

**The Consideration of Elaine Showalter's Quadruple Criticism in  
*Noqreh, Dokhtare Daryaye Kabul*, by Homeira Qaderi**

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(Received: 2th, September, 2016, Accepted: 8th, April, 2017, Date of publication: February, 2019)

This research aimed to consider the feminine language and the special traces of feminism in Qaderi's novel and investigate a) how the form of feminine fiction is reflected in this book,

b) which factors make *Noqreh, Dokhtare Daryaye Kabul* a feminist work, and c) which one of the Showalter's feminist approaches is more frequent in this novel.

The subject of *Woman* and her dominance in literature is one of the important domains which have been of interest to specialists. In the nineteenth century, feminism was seriously presented in the United States and England, and the writers were concentrated on women's ignored rights and their precarious situation in the society.

The main focus of this research was Showalter's quadruple criticism in *Noqreh, dokhtare daryaye Kabul* by Homeira Qaderi, the Afghan writer living in Tehran. She is a PhD holder in Persian Literature. Her works have been nominated for several literal prizes. *Noqreh, Dokhtare Daryaye Kabul* describes the events during the period of 1880 to 1940 in Afghanistan and narrates the catastrophic vicissitudes of seven oppressed women's lives, who are the victims of social dogmatism. *Noqreh* is

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the heroine of this work appropriates a central role among the other people. She births an illegal baby, the result of a lost love. Noqreh awaits her love, Ezmeri, impatiently. She resists, battles and opposes the suppressing forces of the men. It seems that she has an elevated aim and tries to act more audaciously than her friends.

Elaine Showalter is an American literary critic and founder of gynocriticism, which involves three aspects. The first is the examination of female writers and their place in literary history. The second is the consideration of the treatment of female characters in books by both male and female writers. The third is the discovery and exploration of a canon of literature written by women. Gynocriticism seeks to appropriate a female literary tradition.

Showalter's theory intends to analyze a literal text in a quadruple frame:

- 1- Biologic approach: This approach affirms the revelation of women's body and the eventual effects of this revelation on personalization of text accent. Women's body is an essential element that feminizes a text, such as childbirth, period and sexual relations.
- 2- Linguistic approach: It's an analysis that examines the divergences between the feminine and masculine language. Moreover, it is a study of women's personal language, their expressions, leitmotifs, and even their grammatical norms. The woman writer tries to create a language without the violence of masculine language, which do not limit her descriptions, her emotions and her experiences.
- 3- Psychological approach: This approach analyzes women's characters including their reactions in the face of problems, their comportment in a love situation, their motherhood and self-sacrifice in aid of their children.
- 4- Cultural approach: This frame considers the social points and the influence of society on the women's activities and their affairs.

Through this quadruple analysis, special elements that implies the femininity of language and theme in Qaderi's novel are considered. However, the writer does not provide an exaggerated account of biologic aspects, nor does she describe the corporal and erotic subjects in detail. Concerning the psychological approach, Qaderi tries to present the women's love, their expectation, their missed dreams and their defeat in their relationships with their favorite men. The cultural approach

challenges the patriarchal society of Afghanistan and the prohibition of women's education. The speciality of Qaderi's language is revealed in vocabulary and symbolism. For example, 'cucko' which used frequently is the symbol of hope.

The application of special feminine expressions, the suspension of some elements, a cordial maternal language and the short phrases are the most prominent characteristics which present this work as a remarkable feminist novel. One of the remarkable stylistic features of Qaderi's language is her frequent use of three points of suspense. This type of writing belongs to the feminine language, because it is an effective way for explaining some problematic subjects that women are not permitted to reveal. The deletion and interruption of a sentence in this novel are not so frequent, but sometimes, commemoration of some distressing memories breed a situation like this in the text. It seems that the women hide their dreams and their desires. Generally, in this novel, cultural and psychological aspects are discussed more frequently.

On the whole, *Noqreh, dokhtare daryaye Kabul* reveals a feminine structure and its indices:

- 1- Detailed description: The women pay more attention to the simple objects than the men; they describe even the small stains on clothes or seasoning of food.
- 2- Limited space: Most of events in this novel happen in the royal castle and kitchen. So, the women are ignored and unaware of what is out of kitchen. Life passes in a stagnant passive situation. On the other hand, the grave role of maternity and the home activities keep the women away from the social, cultural and generally up-to-date subjects of the society. Moreover, they are not permitted to work, so they have a close and limited universe for their descriptions.
- 3- Reverie: The stories, narrated by women, happen usually in an atmosphere full of dreams by which they try to reach their inaccessible wishes. Therefore, they sometimes introduce the elements of magic realism to enrich their story.
- 4- Narrator and narration: The narration of this novel is characterized with an important feature; it includes many flashbacks and the reader is suspended between the present and the past. Abbreviation is another characteristic; Qaderi explains the fate of each person in a short

paragraph. She narrates her story simply and she does not extend the events, which is common in classic novels.

In the final pages of the novel, it is revealed that the story is narrated by Eqlima, Noqreh's daughter, three months after her death. The events of *Noqreh, dokhtare daryaye Kabul* happen over a fifteen-year period.

**Keywords:** *Noqreh Dokhtare Daryayae Cabol*, Ellen Showalter, Biological Aspect, Cultural Aspect, Psychological Aspect, Linguistic Aspect.