



Theory of feminism in The Complete Tales of Ketzia Goldby Kate Bernheimer.

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Abstract

Feminism is a broader concept in modern society. This term indicates a sense of equality and equity in society for women. In every aspect, social, political, economic, and all other sections the want for equality and equity on part of women is defined as feminism. In other terms, this can be mentioned as liberal feminism which focuses on the equal rights of women. Apart from this, freedom on the part of women is focused on, such as freedom to live, freedom of speech, religion, and so on. Primarily both feminism and liberal feminism highlight the aspect that women are not only the machine for childcare and social welfare. Hence this theory enlightens reactions towards gender equality, empowerment, and individual liberty.

In present times the postmodernism and feminism are combined with each other. According to principles of the Western culture, intellectuality and academic culture regarding democracy are combined to present a beautiful mixture of modernity and meta-narrative concepts of western culture. In the literature of present times, the theme of feminism is presented quite vividly. There are three main purposes of discussing this theory. At first, it highlights and discusses various problems and issues faced by women in society as well as in families. Next, it focuses on power differentials, between women and men, to understand this matter. The third aspect is to find solutions to different issues regarding feminism.

Kate Bernheimer the famous American writer presented this theme of feminism in her works. This writer presented various aspects of feminism in her works. They are presented in the social context, position of women, sense of freedom as well as liberty (though used in a negative aspect), and most importantly, the wish and desire to be free from patriarchal negative aspects which made their lives hell. Apart from that the lives of girl children along with their spoiled childhood, due to rape and any other negative cruel aspect of patriarchal society. Kate Bernheimer uses different characters in her fairy tales from human and animal world in her fairy tales. However, a deep look and analysis of her works, highlight this theory and theme of feminism.

Key Words- Use offeminism, The Complete Tales of Ketzia Gold, Kate Bernheimer, fairy tales, novel trilogy etc.

Introduction

Kate Bernheimer's first fictional novel *The Complete Tales of Ketzia Gold* was published in 2001. This focuses and enlightens the theme of feminism through the life of Ketzia Gold, is rude awakening of entering into girlhood. This novel focuses on those stigmas in which women's desires, fantasy, and wishes are neglected by male members in patriarchal society. It has been observed that this story presents the third wave of feminism which focuses on the feminist's needs regarding political aims, or micropolitics. Ketzia Gold seemed to be provided some power, however, which she could not use.

At some point Adam got it in his head that I was the smartest girl in the class and that the smartest boy should of course marry the smartest girl. I tried to tell him no-not that I wouldn't marry him but that I wasn't smart. This is something I know, I told him, you must believe me. But he would not. He insisted on continuing to date. He brought me over to his parents' house for dinner one night after the movies, the spring of his college graduation. As usual, Mr Brown asked me to go down to the basement to get another two bottles of wine. He knew how much I loved to look at those walls all lined with bottles and bottles and more bottles, reflecting the moonlight that came through casement windows. I went down to the cellar and felt along the wall for a string which when pulled clicked on an electric blue bulb. Mrs Brown hated the blue light. Mr Brown, whose wine cellar it was, said the blue made the cellar more exotic (Ketzia Gold, 25).

In this novel *The Complete Tales of Ketzia Golda* theme of "Bluebeard" is shown, as Ketzia's curiosity of her husband's treasures

is evident here. Apart from that sexual abuse in accordance with want of sexual freedom is also evident. The way Ketzia was tortured mentally and physically is drawn in this novel, as a part of the brutality of the patriarchal society. Female nature of curiosity is presented side by side here. On the other hand, a sense of sin is also drawn in the same way that is when a female person is not obeying her guardians, especially male members of her family, also comes into category of sin and if a woman does not adhere to rules of male society punishment is castable. In this novel also Ketzia was tortured by her husband when she disobeys him.

At times we were so very close. Once, Adam got his hair cut after having grown it past his shoulders. "Look how well I've shaved," he said. "I don't know how I did it!" "But you haven't shaved," I said. "You still have stubble from the weekend. You've only cut your hair." "Don't be disagreeable, Ketzia," Adam answered. "I shaved!" "No. It's simply a haircut." Adam touched my shoulder and leaned his forehead onto my own. "Shaving's hard," he said. "Say you like my haircut. Please?" Later, Adam was in the shower and I was on the toilet. "Say it's shaved, or I'll drown you." "Do whatever you find necessary," I answered. "I still say it's a haircut." Adam's arm came from behind the shower curtain and dragged me under water. I had on all my clothes, though my underwear was around my ankles. He held me by the shoulders. "Say it's shaved!" I couldn't speak because of the water (Ketzia Gold, 34).

The contribution of twenty-eight female authors to express their experiences through fairy tales where the theory of feminism is viewed through myriad prism. Female authors have shared their experiences in life

through many characters. In their writing style girlhood and womanhood have been evaluated from different angles. It can be said that their retelling or writing different versions of fairy tales in *Mirror Mirror on the Wall: Women Writers Explore their Favorite Fairy Tale* in the most enduring form of literature, their plots retold, and characters reimaged for centuries. It is an elegant and thought-provoking collection where twenty-eight leading women writers discuss how their societies helped and shaped their imagination, their craft and our culture. In poetic narratives, personal histories, and penetrating commentary. The assembled authors bare their soul and challenge received wisdom. Eclectic and wide ranging, *Mirror Mirror on The Wall* is essential reading for anyone who has ever been bewitched by the strange and fanciful realm of fairy tales.

Kate Bernheimer has shown a feminist perspective in most of her writings. Her application of this theory in fairy tales has made stories true to the world. Though fairy tales are mostly famous for children, Kate has broken the myth and introduced a new perspective through applying various theories in her story. Talking about *My Mother She Killed Me, My Father He Ate Me: Forty New Fairy Tales*, it has a bunch of tales, one of which is *The White Book*. This tale contains a household story of a husband and wife. In this story, the wife is found suppressive by her husband. The wife shows her unconditional love for her husband, on the other hand, her husband can take her life to fulfil his desire. Through this storyline, Kate has presented a feminist approach, where the girl has represented numerous females in this society who carry forward their toxic marriage relationship. On the other hand, the husband has represented the picture of a patriarchal society where

females are dominated in every step of their lives. Kate has adopted this theory from contemporary times. This book was published in 2010, in the modern time of English literature. This story elaborates on the furious condition of the girl, which was very common in this brutal society. In the end, Kate brings a realisation of existence and importance of life within the lead female character, which is a characteristic of feminism.

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