

A Pragmatic Study of the Role of Class Gender and Culture in Literature

Dr. M. Leelavathi, Dr. L.Mahalakshmi

A Pragmatic Study of the Role of Class Gender and Culture in Literature

Dr. M. Leelavathi*, Dr. L.Mahalakshmi**

**Associate Professor & Head, PG& Research Dept. of English,
LRG Govt.College for Women, Tirupur.*

***Assistant Professor & Head, Dept. of English,
AVP College of Arts and Science, Tirupur*

Abstract

*Class and Gender in culture plays a major role in every piece of literature. As the famous saying which falls in everyone's tongue is "Literature is life". Every writer of literature focuses culture and society as a major part and it increases the invaluable skills to express the happenings in and around. Culture shapes the society and every human being to play a vital part. In our gender based society men and women are the major survivors and they survive for their fittest life, which makes everyone to adopt the culture where they live. Either male or female they involve all kind of activities which brings everyone to acquire some status by which they lead their positions as high and low according to their cultural behavior. This research article deals about the human behaviours and their drastic changes in characters and the cultural background. The psychological analysis between gender distinctions by analyzing the characters from Wole soyanka's *Lion and the Jewel* , G.B.Shaw's *Pygmalion* and Henrick Ibsen's *Doll's House**

Keywords: *Gender, culture, literature, invaluable, society, survivors, behavior.*

Reference to this paper should
be made as follows:

**Dr. M. Leelavathi,
Dr. L.Mahalakshmi**

*A Pragmatic Study of the
Role of Class Gender and
Culture in Literature*

Notions June 2020,
Vol. X1, No. 1,
pp. 26-28

Article No.6

Online available at :
<http://notions.anubooks.com/>

Introduction

Cultural influences makes everyone to be away with their environment in which individuals are born and live, shape their attitudinal, emotional and behavioral reactions and the perceptions about what is happening around. The gender behavior also reflects the same. Cultural dimensions reflect differences in gender roles in which we can see the ethics of sexual differences, which can be analyzed by each and every scholar. Cultural dimensions reflect the role of differences in various cultures, discrimination issues and others. The author of this article aims to give a picture class culture and gender identity which was depicted by the famous writers from different countries. Henric Ibsen in his famous work *Doll's House*, G.B.Shaw in *Pygmalion* and in Wole Soyinka's *Lion and the Jewel* gender identity and cultural changes of rich and poor, high and low is meticulously illustrated through different characters. The discrimination of genders play a dominant theme and female suffering is conspicuous even though they are portrayed as protagonists.

Wole Soyinka as a Nigerian writer expresses a clear dichotomy of tradition and modernity through two important characters Baroka and Lakunle. These two talks about the culture development in various levels. Baroka as a Bale of the village wants to impart some machinery for money making and maintains his family culture by marrying many women's even at the age of sixty. The culture of dominating women is portrayed through his wives. Whereas Lakunle as an educated man wants to develop modern culture and gives importance for women's health by giving some suggestions to Sidi. To maintain the culture of true love he requests Sidi to marry him even after Sidi's fall with lustful Baroka. Baroka's wife Sadiku and other wives maintain their family culture and they are not ready to give up anything for the sake of their husband. Both the male characters try to bring some changes to have new culture in their own prediction. But nothing happened because of Sidi and herself become victim of Baroka's lust. Thus the culture plays less in the mind of characters and never give importance for the change of culture and as well as society.

Gender plays an important role the female characters are sassy, pointed, manipulative and independent. Both of them are ultimately pawn in the games of men. Sidi does not want to marry both, but Baroka tricks and seduces her. Here women are portrayed as an object and nothing more. Even though both Sidi and Sdiku were doing some tricks but their power vanishes.

G.B.Shaw as a great Irish dramatist has pictures the culture of the poor as well as rich in his interesting play *Pygmalion*. The flower girl's transformation brings great cultural changes at the same time through Professor Higgins and other male

characters major involvement makes everyone realize the class gender domination between poor and rich. Each character plays different role to show their power in different ways. Alfred Doolittle, as father he never uses his power properly since he belongs to the underprivileged society and that may be the reason for his daughter Eliza to behave in an improper way before learning everything properly from Higgins. From Doolittle's family both father and daughter will have drastic changes in their future and interested to lead happy life Here G.B.Shaw clearly explains the social and cultural changes which everyone meets in the world.

In *Doll's House* class gender domination has shown through Torvald and his domination on his wife Nora Helmer. Nora as a female tries to lead a happy life and makes her children and her husband to be happy. Due to Torvald's health she become the debtor and at last she was suspected by her husband and himself never realized the reason for her inconvenient situation. Christine Linde, friend of Nora suffers a lot because of her family background and at last she lost her husband and unites with her school friend Krogstad. This was the contradictions happen over between two friends. The class cultural behavior between the rich and poor makes their life upside down.

Nora Helmer as a wife and mother suffers in the role of middle class women. Eliza Doolittle suffers because of lower middle class background and the carelessness of her parents atleast we can see the transformation of an innocent flower girl. Side suffers because of innocence and gender discrimination and adopts Baroka's family culture. As male characters they represent as the symbol of masculinity and they show their power and make everyone to bring under their control, the gender difference supremacy over the other characters has been clearly exposed as the reflection of society.

The emotional behavior among the character makes everyone to analyze psychologically and when they fulfill their physiological needs inside the family and in the society. Psychologically everyone is fixed with the mindset that they have to live for environment not for their own wishes even if they suffer to the extreme. The human ingredients' of emotions will be controlled or uncontrolled that will be defined only by the consequences which everyone meets in their life.

References

1. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cultural_studies