

Vandana Shiva - Elaine Showalter: The Feminist Perspective of East and West

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Abstract

Vandana Shiva is an Indian Social Activist, Physicist, Environmental Activist, and Feminist based in Delhi, India, representing the East. Vandana Shiva's views aim at women's state of affairs in a consumer society that separates her from her actual entity. A woman has an authentic and original self. A woman's originality as a woman is nature's principle. Woman and her true nature are the fundamental values of the Universe. Vandana Shiva has written more than 20 books. She is an anti-globalization author. She is often referred to as 'Gandhi of grain' for her activism associated with the anti-GMO movement. Shiva founded the Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Natural Resource Policy (RFSTN), an organization devoted to developing sustainable methods of Agriculture, in 1982. A leading Indian Environmental Activist and Feminist, Vandana Shiva, received the Alternative Nobel Prize in 1993 for 'Placing Women and Ecology at the heart of the Debate on Modern Development.' Elaine Showalter is an American writer and an American Literary Critic, Feminist, and Writer on Cultural and Social issues representing the West. Elaine Showalter relates a woman's greatness to her status in Literature. A woman is independent in her creation, more

so in Literature. A woman tracks her existence and growth in Literature to her independent writings thematically or linguistically. Elaine Showalter coined the term Gynocritics in 1979 as a form of Feminist Literary Criticism that is concerned with women as writers. Elaine Showalter's three phases of Feminism are - 'Feminine' (women writers imitate men), 'the Feminist' (women advocated minority rights and protested), and 'the Female' (The focus is now on women's texts as opposed to merely uncovering misogyny in men's texts). This article shows the perspectives of Feminism of both the writers in a way East and West.

Keywords: feministic, prospects, women, east and west.

Vandana Shiva (born November 5, 1952, Dehradun, Uttarakhand) is an Indian Social Activist, environmental activist, and eco feminist based in Delhi, India. Vandana Shiva has written more than 20 books. She is an anti-globalization author. She is often referred to as the 'Gandhi of grain' for her activism associated with the anti-Genetically Modified Food Controversies (GMO) movement. Shiva founded the Research Foundation for Science,

Technology and Natural Resource Policy (RFSTN), an organization devoted to developing sustainable methods of Agriculture, in 1982.

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Elaine Showalter (born January 21, 1941), in Boston, Massachusetts, United States of America. Elaine Showalter is an American Literary Critic, Feminist, and Writer on Cultural and Social issues. Elaine Showalter coined the term Gynocritics in 1979 as a form of Feminist Literary Criticism that is concerned with women as writers. Elaine Showalter's three phases of Feminism are - 'Feminine' (women writers imitate men), 'the Feminist' (women advocated minority rights and protested), and 'the Female' (The focus is now on women's texts as opposed to merely uncovering misogyny in men's texts).

A concept introduced by Elaine Showalter in 'Towards a Feminist Poetics' is gynocriticism. This refers to a criticism of women as writers or producers of textual meaning against women as readers.

Vandana Shiva and Elaine Showalter are feminist writers with two different perspectives. Vandana Shiva's main study focuses on nature and women as life producers. Indian Cosmology honors women and the feminine principle. The

woman is the primordial energy. Woman sustains Life.

The feminine principle is inseparable from diversity and sharing. Indian cosmology views are male and female as a 'duality in unity'. There is no separation between feminine and masculine principles. There is no separation between nature and human nature.

Elaine Showalter's Gynocriticism or Gynocritics is the term coined by Elaine Showalter to describe a new literary project intended to construct a female framework for analyzing women's Literature. In both the theories of Vandana Shiva and Elaine Showalter, 'Woman is the central theme.' Vandana Shiva highlights the importance of women in the Universe. Elaine Showalter highlights the importance of women in Women's Literature. Both are feminist writers, and their Feminism is curious to know about. Both the theories of Vandana Shiva and Elaine Showalter in Feminism make a more significant impact on Feminism and feminist Literature.

According to Vandana Shiva, the present consumer society makes the principle of woman and nature invisible. Vandana Shiva believes that we could learn from world views of ancient civilizations and diverse cultures. In the present day world, the violation of nature has led to the marginalization of women. According to Vandana Shiva, though the women are marginalized, they still embody and honor the feminine principle according to Vandana Shiva.

The women are the 'Intellectual Gene Pool' of Ecological categories of thought

and action. According to Vandana Shiva, the dominant productive man uses nature's resources and women's labor to make consumer goods.

Elaine Showalter's 'Feminist Criticism in the wilderness' gives four models in gynocriticism: biological, language, psychoanalytic, and cultural. Gynocriticism (derived from the Greek 'Gyno') means 'woman' and ('Kentron' derived from Greek) means 'center.' As such, gynocriticism is a radical feminist discourse that champions woman-centered beliefs, identities, and social organizations.

The program of gynocritics is to construct a female framework for the analysis of women's Literature. This is to develop new models based on the study of female experience rather than to adapt male models and theories. Gynocritics begins at the point when we free ourselves from the linear absolutes of male literary history that stops trying to fit women between the lines of male tradition and focuses instead on the newly visible world of female culture.

This does not mean that the goal of gynocritics is to erase the differences between male and female writing. Gynocritics is not 'on a pilgrimage to the promised land where gender would lose its power.' Its prime concern is to see women as producers of textual meaning, with the history, themes, genres, and structures of Literature by women. Its subjects include the psychodynamics of women's creativity. It studies linguistics and the problem of language by women in literary contexts.

This is the point of view of Elaine Showalter, which acknowledges 'the difficulties of defining the unique difference of women's writing or realize a distinct female literary tradition. However, with grounding in theory and historical research, Elaine Showalter sees gynocriticism as a way to 'learn something solid, enduring, and real about the relation of women to literary culture.'

Elaine Showalter provides a good feminist critique of Thomas Hardy's "The Mayor of Casterbridge" to demonstrate that 'one of the problems of the feminist critique is that it is male-oriented.' Even when criticizing patriarchy, every feministic critique is focused on the male. As an alternative, Showalter presents gynocritics to construct a female edifice for analyzing women's Literature, to develop a new literary tradition based on the study of female experience.

According to Vandana Shiva, women protect the values in society. Women guard generations. Only the consumer-related world cannot decide the strength of women. Nature renews fields, forests, and rivers. Nature is women's inner strength and substance. The third world women are deeply connected to nature. Within this point, we can judge women and nature as the proper strength and sustenance of Life's processes.

According to Vandana Shiva, a new thought has to be developed. This refreshed thought should be liberated from the consumer society and consumer world practices. The latest thought views women as sustainable for Life and global culture. This is the Universal Feminine principle.

Vandana Shiva's article on 'Women in Nature' is thought-provoking. Vandana Shiva evaluates Women's invaluable contribution to the Universe. Women are exploited. Their contributions are undervalued. This is Vandana Shiva's argument. A woman is an embodiment of Life and Life's processes. Women play the precious and unique roles of Mother, Sister, Wife, etc. The consumer society and its focuses are mismatched to judge women's special status.

The analysis of Elaine Showalter begins with a rough sketch of some of the elements that have characterized women's writing - awakening, suffering, struggle, and creation, in women's writing. Showalter classifies women's papers into three phases that establish the continuity of female tradition from decade to decade.

The first phase is called 'the feminine phase,' which is characterized by women writing to equal the intellectual achievement of the male culture. The feminist phase, which is the second, declares that women are historically enabled to reject the existing theories of femininity and to use Literature to dramatize the ordeals of wronged womanhood. The third phase is the one of self-discovery. Showalter says 'women reject both imitation and protest - the two forms of dependency - and turn instead to female experience as the source of autonomous art. This extends the feminist analysis of culture to the forms and techniques of Literature.

According to Elaine Showalter, the feminist literature approach is from a

cultural perspective in the current female phase. Overall, we may conclude that Elaine Showalter's views on feminist poetics are intelligent and confidently provocative. Elaine Showalter speaks with calmly persuasive authority. Showalter is both earnest in that she sees the change that is needed to occur immediately. Elaine Showalter is also patient in that she expects that in the given time enough, the wisdom and truth of her cause will prevail.

The western thought of Elaine Showalter liberates women's Literature from the existing feminist tradition. Women's Literature is freed as women's thought is independent and secured to establish a unique feminist practice with a stronghold in Literature if we view Literature as a whole.

According to the Eastern thought of Vandana Shiva, third-world women can offer leadership to society. The third world women prove in every field of intellect, wisdom, operation, administration, execution, etc. The women are successful. Despite the success status of women, they need more protection. Women strengthen nature. Such a unique status of women in the heart must be established repeatedly. Character is strengthened by the feminine principle, which is unusual. It is a universal phenomenon. This is ultimate. Both the thoughts of East and West are unique. They offer strength and independence to women and women in Literature. Women's independence is a systematic growth of Literature in the feminist tradition.

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