



Requirement Of Ideological Recasting Of Feminism In Edward Abbey's Hayduke Lives!

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Citation: U. Vijayasarithi, (2023) Requirement Of Ideological Recasting Of Feminism In Edward Abbey's Hayduke Lives!, *Educational Administration: Theory And Practice*, 29(4), 871-875
Doi: 10.53555/kuey.v29i4.5940

ARTICLE INFO

ABSTRACT

Edward Abbey is a twentieth-century environmental writer. His novels primarily focus on environmental issues, nature, realism, ethical lack of media, and feminism. The present novel Hayduke Lives! traces the moisture in the fringe of the uprooted root of a massive tree (male chauvinism). With the assistance of the feminist movement, a lot of superstitious beliefs and evil practices exercised against women were brought to light and eradicated. However, the remnants of injustice against women are still in existence; even at present, women are encountering physical abuse at home, at workplaces, and even in public places. They are not free from mental suffering too as women are being forced to abide by the traditional practices and social customs. The primary victims of traditions and customs are none other than women since such practices were employed by men. On the one hand, there is talk about, for instance, females' way of dressing and the shape of their bodies; on the other hand, it is a matter of nothing when it comes to men in contemporary society. These practices are the result of the chauvinistic mental state of men who think that they are superior to women; rather women think that they are equal to men as feminism postulates. Men are after women to satisfy their needs but when women are in need would be neglected. It is depicted in Abbey's *Hayduke Lives!* and it delineates how the pathetic conditions of women remain unchanged even at present despite the existence of feminism on the field for centuries and how women are being treated as sexual toys sans respecting their feelings and their emotions.

Keywords: Feminism, Male Chauvinism, Physical Abuse, Social Construction, and Ill-treatment of Women.

Introduction:

Feminism is a social reforming movement with eminent vision and ideologies. It paved the way to deconstruct the massive structure of the male-dominated society by making women realize their rights to equality and making men sense the injustice that they inflict upon women. It has been confronting the cleverly constructed male chauvinism and attempting to bring equality between genders since its inception in the late eighteenth century, and till now it is attempting for the same. Feminism demands for equality; if merely equality is expected, it will happen only when pigs fly. Hence, it claims also other components of equality like the right to education, vote, work, and so on. As a result of feminism, women started accomplishing in all the sectors right from education to artificial intelligence (AI). Even if women have proven themselves and exposed their ability to the world, still violence against women remains unchanged as well and to say it is getting increased, especially domestic violence. Even at present, men consider women inferior to them and make use of them to satisfy their sexual desires while proudly proclaiming that women are liberated on account of Feminism. Its ideologies failed to shatter the male chauvinistic thought that women are inferior to men.

Though, in line with history, many authors have served as a voice for women and expressed the pathetic conditions of women through their works, still it is expected more to be done. Edward Abbey is also one among them and skilfully employed women's plight condition in the late twentieth century, despite the existence of feminism, in his work called Hayduke Lives!. Abbey is an American novelist, short story writer, and essayist. He was born on 29th January 1927 in Pennsylvania. His mother was a school teacher and his

father was a radical working-class man, they were not able to be in a fixed place during the years of the Great Depression (1929-1939), they kept moving from place to place. Abbey had written eight novels and seven volumes of collected essays. He had grown up in a confronting atmosphere that on the one hand his mother abides by norms of government, on the other hand, his father would resist much and obey little –anti-capitalistic, anti-religion, anti-prevailing opinion, anti-booze, anti-war, and anti-anyone who did not agree with him. Thus, most of his writings are influenced by his parents because they were civil and uncivil. Even though his family encountered fatal poverty during his childhood, he had a fabulous childhood wandering free and playing with his four siblings (a sister and three brothers) in the nearby woods.

Abbey liked to spend most of his life on the road like insects. He had spent a constructive year at his age of seventeen riding across The United States by hitchhiking alone and doing odd jobs to meet his needs out. Even he travelled along with vagabonds. By that time, he admired the places in the Southwest of America. After having returned home, he had written that he liked to do the same as if calling on to places where people would rarely venture into for the rest of his life. At the end of World War second, he joined the Army and spent two years as a motorcycle cop, shooting rats, fighting boredom, and chasing young women. Abbey, in 1948, pursued his undergraduate degree at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque and spent almost a decade earning the degree. When he was studying there, Abbey had a great opportunity to explore the mountains and Canyonlands which were near to the place where he was. Abbey worked as a forest ranger and fire lookouts in the national parks during his summer holidays, where he spent time reading, writing, and sleeping with young women. He strongly supported zero population growth but he married five women and begot five children; slept with countless women.

Edward Abbey's first two novels did not bring him the exposure that he intended to bring but it was done by *Desert Solitaire: A Season in the Wilderness*. It made Abbey to be showered with critical praise in 1968. Its ultimate success earned him teaching positions. He worked in the University of Utah at first and he was placed permanently at the University of Arizona. For some years Abbey with his friend made some economic losses to firms that are a threat to nature like industrial sabotages, burning billboards, hurling away the survey stakes, and damaging the engines of bulldozers and earth movers. He died on 14th March 1989 from internal bleeding caused by too much drinking. His body was buried at a secret spot in Arizona wilderness against the law since it was federal property.

Objective of the Study:

This study traces the plight conditions of women presented in Edward Abbey's *Hayduke Lives!* through the characters. This research paper focuses on the following objectives:

- To explore how women are being considered and treated by men with a chauvinistic mentality in contemporary society.
- To highlight the inefficiency of feminism, the need for improvisation of the movement, and his vision from a lateral angle.
- To find a realistic picture of Abbey's both men and women characters by connecting them with present social conditions and the problems faced by women in the existence of feminism for centuries together.
- To study how women are still feeling insecure and being molested in public places. It also focuses on domestic violence against women.
- To understand that female's pathetic conditions remain unchanged despite the existence of feminism and to realize the importance of ideological recasting in the movement.

Scope of the Study:

The world is filled with a plenitude of problems, in which discrimination is also one among them. Discrimination is being exercised in various forms such as discriminating humans from other living species, and division within human beings on the basis of race, religion, caste, and linguistics. These discriminations started being practiced when people began exercising migration but right from the outset, there has been a major discrimination which is none other than gender discrimination, especially the discrimination between men and women. In this world, irrespective of any nation, women are still encountering domination from males. Despite the feminist movement making the inhuman activities done against women known to everyone and demanding equal rights since the late eighteenth century, injustices against women are still taking place across the world. To accomplish its goal, feminism needs to incorporate some new components as it did in the following waves after the first wave. Therefore, this research paper emphasizes the requirement of ideological recasting to improvise the movement.

Review of Literature:

Elijah M. Baloyi (2010), in his article, *An African View of Women as Sexual Objects as a Concern for Gender Equality: A Critical Study* deals with sex-oriented violence against women like rape, sexual abuse, and sexual harassment. He expressed about the challenges that women are encountering in the male chauvinistic society and says that women are considered merely as sexual objects. In his study, he mentioned the practice of Clitoridectomy to prevent women from having sex before marriage, it is the best example to substantiate the statement that women are treated as sexual objects.

Aanish Madan and Mahesh K. Nalla (2016), in their work entitled *Sexual Harassment in Public Spaces: Examining Gender Differences in Perceived Seriousness and Victimization* delineate the condition of women and their sexual victimization in public spaces. They vividly express in their research article how female genders are encountering sexual harassment in public transport like taxis and rickshaws.

Farida Anwar, Karin Osterman, and Kaj Bjorkqvist (2019), in their article called *Three Types of Sexual Harassment of Females in Public Places in Pakistan*, investigate the three types of sexual harassment in public places. They explicate that Pakistani men think that women are entitled to be harassed if they attempt to break the conventional thought of staying home. They add that women used to face various sexual harassment by men in public places.

The present article is unique and deviates from others' works of art as it primarily explores the ideological lack of the feminist movement which prevents it from reaching its ultimate goal of women's liberation. And also it explores the challenges that women encounter even in this twenty and twenty-first century.

Findings and Discussion:

The world is a cornucopia of discrimination like race, caste, religion, and linguistics. By these discriminations, people are suffering across the world but women are alone experiencing twofold of their effects since they have been already encountering discrimination based on gender. Women are suffering sans privilege to express their burden and the restrictions that curb their actual talent and potentiality but even more plight of them is that they fail to sense that they are leading such an underprivileged life since they had been instilled for centuries together as they are always subordinate to men through customs and traditions which are customised by male. Despite feminism having accomplished many things like gender equality, it failed to remove discriminatory thoughts from the minds of men because according to feminism women are as great as men in all sectors and fields; they could do anything which are being done by men so women are equal to men. On the other hand, men are with the mentality that they are always superior to women for no grounds. To surmount such mentality, feminism should proclaim that women are superior to them instead of saying that women are equal to men; here is where feminism cites deficiency.

Every single species on this earth is in connection with others to fulfil its needs. But human beings are slightly varied from such practice since men consider woman not as an opposite gender but as an object that satisfies their sexual pleasure and does all household works. As long as women are young, especially in their teenage, men are panting after them but when they cross their twenties men will start looking past their shoulders -- be after other teen girls. Men expect that women should always be nineteen because of their inefficiency in handling a well-grown-up woman. It is usually projected as if men are looking after women and all their needs but the actual truth is vice versa. A well-grown-up thirty to thirty-five-year-old woman expects more sex than she ever had with her spouse but she should not express it as per the social norms; she needs to stifle. She cannot even express it to her own man, if she does so society brands her as a "nymphomaniac or bastard" but a man is legitimated to have sex with anyone notwithstanding of his age, even in his seventies. *Panting after you all those years and then when you want it they don't* (HL 46).

Women have never been considered or treated equal to men both in the past as well as at present, not even at least as human beings rather they are presumed as objects to satisfy the carnal desire (lust) of men always. Women after a certain age are subjected to encounter molestation wherever they go; be it offices, schools, or public places like parks. But men fail to contemplate that if they are disturbed so or always under such threat of insecurity they could perform well in the field they shine on. It could vividly be sensed in Abbey's *Hayduke Lives!* through one of the major characters named Bonnie Abzug, a twenty-nine-year-old woman. She is married to Dr. Sarvis and when he is away from home for work Bonnie reviews her life and contemplates how a woman is being looked at by men in society. She says that men start noticing women when they turn fifteen and thereafter they are subjected to undergo various mental and physical tormentations. When they are seventeen men start staring at them and also attempt to abuse them like pressing against a crowd.

Men are entitled to express their lustful feelings to any woman that matters but if a woman does so it is considered a crime and she would be called a bastard. Certain restrictions are applicable only to women, not to men like satisfying the carnal desire with anyone he wishes to have. Men, irrespective of age, are always looking at the private parts of women like breasts and between their legs to tempt them but women should not talk to them, smile at them, or even they should not look at them. If they do so men would take it for granted and attempt to grab them. Once men get what they are looking for (sex) from the girl he was after so far, they casually move on to others expecting the same because men consider women merely objects which enable them to quench their lust.

. . . they are staring at you, drooling, tongue out, pressing up against you in crowds, trying to see down the top of your blouse or up under your skirt . . . like starving beggars, always watching, be careful how you cross your legs . . . keep your knees together when you sit because that's where they're always looking, right up between your knees, be careful how you bend over at drinking fountains if you're wearing something short, bend your knees instead, they're always staring at that one place . . . never look at them in the eyes . . . don't smile don't talk . . . they'll take it for an invitation . . . (HL 45)

When it comes to sex "all men are behaving same like an animal" irrespective of their age; be it those adolescents with pimples on their faces, those adult young men in suits, those stout middle-aged men with

families (Wives and children), and even those wrinkled, gray-haired old man. Every man in the world looks at women with lustful feelings in their eyes which blind them from seeing women's feelings. So, all are the same if they are men who never consider women as fellow human beings.

Inequality begins with misunderstanding. If there could be a book that has been translated into a maximum number of languages in this world is none other than the Bible. It reveals that Adam (male) was created all by God but Eve (Female) was made from one of the ribs of Adam. Almost all men had misconceived that since women are made out of men's ribs they are inferior to men but the actual context is completely different. As per the Bible, Lord Jesus had created Eve from one of the ribs of Adam, not from the bone of the head or of the foot. It explicates that women should be treated neither superior nor inferior to men but equal to them as the rib is located in the middle of the body. But the chauvinistic mentality of men made them blind to sense the context. They have taken it as an advantage since the Bible is a holy book followed by a maximum number of people in the world and unleashed cruel activities against them.

It is quite common for women to encounter sexual exploitation, especially at domestic where they are completely under the control of males even if they have accomplished a lot of remarkable things in the outer world. One of the cruel practices is that men to treat women as reproductive machines sans considering their health. Sex is addressed as painful pleasure but men alone experience pleasure; other is always associated with other. Whether a woman needs sex or not is sadly determined by man and how many children she should beget is also being decided by him. A man is after a woman only for utilizing her physique, not out of love. For instance, Bishop Love was probing to find the actual vagina of his wife since she was stout. Sometimes he made love to some temporary cleavage between her lower belly and upper thighs but she did not help him anymore to find the right hole because she did not want to have another pregnancy because she gave birth eleven times already. Despite having lost her beauty and her health as she gave birth multiple times, Love wants her to give birth to one more child because he is a Jack Mormon.

Mother . . . the twelfth child? Oh Dudley . . . please Dudley . . . I can't go through all that again. Dudley . . . ain't eleven kids enough? I'm old before my time. Don't make me do that again. But please . . . look at me. I used to have a nice body, but now I'm shaped like Mrs. Potato-Head. Remember when you thought I was a pretty girl? . . . what about my nerves? What about my mental health, Dudley? (HL 217- 218).

It reflects the actual mental state of men about women; man wants her to do what he wishes, and everything is decided only by him like how many children she should give birth to. A man takes advantage of a woman's physique regardless of her feelings. When Bishop Love comes to know that it would not be working out with her, getting another child to be born, he marries a woman named Miss Dick who was around thirty to forty years old. She was too young for Bishop Love also. Even though Love had been in a marital relationship with his first wife for about twenty years and gave birth to eleven children with her, he was after other women for his own needs.

Women were and are associated with soft things like flowers and deer; indeed they have been made to believe that they are soft. Certain things should be worn only by women like glass bangles with which they could not do anything rapidly and violently because if they try to work hard it would be broken, so they need to work to the lasting capability of the glass bangle not to their actual ability. It gradually made them tender in every activity that they do. But, in reality, women are strong at birth; they are made to forget their ability by making them focus on beauty. It is said that women must be so beautiful rather than knowledgeable and stronger. Despite having changed more or less due to feminism, the existence of the female inferiority complex is still there. Indeed, Women are braver than men.

Edward Abbey explicated every nuance of women's activities to substantiate the statement that women are braver than men through the character named Bonnie Abzug. When she was looking at her newborn baby, she supposed that if anybody attempted to take her child, Reuben, away from her; even if they tried to touch him she would bust in their mouth. Whoever it might be or anything; be it men, women, bears, lions, alligators, scorpions that come near to Reuben with malicious thought would certainly be killed.

Suppose they ever tried to take him away from me. . . . Child molesters. . . . They try even touching mine, those hagfish, and I'll bust them in the mouth, a knuckle sandwich for lunch, a mouthful of bloody chiclets if they so much as lay a hand on even look at my little Rube. . . . anyone at all

tries anything, anything at all, with my baby. . . . Men, women, bears, lions, alligators, scorpions, any animal comes near my baby with malice aforethought and I'll fight to kill. (HL 42 -43)

It proves that women are brave to take on anything in this world but they are made to be tender and soft intentionally by men. Though Bonnie Abzug was talented enough to become a doctor, she was made to look after all her household work like changing diapers for Reuben, cooking, and doing laundry; on the other hand, her spouse would go for a job. *Whatever became of my life? Twenty-nine years old and where have all my days gone? I could have been a doctor too, I had the brain, I knew the tricks . . .* (HL45). It happened because of the lack of feminism with which the movement has not been able to pierce through the hurdles that women are encountering even in the first century.

When it is believed firmly that feminism has changed everything, it comes to know that there is something yet to be achieved. It is because of the lack of ideology in the movement. Abbey has blatantly expressed that feminism had no longer changed anything but deteriorated the situation more. *Women's liberation, the women's movement, and feminism, they didn't change a thing except making things worse* (HL 46). As per the statement of the character named Bonnie; despite the existence of these movements, women can't live

without men, they must depend upon men for financial support and there are certain jobs allocated to women like looking after the household work which must be done only by them. But through these movements, women have learned to make use of men by adjusting to them. Abbzug says that women should prefer to marry men with wealth and property. Even if he leaves her eloping with someone else since women are merely to quench the thirst of men's lust according to men, the woman can lead a secure life with the properties. If it is an old man, it is far better because they would not prefer others, despite trying to make love with half erected penis on the bed every night.

So what do you do? Avoid trouble, marry an old man with some property and a good steady income who'll be grateful . . . even if he can't get his tool up anymore or keep it in or get it off. . . even if he's silly enough to play around a little on the sly he's not so likely to run off And if he does you've got his money and his house So he probably won't. (HL 46-47).

Conclusion:

Feminism was believed to be fixing all the problems faced by women in society but with a lack of ideology it is limping to reach its destination when it is needed to intensify its pace. Though feminism, a movement for women's liberty and equality, has been in existence till now, nothing has changed much due to an ideological lack in the movement. Still, certain duties are being done only by women and being allocated for them to do. Feminism proclaims that women are equal to men but men are not only in the thought that women are no longer equal to them but also men are superior to women. Here is where feminism witnesses lack in its movement, it failed to claim that women are better than men or superior to men. There is a lot to produce as evidence to substantiate the proclamation that women are stronger. Therefore present reformers must incorporate the new ideology into the movement to accomplish its goal as expected.

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