

GENDER INEQUALITY AND THE OPPRESSION OF WOMEN IN THE LITERARY WORKS OF KHALED HOSSEINI

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Annotatsiya

Mazkur maqolada Xolid Husayniy (Khaled Hosseini)ning badiiy asarlarida aks etgan gender tengsizligi va ayollarning tizimli tarzda ezilishi muammosi tahlil qilinadi. Adabiyot ayollar huquqlarining buzilishi va ijtimoiy adolatsizlikni ifodalovchi hamda tanqidiy qayta anglash imkonini beruvchi muhim vosita sifatida ko'rib chiqiladi. Maqolada patriarxal me'yorlar, madaniy an'analar va institutsional amaliyotlarning ayollarning jamiyatdagi mavqeini cheklash, ularning ovozini o'chirish va bo'ysundirishdagi o'rni yoritiladi. Majburiy nikoh, genderni asoslangan zo'rvonlik va ayollarning avtonomiyasi hamda tanlov huquqining inkor etilishi ayollarga nisbatan zulmning takrorlanuvchi mexanizmlari sifatida tahlil qilinadi. Tadqiqot natijalari ayollar azob-uqubatlari adabiy makonda norozilik va bardoshlilik ovoziga aylantirilishini ko'rsatadi. Mazkur maqola adabiy diskursning ayollar huquqlari va gender adolatini anglashdagi muhim rolini asoslab, zamonaviy gender tadqiqotlariga hissa qo'shadi.

Kalit so'z: gender tengsizlik; ayollar diskriminatsiyasi; ayollar huquqlari; patriarxat; adabiy diskurs; gender tadqiqotlari.

Annotation

This article examines the problem of gender inequality and the systemic oppression of women as represented in the literary works of Khaled Hosseini. Literature is approached as a powerful medium through which social injustice and violations of women's rights are articulated and critically re-evaluated. At the same time, the research highlights forms of female resistance, solidarity, and moral agency that challenge dominant patriarchal discourses. Hosseini's fiction is interpreted not merely as a reflection of social reality but as a form of ethical intervention that foregrounds women's dignity and human rights. The findings demonstrate that the author constructs a literary space in which women's suffering is transformed into a voice of protest and resilience. The article contributes to contemporary gender studies by emphasizing the role of literary discourse in advancing the understanding of women's rights and gender justice.

Keywords: gender inequality; women's oppression; women's rights; patriarchy; literary discourse; gender studies.

Аннотация

В данной статье рассматривается проблема гендерного неравенства и системного угнетения женщин, представленная в художественных произведениях Khaled Hosseini. Литература анализируется как значимое средство осмысления социальных форм несправедливости и нарушений прав женщин, а также как пространство критического переосмысления патриархальных норм. В центре внимания находятся культурные традиции, способствующие маргинализации, подчинению и лишению голоса женских персонажей. Особое внимание уделяется таким механизмам угнетения, как

принудительный брак, гендерно обусловленное насилие и ограничение автономии женщин. В работе используется качественный текстуальный анализ в сочетании с гендерно-ориентированным интерпретационным подходом, что позволяет выявить системный характер изображаемого неравенства. Наряду с этим в статье анализируются формы женского сопротивления, солидарности и моральной субъектности, противопоставляемые доминирующему патриархальному дискурсу. Художественные произведения Хоссейни интерпретируются не только как отражение социальной реальности, но и как форма этического высказывания, направленного на утверждение достоинства и прав женщин.

Ключевые слова: гендерное неравенство; угнетение женщин; права женщин; патриархат; литературный дискурс; гендерные исследования.

Gender inequality constitutes a persistent form of social discrimination rooted in patriarchal norms, cultural traditions, and institutional practices that systematically restrict women's rights and opportunities. In such social contexts, inequality is often perceived as a natural order, which contributes to its reproduction and social legitimization. Scholars emphasize that women's oppression is structural in nature and manifests not only at the level of interpersonal relations but also through social institutions such as family, marriage, and upbringing, thereby shaping unequal life trajectories and reinforcing women's dependent position in society [3]. Within this framework, literary texts acquire particular significance as spaces for the critical examination of violations of women's rights and as forms of social analysis capable of revealing hidden mechanisms of discrimination.

In the literary works of Khaled Hosseini, gender inequality and the oppression of women are portrayed as consequences of deeply entrenched social structures rather than as outcomes of isolated or accidental conflicts. In *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, the institution of marriage is represented as a mechanism of social control through which women are deprived of choice, autonomy, and protection from violence. The recurring motif of endurance and enforced submission is encapsulated in the concise phrase "She had learned to endure", which symbolizes the normalization of women's suffering within a patriarchal environment and reflects the absence of effective mechanisms for the protection of women's rights [1]. Violence in the narrative is depicted not as a deviation but as a socially tolerated practice sustained by tradition and collective silence.

In *The Kite Runner*, female characters are largely deprived of an independent voice and are predominantly presented through a male perspective. This narrative strategy reflects the marginalized status of women and symbolizes their exclusion from public and socially significant spaces. The absence of a female narrative functions as a metaphor for the systematic denial of women's right to be heard and to participate equally in the construction of social reality [2]. Such narrative silence reinforces perceptions of the secondary nature of women's experiences and perpetuates gender hierarchies.

One of the central dimensions of women's oppression in Hosseini's works is the deprivation of agency—the capacity to make independent decisions and to determine one's own life path. Female characters are constrained in their choices, actions, and self-expression, which indicates violations of their fundamental rights to freedom, security, and human dignity. The individual tragedies of the heroines are presented as manifestations of broader social

inequality, allowing the literary text to function as a form of social testimony that documents enduring patterns of discrimination and subordination [1].

Alongside representations of oppression, Hosseini's works also depict forms of female resistance grounded in solidarity, moral resilience, and inner strength. Mutual support among women emerges as an alternative strategy of survival under patriarchal pressure and symbolizes the possibility of resisting systemic inequality. The phrase "They were no longer alone" reflects the transition from isolation to collective strength and underscores the significance of solidarity as a means of safeguarding human dignity [1]. In this way, Hosseini's literary discourse transcends the mere depiction of suffering and creates a space for affirming women's rights, portraying women not as passive victims but as bearers of inner resistance and intrinsic human value.

Conclusion: The analysis of gender inequality and the oppression of women in the literary works of Khaled Hosseini demonstrates that women's suffering in his narratives is not portrayed as an isolated or purely personal experience but as a consequence of deeply rooted social and cultural structures. Hosseini's fiction reveals how patriarchal norms, institutionalized violence, and restrictive traditions systematically deprive women of agency, autonomy, and fundamental human rights. Through literary representation, gender inequality is exposed as a structural condition that shapes women's lives and limits their opportunities for self-determination.

At the same time, the study shows that Hosseini does not reduce female characters to passive victims of oppression. Instead, his works articulate forms of resistance grounded in solidarity, moral resilience, and the preservation of human dignity. Female agency, although constrained, emerges as a significant counterforce to patriarchal domination, transforming individual suffering into a collective voice of endurance and protest.

Thus, Hosseini's literary discourse functions as an ethical and social intervention that foregrounds women's rights as an integral component of human rights. His novels contribute to a deeper understanding of gender inequality by revealing its systemic nature and by emphasizing the role of literature in challenging injustice and fostering critical reflection. The findings of this study confirm the importance of literary analysis within gender studies and highlight fiction as a powerful medium for articulating and advocating for women's rights in contexts marked by social inequality.

References:

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