



الكلية: الآداب

القسم او الفرع: اللغة الانكليزية

المرحلة: الرابع

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اسم المادة باللغة العربية: النقد الادبي

اسم المادة باللغة الإنكليزية: **Literary Criticism**

اسم المحاضرة الثامنة باللغة العربية: المدرسة النسوية

اسم المحاضرة الثامنة باللغة الإنكليزية: **Feminism**

Feminism

Historical Development of Feminism

Feminism is a social, cultural, and political movement that advocates for the equality of women and men. It has a long history that can be traced back to the 18th century. Here is a brief overview of the historical development of feminism:

First-wave feminism: The first wave of feminism emerged in the late 19th and early 20th centuries in the United States and Europe. It was primarily concerned with gaining political and legal rights for women, such as the right to vote and the right to own property. Key figures of the first wave include suffragists like Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

Second-wave feminism: The second wave of feminism emerged in the 1960s and 1970s and focused on issues like reproductive rights, workplace discrimination, and sexual harassment. It was also more diverse than the first wave, with feminists of color and lesbian feminists playing prominent roles. Key figures of the second wave include Betty Friedan, Gloria Steinem, and Audre Lorde.

Third-wave feminism: The third wave of feminism emerged in the 1990s and was influenced by postmodernism and intersectionality. It focused on issues like body positivity, the representation of women in media, and the intersection of race, gender, and sexuality. Key figures of the third wave include Rebecca Walker, bell hooks, and Kimberlé Crenshaw.

Fourth-wave feminism: The fourth wave of feminism emerged in the 2010s and is still ongoing. It is characterized by the use of social media and online activism, as well as a focus on issues like sexual assault and harassment, gender identity, and environmental justice. Key figures of the fourth wave include Tarana Burke, Malala Yousafzai, and Emma Watson.

Overall, the history of feminism is marked by a continuous struggle for the recognition and rights of women in all aspects of society. Each wave of feminism has built upon the work of the previous wave, leading to significant progress in gender equality, though there is still a long way to go.

Waves of Feminism

Feminism has been divided into several "waves" or periods, each with its own particular characteristics and goals. While this categorization is somewhat simplistic and the boundaries between the waves are not always clear-cut, it can be useful for understanding the evolution of feminist thought and activism. Here is a brief overview of the different waves of feminism:

First wave feminism: This wave refers to the feminist movement that emerged in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It focused primarily on securing legal and political rights for women, including suffrage, property rights, and the right to education. Key figures of this wave include suffragists such as Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

Second wave feminism: The second wave began in the 1960s and lasted through the 1980s. It focused on a broader range of issues, including reproductive rights, workplace discrimination, and sexual liberation. This wave also drew attention to the intersections of race, class, and sexuality in the oppression of women. Key figures of this wave include Betty Friedan, Gloria Steinem, and Audre Lorde.

Third wave feminism: This wave emerged in the 1990s and is often associated with the rise of intersectional feminist thought. It emphasized the diversity of women's experiences and identities, including those of women of color, LGBTQ+ women, and women with disabilities. Key figures of this wave include Rebecca Walker, bell hooks, and Kimberlé Crenshaw.

Fourth wave feminism: This wave emerged in the 2010s and is still evolving. It is often associated with social media and online activism, and it has focused on issues such as sexual harassment, gender identity, and reproductive justice. Key figures of this wave include Tarana Burke, Malala Yousafzai, and Emma Watson.

It's important to note that these waves of feminism are not mutually exclusive and that many feminist activists and thinkers draw on ideas from multiple waves. Additionally, some scholars have argued for the existence of other waves, such as a pre-first wave or proto-feminist movement in the 18th and early 19th centuries.

Assumptions of Feminism

Feminism is a diverse and multifaceted movement, but it is generally united by a set of basic assumptions or beliefs. Here are some of the key assumptions of feminism:

1. **Gender is a social construct:** Feminists believe that gender is not simply a matter of biological sex, but is instead a socially constructed set of expectations and behaviors that are imposed on individuals based on their sex. Feminists argue that gender roles are limiting and often harmful, and that individuals should be free to express their gender in any way they choose.
2. **Patriarchy is pervasive:** Feminists believe that our society is structured around a patriarchal system that values men and masculinity over women and femininity. This system can manifest in a variety of ways, including in laws, institutions, and cultural norms, and it can be harmful to both men and women.
3. **Intersectionality is important:** Feminists recognize that different forms of oppression (such as racism, classism, ableism, and homophobia) intersect with gender oppression, and that individuals experience these forms of oppression differently depending on their social location. Therefore, feminism must be attentive to issues of intersectionality and work to address multiple forms of oppression simultaneously.
4. **Personal is political:** Feminists believe that personal experiences are political and that individuals' experiences of oppression can be linked to broader social and political structures. Feminists also believe that individuals have the power to challenge and change these structures by sharing their stories and working collectively for change.
5. **Equality is the goal:** Feminists believe that women and men should have equal rights and opportunities in all areas of life. This includes equal pay, equal access to education and employment, and equal treatment under the law. Feminists also work to challenge and dismantle gender-based violence and discrimination.

It's worth noting that feminism is a diverse and evolving movement, and not all feminists will necessarily agree with every assumption outlined here. However, these assumptions are generally shared by many feminists and are central to the movement's goals and values.

Methodology of Feminism

Feminism is not a monolithic movement and there are different approaches to feminist methodology, but there are some commonalities in feminist research and analysis. Here are some of the key features of feminist methodology:

1. **Centering women's experiences:** Feminist research begins by recognizing that women's experiences and perspectives have historically been marginalized or ignored. Feminist researchers seek to center women's experiences and to analyze how gender shapes people's lives.
2. **Critiquing power structures:** Feminist researchers analyze how power operates in social, political, and economic structures, and how it intersects with gender, race, class, and other categories. This involves critiquing dominant ideologies and social norms that reinforce power imbalances.
3. **Emphasizing intersectionality:** Feminist researchers acknowledge the intersectionality of various forms of oppression, and how these intersecting identities and power structures affect people's experiences. This means examining how race, class, sexuality, ability, and other identities interact with gender, and how they shape individuals' experiences of oppression and privilege.
4. **Using qualitative methods:** Feminist research often employs qualitative methods, such as interviews, ethnography, and case studies, to gain a deeper understanding of people's experiences and perspectives. These methods prioritize the voices and experiences of those being studied.
5. **Participatory research:** Feminist researchers often work in collaboration with participants, recognizing that the knowledge and experiences of the people being studied are valuable and should be included in the research process. This involves building partnerships and working together to develop research questions, methods, and analysis.
6. **Activism and social change:** Feminist research often seeks to address social and political issues and to bring about social change. Feminist researchers may work closely with social justice organizations or engage in advocacy work to promote gender equity and social justice.

These are some of the key features of feminist methodology, but it's important to note that feminist research is diverse and constantly evolving, with new approaches and methods being developed all the time.

American Feminism

American feminism refers to the feminist movements and ideologies that have developed in the United States. The history of feminism in the United States spans several waves, beginning in the late 19th century with the suffrage movement and continuing through to contemporary feminist activism.

The first wave of feminism in the United States was focused on securing women's right to vote, and culminated in the passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920. This wave also included campaigns for women's legal rights, such as property ownership and custody rights, as well as reforms in education and the workplace.

The second wave of feminism emerged in the 1960s and 1970s, and was focused on broader issues of gender equality and the liberation of women from the patriarchal structures that limited their opportunities and experiences. This wave included movements for reproductive rights, sexual freedom, and an end to gender discrimination in education, employment, and other areas of public life. The second wave also emphasized the importance of intersectionality, recognizing that women's experiences were shaped by their race, class, sexuality, and other factors.

The third wave of feminism emerged in the 1990s, and was characterized by a focus on diversity and inclusivity. This wave emphasized the need to recognize the diversity of women's experiences and to address the ways in which different forms of oppression intersected to shape those experiences. The third wave also sought to expand the feminist movement beyond traditional gender issues to include issues such as race, sexual orientation, and class.

Contemporary American feminism continues to be shaped by these earlier waves, as well as by new challenges and issues. Current feminist activism includes movements for reproductive justice, the fight against sexual harassment and assault, and the ongoing struggle for equal pay and opportunities in the workplace. American feminism remains a vibrant and active movement, with a focus on advancing gender equity and justice for all people.

British Feminism

British feminism refers to the feminist movements and ideologies that have developed in the United Kingdom. Like American feminism, the history of British feminism spans several waves, beginning in the late 19th century and continuing through to contemporary feminist activism.

The first wave of feminism in the United Kingdom was focused on securing women's right to vote, and culminated in the passage of the Representation of the People Act in 1918, which granted some women the right to vote. This wave also included campaigns for women's legal rights, such as property ownership and custody rights, as well as reforms in education and the workplace.

The second wave of feminism emerged in the 1960s and 1970s, and was focused on broader issues of gender equality and the liberation of women from the patriarchal structures that limited their opportunities and experiences. This wave included movements for reproductive rights, sexual freedom, and an end to gender discrimination in education, employment, and other areas of public life. The second wave also emphasized the importance of intersectionality, recognizing that women's experiences were shaped by their race, class, sexuality, and other factors.

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Virginia Woolf

Virginia Woolf (1882-1941) was an English writer and one of the most important figures of modernist literature. She is known for her innovative and experimental writing style, her exploration of gender and sexuality, and her feminist activism.

Woolf was born in London and grew up in a prominent literary family. She began writing at an early age and published her first novel, "The Voyage Out," in 1915. Over the next two decades, she produced a number of highly regarded novels, including "Mrs. Dalloway," "To the Lighthouse," and "Orlando." Woolf's writing style is characterized by her use of stream-of-consciousness narrative and her exploration of the inner lives of her characters.

Woolf was also a prominent feminist and was active in the women's suffrage movement. In 1928, she published the essay "A Room of One's Own," which argued that women needed economic independence and creative freedom in order to be able to write and create. The essay has become a seminal work of feminist theory and has been influential in shaping feminist thought and activism.

Throughout her life, Woolf struggled with mental illness, and in 1941, she took her own life by drowning herself in a river. Despite her personal struggles, Woolf's literary legacy continues to inspire and influence writers and feminist activists around the world.

Simone de Beauvoir

Simone de Beauvoir (1908-1986) was a French writer, philosopher, and feminist theorist. She is best known for her book "The Second Sex," which is considered a foundational text of modern feminist theory.

De Beauvoir was born in Paris and grew up in a bourgeois family. She studied philosophy at the Sorbonne and met fellow philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre, with whom she had a lifelong personal and intellectual relationship. De Beauvoir and Sartre were at the center of a group of intellectuals and writers in Paris in the mid-20th century, and their ideas and writings had a profound impact on the cultural and intellectual landscape of the time.

In 1949, de Beauvoir published "The Second Sex," which is widely regarded as a masterpiece of feminist theory. In the book, de Beauvoir argues that women are not born as a particular kind of being, but rather are made into a particular kind of being by social and cultural norms and expectations. She also critiques the ways in which women have been excluded from political, economic, and cultural spheres throughout history.

De Beauvoir's ideas about gender and sexuality were highly influential in shaping feminist theory in the 20th century, and her work continues to be a major influence on feminist thought and activism today. She was also an advocate for a range of social and political causes, including anti-colonialism and human rights.

Kate Millett

Kate Millett (1934-2017) was an American feminist writer, artist, and activist. She is best known for her book "Sexual Politics," which is considered a seminal work of feminist literary criticism.

Millett was born in St. Paul, Minnesota, and studied at the University of Minnesota, where she earned a degree in English literature. She later studied at Oxford University and Columbia University. In the 1960s, Millett became involved in feminist activism and was a co-founder of the National Organization for Women (NOW) in 1966.

In 1970, Millett published "Sexual Politics," which was a groundbreaking work of feminist literary criticism. In the book, Millett argued that patriarchal power structures are reinforced and perpetuated through literature, and she analyzed the works of a number of male writers, including D.H. Lawrence, Norman Mailer, and Henry Miller. Millett's analysis was highly influential in shaping feminist literary criticism and theory.

Millett continued to be active in feminist and social justice causes throughout her life. She was also a visual artist and sculptor, and her artwork often explored feminist themes. Millett's contributions to feminist thought and activism continue to be celebrated and honored today.

Elaine Showalter

Elaine Showalter (born 1941) is an American literary critic and feminist scholar. She is best known for her contributions to feminist literary theory and for her work on women writers and their contributions to literature.

Showalter was born in Boston, Massachusetts, and earned her Ph.D. from the University of California, Davis. She began her career as a scholar of British literature, and her early work focused on Victorian literature and culture. However, she later became interested in feminist theory and began to write about women writers and their contributions to literature.

In 1977, Showalter published "A Literature of Their Own," which is considered a landmark work of feminist literary criticism. In the book, Showalter argues that women writers have a distinct literary tradition that is different from that of male writers, and she explores the ways in which women's writing has been marginalized and excluded from the literary canon.

Showalter's work has been influential in shaping feminist literary criticism and theory. She has also been a vocal advocate for the importance of women's voices in literature and for the need to recognize and celebrate women's contributions to the literary canon. Today, Showalter is considered one of the foremost feminist literary scholars of the 20th century.

A Feminist Reading of Ophelia in Hamlet

A feminist reading of Ophelia in Hamlet can highlight the ways in which she is oppressed by the patriarchal society in which she lives. In the play, Ophelia is portrayed as a passive and obedient daughter, who is subject to the commands of her father and the expectations of her society. She is not allowed to express her own desires or feelings, and her only purpose is to serve as a pawn in the schemes of the men around her.

One way in which Ophelia is oppressed is through the restrictions placed on her sexuality. She is told to reject Hamlet's advances and to remain chaste, and when Hamlet becomes cruel to her, she is blamed for leading him on. This reflects the patriarchal double standard in which women are punished for expressing their sexuality, while men are rewarded for the same behavior.

Furthermore, Ophelia is denied agency and autonomy in her own life. She is not allowed to make her own decisions or to follow her own desires, and instead must always defer to the men in her life. When Hamlet tells her to go to a nunnery, she obeys without question, and when her father tells her to stop seeing Hamlet, she complies. Her own desires and needs are completely ignored in favor of the demands of the men around her.

Finally, Ophelia's mental breakdown and suicide can be seen as a direct result of the oppression she experiences as a woman. She is not allowed to express her emotions or to seek help for her mental health, and instead is pushed to the brink by the constant pressure and abuse she experiences. Her death is a tragic reminder of the ways in which patriarchal societies can silence and destroy women.

Overall, a feminist reading of Ophelia in Hamlet can highlight the ways in which she is oppressed by the patriarchal society in which she lives, and can serve as a call to action to challenge these oppressive systems and to fight for gender equity and justice.