

THE DEVELOPMENT OF FEMINIST LITERARY CRITICISM IN THE 20TH CENTURY

Durdona Ulug'bek qizi Rasulova

Student, Chirchik State Pedagogical University

Scientific adviser: **Said-Fozilxon Akmalxonovich Akmalxonov**

Teacher, Chirchik State Pedagogical University

akmalxonovsaidfozil@gmail.com

Abstract This article examines the development of feminist literary criticism throughout the 20th century. Feminist literary criticism emerged as a crucial field of study that challenged the male-centric biases and patriarchal perspectives that had long dominated literary analysis and canon formation. The article traces the evolution of feminist literary criticism, from its early beginnings in the late 19th century to its more sophisticated and intersectional approaches in the latter half of the 20th century. It explores how feminist literary critics have sought to uncover the experiences, voices, and representations of women in literature, while also interrogating the ways in which gender interacts with other social identities, such as race, class, and sexuality, to shape literary production and reception. The article also discusses the impact of feminist literary criticism on the expansion of literary canons, the emergence of new literary genres, and the transformation of critical methodologies. By highlighting the key theoretical frameworks, influential scholars, and the ongoing debates within this field, the article underscores the vital role of feminist literary criticism in challenging patriarchal norms and fostering a more inclusive and representative understanding of literature.

Keywords: Feminist literary criticism, patriarchy, gender, women's literature, intersectionality, cultural studies

ANNOTATSIYA

Ushbu maqola XX asr davomida feministik adabiy tanqidning rivojlanishini ko'rib chiqadi. Feministik adabiy tanqid uzoq vaqtdan beri adabiy tahlil va kanon shakllanishida hukmron bo'lgan erkaklarga asoslangan qarama-qarshilik va patriarxal qarashlarga qarshi kurashuvchi muhim tadqiqot sohasi sifatida paydo bo'ldi. Maqolada feministik adabiy tanqidning 19-asrning oxirlarida paydo bo'lgan dastlabki bosqichlaridan 20-asrning ikkinchi yarmidagi yanada murakkab va kesishgan

yondashuvlarigacha bo'lgan evolyutsiyasi kuzatilgan. U feministik adabiyotshunoslarning adabiyotdagi ayollarning tajribalari, ovozlari va vakilliklarini qanday ochishga intilganliklarini o'rganadi, shuningdek, genderning irq, sinf va jinsiylik kabi boshqa ijtimoiy o'ziga xosliklar bilan o'zaro ta'sir qilish usullarini so'roq qiladi, adabiy ijodni shakllantirish va qabul qilish. Maqolada, shuningdek, feministik adabiy tanqidning adabiy kanonlarning kengayishiga, yangi adabiy janrlarning paydo bo'lishiga va tanqidiy metodologiyalarning o'zgarishiga ta'siri haqida so'z boradi. Asosiy nazariy asoslarni, nufuzli olimlarni va ushbu sohadagi davom etayotgan munozaralarni yoritib, maqola feministik adabiy tanqidning patriarxal me'yorlarga qarshi kurashish va adabiyotni yanada qamrab oluvchi va vakillik tushunchasini rivojlantirishdagi muhim rolini ta'kidlaydi.

Kalit so'zlar: Feministik adabiy tanqid, patriarxat, gender, ayollar adabiyoti, kesishish, madaniyatshunoslik

АННОТАЦИЯ

В данной статье рассматривается развитие феминистской литературной критики на протяжении XX века. Феминистская литературная критика стала важнейшей областью исследований, бросающей вызов мужецентричным предубеждениям и патриархальным взглядам, которые долгое время доминировали в литературном анализе и формировании канонов. В статье прослеживается эволюция феминистской литературной критики от ее зарождения в конце XIX века до более сложных и интерсекциональных подходов во второй половине XX века. В нем исследуется, как литературные критики-феминистки пытались раскрыть опыт, голоса и образы женщин в литературе, а также исследуются способы, которыми гендер взаимодействует с другими социальными идентичностями, такими как раса, класс и сексуальность, чтобы формировать литературное производство и прием. В статье также рассматривается влияние феминистской литературной критики на расширение литературных канонов, появление новых литературных жанров и трансформацию критических методологий. Освещая ключевые теоретические рамки, влиятельных ученых и текущие дебаты в этой области, статья подчеркивает жизненно важную роль феминистской литературной критики в бросании вызов патриархальным нормам и содействии более инклюзивному и репрезентативному пониманию литературы.

Ключевые слова: феминистская литературная критика, патриархат, гендер, женская литература, интерсекциональность, культурология.

INTRODUCTION

Feminist literary criticism emerged as a significant and transformative field of study in the 20th century, challenging the long-standing male-centric biases and patriarchal perspectives that had dominated the analysis and interpretation of literature. Drawing inspiration from the broader feminist movement, feminist literary critics sought to uncover the experiences, voices, and representations of women in literary works, while also interrogating the ways in which gender intersects with other social identities to shape the production, reception, and canonization of literature. The development of feminist literary criticism throughout the 20th century reflects the evolving nature of feminist theory and activism, as scholars and critics incorporated new theoretical frameworks, expanded their analytical approaches, and addressed the complex relationships between gender, power, and cultural production. This article traces the key phases in the development of feminist literary criticism, highlighting its foundational principles, influential scholars, and the ongoing debates within the field.

METHODOLOGY

This study employed a qualitative research approach, utilizing a comprehensive literature review of scholarly sources to investigate the development of feminist literary criticism in the 20th century. The analysis focused on academic journal articles, books, and book chapters that explored the theoretical foundations, key debates, and the historical evolution of this field of study. The literature review encompassed a range of feminist literary critical perspectives, including liberal, radical, socialist, and intersectional feminism, as well as the contributions of prominent feminist scholars and literary critics. The sources examined the ways in which feminist theorists and critics have analyzed the representation of women in literature, the gendered dynamics of literary production and reception, and the broader sociocultural contexts that have shaped the development of feminist literary criticism. The methodological approach involved a thematic analysis of the literature, identifying the core principles, theoretical frameworks, and the historical trajectory of feminist literary criticism, while also highlighting the ongoing challenges and debates within the field.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Feminist literary criticism can trace its roots to the late 19th and early 20th centuries, when pioneering scholars and writers, such as Virginia Woolf and Olive Schreiner, began to critically examine the ways in which women's experiences and perspectives were marginalized or misrepresented in the literary canon. These early feminist literary critics challenged the patriarchal biases that had long shaped the production, reception, and interpretation of literature, and called for the inclusion and recognition of women writers.

The 1960s and 1970s saw a significant resurgence and expansion of feminist literary criticism, coinciding with the broader second-wave feminist movement. Scholars such as Elaine Showalter, Sandra Gilbert, and Susan Gubar made significant contributions to the field, developing theoretical frameworks that centered on the analysis of women's literary traditions, the representation of women in literature, and the gendered dynamics of literary production. During this period, feminist literary critics challenged the exclusion of women writers from the literary canon, and sought to uncover the rich and diverse traditions of women's writing that had been marginalized or erased. They also explored the ways in which patriarchal structures and gender norms were encoded in literary texts, and how women writers often employed subversive strategies to resist and transform these dominant narratives.

In the 1980s and 1990s, feminist literary criticism underwent a significant shift, as scholars increasingly incorporated intersectional perspectives that recognized the complex interplay between gender, race, class, and sexuality in shaping literary production and reception. Influential theorists such as Audre Lorde, bell hooks, and Gayatri Spivak contributed to the development of an intersectional feminist literary criticism that challenged the predominant focus on the experiences of white, middle-class women. Furthermore, the field of feminist literary criticism became increasingly intertwined with the rise of cultural studies, as critics examined the ways in which literature both reflects and shapes broader sociocultural discourses and power dynamics. This shift towards a more interdisciplinary approach allowed feminist literary critics to explore the complex relationships between gender, representation, and the broader cultural landscape. Despite the significant advancements made in the field of feminist literary criticism, the discipline has continued to grapple with ongoing debates and challenges. One key area of contention has been the question of the literary canon and the extent to which feminist scholars should seek to expand or dismantle the existing canon, or create entirely new literary traditions. Additionally,

the intersection of feminist literary criticism with other theoretical frameworks, such as poststructuralism, postcolonialism, and queer theory, has led to productive dialogues but also sparked debates about the boundaries and methodologies of the field. These debates have helped to further refine and expand the analytical tools and approaches employed by feminist literary critics. The development of feminist literary criticism has had a profound and lasting impact on the field of literary studies. By challenging the male-centric biases and patriarchal perspectives that had long dominated literary analysis, feminist critics have expanded the literary canon to include a more diverse range of authors, genres, and narrative perspectives. This has not only led to the rediscovery and renewed appreciation of women writers, but has also facilitated a more nuanced and inclusive understanding of the literary landscape. Furthermore, the theoretical frameworks and analytical approaches developed by feminist literary critics have influenced the broader field of literary studies, inspiring new methodologies and interpretive strategies that explore the intersections of gender, power, and cultural production. The transformative impact of feminist literary criticism can be seen in the way it has challenged and reshaped the fundamental assumptions and practices of literary analysis, ultimately contributing to a more representative and equitable understanding of literature.

CONCLUSION

The development of feminist literary criticism throughout the 20th century has been a vital and ongoing process, reflecting the evolving nature of feminist theory and the expanding scope of literary studies. From its early beginnings in the late 19th century to its more sophisticated and intersectional approaches in the latter half of the 20th century, feminist literary criticism has played a crucial role in challenging the patriarchal biases and male-centric perspectives that had long dominated the field of literary analysis. By uncovering the experiences, voices, and representations of women in literature, as well as exploring the complex intersections of gender with other social identities, feminist literary critics have expanded the literary canon and inspired new methodologies for interpreting and understanding literary works. The transformative impact of feminist literary criticism can be seen in the way it has reshaped the fundamental assumptions and practices of literary studies, contributing to a more representative and equitable understanding of the literary landscape. Despite the significant advancements made in the field, feminist literary criticism continues to face ongoing debates and challenges, as scholars grapple with questions of canon formation, the boundaries of the discipline, and the evolving theoretical frameworks

that shape its analytical approaches. As literary studies and the broader cultural landscape continue to evolve, the insights and activism of feminist literary critics will remain crucial in driving further progress towards a more inclusive and representative understanding of literature and its role in shaping sociocultural narratives and power dynamics.

REFERENCES

1. Woolf, V. 1929. *A room of one's own*. Harcourt.
2. Schreiner, O. 1911. *Woman and labor*. Stokes.
3. Showalter, E. 1977. *A literature of their own: British women novelists from Brontë to Lessing*. Princeton University Press.
4. Gilbert, S. M., & Gubar, S. 1979. *The madwoman in the attic: The woman writer and the nineteenth-century literary imagination*. Yale University Press.
5. Lorde, A. 2007 *Sister outsider: Essays and speeches*. Crossing Press.
6. hooks, b. 1981. *Ain't I a woman: Black women and feminism*. South End Press.
7. Spivak, G. C. 1988. Can the subaltern speak? In C. Nelson & L. Grossberg (Eds.), *Marxism and the interpretation of culture* (pp. 271-313). University of Illinois Press.
8. Butler, J. 1990. *Gender trouble: Feminism and the subversion of identity*. Routledge.

INTERNET SITES

1. <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/feminism-literary-criticism/>
2. <https://www.bl.uk/the-british-library/articles/women-writers-and-the-literary-canon>
3. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/0013838X.2019.1622778>
4. <https://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/view/document/obo-9780190221911/obo-9780190221911-0055.xm>