



# Patriarchal Ideology as Gender Discrimination: A Feminist Study of Jane Eyre

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The aim of the study is to examine how the attitudes, dialogues, motivations and social position of the heroine disputes with the patriarchal hegemony of the male characters, patriarchal structure and truths of early Victorian era in Jane Eyre. The purpose of the paper is to show how the four major male characters are the representative of early Victorian patriarchal system; particularly the study examines through heroine perspective, patriarchal ideologies and social gender norms which were oppressive to women. The research came to the conclusion that patriarchal supremacy of the male members of the society and family society has been accepted as an ideology; and this ideology has been internalized and naturalized by using certain institutions like religion, customs and traditions. Consequently, study finds patriarchy, religion, patriarchal laws, religious laws; patriarchal institutions and religious institutions as the major factors responsible for women's discrimination.

**Key words:** *Patriarchal Ideology, Gender Discrimination, Feminism, Jane Eyre*

## Introduction

During Victorian age men and women were divided into two main sphere and they were assigned different social roles. As men were considered logical, aggressive, independent they believed they should work in the public sphere. On the other hand women were regarded passive, emotional, submissive, and dependent because of these feminine qualities women were restricted to private sphere (Kent, 5). These socially constructed dichotomies were created



by men for self interest to exploit women under the umbrella of patriarchy. Religious prejudice, social prejudice, class difference, racial difference, and colonialism are all but few of the problems addressed; but among all the most dominant is gender disparity. Women's were living in a misogynistic men-dominated, men-centered world. The idea of gender division or a binary difference between masculinity and femininity, man and woman is reinforced by various opposing categories including: spiritual and material, intellectual and physical, cultural and natural, all of which have been colored by gender philosophies. These patriarchal ideologies are regarded as the major forces responsible for women's oppression. In comparison to men, women were deprived of many rights awarded to men and had consequently a very inferior status in society. Women were living in male dominance misogynistic world; they neither had economic independence nor legal rights. In fact, this was the age characterized by gender inequality, women sufferings, powerlessness, economic dependence, social insecurity, and weakness under male dominated patriarchal society. It offered to them limited choices of all life's aspects, in which woman had few - social, educational, and political - rights, such as the right to develop, own property, financial independence, and divorce. This proposed study focused only on one novel of Charlotte Bronte's Jane Eyre and deeply analyzed patriarchal domination from feminist perspective. The study found out patriarchal traits of four major male characters used for gender discrimination in Jane Eyre and analyzed it from feminist point of view.

### **Background of the Study**

The early Victorian (1837-1901) society of Britain lasted for sixty years was on the border of unprecedented social changes. The rapid expansion of colonialism across the world gradually transformed Britain from an agricultural country to highly industrial state which eventually led to the largest empire the world. These two major factors, colonization and industrialization revolutionized many other domains, especially feminist movement gave them some rights. During world war second millions people died and caused transformation of some powers from male to female. For example, before Married Women's Property Act in 1882, married women had no legal right of possessing property, everything belonged to her husband; even woman was herself a possession. After Married Women's Act women acquired the legal right of owning property. Similarly before 1884, royal class and landlords had granted the right of vote and after 1884 sixty percent of the British male population franchised. This was age when whole Europe was passing through revolutionary changes particularly the emergence of human rights. The French Revolution was a ray of hope for addressing all the flaws that recently taken place. Thus there were women voiced for social and political rights. After World War 11 and subsequent death of male population, the whole Europe was passing through serious changes, England instead making stronger and better in case of gender roles. Acquiring majority and expanding their role by female population strived for gender parity. However, England wished to re-establish the gender norms, by preferring male over female. Men and women's separate gender roles became more fixed than before. The laws controlling marriage and divorce were

only reformed in 1858 with the Matrimonial Causes Act. Once a woman would be married, she would have lost control over her property and her body as she herself was considered to be the property of her husband. Until this and up to great degree thereafter, once a woman divorced, she would lose all of her children, property as well as any income she might make after divorced. During the Bronte age, when she was writing a novel rights of equality, possessing property were not recognized in the eyes of the law (Bronte, 420).

### Gender Discrimination

Gender is the name of behaviors and manners, rights and duties, tasks and responsibilities socially determined for women and men that perceived to be true. Gender also study people rights and duties, constraints and opportunities and the different roles they play within a society. The difference between sex and gender is that former is biological difference between men and women and later sociological assigned role played by men and women. Gender Discrimination can be defined as “differences between males and females that are socially constructed, changeable over time and have wide variations within and between cultures” (Mtabalike ).

Therefore gender discrimination can be as any distinction or restriction between men and women on the basis of socially constructed gender roles of behaviors, tasks and responsibilities. Gender discrimination is the practice of favoring one gender and disadvantaging other gender. The most common examples of gender discrimination can be found in social, economical, religious and political spheres of life, when male applicants are given special preference over female applicants. Moreover, avoiding or denying someone an opportunity because of their race, color, ethnicity, nationality, religious bias and more particularly on the basis of sex.

Gender discrimination has become social abuse now days and to tackle the problem one has to dethrone patriarchy and measures must be taken to build a gender balanced society. Awareness must be spread among public masses especially among women folks in order to stop cruel practice of gender discrimination. Gender discrimination is a monster that should have no place in contemporary sensibility.

### Problem Statement

This study is designed to describe and analyze how the attitudes, dialogues, motivations and social position of a heroine disputes with the patriarchal hegemony of the male characters, patriarchal structure and ‘truths’ of early Victorian era in Jane Eyre.

### Research Objectives

1. To explore patriarchal traits used for gender inequality and gender discrimination in Jane Eyre.



2. To examine the representation of principal male characters in early Victorian era as depicted in the novel.
3. To explore the attitude of the heroine towards hegemonic orders of early Victorian era in Jane Eyre.

### **Research Questions**

1. How are the patriarchal traits used for gender inequality and gender discrimination in Jane Eyre?
2. How do the principal male characters in the novel represent the early Victorian patriarchal system?
3. How is the attitude of the heroine subversive to the hegemonic orders of early Victorian era in Jane Eyre?

### **Significance of the Study:**

The current study may help the reader to develop public awareness about the hazards of patriarchy among people particularly women. The study may also help to pave a way towards diminishing of gender inequality, gender exploitation and gender discrimination. One of the significance of the study is to curb women oppression, women domination, and women marginalization and develop social awareness among people for attaining social equity establishing gender balance society. Moreover, this particular dissertation may also help in developing an egalitarian concept of gender relation by deeply focusing in women's human rights equality, choice, autonomy, and reproductive rights. It can help the government and society in detecting major impediments in women empowerment, independence and will help in constituting gender equal laws and abolishing legal and customary discrimination. The current study may also help in raising voice for women's empowerment and giving women equal opportunity in social, economic and in political arenas. Women should have social, political, sexual, intellectual, and economic rights equal to men in order to establish gender free, exploitation free, parity based egalitarian society. The major significance of the thesis is the relative status of men and women that can at the most be characterized as 'separate but equal.

### **Scope and Limitation of the Study**

This proposed study focused only on one novel of Charlotte Bronte Jane Eyre. The study found out patriarchal traits used for gender discrimination and analyzed it primarily from feminist point of view and in addition to it, psychoanalytical perspective has also been used to minor extent.



## Literature Review

### Feminism in Jane Eyre

Merizeg Fatima in *The Status of Women in the Nineteenth Century Victorian England*, examines Charlotte Brontë's contribution to the feminist question in her selected novel *Jane Eyre*. The study shows how Brontë's novel examines the suffering of women and how they could overcome difficulties and achieve success. In the nineteenth century, women lived in an age characterized by gender inequality. The Victorian period was a transitional period and an important one of English literature. It dealt with the contemporary issues and problems of the day including social economic, religious and intellectual subjects, troubles surrounding the industrial revolution, in addition to that, changes in the role of women who were not expected to have interest in literature or any other field, who had limited status in Victorian society. All of these cases informed Victorian literature with its emphasis on a realistic portrayal of social life, touched on education, women's employment as well as poverty as *Jane Eyre* who strives for economic and personal independence, Brontë touches on the issues of class, economics, and gender roles that affected Victorian England at large. Furthermore, the nineteenth century novel represents many Victorian conditions in the stories of its characters. It sought to engage with the contemporary circumstances, and debate about social representation of women dealing with controversies about the nature and the role of women. This paper intends to focus on the fictional representations of the conditions of women, which were as inspiration for several Victorian writers as Charlotte Brontë, Charles Dickens and Thomas Hardy, who attempted to depict a real picture of their society and focusing on women at that time through many of their works. Like many female writers, Charlotte Brontë is one of the prominent literary figures of literary world. Her works have been popular and well-admired by many readers. Her representation of women in her novel *Jane Eyre* which mirrored a sample of English society and English literature of that time. It is generally considered to have been written by woman, for woman and about woman. It provides a deep understanding of the role of women in Victorian England during the industrial revolution. Thus, the reader can find pieces of information on women, their lives in the nineteenth century and their attitudes towards the ideologies of their society. Being a nineteenth century author, Charlotte Brontë conforms to the writing the conventions of the period. Since *Jane Eyre* is one of the greatest heroines of literature, which Charlotte Brontë has created. It is a literary work that reflected Victorian England focusing on feminist view. In fact, Charlotte Brontë lived in society known by its subjugation of women. So, the choice of Charlotte Brontë is mainly based on our interest in her novel which reflected a picture of the women in English society in the early of nineteenth century, when women were suffering and struggling to achieve self fulfillment and happiness. Also, show women the way to obtain meaning in life and realize their identities. Thus, the research aims to answer the feminist question; the suffering of *Jane Eyre* life, and represent the women standing up for herself.



So, the following problematic addresses: to what extent is Charlotte Bronte's portrayal of women of Jane Eyre representative of the condition of women in the 19th century Victorian England?

To carry out the study, it is supposed that Charlotte Bronte has chosen a woman to be a heroine of her novel. It means that the work describes woman in society seen from a woman point of view in the case in Jane Eyre novel, which, reflected the title and supported by the character of the heroine. Also, the way in which they are represented. So, Charlotte Bronte portrayed the women in Victorian England as a representation of her own life through the content of Jane Eyre. To achieve the objectives of the study, Feminist literary theory will be the tool employed to analyze the role of female character in society as portrayed in Charlotte Bronte's Jane Eyre. In attempt to answer the former questions that constitute our dissertation the framework of this paper is divided into four chapters. The first one entitled on Victorian literature, will deal with the characteristics of literature in the 19th century take the glance at the themes and styles, the novel in the 19th century, English women writers and the themes that treated in their literary works.

Haiyan Gao in Reflection on Feminism in Jane Eyre, examining how Charlotte Bronte reflecting her own experiences in the form of Jane Eyre. In this novel, the author shapes a persistent and autonomous woman who pursues true love and equality. Jane Eyre is absolutely different from any other women at that time. She strives for her life and defends her fate in hardships and difficult conditions. In the age of men-centered society, she is voicing for equality which is also a sub theme of the novel. People in Victorian age have the idea that men are superior to women and that people are not born equally. Consequently, women like Jane are treated unequally in every field. When Jane realizes the unfair situation, she rebels constantly for the basic right of equality. It well reflects Jane's resolution and persistence in struggle for self-realization as a feminist woman. In Victorian period, the image of Jane Eyre cast a sharp contrast to the man dominated society. It was impossible for a low-status woman to have a decent life or a good marriage but Jane Eyre proved that social position, class or race is not important only sharp mind is important and people like Rochester imploring her for marriage. The social structure determines the social position of a person. Women are discriminated in the patriarch society. Also, in this period, the female writers take the pens to speak for the oppressed women and Jane Eyre comes to be the most influential novel. She stands for a new lady who has the courage to fight for her own rights and love. By analyzing the contemporary social, historical and cultural background of Victorian period and key points of feminism, and Jane's experiences, this paper points out that Jane gradually becomes a feminist in pursuing independence and equality and true love.

Maria Lamonaca in Feminism and Christianity in "Jane Eyre" explore how different intellectuals interpret Bronte's novel from religious pint of view. Different scholars have interpreted the novel from religious and theological perspectives. (Lamonaca, 1-5).



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## **Identity and Independence in Jane Eyre**

Angela Andersson Identity and Independence in Jane Eyre analyze the identity issue of Jane in Jane Eyre. How she is searching for independence and identity and what relations she is having with male characters. Though she is looking for love and romantic relations; she is resisting male hegemony. Power relations between male and female and feminist is used for that.

Ritgerð til BA í Ensku Eyrún Ýr Hildardóttir Maí in Jane Eyre as an Independent Cinderella portrays comparison between Charlotte Bronte's novel Jane Eyre and the fairy tale Cinderella. Cinderella theme is explained in detail and then common themes are compared between both the novels. The versions referred to are Cendrillon (1697) by Charles Perrault and Cinderella (1812) by Brothers Grimm. The emphasis is on similar childhoods, particular patriarchal environment and a presence of an ally.

The present dissertation comprises of five chapters. The first chapter consists of introduction, background of the study, statement of the problem, research questions, and objectives of the research, significance of the study and scope and limitation. The second chapter contains literature review, regarding patriarchy and feminism from different perspectives especially from Feminist point of view and literature related to the novel, Jane Eyre. The third chapter deals with research methodology. The fourth chapter consists of analysis and discussion. And the fifth chapter provides a summary of the study, conclusions, findings and recommendations for further study.

## **Kinds of Feminism**

### **Liberal Feminism**

Liberal Feminism is diplomatic in nature believing in induction and integration of women into main sphere of society without directly challenging social structures and ideologies behind women's suppression and subordination. The roots of this kind of feminism laying in social contract theory instituted by the American Revolution. It strived for equality of women through legal means and social reforms. Abigail Adams and Mary Wollstonecraft were among pioneers of the movement proposing sexual, political and legal equality for women.

### **Radical Feminism**

Radical feminism considers patriarchy and sexism as the most responsible factors for women's oppression and discrimination; excluding race, class, caste culture etc. It is a kind of aggressive believing in elimination of the concept gender completely. It directly questions and challenges very system and ideology behind women's subjugation.



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## **Marxist and Socialist Feminism**

Marxists believe that all the sufferings and miseries of the women is because of capitalist economic system where global corporate power prevails. They emphasize that the only remedy of women suppression is to overthrow the capitalist system.

## **Cultural Feminism**

Cultural feminism encouraging feminine culture to be developed rather than masculine culture. It differentiates between men and women in terms of biology, personality and behavior. Women are viewed as creature having superior virtues of compassion, sisterhood, and shared identity and if women were in power, the world would be a better place. In the 1960s and 70s, some women supported the idea of forming separate women-only cultures.

## **Black Feminism**

Black feminism is about suppression of black women believing in freedom for all. Black feminists argue that sexism, class oppression, gender identity and racism are deeply bound together, so deeply that it develops a concept of called intersectionality. The term first coined by legal scholar Kimberley Crenshaw in 1989.

## **Eco-Feminism**

Eco-Feminism regards patriarchy as the only responsible factor for women discrimination. They do argue that the very aim of patriarchy is women domination and subjugation. In other words patriarchy is at war with women only which is not only harmful for men only but for whole humanity. Eco-feminists see women's rights and empowerment linked to political, economic, social and cultural factors that benefit all living creatures.

## **Global Feminism**

This approach is about affects of capitalization and globalization across different sexualities, ethnicities, genders, classes etc. It also highlights discrimination across different groups of women.

## **Visionary feminism**

Visionary feminism is based on politics of love and mutual respect of male and female for each other. Love may not exist in any relationships based on superiority or inferiority of any gender. The crux of this type of feminism is to pledge for ending patriarchal hegemony in all sphere of society.

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## **Research Methodology**

### **Descriptive and Analytical Methods**

In Descriptive approach the light is thrown on the problem at hand by collecting data from different sources and describing and analyzing different aspects of the phenomenon. This method is used to describe the characteristics and behavior of the character. The primary feature of descriptive method is that the researcher has no control over the variables and he has to describe what has happened or happening (Kothari, 2-3). It means to say that descriptive study addresses the research questions which start with 'what is'. On the other hand, analytical research is an attempt to explore why it is that way, or how it came to be. In analytical research, the researcher analyzes the available facts and information critically in order to establish the cause and effect of the problem under study (Kothari, 3). The present thesis explores patriarchy as gender discrimination employing Feministic theory to the text under study. It describes facts and information available in the text in the forms of words, actions, behavior, opinions, feelings and attitudes. The researcher has to describe what kind of patriarchy the protagonist is suffering from. Then he has to analyze these facts to find out the cause and effect of patriarchy on gender discrimination. Thus this thesis is a descriptive and an analytical analysis of the text Jane Eyre.

### **Feminism is an appropriate tool for the Study**

Jane Eyre (1847), which is considered as a wonderful gothic and an autobiography English fiction portraying the heroine Jane Eyre from childhood to maturity, and a finest critique work for attacking women's oppression, gender and social class that dominated England during early Victorian period. Therefore, Jane Eyre is regarded as a great feminist book and finest example of Charlotte Bronte's effective feminism and her strong feminist disapproval on Victorian society. For that reason, in this chapter, we are deeply interested in exploring and analyzing the crux of feminism depicted in the novel Jane Eyre through the biography of its authoress, Charlotte Bronte, characters, and themes, taking the lead in the campaign of feminism. Charlotte Bronte gives an appropriate voice to female heroine presenting her case before the world, which patriarchal society sought to curb. As a true feminist, she was looking for equality of women which is another important theme of Jane Eyre. Victorians strongly believed in superiority of male and inferiority of female; regarding it to be something in born and natural. Finally, women like Jane are treated unequally in every field. Woman like Jane immediately realizes the inequality and rebels constantly for the basic right of equality. That is why Jane Eyre is regarded as one of the famous feminist book of English literature. However, under the common notion of 'feminism is for everyone', any writer, who encourages the idea of women's rights, can be as a feminist writer.



## Analysis and Discussion

In Jane Eyre, the four major male characters, St John Rivers, John Reed, Edward Rochester and Brocklehurst, all occupy patriarchal positions of some type or other. The first and youngest of all the patriarchal master is John Reed: a heroine cousin, a reckless, bully, rude boy, becomes the sole figure of Reed family. According to a Victorian patriarchal rule, getting grown-up, he will become patriarchal head of the family; but it is crystal clear from the beginning that he is not an ideal Victorian, what an ideal Victorian should be. John Reed's death is due to his self-engrossed and self-centered character and negligent practices (Bronte, 86). The second principal patriarchal figure is Brocklehurst: the clergyman at the Brocklebridge church and master at Brocklehurst Hall is the most hypocritical of all of the characters in Jane Eyre, seriously suffering from religious hypocrisy. Although it's a common fact that patriarchy has strongly embedded across the world cultures but it is a recognized fact that it is deeply rooted in those cultures where there are the roots of religion. Religion has been the most powerful dominating social factor throughout history and during nineteenth Century religious domination can be seen in Britain. Religion has provided the platform for male domination of the society. Patriarchal roots of Mr. Brocklehurst and its maintaining factors are mainly found in Christian religion and up in the cultures and traditions of the people (Bronte, 131). The third and most important principal male figure is Mr. Edward Rochester. The supposed, tragic, and Byronic "hero" of Jane Eyre: rich master of Thornfield Manor, Jane's beloved, her future husband; Mr. Rochester does not fulfill the criteria of an ideal patriarchal Victorian. He is liberal, unconventional, and irreligious and doesn't care about gender, class and race. Most of the times he is in Conflict with so-called traditional patriarchal rules, doesn't follow patriarchal ideals and have a desire to change it. Of the four major male characters she comes into contact with within the story, only Rochester wishes Jane to be unconventional and free. He wants to get rid the monster of patriarchy by demolishing social stratification, gender division and prevailing equality. He takes determined actions to revolt against the irrational patriarchal conventions. He is challenging the inhuman marriage system, revolting against the social hierarchy, and destroying the unfair man-woman relationship. At the end he succeeds in his mission, throwing patriarchal conventions into air and indulges in love marriage with Jane Eyre (Bronte, 460). The last but not least is St. John. Power hungry St. John is hard patriarchal villain like Brocklehurst. His inhumane religious enthusiasm and agenda serves as a vehicle of masculine self-boosting and domination. He has become amalgamation of self-righteousness, superiority complex and God complex. He has become victim of superiority complex. Though like Brocklehurst, St. John also uses religious dogmas as a controlling tool and boasting his power, however, despite lacking true religious knowledge; he is not hypocritical about his practice. St. John sees Jane to be her future wife wants to marry her and take her with him to India to be missionaries; however she still loves Rochester doesn't want to cheat on him (Bronte, 455).

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**John Reed**

The first male character presented in Jane Eyre is a young, little Master John Reed, the only son of deceased Mr. Reed of Gates head. He is the first little patriarchal master whom Jane encounters in the beginning of the story. John Reed is a Jane cousin, a reckless, bully, rude boy, becomes the sole figure of Reed family after his father death. During Victorian age, male ideal Victorian was expected to have certain qualities such as bravery, honor, loyalty, intelligence and moral uprightness; it does not matter whether to have a good income or not. Nonetheless, it is obvious from the beginning that he is not fulfilling the criteria of an ideal Victorian. According to Victorian patriarchal rule, when he gets grown-up, he will become patriarchal head of the family. Victorians formulated strict definitions and code of conducts for ladies and gentlemen. On the other hand, the young Byronic heroine Jane, a poor orphan girl living in Reed family with John Reed and his two sisters Eliza and Georgina. She is subversive, unconventional, and rebellious resisting all patriarchal forces. Most of the times, she is fighting with the eldest male child of a family, unconsciously challenging his patriarchal authority moral and social conventions of the society. Being a child, Jane problem is not acting what the children act or she is expected to act, or the way that everyone thinks a child should act. She is more a boy than a girl and more sensitive than the normal children. But the problem is that Jane is gender unconscious, violating gender norms and unconventionally fighting for her defense. Females were gender conscience in that age but she is gender unconscious; and as Hegel said that self-conscious can be created in the presence of other.

“John Reed, a large stout boy of fourteen years old, with a dirty and unwholesome skin; thick lineaments in a spacious visage, with heavy arms and legs. Bellicose minded John used to pose himself habitually at table with bleared eye and flabby cheeks” (Bronte, 13).

John can best be described as gluttonous, sallow, reckless, sickly, stocky and waspish. He has an obviously domineering presence, not only for his mother and sisters but also for Jane. He is strong, aggressive, overacting, and bullies Jane simply because she is poor, orphan, valueless, and not worthy of him. Not only Jane is an orphan, homeless child, living in a relative's family, but it is very disgraceful and unconventional to fight with the male members of a family. As a child, he had been spoiled and cosseted. As a pamper boy, he is indulged in this behavior by his mother who fulfills his every desire and deeming her to be the wronged party in every dispute. She illogically supports her son, taking his side in every dispute, trying to prove Jane as wrong.

In almost beginning of the book we learn that the Reeds do not like Jane because she is different from them, never allowing her feelings known by them. She has to passively bear the hardships and doesn't voice her feelings in the form of discrimination or complaints. Jane tells us, "Reeds constantly keeping me at a distance heard from Bessie, and confirmed by my personal observation that I had to acquire a more sociable and childlike disposition something attractive



and lively in manners; not to be so calm, serious and reactive. The result will be that Jane would be excluded from the privileges intended for children only” (Bronte, 47).

The Reeds showing complete obedience to patriarchal society, and she is isolated as she was challenging male authority of John Reed. To be male is to be distinctive and to be female is to be anonymous. Unmindful about her gender, Jane is offensive to the Reed as she doesn't want to be controlled by any male oppressor. She is subversive in her attitudes, her only flaw is, not bowing before patriarch and patriarchal norms and this is something intolerable to both Mrs. Reed and John Reed. John Reed deems to be future head of patriarchal institution and to deviate and show disobedience to his instructions is totally unconventional and unacceptable.

In disregard we can say that Victorian society was strongly gender polarized; all patriarchal restrictions were placed on women only. These socially constructed dichotomies were created by men for self interest to exploit women under the umbrella of patriarchy. Men are free and can oppress women, deprive them of their property and children, involve in polygamy because they have the license of patriarchy and no one can held them accountable. Patriarchy doesn't mean to subordinate women only, but it also means the rule of men over women and children as in case of Jane Eyre. Death of John Reed is due to his self-engrossed and self-centered character and negligent practices. Ruling aristocracy evil practices are not in use anymore, because of its arrogance and degradation for everyone outside their own class. Jane deems these injustices not because she is orphan but because she is an inferior gender and John doing so because he is a superior gender. So, all these injustices and social discrimination that weaker sex was receiving at the hand of stronger was in the name of patriarchy; as it was blessing in disguise for men and something ordain by God.

### **Mr. Brocklehurst**

Brocklehurst is the clergyman at the Brocklebridge church and master at Brocklehurst Hall. Among all the characters in the novel he is the most hypocritical, seriously suffering from religious hypocrisy. He is a committed Christian teaching puritanical morality to his followers and adopted the discourses of Evangelicalism. Religious prejudice, colonial prejudice, Class and racial prejudice are the some of the problems addressed; but among all the most dominant is gender discrimination. How he is misusing gender superiority and religious institution against opposite gender. Throughout history Britain has been the most religious country but this factor was more dominant in nineteenth century. Religion has provided the platform for male domination of the society. This is the Christian religion which provides roots of patriarchy and its main ting factors to Mr.Brocklehurst. According to Christianity and Islam, woman was made from man and not from woman as Eve was created from Adam ribs and not Adam from Eve ribs, therefore men have preference over women. He is also using holy religion for mean personal interests. Throughout the novel, Characters like Brocklehurst and St.John are trying to represent false and fictitious image of the religion which makes it difficult for other characters to make an appropriate choice between moral duty and earthly pleasure.



Since women were regarded as irrational, sensitive, and dominated by sexuality, therefore they were expected to embody into the social mold designed by men. As Susan Kent observes, “In nineteenth Century women were so perfectly defined by their sexuality that they were deemed as ‘the Sex’. “Modest ladies were expected to be free from sexual desires, concept of love, deemed to be innocent courteous, and virgin until they receive formal proposal from someone” (Kane, 97). However, this model of moral perfectness, purity and chastity was not applicable to men as man had freedom to indulge themselves in premarital and extramarital sexual relationships.

Though it's a common fact that patriarchy has strongly embedded across the world cultures but it is a recognized fact that it is deeply rooted in those cultures where there are the roots of religion. Patriarchy has strong roots in religion and religion is something male dominated ordain by God and that's why most feminist regard religion and God as patriarchal. So, it is a concrete fact that where there is religious society there is a male dominancy because religion plays underlying role in legitimizing male hegemony. They believe that patriarchy might be blessing in disguise for male but radical feminist regard it as deadly sin. Throughout history religion has been the most dominant social factor, contributed to the marginalization of women and a versatile instrument of controlling women bodies. Religion has provided the platform for male domination of the society, endorsing support for male members of the society. Mr. Brocklehurst roots of patriarchy and its sustaining factors are mainly found in Christian religion and up in the cultures and traditions of the people. Consequently, Brocklehurst symbolizes religious and royal class as the concentration of power by misusing religion and suppressing lower class people, especially female. His treatment of women demonstrates the strategy of division used by the patriarchy in order to keep the female population under control. During Victorian era the Church of England had great influence in power and politics, so deeply embedded that it became difficult to separate the two.

### **Jane Eyre**

A motherless and orphaned young Byronic heroine Jane is subversive, unconventional, and rebellious resisting all patriarchal forces. Jane demands for equality, autonomy and power for women; absolutely condemns intolerable patriarchal designs, standards and limited agency available for men. She is an independent woman who searches for true love and equality. Jane is totally unconventional, different and stranger to the conventions of the time. She strives for her life and defends her fate in hardships and difficult conditions. Jane Eyre is a perfect epitome of a woman who moves from a life of poverty and suppression to independence. Jane goes against the expected pattern of the age by refusing subjugation, disagreeing with her patriarchal monarchs, standing up for her rights, and venturing creative thoughts. She is poor, plain, questioning, curious, non-conformist and independent. Most of the time, she is fighting with the eldest male child of a family, unconsciously challenging his patriarchal authority and moral,



social conventions of society. But the problem is that Jane is gender unconscious, unconsciously violating gender norms and unconventionally fighting for her defense.

Jane Eyre frankly challenges patriarchal ideologies, patriarchal stereotypes, assaulting philosophy of 'separate spheres' which is absolutely based on discrimination and bias. She wants patriarchy and patriarchal conventions according to her own desires; rather she bows before societal conventions and it was something unimaginable to think about. She wants to see him a man who can give her freedom; however, patriarchal society didn't allow women to be independent rather to be dependent, submissive and were against any kind of freedom and gender parity.

The only way that Jane can marry Rochester if he becomes according to her wishes and desires. Before marriage Rochester adoring Jane like an angel, embodying her like a fairy but she refuses sublime status and prefers to stay common independent girl. Rochester treats them hypocritically praising one and blaming other. To him, Bertha Mason is root cause of all evils and Jane is goddess and his perfect match. Rochester has nothing to do with feminine souls but looks to his personal benefits in a sense.

According to patriarchal laws a woman loses her identity, property, inheritance, and bodily control after marriage. She knows it well that in becoming Mrs. Rochester she would completely lose her identity even her personal name and she would be identified in her husband name. Later on she falls to the status of total submission and worship denying this over freedom. She is unconsciously prepared as an object of decorative sex, proving the idea that woman was the 'sex' during Victorian era. After controlling her heart and body by buying fine clothes, delicate jewelers, and through my personal qualities of cleverness, independence, and subjugation. She knows it very well that by becoming Mrs. Rochester she would completely lose her identity even her personal name and she would be identified in her husband name. Later on she falls to the status of total submission and worship denying this over freedom.

The dream of Jane end ours is get independent and became Rochester's equal. This is one of the most obvious reasons to believe that the novel is feminist through Jane's wish to be seen equal to Rochester. At the beginning, Jane was not ready to marry him because of patriarchal attitude; but when he changed masculine practices by doing differently at the end what he was doing in the beginning, he got his reward in the form of marriage. It is through her smart mind that parentless girls like Jane Eyre, from a very low social status of a governess, poverty, and little beauty become a woman to whom a man like Rochester would marry. At the end, she conquers Rochester by becoming equal with her marriage and subdue patriarchal status quo. At the beginning of a novel we see master-slave relationships but at the end Jane and Rochester meet on more equal position, when Rochester was blind and she returned to him as an independent woman. Bronte chooses the happy ending with equal marriage for her character of Jane. She took the superiority position in her marriage. The last chapter opened with Jane wrote "Reader, I married him" rather than "Reader, he married me"

Rochester on the other hand sees Jane as his ideal woman and future wife. It is striking again that these are the same common qualities which attracted Rochester to Bertha. He desires both the passionate and the pliant woman. Rochester is opined as “Liberal and secular landlord by the community” (Bronte, 99). He does not value his role as master of Thornfield. Despite his egotistic, self-centered and autocratic rhetoric, he changes his stance. Instead of dominating and leading Jane; he looks for Jane advice “What do you think?” (Bronte, 115). On another he asks “Forget about my masculine superiority out of the question then, will you still receive my orders without being bothered by my tone?” (Bronte, 127). His careless and gender nature can be judged on his first evening back at Thornfield. He tells as: “Let Miss Eyre to be seated” (Bronte, 114).

Rochester distances itself from master-slave relationships and this stance is changes according to his mood as Jane tells: “He was against any kind of inferiority; proud, mocking, and harshness. Though he was kind to me, but my kindness was balanced by injustices to many others” (Bronte, 138). Rochester lacked sympathy for Miss Ingram, which was essentially in the same position of slavery as Rochester had to endure once. As for Mr. Mason is concerned, Rochester is trying to maintain himself on master position as he has been deceived by him, indulging Rochester into marriage with a lunatic woman Bertha. As Mr. Mason fortune is being based on slavery and additional Rochester master-slave attitude never accept him as equal. Right in this place Rochester keeps a proper class and status distance.

Rochester hatred against upper class superiority can be judged in a ceremony where he invited local aristocracy members at his home and he himself disguised f a gypsy woman calling them “vulgar herd” (Bronte, 183). When Rochester was interacting with his guests, Jane also opines why Rochester would marry with Ingram: “The dominant reason is that their political ranks and connections matches each other, secondly these ideas and principles are inculcated in their minds from very childhood. All their class held these principles” (Bronte, 177). Jane comments show how much she is jealous from upper class interacting each other and how much she is perplexed about her future; clearly observing a wide gap among different classes of Victorian patriarchal society, and patriarchal tendency of any male towards opposite gender.

It is also dependent on the male whether to accept or reject a girl. Nonetheless, Rochester prefers her governess mother of his illegitimate daughter rejecting Miss Ingram. Rochester tells Jane “I am full of faults, God won’t be harsh about others” (Bronte, 128). He states, but clearly does not include members of the aristocracy among those others.

Jane herself adjusted herself totally in footprints of Victorian designed model of femininity for sometimes as Rochester comments upon:

“The Lowood restrictions somewhat still stuck to you; controlling your body movements, undermining your voice, restricting your limbs and features; and you feeling shyness fearing in the presence of a man, father or a brother or even a master. You cannot smile whole heartedly



or even laugh, or move too quickly but with the passage to time you will be adjusted with me or you will be quite natural with me and I consider all these things conventional with you” (162).

Rochester is again trying to throw away patriarchal stereotypes, bridging master-slave relations as explained again by a bench during a walk in the garden: “I, however, stood before him though Mr. Rochester took it, leaving room, but he said the bench is long enough and accommodated two of us comfortably, why do you hesitate taking place at my side? Is that wrong, Jane?”(Bronte, 205).

Jane and Rochester are both victims “of the conventions of the English royal class” Rochester as an insider, Jane as an outsider. Rochester experiences of life has made different stance about life which is quite different from that of his elders. Sometimes he is getting pessimistic about women and spirit of feudalism arousing in him “It is highly degrading to live with inferiors, mistress and slave are both inferior but I would say that to hire a mistress is worse than a slave” (Bronte, 293).

These are not the comments only, but this is the mentality which all the patriarchs have developed about women. They were a kind of colonial considering others as inferior and there was no exception for women in this regard. For them, woman is something to be subordinate, inferior and in a sense an evil. Though Rochester himself once had been in a slave position and rejection of English ruling class and their hard tradition is something revolutionary. It is yet more radical than the actions Jane commits in the form of revolt by not bowing before the fabricated, and socially constructed patriarchal rules of Victorian society. Jane totally rejecting the intolerable standards and designs set for women and the limited agency available to them, demanding autonomy and power.

Contrary to Bertha, Jane is more acceptable to Rochester as she obeys his directions more easily without questions. This becomes clear during pre-wedding shopping trip, when in a carriage he showers her with compliments embodying her to a fairy and to various other images of beauty (Bronte, 291). Though Jane unwilling to be showered and to be treated like a goddess, but she is unable to prevent him. Rochester deemed her to be his possession and should be decorated the way he wants by buying delicate and expensive material for her clothes. Jane finds it humiliating and degrading preventing him not to flaunt her like trophy as she better knows economic inequality in between them.

“Jane worries that Rochester views her as a feminine object to be gulled and flaunted easily by buying her jewels and silks. He wants to make her fool any way by marrying her and making her Edward Fairfax Rochester (Bronte, 278).

“I too was happy by pulling him out of silk warehouse and Jeweler’s shop: the more he bought me, the more my cheek burned with a sense of annoyance and degradation (Bronte, 292). Jane

anger was natural and she doesn't realize that it was a kind of trapping tool for her. She is unconsciously prepared as an object of decorative sex, proving the idea that woman was the 'sex' only during Victorian era. Rochester is going to cut her feathers and enslave her for the whole life, while Jane thinks that he is glorifying, honoring and awarding me. Later on she falls to the status of total submission and worship denying this over freedom. While the marriage ceremony was getting closer I was patient content and worshipping Rochester: "He was becoming my whole world and my future. I forgot about my religion, my God as my idol; as he stood between me and religion" (Bronte, 298).

In becoming Mrs. Rochester, it is obvious that she would completely lose her identity even her personal name and she would be identified in her husband name. In this period, marriage was the only door kept opened for the economic dependency of women. They were given one main role to get married and become sex slave of their husbands; blindly obeying whatever they are told to do and take part in their husbands' interests and business. Women were expected to be idol and ignorant with feminine qualities like innocence etc. Every girl from the childhood had the dream of successful marriage and happiness was matter of chance whether one would be happy after marriage or not. Because all the opportunities were closed at them in a man's world, marriage was the only door of opportunity and economic dependency. They expected the men to take care and love them.

Marriage was a necessity of life and most of the women didn't have the choice not to marry as they were made completely dependent on men. Women were strongly discouraged by earning their own lives if they got any opportunity or remaining unmarried. This was because they were regarded submissive, weak and incompetent. Just as women were expecting ideal husbands similarly men were expecting ideal women. Most women future was pre-determined to become wives and mothers of future.

Jane continues protesting that luxurious clothing is not the part of her personality and she is against any kind of artificial beautification; forgetting the fact she has to do what patriarchal god want her to even in her personal life. In a sense, Rochester is trying to buy her through mirage of wealth. Jane continuously rejecting ornaments as they have nothing to do with real life. After controlling her body Rochester is constantly trying her mind by snatching her self-conscious. According to Homen, suddenly Jane is treated like one of his great possessions and this is what the nature and psyche patriarchs.

On the second day after the engagement, her sense of Rochester's unrealistic way of looking at women raised. She started to sense something strange in the way he looked at her and in the way he insisted on changing her. He wanted to round her neck with the diamonds which indicated imprisoning her. Rochester's idea of love patriarchal in nature. He was totally convinced that this woman is his object but in the reality he was proposing a life of imprisonment. However, Jane refused all of them and told him: "No sir! Forget about jewels, I don't care at all; even I don't like talking about jewels. I would like not to have them. Turn

the page think about other objects and speak of other things. Don't address as someone superior, I'm your simple, plain Quakers governess" (Bronte, 298)

Rochester treats them hypocritically praising one and blaming other. To him, Bertha Mason is the root cause of all evils and Jane is goddess and his perfect match. Rochester has nothing to do with feminine souls but looks to his personal benefits in a sense that Bertha is already in his control and possession and in order to get clutches and ownership of Jane; he is trying to woo her mildly and skillfully. Man is applying traditional philosophy of dichotomy: Split the women into pair stereotypes; virgin or whore, angel or witch, saint or sinner and nurturing mother or devouring step mother. It depends upon man how he defines second sex, what title he gives to a woman just as Rochester defines Jane as good and Bertha as bad. On one hand Rochester praising Jane and while on the other hand he is criticizing Bertha as: "Assume this young girl who is standing at the mouth of the hell so quietly and seriously. I want to change her after that angry and aggressive ragout (Bertha). One can just feel the difference! Just compare the Jane's clear eyes with Bertha's red balls, Jane's face with Bertha's mask and Jane's form with Bertha's Bulk" (Bronte, 318).

The social inequality between Rochester and Jane can be known by alarming astonishment of Mrs. Fairfax. She knows the family for a very long time and the astonishment is not because Rochester doesn't sincerely love her but because it seems impossible how a governess can marry a gentleman. As Mrs. Fairfax says: "It was quite unnatural for a gentleman to marry their governesses"(Bronte, 334).

The fact of breaking patriarchal norms and loving her own governess, giving her freedom makes him more remarkable. Rochester comments on this: "Do what you want with your own wish and desire" (Bronte, 487). Rochester says to Jane that: "He seemed aggressive in his despair, in fact he loved Jane tenderly and from the heart. He would have given half of his wealth in return for a small kiss" (Bronte, 517).

Rochester is liberal, unconventional, and irreligious and doesn't care about gender, class and race. Most often he is in Conflict with so-called traditional patriarchal rules, doesn't follow patriarchal ideals and have a desire to change it. Of the four major male characters she comes into contact within the story, only Rochester wishes Jane to be unconventional and free. He wants to demolish social stratification, gender division and ideologically believing in equality getting rid the monster of Patriarchy. He takes determined actions to revolt against the irrational patriarchal conventions. He is challenging the inhuman marriage system, revolting against the social hierarchy, and destroying the unfair man-woman relationship. At the end he succeeds in his mission, throwing patriarchal conventions into air and indulges in love marriage with Jane Eyre (Bronte, 460). The other three characters blindly following traditional Victorian masculinity expecting Jane to be an ideal Victorian woman both outwardly and inwardly. Each of these characters showing mastery over Jane as natural right each forms a patriarchal symbol of power over her.



Bronte explicitly challenges patriarchal ideologies, social stereotypes and undermines the ideological foundations of patriarchy. She goes on to tell: “women are generally expected calm: they feel as much as men do women feel just as men feel; they need physical exercise for their faculties as their brothers do and they do suffer like men” (Bronte, 110). However, almost at the end of the story when Rochester and Jane meet each other, they meet on more equal position. Look what Rochester what he says to Jane:

“What Jane! Are you rich and an independent woman now? I will construct a house close to your door and if you won’t allow me; you can sit in my house whenever you get free. But being a rich lady you must have friends who will look after you and you won’t bother to devote time for blind people like me “(Bronte, 502).

So that Jane achieved her dream and became Rochester’s equal. This is One of the most obvious reasons to believe that the novel is feminist through Jane's wish to been seen equal to Rochester. At the beginning Jane was not ready to marry him because of patriarchal attitude; but when he changed masculine performances by doing differently at the end what he was doing in the beginning, he got his reward in the form of marriage. At the end of the story when Rochester and Jane meet each other, they meet on more equal position. Bronte chooses the happy ending with equal marriage for her character of Jane. She took the superiority position in her marriage. The last chapter opened with Jane wrote "Reader, I married him" rather than "Reader, he married me"

Generally every male of Victorian age is a representative of patriarchal characteristics whom Jane compares to Rochester; however, Rochester is different from them in term of psyche. He believes in gender equality, freedom of women and un-conventionality. Rochester is as much stranger and alien to his customs and tradition as Jane is outsider to masculinity. Their feelings are most of the time matching each other, and this is partially what brings them together. Both are the victims of so-called patriarchal stereotypes and English royal class. Jane and Rochester are sworn enemies of English Patriarchal society; although born within the society, however, they have realized the faults within this society and thus kept themselves away from it.

At first Rochester was showing some support for Victorian masculine identity by trying to mould Jane into his own narrative by buying her fine clothes and precious jewelry. By doing so, he is trying to drag her into his world of masculinity; however she totally rejects his stereotypical world by exclaiming ‘no sir! I don’t like jewelry; even I don’t to hear of them, not at all’ (Bronte, 304). Though Rochester touches to her heart but she is suspecting him as her future husband as she learns about Bertha as his past wife. He wants her as wife according to his own expectation; while she wants her husband according to her own expectations. She is not ready to accept and comply with his unnatural standards of ideal woman. Jane regards patriarchal Victorian world as totally superficial because rules of Gods like figures. However instead of desiring to mould Jane, he was molded by Jane.

In Victorian era, women were excluded by law from every sphere of public life. They were banned from entering into business, professional life confining them into domestic life only. They were left with one door of livelihood, to be married and to be financially stable. Once a woman married, she would lose everything even control over her body. She had no right of ownership, even she herself was an ownership of her husband. Their bodies didn't belong to them; it is something belonged to their husbands. She had no legal rights of possessing property, money that the wife brought into the house; their children also belonged to their husbands, and marital rape and beating wife were also legal. Once a woman married, her rights, her property, her bodily control and even her identity almost ceased to exist. By law she was under the complete and total supervision of her husband. That was the reason women regarded marriage a little better than slavery.

As rightly observed by Susan Kent that in nineteenth Century women were named as 'the sex'; they were so exclusively defined by their sexual functions. In order to cope with Rochester masculinity Jane has to analyze Bertha life he is far more experienced than she is! Ironically, Rochester is prevented from marrying Jane by his very freedom. Freedom has become something conditional to unconventional Rochester. Time and again seriously stung by poisonous patriarchy converting conventional Rochester to unconventional Rochester; still he is helpless to follow patriarchy unconsciously or wherever it suits him. He is willing to give Jane freedom when it is suitable for him but when it is going against his wishes, he is equally taking it away. Jane is seriously in dilemma when she comes to know about Rochester bigamy with Rochester; however, he is not ready to give Jane her freedom of escape. He suggests her not to escape and if you are suppose to escape then we should together escape to a white-walled villa on the shores of the Mediterranean, where she would live a happy, and guarded, and most innocent life (Bronte, 357). However she refuses to do so as she is worried about expected confinement in the form of forcing her to become his mistress. By becoming her wife she would lose identity and respect for herself.

Her aim is not to be the mistress or getting married, rather she wants absolute riddance from toxic patriarchy and looking for freedom. By becoming his mistress what he wants to be, she doesn't like it at all. She doesn't want to be another Bertha to be trapped in the web of marriage. As Bronte has rightly observed that Victorian woman cannot find what she seeks until they didn't disarm man from the weapons of Patriarchy. Patriarchal beliefs have become pertinent part of Victorian men deeply penetrated in their psyche. Rochester is not ready to give what she needs; therefore she is to run away from him.

Jane wants to comfortably marry Rochester if he becomes what she needs. She wants patriarchy and patriarchal conventions according to her own desires; rather she bows before societal conventions and it was something unimaginable to think about. She wants to see him a man who can give her freedom, to be free; however, patriarchal society didn't allow women to be independent rather to be dependent, submissive and were against any kind of freedom and gender parity.



Victorian women were denied the opportunities in every aspect of life; they were leading a life of strangers men's world. They would spend their formative years in preparation for marriage. Man was totally responsible for woman duties outside home. As women were confined to homes only they expected the men to take care of them and provide for them. According to some critics, Rochester was not ready to give up his patriarchy until he himself got castrated. It was a blessing in disguise that he lost physical limbs and gave up patriarchy.

Patriarchal caste ration is the only solution and this is what nature does at the end when Rochester loses some of his body parts. Actually his injury was a blessing in disguise through which he gets deeper level of understanding of himself and of Jane. Thornfield fire changes Rochester physically, and he is now "indeed helpless, blind and disable", but it also moulds his personality and behavior, and for the first time he begins "he feels extreme contrition" (Bronte, 455). After a long time since Jane left Thornfield and sees Rochester she comments 'He was strong, healthy and stalwart as ever; however, he was annoyed and a kind of mysterious' (Bronte, 440). Jane realizes that he is now a helpless Rochester with extreme dependency on others and she starts crying as Rochester tells about his new position: "my eyes were full of water to hear his extreme helplessness and dependency" (Bronte, 448). Jane Observes drastic change in Rochester as she tells "Tears were rolling down under his eyelids and dropped down on his manly cheeks" (Bronte, 453). When Jane is leaving him instead of showing his anger, he is showing his anger in pain, frustration and through tears.

Finally, the crippled and helpless Rochester is more attractive to Jane as she remarks that "I love you more now than I did it in the past, when you were proud, independent and you were contempting every part" (Bronte, 454). The altered Rochester is too happy to live in a mutually dependant relationship with Jane, disowning his stereotypical role preferring to live in dependent position "Before getting disabled I hated to be helped or led, now I find it natural and hate it no more" (Bronte, 454). Jane finally accepts that gender balance in their relationships achieved as in the beginning it was hampered by Rochester masculinity: "We are perfectly suited to each other in a character and will live in harmony" (Bronte, 460). Patriarchal castration was blessing in disguise for him through which he got deeper level of understanding of himself. Once he disowned and redefined the masculinity he is perfect match for Jane.

The purpose of the present paper is how a woman through basic virtues and quality of mind proves herself to be really worthy to whom a man like Rochester begging for marriage. She criticizes notion of female bodies as objects, tending to train women to be submissive so as not to dominate others through their appearance or body. It is through her mind that Jane Eyre, a governess who has no social status, no money, and little beauty, can become a woman that a man like Rochester would marry. We see this is how Jane is able to stand up to Rochester, speak openly with him, as she feels free from painful restraint. At the end, she conquers Rochester by becoming equal with in her marriage and subdue patriarchal status quo.



With un-conventional Rochester, a new viewpoint brought into discussion; a thinking of conflict with so-called traditional patriarchal rules, who doesn't follow patriarchal ideals and have a desire to change it. Interestingly he is a member of royal class who has experience both as a master and a slave. He has no interest in patriarchal hegemony, power and domination.

When we first meet him, he takes his position very much for granted. Meet a man of aristocracy who is careless about his own class; instead abolishing social stratification and looking for equality beyond gender, race and class. He takes determined actions to revolt against the irrational patriarchal conventions. He is challenging the inhuman marriage system, revolting against the social hierarchy, and destroying the unfair man-woman relationship. In a word, Rochester is a character of rebellious consciousness and spirit. He forms the driving force in the transformation of his role from a defender of the Victorian patriarchal norms at the beginning of the story to a determined rebel against the harsh rules in the end. As a member of the patriarchal dominators, Rochester's determined rebellion against so-called patriarchal rules which further strengthening the fact that these rules are unreasonable, unequal, and inhuman in nature. Since the conservative Victorians are not ready to accept such notions; consequently Jane and Rochester will have to wait for a shift in social structure to accommodate them. The situations wouldn't change so quickly, it will take a long time to change it.

After deep examination of a four major principal characters of Jane Eyre the study came to conclusion that patriarchal conventions and religion are major perpetrators of women discrimination in a society. The study finds patriarchy as an irrational, unholy alliance based on unequal distribution of power and directly responsible for gender discrimination in Jane Eyre. Consequently, study finds patriarchy, religion, patriarchal laws, religious laws; patriarchal institutions and religious institutions are the major factors responsible for women's discrimination.

### **Findings, Conclusion and Recommendations**

The goal of the present qualitative research is to find out how the attitudes, dialogues, motivations and social position of a heroine disputes with the patriarchal hegemony of the male characters, patriarchal structure and 'truths' of early Victorian era in Jane Eyre. The purpose of the paper is to tell how the four major male characters are the representative of early Victorian patriarchal system. The objective of the study is to examine through heroine, patriarchal ideologies and gender norms, which were discriminatory to women and try to create new model of Victorian ideologies, stereotypes, identity, womanhood, and female empowerment. The study explores how Jane Eyre stood up strongly against sufferings of women's as a result of patriarchal ideology, sexual inequality, and lower status, and profess her support for women's equal rights in social, political and economic arenas in men-dominated Victorian society. The heroine rebels against so-called patriarchal norms by refusing subservience, rejecting patriarchal superiority, standing up for her rights, and striving for new thoughts based on equality and gender free ideas. The present qualitative study primarily

investigated patriarchal discrimination through the lenses of feminism and in addition to it psychoanalysis has been applied to minor extent to the attitudes, behaviors, thoughts, dialogues, and actions in Jane Eyre. The research came to conclusion that patriarchal supremacy of the male members of the society and family society has been accepted as an ideology and this ideology has been internalized and neutralized by using certain institutions like religion, customs and traditions. Consequently, study finds patriarchy, religion, patriarchal laws, religious laws; patriarchal institutions and religious institutions are the major factors responsible for women's discrimination. Characterization has been regarded as an important tool in depicting patriarchal hegemony and its real functions.

After deep examination of a four major principal characters of Jane Eyre the study came to conclusion that patriarchal conventions and religion are major perpetrators of women discrimination in a society. The research came to conclusion that patriarchal supremacy of the male members of the society and family society has been accepted as an ideology and this ideology has been internalized and neutralized by using certain institutions like religion, customs and traditions. Consequently, study finds patriarchy, religion, patriarchal laws, religious laws; patriarchal institutions and religious institutions are the major factors responsible for women's discrimination. The study finds patriarchal conventions, religion, customary laws, religious laws, patriarchal institutions and religious institutions are the major barriers contributing to the discrimination of women.

In disregard we can say that Victorian society was strongly gender polarized; all patriarchal restrictions were placed on women only. These socially constructed dichotomies were created by men for self interest to exploit women under the umbrella of patriarchy. Men are free and can oppress women, deprive them of their property and children, involve in polygamy because they have the license of patriarchy and no one can held them accountable. Patriarchy doesn't mean to subordinate women only, but it also means the rule by men over women and children as in case of Jane Eyre. John Reed's death is due to his self-engrossed and self-centered character and negligent practices. Jane deems these injustices not because she is orphan but because she is an inferior gender and John doing so because he is a superior gender. So, all these injustices and social discrimination that weaker sex was receiving at the hand of stronger was in the name of patriarchy; as it was blessing in disguise for men and something ordain by God.

### **Recommendations:**

Radical feminists regard gender discrimination and patriarchy as the dominant issues of Jane Eyre, figuring out the solid reasons of women suppression and exploitation at the hand of man. However, still the novel can be explored from different perspectives. One such dimension is psychoanalytical examination of the attitudes, dialogues, motivations and social positions in Jane Eyre; and this is the most unexplored area of the novel that can be sought. Secondly the novel can be analyzed from linguistics (lingual analysis of the text) point of view by examining



the language of both genders; as some of the feminists accuse English language of being sexist or gender biased.

Marxists, however; hold the view that the capitalist system or economic exploitation in Jane Eyre and in modern time is the dominant reason for the gender inequality and this is another issue that can be explored in this novel. They believe that that women's oppression and sufferings is strongly linked to the capitalist system.

So far, no one has applied or explored critical discourse analysis to the text. No one has applied the use of discourse and the social, cultural, and contextual issues regarding gender, power, dominance, ethnic aspects, ideology, and identity and questioning as to how all these features are associated with each other and manifested in spoken and written texts.

The stylistics analysis of the statements done by four principal male characters can be investigated.



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