

Women Persecution in Browning's "My Last Duchess":

a Feminist Perspective

Ali Hasan Abed*

Mushtaq Awad Jabbar

Omar Ra'oof Marzah

Al-Muthanna University/ College of Education for Human Sciences

Article Info	Abstract
<p>Date of Article</p> <p>Received : 2024/5/15</p> <p>Received in revised form: 2024/5/26</p> <p>Accepted: 2024/6/10</p> <p>Available online: 2024/7/10</p> <p>Keywords:</p> <p>Browning, Kate Millett, Victorian Age, Persecution , My Last Duchess</p>	<p>From a feminist point of view, the study looked over the status of the Victorian women and how destitute they were. Men practiced their superiority over the women and treated them as inferior creatures as it is reflected in this poem, Kate Millet's theory is applied to analyze Browning's "My Last Duchess" (1842). Robert Browning attempted to recall the stuffy situation, using the field of poetry, in which women lived despondently and discontentedly. The study proved the passive presentation of women when they used to be presented in that age as slaves in comparison to men. This poem showed the harshness of men against women that possibly led to kill them carelessly.</p>

© All rights reserved to Muthanna University 2024

Introduction

The study applies the work of Kate Millett, 'Sexual Politics' (1970). Kate Millet discards the belief found by law, religion, and science; that patriarchy is the most 'natural' base for creating any kind of society.

"My Last Duchess" opens a world to the readers, where men are selfish and eager to be in leading position over women, on the other hand, women supposed to listen and obey the orders with no objections. In this poem, the Duke's jealousy and admiration are very clear, they should be towards the woman he loves but unfortunately this is not the truth. The

reality is something else, he loves and admires his name more than his wife and for that name he sacrifices his wife. So, woman discrimination as a theme is deeply presented in the poem.

In the poem, the poet depicts women without names as merely objects or means of precious goods or properties. "That's my last Duchess painted on the wall/Looking as if she were alive" (lines 1-2).

"I call/That piece a wonder, now: Fra Pandolf's hands/ Worked busily a day, and there she stands" (lines 2-3), this man has no love

towards his wife, since there is no grief for his wife's death. From a psychological point of view, his attitude depicts him as an indifferent to women's suffering person. The point is that he shows that he owns an object and talking about it and this object can be replaceable by another one easily. In this point, the poet shows that age is a materialistic age and there is no place for emotions or love. This can be the aspect worth studying while analysing Women Persecution in the poem.

1. The Concept of Persecution

According to Millet's work that aims at the analysis of 'patriarchy' and its destructive inferences on a woman that brings a woman's suppression (Millet, 1970, p. 28).Millet critiques the society that keeps an unjustified and extreme treatment concerning women considering them as infants or inferior. In this sense, women are unequal to man and cannot reach that position man has in the society.

Persecution as a concept is the regular exploitation of person to another person or it is exploitation of a group of people to another group. There are different forms of persecution, the common ones are religious, gender, racist, and even political persecution, though there are obviously some connections between these forms since all of them share the same results of oppression almost. The cause of misery, annoyance, caging, captivity, terror or discomfort are all elements that may create persecution, but the creation of persecution is not necessarily because of all these sufferings. The beginning of cruelty has been a source of much dispute.

Gender persecution is familiar and the most common form in the Victorian Age. It is clearly embodied in the poem. The Duke

mistreats the Duchess considering her like an object rather than a human being. She is not more than a property that is owned by Duke but not a wife. And this is the literary exploitation of a person to another one.

2. Inequality of Gender

As a social phenomenon, inequality of gender is a problematic notion that is practiced many countries round the world. Simply, it is the discrimination between man and woman, mostly the side of man wins over the side of woman according to the bodily potentials or other capacities that favor man to woman. One of the main reasons for such treatment is the society itself. The social norms or traditions create this kind of differentiations which lead people in the society not to treat man and woman equally. These distinctions affect the psychological side of woman which is very dangerous results. In this case the society as a whole will be unhealthy because it influences the families which are the bricks of any society(Simerly,2005:81).

Obviously, males and females have slight differences in their creation. According to these differences they are treated distinctly in some societies in general (Colom,2000:196). Men are preferred significantly in the matter of taking risks but not women. Also, men are aggressive unlike women. So, that is useful and preferable in many fields specially in the fields that need physical efforts. Of course it is theorized that the physical differences are combined here(Carlson,2013:543). This can be considered as a privilege for men on women.

As a social problem, women suffer greatly due to gender inequalities. Woman's rights are stolen for the sake of man. This social problem is still growing in different places and eras.

3. Husband And Wife Relationship

The poem is concerned the relationship between man and woman in that age in specific and generally can be concerned with the relationship between man and woman in some aspects in other ages including the current one. Such kind of treatment can be seen in modern or postmodern age. The poem depicts the relationship between the Duke and his wife. He seems to act like a very proud and controlling man who dominates his wife. He controls her and prevents her from practicing her rights as a woman and as a human being.

The Duke shows the others that he is very confident, arrogant and belligerent. He practices his power on a weak creature like his wife. In this poem, the relationship is dominated not by love but rather by pride. The husband wife relationship should be dominated by love, tenderness and feelings. The poem shows that man and woman are unequal and the society gives the superiority for the man to control the woman. The wife in this poem is prohibited of doing anything almost. She cannot smile and she cannot look at people. She tries to show her good soul to people and this can decorate the dark side of her husband in the people's eyes. So, in her behavior, she helps the Duke in an indirect way to act like a usual man, but he refuses and denies such behaviors which are good actually.

In a very formal way the Duke speaks to show his pride and power and how controlling he is. His words show no emotions nor mercy at all. On the other hand, the wife who treats common people with respect which is denied by the Duke. He is a proud by his name. For the Duke, it is offensive if his wife communicates with poor or common people. In

addition to the theme of inequality, the theme of class and communications are embodied. The lack of communication in the relationship finds gaps and issues which are clearly seen in this poem.(Kearns, 1984: 156)

The speaker begins the poem by displaying the Duchess' image. "That's My Last Duchess painted on the wall, looking as if she were alive. I call, that piece a wonder, now"(lines 1-3). To his visitor the Duke speaks, yet it nearly feels as if he speaks directly to the readers. This comment demonstrates the Duke's admiration for his Duchess's picture; the phrases almost seem as if he is praising her. The Duke speaks in a formal tone in the poem as if he is full of pride or self-assured. "My gift of a nine-hundred-year-old name"(line 33).(StudyMoose,2020:65)

The Duke is well conscious of his powerful status and self-importance, giving him an haughtiness air. According to him, the Duchess is not grateful to this gift which is carrying the Duke's name. This indicates that man and woman are unequal or even more man looks at woman as if she belongs to inferior level. So, the relationship here is very negative, it is not about love but pride from the side of the Duke. As Kate Millett in her 'Sexual Politics' (1970) shows that the wife does not follow her husband. The Duchess does not listen to her husband and she keeps smiling to other people and men maybe that is the thing leads to her end. So, in this relationship there is no love, communication or comprehension to each other which are very important in the relationship to keep it and make it continues. "At starting, is my object"(line 53) here, the Duke states that the Duchess is just an object than life partner. It means that the Duchess is

The Duke's possessions no more than this. The human features are not given to this woman. In this case, the Duchess sees that her husband does not treat her properly so she looks for attention somewhere else. The reason for this is the Duke himself. If he took care of her as a wife or as a human being at least, she would follow him in every meaningful and logical thing. But the reality is that he abuses her and treats her like a mere object no more which is very offensive for any human. In addition to all of this, approaching the end of this poem, murdering of the Duchess is revealed by the Duke. The most suspicious one of murdering her is the Duke himself because he is complaining of her behavior all the time "All smiles stopped together"(line 46). So, her behavior is the cause that lets the Duke to kill her and it is not convincing reason for this end. In this sense, no love is found in this relationship but pride and deadly jealousy.

4. Men's Dominance over women

The feminist readings let the text reveals what is between power and sex, stereotyped female descriptions in literature, woman's sufferings and how society is shaped by literature. Clearly, there is a potential meanings in this piece of art if it is read in such type of readings. The woman is weak and inferior creature under the power of man as it is depicted.

From the title of "My Last Duchess", the struggle is indicated in the story of this poem and its characters. The possessive pronoun "My" in the title of this poem shows the dominance of man over woman. It tells the readers about the ownership that is emphasized by the "Last Duchess" which is not a recognized name. The title dehumanises the

Duchess and objectifies her. Clearly, this sense is existed in the Duke's behaviour towards the Duchess. Thus, in the poem, the Duke is an empowered man and the Duchess has a degraded rank. (Keach, 1996:624)

Therefore, the poetic voice reflects the male's triumphant power over the female's weaknesses, which in turn, portrays the male-female situation. The 'last Duchess' is to be murdered, the Duke has given "commands" of murdering the Duchess using his power and the social support. So, he wins in this conflict between sexes and this let the male seems powerful, controlling and dominant sex. But some feminist readings for this poem can be argued by a psychological opinion that the Duchess is the dominant one over the powerful Duke himself since he cannot let her be out of his mind at all. Even after murdering her, he paints her picture on the wall. As a feminine point of view, the Duchess here controls and dominates the Duke. But the Duke is not aware of this and does not give matter in importance. In addition, the Duke does not consider himself as a wrong person, by this the poet emphasizes the male domination here. (Abrams, 2000: 1057)

The Duchess is believed by The Duke that she is "Too easily impressed; she liked whate'er/ She looked on, and her looks went everywhere" (lines 23-24) also, he thinks that she does not give any value to his "gift of a nine-hundred-years-old name" (lines 33). This is because of her smiles to people and her communication with them. According to his understanding, this is insulting behavior which disgrace the name of his family. Class discrimination is found in that time, men like the Duke who asserts his authority over the

Duchess because according to his perception he thinks that the Duchess belongs to a lower class to him which is what a Marxist critics argue. So, controlling and dominating the women by their men is something important for the men which is something won by the men over women. It is well known in Victorian society and is extensively cleared by literature.

5. The Image of Women

Dramatic monologue is the main technique exemplified in this poem, which is defined as "an imaginative speaker addresses a silent audience, usually takes place at a critical moment in the speaker's life and offers an indirect and unconscious revelation of his or her temperament and character". (Coyle, 1984:26). The poet uses this technique to reveal the case of women and the struggles they lived in the early troubled Victorian Age (1830-1847), which is simply delineated by lack of love, unpleasant materialism, and patriarchal authoritarianism when males dominate everything. Women are denied by men and have no role in that life during the age. The Duke of Ferrara uses all his authority to torture the Duchess and murder her, but no one charges or accuses the Duke for this murder. No one punishes him for that deed. It is a behavior that encourage other men to do the same thing with their women (Kennedy: 1995:595).

Ironically, the Duke addresses an ambassador of a noble man about his murdered wife. Yet, the master of the ambassador wants his daughter to be married to this Duke regardless of the destiny that might face. Nevertheless, this new wife comes from a high class family but she is going to marry the same man who murdered his last wife. Here, the woman's

class cannot protect her from the man's dominance.

The Duke puts his last wife's picture on the wall in front of the ambassador to show his kindness to this man. In this behavior, the Duke tries to convince the ambassador that he is a gentleman who never forgets his wife "That's My Last Duchess, painted on the wall / As if she were still alive." (Browning, 2000: lines 1-2).

The Duke, on the other hand, turns to the ambassador to complain about the previous wife, that he was not dissatisfied with her. The murdered wife is considerate of those who surround her. She treats everyone equally, even servants and her husband, which irritates the Duke. He believes that she should treat her husband differently since he the husband and he is the noble and only and primarily deserves her joy. And the poem exemplifies this, as the poet says:

Was courtesy, she thought, and cause enough
For calling up that spot of joy. She had
A heart-how shall I say?-too soon made glad,
Too easily impressed; she liked what'er
She looked on, and her looks went ever where
Sir,'t was all one! My favour at her breast
(lines, 20,5)

Furthermore, Browning shows us in another section of the poem that woman does not appear to be noble woman and that because she is unaware of the royal nobility traditions to which the Duke belongs. The Duchess' barbarism, in the eyes of the Duke, causes her to be ignorant of his nobility, which extends back for hundreds years:

Somehow-I know not how-as if she ranked
My gift of a nine-hundred-years-old name
With anybody's gift (lines, 32,4)

Accordingly, the wife cannot grip the egoism of her arrogant husband, instead the Duchess continues with her innocent behavior doing these simple and kind things like making courtesy to people around her or smile to them. These deeds explain her pure soul which is not required by the Duke because his soul is arrogant one. So, he is angry because of her, for that, unconsciously, he reveals the order of murdering her to the representative. Then her death is done as Browning clears:

Oh sir, she smiled, no doubt
When're I passed her; but who passed without
Much the same smile?
This grew; I gave commands
Then all smiles stopped together. There she
stands
As if alive (lines, 43,7)

The poem concludes with the Duke insisting on marrying the representative's master's daughter because the envoy's master's generosity in regard to the bride's dowry is surely out of the question:

Then I repeat
The count your master's known munificence
Is ample warrant that no just pretense
Of mine for dowry will be disallowed (lines, 48,51).

As a result, some Victorians valued unattractive materialism and a lack of affection. Because the prior is a cash payment handed to bride's father then to the bride as an Italian tradition, the word "dowry" connotes materialism (Kearns, 1984:24). The Duke is well-versed in how to take an opportunity. He agrees to marry to this new woman that he has never met for the only reason of her wealth and rank. As a result, the Duke is unconcerned with love, preferring to be concerned with

money, rank and status, as the word "count" denotes. In this sense, the woman is treated as a mere object or property that is owned by man who can consume her totally.

6. Feminist Theme

According to the circumstances of that period, the Lack of love is considered as crucial matter. This age focuses on materialism more than love and feelings, as a result for that fact many women were unmarried. Even the married ones are suffering in their relationships with their husbands. So this feminist problem is existed and the poet reflects it in his poem (Abrams, 2000:1056).

The Duke's quick planning for the new and none mysterious marriage is an obvious evidence to the lack of love and the significance of marriage is for the sexual needs merely. It is not mysterious because eventually, this new wife will face the same end as the previous one faced. By this arrangement, the Duke denies her and denies his love to his last wife if he loved her from the first place. Also, he expresses no grief for her death. Actually, he seems very happy and the evidence is that he wants to marry again. In addition, he complains her to the envoy about her behaviors that let him to kill her., instead of talking about her good aspects.

It is clear that the Duke eliminates his last dead woman's emotionally presence when he does not mention his wife's name or her good perspectives even. Actually, he mentions her kindness, her smiles and her respect for people around her but these are mentioned in a negative way by him. According to the Duke's understanding respecting people or smiling to them disgraces his name or humiliates him especially if his wife doing such things.

As Kate Millett in her 'Sexual Politics' (1970) mentions and as the criticism of feminist second-wave stand against this treatment towards woman by man. Such attitude towards woman is strongly refused by this wave since woman is not the imitator of man, but she can express herself in a better way than men do (Selden: 1993: 121).

7. The Persecution of the Duchess

As a poet, Browning uses the dramatic monologue as a brilliant poetic technique which gives him the capability to convey the idea through his poetic works (Donnell, 1991:904).

The poem delineates the theme of woman's predicament and suffering, as the main speaker talks about the tortured wife in the poem. The Duchess is murdered because of her good manner and her free personality. Browning sheds a light on the bad treatment and difficulties woman is used to face. So, the poet uses such method to reveal the women situation in this age which is characterized by oppression of patriarchy towards woman. In this sense, Millet goes against male's violence towards female. She declares that "our social order is a birthright priority where by males rule females" (p. 25). So Millet criticizes the authority which is given to man by the society.

"The persona of this poem is a Duke of Ferrara, a city in northern Italy" (Kennedy, 1995:45). The Duke talks to the envoy who comes to arrange the Duke's new marriage to his master's daughter. The Duke starts with describing his dead wife to the envoy. By talking about his passed away wife, the Duke tries to show his kindness towards her. "That's My Last Duchess painted on the wall / Looking as if she were alive" (lines 1-2). Then

he talks about his last wife's behavior. The Duke mentions that his wife was treating people in the same way that she treated her husband who is the Duke and this is offensive according to his principles. The Duke is an ideal conservative man, he hates that his wife favoring common people and treat them equally to her husband. He wants her to treat him differently since he is her husband and the Duke at the same time who is an aristocratic and dislike to be treated like other people especially by his Duchess. This is intensified in the poem, as Browning says:

Was courtesy, she thought, and cause enough
For calling up that spot of joy. She had
A heart—how shall I say?— too soon made
glad,
Too easily impressed; she liked whate'er
She looked on, and her looks went everywhere.
(Line 20-4)

Moreover, Browning, in another quotation of the poem, displays that the Duchess is not sound a noble as she is supposed to be. She is ignorant the majestic nobility of her husband for that she does not do the suitable behavior. According to the Duke's perceptions, her free character offends his reputation. The Duke's name backs to nine hundred years but the Duchess does not care for this by her treatment for people equally as her husband treatment. The duchess behavior is considered as ignorance : "Somehow I know not how-as if she ranked My gift of a nine-hundred-years-old man With any body's gift" (lines, 32-4) According to the Duke, it is gift that is given to the Duchess and she is supposed to respect that, but the reality she ignores this gift by being kind, innocent and simple lady to people.

As more she is tender to people as more her husband is cruel and angry. Hence, the Duke hates her, he keeps her away and invaluable. So, practicing such isolation from the society is just like murdering this woman since she loves to meet and communicate with people. Her communication with people occurs because she finds no communication and appreciation even from her own husband. And at the end, she is blamed for smile or curtsy to people whom she finds in them appreciation towards her unlike the treatment of her husband.

Persecution of woman can be seen obviously through Browning's depiction of woman's sufferings. The woman cannot express herself or at least practice the behavior that she prefers. This is very clear through the deprivation that the Duchess struggles with in her life. Furthermore, the predicament of this woman is intensified as she reached the inevitable end which is death. When the Duke cannot bear his wife's innocent behavior anymore, he gives order to execute his wife as it is confirmed by:

Whene'er I passed her; but who passed without
Much the same smile? This grew; I gave
commands;

Then all smiles stopped together. There she
stands

As if alive. (lines, 43-7)

As a result for the disrespect and the absence of love or emotion to the Duchess, the poem reaches its end with demand of the Duke to have the daughter of envoy's master as a wife because of the benevolence of the envoy is definitely present about the dowry of the bride, as Browning says:

The Count your master's known munificence

Is ample warrant that no just pretense
Of mine for dowry will be disallowed; (lines, 48-51).

Therefore, materialism and untruthful love and jealousy, as negative values are clearly referred to in this poem. Since, materialism is showed by the use of the word "dowry" and the prior is a cash payment handed to bride's father then to the bride as an Italian tradition, the word "dowry" connotes materialism (Kearns, 1984:24).

The Duke takes the opportunity immediately to marry a woman whom he does not know and this shows the lack of love from two perspectives. First, after the death of his wife he agrees to marry a new woman. The second perspective is when he agrees to marry a woman whom he does not see or meet. So, by such behavior from the Duke, he demolishes the memory of his last wife in his life and as if he denies her existence. Also, the word "count" advocates "The Victorian Age lacks love as it glorifies materialism, assured by the fact that half-a-million women were unmarried due to the greed in that period. Matter opposes emotion and love. Thus, you can't find someone who is greedy and lover simultaneously since seeking chance and utility entails making heart out of emotion and senseless as a stone... As well, the percentage of poor women exceed the rich's, and so the poor were left without marriage as a result of the absence of love and the pursuit of money and position" (Abrams, 2000:11-12).

Additionally, the Duke has no sorrow for his murdered woman and he is busy with the arrangement to his next marriage. Furthermore, he does not mention her virtues but he talks about her natural pure behavior in a negative

way to disgrace her memory. So, the Duchess is oppressed in her life and even after her death which is the case of woman that time. "This attitude towards women is strongly refuted by the second-wave feminist criticism refutes since women are no longer trapped inside a male truth, but women are able to express themselves better than man do" (Selden, 1993:121). "Who'd stoop to blame / this sort of trifling? ..And I choose / Never to stoop" (lines, 34-35, 42-43).

The Duke does not refer to the reason behind killing this wife and he negates her virtues. The Duchess is good to the poor people and she has free and pure soul. All she does that she smiles to people and respect the no matter to which class the belong. These behaviors of the Duchess are supposed to be considered as advantages and virtues, but for the Duke, he considers them as disadvantages that shame him. So, woman is powerless, weak and faces difficulties in her life and even she is misused after her death, as the Duke does. "The husband exhibits his dead wife as a bad model not to be followed by the new wife; otherwise the latter will face her counterpart's similar fatal end" (Keach, 1996: 5).

The concept of the prepared marriages is an exact example of that situation concerning oppression of fathers toward their daughters that is endured by women as "they are imprisoned in the golden, fundamental holy-like family. The women cannot decide their inevitable decisions". (Abrams, 2000:93).

So, Browning in his the poem, he criticises woman's persecution that is practiced by the man towards the woman. The Duchess is the victim of the Duke's arrogance and vanity. The Duchess only mistake is that she does not give

enough attention to his egoism and pride. Therefore, she is murdered mercilessly. As a matter of fact, Browning as a feminist may be considered according to his attitude because he stands against the fatherly dehumanization towards woman in the age, when he reject male's dominance over female. Browning stands against persecuting of woman and he tries to shed a light on this rude behaviour that practices by man.(Ramadhan ,2019:811)

Conclusion

In the discussion of Persecution of Woman, the study indicates the status of the woman under the oppression of the man through the magnificent poem "My Last Duchess" by Browning. This paper sheds a light on Browning's criticism towards the patriarchal abuse of woman. The poet smartly uses "the dramatic monologue", in which he portraits the innocent dead Duchess who is persecuted by her husband. The Duchess symbolizes as the victim of the arrogant man. The Duchess is brutally murdered because she ignores the cruel egoism of the Duke. Accordingly, the poet can be regarded as a feminist for his stand against the savage treatment woman is used to face in that age when man dehumanizes her.

So, the fatherly oppression and dehumanization toward woman is done intensively in that period, when woman is treated merely like an object that can be replaced easily. The persecution is practiced by the husband to his wife, when the Duchess is persecuted by her Duke because of her good and innocent manner towards poor people. Moreover, the persecution occurs by the father to his daughter, an example on that is when the master of that envoy intends to marry his

daughter as the next wife to that murderer who has just murdered his last wife. So, it can be concluded that the woman is oppressed and persecuted by her husband, her father and by the society in general.

References

- Browning, Robert.(2000) "My Last Duchess.". In the Norton Anthology of English Literature. Ed. M.H. Abrams. 2Vols. New York: W. W. Norton.
- Browning, Robert. Ed. Karlin, Daniel (2004) Selected Poems Penguin .
- Burgess, Anthony. (1987). English Literature. Harlow: Longman.
- Carlson, N.(20013). 'Hormonal Control of Aggressive Behavior' Chapter 11 in [Physiology of Behavior] , Pearson Education Inc.
- Colom, Roberto; Juan-Espinosa, Manuel; Abad, Francisco; García, Luís F (2000). "[Negligible Sex Differences in General Intelligence](#)". Intelligence.
- Coyle, Martine. 1984. Literary Terms and Criticism. London: Macmillan. Colby, Vineta. "Love and the Woman Question in Victorian Literature: The Art of Self-Postponement. Kathleen Blake The Fallen Woman in the Nineteenth-Century English Novel.
- Dixon, Nicholas (2010). "[From Georgian to Victorian](#)". History Review. 2010 (68): 34–38. [Archived](#) from the original on 27 January 2013. Retrieved 5 April .
- Donnell, Helen, et al. (1991). England in Literature. New Jersey: Scott, Foresman.
- Keach, William, et al. 1996. Adventures in English literature. Orlando: Holt, Rinehart, and Winston.
- Kearns, George, et al.(1984). English and Western Literature. California: Macmillan.
- Kennedy, X.J. 1995. Literature: An Introduction to Fiction, Poetry, and Drama.
- Millett, Kate. (1970) Sexual Politics. New York. Doubleday.
- Patten, Eileen (April 14, 2015). "[On Equal Pay Day, key facts about the gender pay gap](#)". Pew Research Center.
- Ramadhan, Dheyaa .(2019). The Predicament of Woman: a Feminist Reading in Selected Victorian Poetry: My Last Duchess. Human and Social Sciences collage , Volume 46, No. 2, Supplement 2.
- Selden, Raman, et al.. 1993. A Reader's Guide to Contemporary Literary Theory. London: Longman.
- Simerly, Richard B. (2005). "Wired on hormones: endocrine regulation of hypothalamic development". Current Opinion in Neurobiology.
- StudyMoose. (2020). How are the relationships between men and women represented in "My Last Duchess", "First Love" and "How do I love thee"? Available at: <https://studymoose.com/relationships-men-women-represented-last-duchess-first-love-love-thee-new-essay>.

اضطهاد النساء في قصيدة بروننك 'دوقتي السابقة' من

منظور نسوي

علي حسن عبد

مشتاق عواد جبار

عمر رؤوف مرزة

جامعة المثني / كلية التربية للعلوم الإنسانية

الملخص:

بحثت هذه الدراسة وضع النساء في العصر الفيكتوري وكيف كنَّ معدمات. طبقت في هذه الدراسة نظرية كاتي ميلت لتحليل قصيدة 'دوقتي السابقة' للشاعر بروننك (١٨٤٢). ويظهر في هذه الدراسة ان الرجال مارسوا سلطتهم على النساء الفيكتورية وعاملوهن مثل الكائنات الثانوية كما عكس هذا الشيء في القصيدة. الشاعر حاول تسليط الضوء على الوضع الخانق الذي عاشته النساء باليأس والسخط. لقد وضحت الدراسة تهميش النساء وظهورهن كالعبيد مقارنة بالرجال في تلك الفترة. القصيدة اظهرت قسوة الرجال ضد المرأة والتي ممكن ان تقود الى قتلهم بدم بارد.

الكلمات المفتاحية: بروننك، كاتي ميلت، العصر الفيكتوري، الاضطهاد، قصيدة دوقتي السابقة.