



EVALUATION AND KEY CONCEPTS OF FEMINIST LITERARY THEORY

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Annotation: This article examines the theoretical foundations and key concepts of feminist literary theory as a critical approach to the interpretation of literary texts. Feminist criticism focuses on the representation of women in literature, the construction of gender roles, and the power relations embedded within literary discourse. The study analyzes the historical development of feminist literary theory, highlighting its major schools and methodological principles. Particular attention is given to concepts such as patriarchy, gender identity, female voice, and the re-evaluation of the literary canon from a feminist perspective. The article emphasizes the role of feminist theory in uncovering hidden ideologies, challenging traditional interpretations, and promoting gender equality in literary studies. The findings demonstrate that feminist literary criticism remains a dynamic and influential framework for understanding literature in its social and cultural contexts.

Keywords: feminist literary theory, gender studies, patriarchy, female representation, literary criticism, gender identity.

Introduction

Feminist literary theory emerged as a response to the marginalization of women in literature and literary criticism. Traditional literary studies often reflected male-centered perspectives, where women were either excluded from the literary canon or portrayed through stereotypical roles. Feminist criticism challenges these limitations by questioning how gender influences the creation, interpretation, and evaluation of literary texts. The primary aim of feminist literary theory is not only to analyze the representation of women but also to examine the broader social and ideological structures that shape literary production. By integrating literature with social theory, feminism exposes the relationship between power, gender, and culture. Over time, feminist literary criticism has evolved into a diverse and influential field that continues to redefine literary analysis.



Materials and Methods

This study is based on qualitative textual analysis and theoretical review. Classical and contemporary feminist literary texts, critical essays, and academic publications were analyzed to identify the core concepts and methodological approaches of feminist criticism. Comparative analysis was applied to evaluate different feminist perspectives, including liberal, radical, Marxist, and postmodern feminism. The research method emphasizes interpretative analysis, allowing for a deeper understanding of how feminist theory operates within literary criticism.

Results

The analysis reveals that feminist literary theory is grounded in several fundamental concepts that guide its critical practice. One of the central ideas is patriarchy, which explains how male dominance is maintained through cultural and literary systems. Literature often reproduces patriarchal norms by portraying women as passive, dependent, or secondary characters. Another significant result is the recognition of gender as a social construct rather than a biological determinant. Feminist criticism demonstrates how literary texts contribute to shaping gender roles and expectations. Additionally, the recovery of women's writing has become a major achievement of feminist theory, leading to the rediscovery and reevaluation of female authors previously ignored by literary history.

Discussion

The findings highlight the transformative impact of feminist literary theory on literary studies. By challenging traditional interpretations, feminist criticism opens new perspectives for reading canonical texts. It reveals hidden ideologies and questions the assumed neutrality of literature. Moreover, feminist theory encourages interdisciplinary approaches by combining literature with sociology, history, and cultural studies. This interdisciplinary nature strengthens its analytical potential and allows scholars to examine literature as a reflection of social power relations. Despite criticism regarding its diversity and lack of a unified methodology, feminist literary theory remains a dynamic and adaptable framework.

Conclusion

In conclusion, feminist literary theory plays a crucial role in modern literary criticism by addressing issues of gender inequality, representation, and power. Its key concepts provide effective tools for analyzing both classical and contemporary literature. Feminist criticism not only enriches literary interpretation but also contributes to broader discussions on social justice and equality. As literature continues to evolve, feminist literary theory will remain an essential approach for understanding the complex relationship between gender and culture.



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