
NARRATIVES AND NETWORKS: GENDER AND TRAUMA STUDIES IN ENGLISH LITERATURE AS SITES OF MULTIDISCIPLINARY INNOVATION

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ABSTRACT

The paper will examine the use of English literature as a multidisciplinary site innovation through critically relating to gender and trauma studies. Literary texts symbolize individual as well as community experiences of pain as well as at the same time crossing the boundaries of disciplines like psychology, sociology, feminist theory, and history. Virginia through the analysis of *Beloved* by Toni Morrison. Woolf, in *Mrs Dalloway*, and Margaret Atwood in *The Handmaid Tale* article analyses that narrative characteristics are a manifestation of fragmented memory, trauma, and resilience. The article shows that gendered trauma accounts within literature help to cross-disciplinary understand mental health, identity, and social justice. Finally, the English literature does not just reflect the trauma, but is also a promoter of intellectual innovation, and encourages dialogues that go beyond conventional literature examination.

Keywords: English literature, gender studies, trauma, multidisciplinary. narrative innovation, research.

INTRODUCTION

Multidisciplinary research has become the necessity of modern scholarship to know the difficult experiences of humans. English literature, especially plays a special part in this scenery; it is at once an account of social facts and a producer of knowledge that enlightens other disciplines. When literature overlaps gender and trauma studies, it is a fertile field in which to analyze how identity, suffering and memory are depicted and conceptualized.

This paper discusses some of the works by Toni Morrison, Virginia Woolf, and Margaret Atwood to express the way English literature helps in innovation in psychology, feminist, cultural and history. Drawing on the study brings to the fore trauma theories of Judith Herman and Cathy Caruth. The importance of literature in the development of multidisciplinary response to gendered trauma and memory.

THE THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK: THE GENDERED TRAUMA AND INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH.

The research on trauma, which is based on psychology and psychoanalysis, elucidates how the power experiences interfere with the memory and identity. Judith Herman argues that trauma destroys the feeling of security of a person and makes permanent psychological outcomes (Herman 33). Cathy Caruth stresses on the trauma belatedness: traumatic experiences are usually returned in an indirect way, in fragmented form of memory or narrative displacement (Caruth 4). The combination of trauma studies on gender perspectives pinpoints the ways.

Human experience is made under systemic oppression. Feminist scholarship demonstrates how gendered trauma is mixed with social power, domestic, sexual oppression, war and violence.

Literature, with its ability of being emotional nuance, makes such experiences available to be represented and studied across disciplines.

Slavery, Motherhood and Psychological Fragmentation in Beloved.

Beloved by Toni Morrison is a story of a haunting slavery heritage memoirs of Sethe, whose past is too traumatic to leave her alone. The non-linear and discontinuous narrative structure used by Morrison echoes the concept created by Caruth of trauma as memory that revisits in fragments as opposed to in a continuous manner (Caruth 11).

The killing of her child cannot be explained by Sethe without a context of the situation slavery's systemic violence. Through the story, Morrison enlightens the readers about the psychological emotional effect of oppression. The novel also foregrounds being a place of traumatic experiences and resistance, emphasizing (how) black motherhood gendered experiences are overlapping with the historical and racialized oppression (Gates 78). Beloved plays a role in multidisciplinary innovation through the connection of literature analysis and historical restoration, psychological insight, and sociology.

GENDERED CONSCIOUSNESS AND WAR TRAUMA IN MRS DALLOWAY.

Mrs Dalloway by Virginia Woolf is the story of the psychological effects of World

War 1 by the veteran Septimus Warren Smith, whose adventures illustrate post-traumatic stress disorder. Woolf's stream-of-consciousness technique denotes the discontinuous and invasive quality of trauma (Bradshaw 45).

The inner conflict of Clarissa Dalloway is opposed to the open one of Septimus' suffering and emphasizes the role of gender in traumatizing experiences. Woolf critiques institutional authority, such as medical professionals who do not analyse Septimus, and offer interdisciplinary knowledge on sociology and mental health studies.

The Handmaid Tale is a dystopian novel that explores the themes of Surveillance and Gendered Oppression.

The Handmaid book is a dystopian novel by Margaret Atwood, where women are depicted as having been deprived of their rights reproductive freedom is absolutely dominated. The story of Offred is traumatized by disjointed memory and identity dislocation (Atwood 56). Atwood criticizes institutional inaction in regard to lived suffering but does not have anything to offer clues to legal research, politics and feminism. The text illustrates the ability of literature to educate the social and policy discourse, to depict its interdisciplinary applicability.

Narrative Form as Methodological New way of doing things.

The literary devices include non-linear chronology, interior monologue and the polyvocal narrations are not merely aesthetic devices, they are the ways of modelling how complex things are. It is possible to study psychological and social phenomena. Literature provides an unconventional way of describing trauma and gendered experiences, providing views which are usually not feasible through empirical research.

Trauma and Collective Memory as Gendered.

By oppressing voices of theirs, Morrison, Woolf, and Atwood all foreshadow voices that were marginalized historical, social or political systems. Through the showing of personal and communal trauma, these writings are connected with literary study and cultural memory, narrative therapy, and

intersectional analyses. Literature gives the silent witness, helping to make people well and socially aware.

CONCLUSION

English literature has proven its ability to make multidisciplinary studies by portraying gendered trauma and disturbing the dominant narratives. Through Literature paradigms are *Beloved*, *Mrs Dalloway*, and *The Handmaid*, psychological processes, social criticism and historical memory. It operates as a knowledge web, which encourages cross-disciplinary innovations and enriches the way we know our life.

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