

A Reading of the Adolescent Novel *Hasti* Based on the Approach of Ecofeminism

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Introduction

Eco-criticism is a new approach in literary studies that seeks to bridge the gap between literature and the environment, given the increasing environmental concerns in recent decades. Ecofeminism is also a branch of eco-criticism that seeks to prove the claim that male culture has historically inflicted irreparable damage on women and nature. According to this theory, men are related more to culture and women more to nature. Although this idea is itself strongly opposed by feminists themselves, a historical study of the subject shows that women have always, willingly or unwillingly, more than men, connected with nature which is the main source of human food production because women have played a key role in providing food for the family. On the other hand, in all eras, especially in recent decades when the issue of ecological vulnerability to industrial advances has been addressed, women have taken far more serious steps than men to protect the environment.

Farhad Hassanzadeh's novel "Hasti" is the story of a teenage girl who is forced to leave her hometown with her family in the early days of the war against Iraq. This novel, in addition to being focused on the

effects of war on girls and women, shows that the author's attention is drawn to environmental concerns.

Method and Purpose

The present article, therefore, intends to use the descriptive-analytical method and to focus on the axes mentioned by Janet Henshal, i.e., women's relationship with nature, the relationship between domination of women and domination of nature and finally the role of women in solving ecological problems. the researcher tries to examine the evidence in the text of the novel in order to emphasize the effective position of women in preserving and supporting the environment, as well as the relationship between nature and women.

Discussion

Examining the text of the novel from the perspective of the principles of eco-feminism reveals a lot of instances of the friendly relationship between woman and nature. These include mental images of nature, the palm tree supporting the family against the debris from the bombing, Hasti's compassion for ants, and supplying Sohrab with buffalo milk.

Ecofeminists believe that civilization has a patriarchal nature which gives men the right to assume other components of existence in their service and to consider only their own interests in dealing with phenomena of existence. They believe that men have historically conquered women and nature and have not spared any oppression in the way of exploitation. In the text of the novel, we witness the father's behaviors as a symbol of degenerate patriarchal system, such as his intention to cut down the palm tree and his enmity with the ants in the

yard and using water to harm them. Additionally, there are many examples of discriminatory behavior of this character and other male characters toward women in the story. This rule even applies to Uncle Jamshid, who is portrayed as a popular character and a heroic fighter. This negative view of men in the story is very strange for Hasti who is going through adolescence and the formation of her identity. Among the men in this novel, Hasti's father is the most exemplary character in this regard. Throughout the story, one can see the negative attitude of this character towards women. It is the same negative view that does not respect and conserve nature. Hasti's father treats her inappropriately from the very beginning of the story for no reason. Although some of his boyish behaviors are outside the accepted norms of society, his behavior seems to stem from a mindset rooted in a patriarchal culture. He shows discriminatory and negative behavior not only toward Hasti but also toward grandma and Khale Nasrin and, more generally, all women.

In addition, the negative effects of war as a symbol of male ambition- which has historically caused the greatest harm to women, children and the environment- can be detected in the lives and destinies of the characters. Leaving aside some exceptions, women have historically waged less war. Therefore, it would not be wrong to say that the damage that wars do to women, as well as to natural elements, stems from the consequences of a patriarchal culture. This is also a consensus among feminists, and even activists in liberal feminism seek to challenge the roots of this ideology in order to create equality between men and women. According to statistics compiled from the list of martyrs of the Iran-Iraq war, 6,428 Iranian women were martyred,

most of whom in urban bombings and rocket attacks. In the novel *Hasti*, such things as the destruction of the house, the displacement of the family, the lack of necessary resources for food and cleaning, the pollution of the sky and the sea due to the burning of refineries and oil tankers, are evidence that war harms both nature and women.

On the other hand, according to Ecofeminists, women suffer more from the consequences of natural disasters and environmental damage. It is also important to note that women in most traditional societies have been responsible for providing water and food for the household (just like *Hasti*, who is responsible for providing household water), and that any disruption in natural resources has caused serious problems for this group. As a result, women are more concerned about nature than men, and show more effort to protect it.

Women's protection of nature against the domination of male culture is another issues that is especially reflected in the text of the novel; for example, *Hasti's* mother defends the palm tree against her father's attempt to cut it down; *Hasti* supports the ants damaged by her father; *Hasti* and her grandma guard the flowerpots left in the city; and *Hasti* shows sympathy for the sea and the sky that the war has polluted.

Keywords

Adolescent novel, Ecofeminism, Ecology, *Hasti*

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