

# Feminist Approach in “The Grass Is Singing”

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## Abstract

Feminism is the most heated topic of Postmodernism era. Many writers have written their novels depicting this theme. Doris Lessing is one of those famous British writers who write about feminism at the fullest. In many novels she used this feminism. In this paper, her first and very famous novel “The Grass Is Singing” is chosen to show the feminist approach depicted by Doris Lessing. Though this novel has several themes like characteristics of colonialism, racism and feminism. This research paper deals with the sensitive issue of gender because gender issue is always considered closely attached to sexism and whenever this issue becomes a matter of examining intellectual of human beings it always creates some chaos.

Keywords : Feminism, Colonialism, Post modernism

## Introduction

What is Feminism?

As per the dictionary definition of feminism, It is “the advocacy of women's rights on the ground of the equality of the sexes.”

English novelist and journalist Rebecca West defines feminism as “this is the platform where we can express the sentiments that differentiate a woman from a door mat”

Critics and writers always want to know the female position in the society and they all aware that the recent trends cannot decrease the passion of exploration. This is the thing which enhances their research area and helps to attain expertise it is not this that only females on writings about the condition of women but some male members are also there in the society who are writing about feminism in the contemporary postmodern error female writings about the families I'm are highly appreciable they wants to provide them place where they can raise their voices. Mary Wallstonecraft’s famous book ‘A Vindication of the rights of women’ face women are not inferior to men by nature but for the lack of education. Now the question arises if only this is the reason that they are not getting a proper place in the society. Since, Shakespearean Era, we have been observing that the right place for men which is described by the patriarchal society is only the four walls of her house but many feminist writers like Mary Wollstonecraft, Virginia Woolf, Doris Lessing, Toni Morrison etc. they all are writing in the favour of females and .with the help of these writers now we are able to see more and more conditions about the females and their shows that indeed there is a need for feminist movements to remove the

domination of males from the society Doris Lessing denies the fact that she is writing only about the females in her work yet we find a great contribution of her work in this regard.

### **Doris Lessing and The Grass is Singing**

Doris Lessing is a very famous British writer. She was born in 1919 in German Shah Iran. She wrote many stories on the lives of people who once have been the victim of racial, social and political upheaval. She received Nobel Prize in 2007 for her novel “The Grass Is Singing”. *The Grass Is Singing* is the first novel written by British writer Doris Lessing in 1950. She took this title from T S Eliot the wasteland. Following are those lines :

In this decade full among the mountain  
 In the faint Moonlight The Grass Is Singing  
 Over the tumbled grains, about the chapel  
 There is the empathy chapel, only the winds home  
 It has no windows and the door swings  
 Dry bones can harm.

Listing used the given context in his first novel and tried to show the juxtaposition between the romantic connotations of the title. The adorable sense it is made to carry many layers under the carpet. The story of this novel is quite related to her personal life. She also never believed in marriage. At the age of thirty, she got divorce from her husband and started a new life with her son.

The Grass Is Singing- The Grass Is Singing has very simple plot in the beginning of this novel we see that Mary Turner who is the wife of a farmer was killed by a house boy. We also come to know that the boy had admitted the crime and when the story movies on that Mary and that boy had a sexual relationship.

Mary Turner is a White Lady who does not like black people in the beginning years of her life he was in favour to lead an isolated and unmarried life and when at the age of 30 due to the family pressure and the society pressure also she got married to a person named Dick. But she was not fully satisfied with her married life.

“Perhaps it is not such a bad marriage after all? There are innumerable marriages where two people, both twisted and wrong in their depths, are well matched, making each other miserable in the way they need, in the way the pattern of their life demands.”

Her husband was engrossed in business only he never gave a quality time to her lady in the meanwhile auto peon person named Tony came to live in their neighbourhood. He had been working and Turner plantation he was a 20 year old handsome boy but he was a black.

In the beginning Mary hated her she always disrespected him but gradually she fell into him and started making relationships.

“Women have an extraordinary ability to withdraw from the sexual relationship, to immunize themselves against it, in such a way that their men

can be left feeling let down and insulted without having anything tangible to complain of.”

After sometime when she was back to the census she thought she did a very wrong thing tony in front of her husband afterwards Tony could not wear this disrespect and he killed her.

“What had happened was that the formal pattern of black-and-white, mistress-and-servant, had been broken by the personal relation; and when a white man in Africa by accident looks into the eyes of a native and sees the human being (which it is his chief preoccupation to avoid), his sense of guilt, which he denies, fumes up in resentment and he brings down the whip.”

### **Feminism and The Grass Is Singing**

Doris Lessing dealt with this topic efficiently. She had a great vision towards the problems of females. She always tried not to draw a line around herself as a feminist. She always worked for the welfare of the females so that their voices can be heard.

Once she said ‘Ha, sisters, I stand with you side by side in your struggle toward the golden dawn where all those beastly men are no more’.

She portrayed a nice picture of feminism in the form of Mary Turner, the protagonist of the novel. It is considered her masterpiece.

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