



Available online at [www.jlls.org](http://www.jlls.org)

---

## JOURNAL OF LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTIC STUDIES

---

ISSN: 1305-578X

*Journal of Language and Linguistic Studies*, 17(3), 1977-1978; 2021

### Feminist Perspectives In Githa Hariharan's The Thousand Face Of Night

T. Kavitha<sup>a</sup> , Dr. N. Latha<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Ph.D. Research Scholar, Department of English, A.V.V.M Sri Pushpam College (Affiliated to Bharathidasan University, Trichy), Poondi, Tamilnadu, India.

<sup>b</sup> Research supervisor & Assistant Professor, Department of English, A.V.V.M Sri Pushpam College (Affiliated to Bharathidasan University, Trichy), Poondi, Tamilnadu, India.

#### APA Citation:

Kavitha, T., & Latha, N. (2021). Feminist Perspectives in Githa Hariharan's The Thousand Face of Night, *Journal of Language and Linguistic Studies*, 17(3), 1977-1978

Submission Date:08/10/2021

Acceptance Date:22/12/2021

---

#### Abstract

Literature is a Vehicle of ideas and Views. It helps the writers to encompass several genres to present the hidden meaning of life in women issues have been taken in that order by many of the creators of Githa Hariharan is one among cherished writers. She is afore-front modern English writer who has established herself in the annuals of literature as a feminist writer. Feminism is a serious endeavor in search of women human rights. she is a human is who believes in liberty, equality and social justice. Githa Hariharan first novel The Thousand Faces of Night (1992) highlights the survival strategies of women belongs to three different generations. Hariharan has created a new breed of woman Protagonists who are neither loyal, committed traditionalists nor ultra-modern, but life-like. Such women have rediscovered, and redefined their identity as new women.

**Keywords:** *feminism, political, economic, tradition and modernity.*

---

#### 1. Introduction

Feminism is a range of Political movements, ideologies and social movements that share a common goal: to define, establish and achieve .Political, economic, Personal and Social rights for women. This includes seeking to establish equal opportunities for women in education and employment. Feminist movements have campaigned and continue to campaign for women's Rights including the right to vote, to hold Public office, to work, to earn fair wages or equal pays to own property, to receive education, to enter contracts, to have equal rights within marriage. Feminists have also worked to protect women and girls from rape, sexual harassment, and domestic violence. Githa Hariharan is an Indian author and editor based in New delhi. She was born in Coimbatore and grew up in manila. Her major contribution lies in the form of her novel entitled The Thousand Faces of Night Published in 1992.It was really a turning point in feminist literature And she bagged Commonwealth Award for her pain staking novel.

Dr. Padmini and S.K. Sudha have rightly observed that:

“in the thousand faces of night Githa Hariharan sensitively portrays the conditions of the Indian women caught between tradition and modernity. She diligently captures their split consciousness as a result of which we find thorough a set of representative characters, both their

submissiveness and their struggle for identity (Padmini and S.K.Sudha, 126)”

The *Thousand Faces of Night* is centered on devi, who is concerned with the struggle of three women of three consecutive generations who struggle for their survival, freedom and individuality. It brings out the struggle of new woman in a male dominated society for the sake of protecting her identity. The Novel is a mixture of facts and fantasies telling about love and death, men and women Passion and loneliness.

Devi's marriage in *The Thousand Faces of Night* is a marriage arranged and fulfilled by her mother. Devi refuses an offer of marriage from her African-American friend Dan because of her ambivalence towards American culture. Devi and Dan's relationship shapes, its logical culmination would be marriage. In fact, close to their graduation time. Dan does propose to Devi, yet when the question is put to her, she is shocked. Dan attributes her reluctance to the fear of taking risk. He is much disappointed. Her reluctance is however due to the fact that both Dan and she are very different in terms of their beliefs, culture and traditions. At one point, when Devi goes to meet Dan's family, she decides to shed her inhibitions, the burden of Indians. But she is unable to do so. Informing a bond of friendship both make efforts to bridge these differences would always prevent them from being united. She confesses that her education and stay in America have instilled a sense of liberation in her. She turns to men either for security or to affirm her value. She exorcizes Dan and uses him as a shield in the white claustrophobia of an all-American campus. She knows that her enjoyment with Dan is with the idea of that there cannot be oneness with him. She is shocked when Dan proposes to her marriage. Devi indulgence in smoking hashish or establishing intimacy with Dan can partially be seen as a revolt against her mother who instructs her to make friends belonging only to good Brahmin families.

Devi returns to India for the sake of her widowed mother. Sita leads Devi to the altar of marriage. She agrees to a negotiated marriage like a good Indian girl. Devi's broad-mindedness, education and experiences challenge so many beliefs, but she sheds her desires to fulfill her mother's desire and to uphold the family honour. Sita allows Devi just enough time to become an adept at wearing the right smile and proper jewels and saree. Devi looks from that vantage point and decides she could cope with this problem. In fact, she admires Mahesh and admits his honesty and says he needs a woman who will be a wife and mother. But later, she realizes that she cannot cope with his attitude towards marriage and her loneliness and dominant mental attitude of India.

## 2. Conclusion

By leaving Mahesh she emerges as an emancipated woman. After that she feels like a fugitive escaping from captivity until self-actualization dawns upon her, when she finally unites with her mother. Hariharan seems to attribute Mahesh's arrogance to the embedded conceptions about a woman's role in Indian male-psyche and women's powerlessness. All the three women in the novel attempt their best to embrace the strong oppositions and create a space for their own lives. Hariharan created a new breed of women protagonists, who are neither loyal, committed, traditionalist, nor ultra-modern, but lifelike. Such women have discovered and redefined their identity as new women.

## References

- Hariharan, Githa (1992). *The Thousand Faces of Night*, New Delhi. Penguin Books printed.  
Kundu, R. "Githa Hariharan Intertext, Metafiction and her Story" *Post-Independence Indian English Fiction*. New DELHI. Atlantic Publishers and Distributors, 2001.