



## **Psychic Transformation In Virginia Woolf's "A Room Of One's Own"**

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### **Abstract**

This paper deals with the psychic transformation in Virginia Woolf's "A Room Of One's Own". Virginia's works deals with equality, gender roles, feministic perspectives such as self identity, space in literature, writers contributions, freedom of liberty in thought, work and action. The psychic transformation dealt in this paper is about her difficulties that she faced as a women writer and depicts the role of women in literature. Women writers have made the most significant contribution in the field of fiction and it is undoubtedly Virginia's works made the commencement for feminist writers. This paper deals with the inner intuitive feel that elevates women writers towards better understanding of life, their position and literature. Moreover it aims to present pearls and pitfall of a women writer taking in to consideration the psychic transformation based on consciousness of reality.

**Keywords:** *intuitive, psyche, feministic perspective, pitfall pearls, consciousness.*

## **1. Introduction**

Feminism is the talk of the hour; it is concerned with marginalization of women. Simon De Behavior puts it as,

"One is not born, but rather becomes a woman.....it is civilization as a whole that produces this creature..... which is described as feminine."

Women is seen like an object, a thing for amusement and to do day-to-day chores like cleaning, cooking washing, care taking, nursing, gardening, shopping etc. According to David Convey,

"It is true that the number of working women is less: but the reason for that is not the men dominance. This is based on physical and mental structure between sexes"  
Feminism asserts the basic humanness of women

Virginia Woolf's "A Room Of One's Own" is accepted as one of the basic beginning text of feminism. Here we are going to analyze the psychic transformation that leads women to empower in all walks of life. They don't have their own room for their literary works and likely to be often interrupted as they don't have a personal space to write and express their feeling. Writing novels seems to be a good

form of emotional expression in literature, where they can write without anxiety, fear, stress, etc. She views the problems of the women writers with intense concern.

## **2. Art of high quality**

Virginia Woolf's "A Room Of One's Own" is an extended essay based on Virginia Woolf's lectures at women's college at Cambridge University in 1928. She asks a significant question of whether or not a woman could produce art of high quality just like Shakespeare has done. Many critics and writers considered Virginia Woolf's "A Room Of One's Own" as Woolf's 'Cultural Odyssey' in which she attains her landmark of liberation through psychic transformation. She insisted that women can write not only novels, but also they can create history, science, biography; literary works etc that are accessible to them. The women writers might read not what the male found interesting but what they themselves perceived as the central concern of living.

The foregoing analysis shows that Virginia as an feminist novelist par excellence who has portrayed with tremendous power the struggle for literary contribution that survives in an endocentric world which offers no easy outs to women. Her bridging of the gulf between realism and reality is significant. The overall implication of the "A Room Of One's Own" is towards liberation by women and of women against all sorts of subjugation and suppression.

Virginia Woolf's "A Room Of One's Own" rightly highlights the plight of the so called educated women still bound firmly by the shackles of tradition and male domination. This is a highly sensible humanistic approach and found in almost all her works.

## **3. Virginia challenges the common assumption of men**

Virginia challenges the common assumptions of men that women are incapable of excelling in literary field. She admires Jane Austen, Aphra Ben and Bronte sisters who have contributed to the genre of novels. She portrays the real discrimination experienced by women with writing skill to overcome the prejudice against women. She emphasizes that women contributors to literature should develop their skill, creativity and ability in finding a place of their own. Thereby as a writer, she wants to create the real space for women in literary world against all preconceived notions of male writers.

## **4. Theory of space**

Virginia uses the word 'room' synonymous with women's independence, privacy, leisure and liberty. Women need financial stability and space for their personal interest, career advancement to put forth their talent and creativity.

"Intellectual freedom depends upon material things, poetry depends upon intellectual freedom. And women have always been poor, not for two hundred years merely, but from the beginning of time"

The financial discrepancy between men and women is because women remain second place to their counterparts at the Woolf's time of writing. The theory of space for women writers were not adequate compared to male writers. This psychic transformation from the secondary position to the equality position can bring a far-reaching change paving way to more number of women writers in future.

## **5. Feminine psyche**

Virginia analyses the life of Shakespeare sister Judith, to find out why she did not attain that much popularity as her brother Shakespeare. Judith although gifted like her brother, Judith was not allowed to go to school.

Shakespeare went to London to make fortune in the arena of theatre. He went to grammar school to learn about Ovid, Virgil, Horace etc, whereas Judith was not allowed to go to school and was betrothed to the son of a wool stapler. She went to London begging for a chance to act. Nick Greene, an actor-manager took pity on her and finally exploited her, resulting in suicide. Virginia uses Judith as a symbol of silenced feminine creativity, probing in the feminine psyche of women writers and their transformation. Virginia points out that Judith still lives in the hearts of all women who are longing for freedom.

## 6. Conclusion

Virginia Woolf's "A Room Of One's Own" is a fine example of the female writers attempt to recapture their stolen identity through writing. This work is a land mark of twentieth century feminist thought. Virginia Woolf concludes her essay on a triumphant note that voiced the emergence of the modern women by evoking the image of Judith;

"If we face the fact that there is no arm to cling to ....that we go alone...Shakespeare sister can be born, drawing her life from the lives of those who were her forerunners....the world must be prepared for... (but) she would come if we worked for her, and that so to work, even in poverty and obscurity, is worthwhile."

This concluding note undoubtedly shows the psychic transformations that the women writers should undergo to raise and to outshine in the field of literature. Let me conclude this paper with this little poem of mine,

*Virginia Woolf's cultural odyssey  
Vibrant female creative energy  
Though suppressed through the centuries  
Time to create masterpiece memories  
Literary effort fashioned synergies  
Letting women to intellectual liberty  
Adding wings to emotional creativity  
Feminine self-assurance at their credibility  
Futuristic females' enjoy legendary entity  
Finally penning my words in tranquility  
For the future is full of morality  
Filling with more and more of integrity*

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