writings in the field of male-dominated philosophy profoundly influenced the centuries after her 18 on women's rights. He's a century thinker. The justification of women's rights (1792), first translated into our language and published 215 years ago, is the most basic work of Wollstonecraft, who died five years later, 11 days after the birth of his daughter Mary, who will write the future *Frankenstein*. Akin wrote that "It is time for women to make a revolution in their behaviour, to regain the dignity they have lost and to be accepted as part of the human species." Mary Wollstonecraft's passionate declaration on the freedom of women has made Wollstonecraft history as the founder of modern feminism, breaking down the stereotypical, docile and ostentatious perception of femininity and opening the door to a new age of equality.

Conclusion

This paper stated that similarities of the ways in which Virginia Wollf and Mary Wollstonecraft description feminism in their books . The feminism wave formally began at the Seneca Falls Convention in 1848 when three hundred men and women rallied to the cause of equality for women. Elizabeth Cady Stanton drafted the Seneca Falls Declaration outlining the new movement's ideology and political strategies..In the eighteenth century, enlightened ideas about the organization of society, including the position of women, arose in Europe. Feminism, the social and political movement that strives for gender equality, originated in this century. While the effort to open a new frontier in feminism and eighteenth century studies is valuable and, indeed, much work remains to be done by feminists on both the aesthetic and on epistemology, it is disturbing that the trumpeting of a "new

feminism" is attended by a sense that they have finished their business with the past. they want to suggest here that, as feminists, our business with history is not done by half, and beyond that our business with History, as both a political and a social fiction, is exactly what we need to be focusing on. In the nineteenth century, the contours of a feminist political movement became visible. The spearheads of the women's movement were equality in education, labor and electoral rights. For some, the goals of the feminist movement were simple: let women have freedom, equal opportunity and control over their lives.

But for someone it was not so simple because In the 19th century, women and men were expected to fill in separate spheres of society. Men were expected to live in a public life, whether it was working in a factory or socializing with like-minded men in public places, like clubs, meetings, or bars. On the other hand, women were usually expected to live their lives largely homebound, taking care of the cooking, cleaning, and child rearing. Free time for women was not supposed to be spent socializing but doing other things. Largely due to these traditional expectations for women prior to the 19th century, very few women had the same opportunities for education as men. Indeed, educating women was often seen as subversive, a possible perversion of the correct social order. Beginning in the 19th century, women's acceptance of these traditional roles began to dissipate. Eschewing the contemporary adage that women protesting, attending political speeches, or otherwise rabble-raising was considered gauche and unladylike, women began taking on serious roles in the abolition and temperance movements in both the United States and in Europe. As contained in this term paper , this work includes the ways in which feminism works in the works of two important female authors.

Virginia Woolf is one of them. Virginia Woolf (January 25, 1882 – March 28, 1941), without a doubt, an important figure in the history of world literature. Known as a pioneer of modernism, Woolf, at the same time, one of the leading names of feminism and feminist thought in the strengthening of, who owns the largest share in the development of a writer. Virginia Woolf is essayist, novelist and publisher, critic, especially known for her feminist writings. Woolf usually gives examples from the women novelists of the nineteenth century and points out the struggle they give in the process of their writings in her works. To learn her views on feminism, someone should often look at Virginia Woolf's 'own room'. *A Room of One's Own* (1929) is Woolf's one of the most important works. In this work she mentions about different issues related to women. Here, she argues in fluent language that women should have their own room to be good writers and stresses that the most fundamental solution for women's freedom is economic freedom. According to Woolf, it is impossible for the angel in the house to write, because without your own way of thinking, you can't even review a novel without clearly expressing your ideas about relationships, morality and sexuality. According to Woolf, who defended the view of androgyny in his own room, especially because of the impossibility of writing as a single sex, "it is lethal to be a woman and a man in a simple and pure manner; one must be masculine-female or feminine-male." In conclusion, it would appear that Virginia Woolf did not refer feminism in that woman. At the same time she criticized and judged to woman The other author is Mary Wollstonecraft. Mary Wollstonecraft (April 27, 1759 - September 10, 1797), British writer, philosopher and women's rights activist. During her short career

she has written novels, philosophical review articles, as well as a travelogue, A conduct book, a children's book, and a history of the French Revolution. Wollstonecraft is best known for *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (1792). Mary Wollstonecraft who is the first British feminist writer to criticize loudly by writing up that 230 years ago from our time, women were left uneducated by male dominant order society consciously, confined to the home by breaking their connections from social field. She advocated that by expanding women's horizons thanks to education and when physical and mental education which are suitable for them are given, they get rid of this blind obedience.

She has always opposed to melancholic women. In her works she spoke of women who were unable to defend their rights, who were subjugated and oppressed under male rule. To her, women are always upset, and that is absolutely wrong. According to Wollstonecraft, men and women are children of the same universe. Women should have the rights that men have. At first glance, a woman should be defined as a human being, not a sexual being, and the most important condition of being human is to act with the mind. This is also the most important feature that distinguishes man from animal. The authors concluded that women should be free. They should have equal rights with men. They must be strong and defend their right. They should not bow to male domination. Women should be what they want to be. The findings of this study can be understood as the two authors mentioned in the term paper originally wrote to enlighten women who were oppressed under male rule and imprisoned inside a house during their time, and to inform society about the equality of men and women. It should not be forgotten that feminism is everywhere where women are subjected to injustice and violence killed, and men are oppressed under the burden of working. Feminism is everywhere where men and women are not equal. Feminism is for everyone.

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