

## WOMEN-WRITERERS IN ENGLISH LITERERATURE

*Nilufar Anorbayeva O`rinbek qizi*  
*Chirchiq state Pedogogical University*  
*Bachalor degree student*  
*Khamitov Eldorbek erkin o`g`li*  
*Chirchik State Pedogogical University*  
*Scientific advisor*

### ABSTRACT

This article delves into the rich tapestry of English literature, shining a spotlight on the often overlooked contributions of women writers. From the pioneering works of Jane Austen and Virginia Woolf to contemporary voices like Elizabeth Cleghorn Gaskell and Charlotte, George Eliot women have woven narratives that challenge societal norms, explore complex themes, and offer unique perspectives on the human experience. Through an analysis of selected works spanning different genres and historical periods, this study aims to highlight the diversity, depth, and significance of women's literary contributions. It examines the socio-cultural contexts that have shaped their writing, explores the recurring themes of identity, agency, and representation, and discusses the evolving reception and recognition of women's literature within the canon. By acknowledging and celebrating the voices of women writers, this article seeks to contribute to a more inclusive and comprehensive understanding of English literature.

**KEYWORDS:** Women writers, English literature, Victorian Era, Gender inequality, Societal norms, Feminism Literary, contributions Representation, Pseudonyms, Literary analysis, Social reform, Character portrayal, Identity, Agency, Historical context, Female characters, Literary canon, Diversity, Inclusivity,

### INTRODUCTION

The Victorian Era was a period of great social and political reform, especially regarding the role of women. Women began actively seeking equal social and legal rights as men, and one of the main ways they attempted to draw attention to their plight was through writing. Women wrote in order to make a living, contribute to the literature world, and most importantly change British society and fight for women's rights. Voting and property rights, education opportunities, and employment restrictions were all issues of 19<sup>th</sup> century Britain faced. Many women decided to address the issues in writing and publishing their work in order to make their voices heard and demand equality. As a result, Feminism started to gain momentum out of the frustration women faced with the openly unfair and worsening social and political

situation (“I Take Up My Pen”). Some of the more popular female novelist of this time include Charlotte Bronte and George Eliot. Many women of the Victorian Era published their work anonymously or under pseudonyms to ensure that their works would be given the same merit that works by male authors were granted. Using gender ambiguous pseudonyms, which all of the Bronte sisters did, allowed female novelists the freedom to create characters exactly the way they wanted without fear of being disrespected or not taken seriously because they were created by women.

### LITERARY REVIEW

It is clear from the analysis of literary sources that it is also in English literature the image of a woman has changed over time. Woman in Nineteenth-Century English Prose the image is completely idealized by male writers it is obvious that it was created. English in *Ivanhoe* by W. Scott The female character Rowena is passive in contrast to the Jewish beauty Reveka, softness, the inability to resist is idealized we can see the symbol (6, 292). In this regard, only a few Although the writers solve the situations in a very stereotypical way to deviate from the stereotyping of the image of a woman they succeeded. Rebecca from Thackeray's *Vanity Fair* Sharpe and Emilia Sedley in *The Women in White* by W. Collins Marion Holcomb deviates from stereotyping of female characters belongs to the series of works. Information about the past can also be obtained through literature. Because some events in each work are based on reality appears and gives a little insight into the life of that time stands There are also female characters in the works of U. Shakespeare

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In the works of Arnold Jane Austen, the female character is positive puts forward views that it is not described and all in the work shows a certain level of stupid behavior of women. So, according to Arnold's guess, Jane Austen herself wanted to create a completely new image of a woman for students however, she did not avoid stereotypes about women, and this is a woman did not fail to influence the creation of his image. From Elizabeth in addition, she embodied the image of other female characters in the work, these are Mrs. Bennet and Charlotte Lucas. Mrs. Bennet is mainly in the play is revived as a negative character. Arnold states that Bennett the lady always complains about little things, annoying, narrow She is described as a thoughtful woman and her main goal in life is her daughters it is indicated as marriage (16, 34). And Tanner is

Bennett that the lady's outlook is limited and that she is incapable of reasoning emphasizes. According to Waldron, Mrs. Bennet speaks without thinking about the feelings of others and has a narrow mind. will tell. Also about Charlotte, another female character in the play critics have different opinions (18, 404–419).admits that he likes it. But Newton points out that Charlotte was also a victim of the socio-economic power and pressure of that time. And this that it moves based on the demands of that time will tell. Tanner agrees, and Charlotte can't be blamed that he chose this path in order to survive in life emphasizes. K. P. Karagoda in his dissertation on the topic "Social and cultural conditions of the image of women in the art of the modern age" modern literature and studies the place of women in his art, divided into two types: new and traditional female character. According to her: "Traditional woman expresses herself through marriage does. Victorian era and artists of that era by society death to women who turn their backs on established procedures such as breaking up the family will show that the punishment will be determined".

### **DISCUSSION AND RESULT**

The exploration of women's contributions to English literature throughout history reveals a complex interplay between societal expectations, cultural norms, and individual agency. Women writers of the Victorian Era, such as Charlotte Bronte and George Eliot, used literature as a powerful tool to advocate for social and political reform, often addressing issues such as gender inequality, education, and employment restrictions.

The decision of many women writers to publish their works anonymously or under pseudonyms reflects the challenges they faced in a male-dominated literary landscape. By adopting gender-ambiguous pen names, female novelists sought to ensure their works would be judged on merit rather than gender, highlighting the need for greater recognition and equality within the literary canon. The analysis of literary sources presented in this article demonstrates the evolving portrayal of women characters over time. From idealized and passive figures in nineteenth-century prose to more nuanced and complex representations in works such as Jane Austen's "Pride and Prejudice," women writers have challenged stereotypes and reshaped perceptions of femininity.

Furthermore, the socio-cultural context of women's writing offers valuable insights into the lived experiences of women during different historical periods. By examining themes of identity, agency, and representation, this study contributes to a more comprehensive understanding of English literature and the diverse voices that have shaped it.

The examination of women's literary contributions reveals a rich tapestry of narratives that challenge societal norms, explore complex themes, and offer unique perspectives on the human experience. From the pioneering works of Jane Austen to

contemporary voices like Elizabeth Gaskell, women writers have made indelible marks on the literary landscape, enriching our understanding of the world and its complexities.

Through an analysis of selected works spanning different genres and historical periods, this study has highlighted the diversity, depth, and significance of women's literary contributions. By acknowledging and celebrating the voices of women writers, we have taken a step towards a more inclusive and comprehensive understanding of English literature.

### CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the examination of women's contributions to English literature offers a compelling narrative of resilience, creativity, and advocacy. From the Victorian Era to the present day, women writers have defied societal expectations, challenged gender norms, and reshaped the literary landscape with their bold and insightful narratives.

Through their writing, women authors have not only entertained audiences but also provoked thought, sparked dialogue, and advocated for social change. By addressing issues such as gender inequality, education, and societal restrictions, they have illuminated the complexities of the human experience and offered diverse perspectives on timeless themes.

The analysis of literary sources presented in this study underscores the importance of acknowledging and celebrating the voices of women writers. Their works provide invaluable insights into historical contexts, societal attitudes, and the evolving portrayal of women characters in literature.

Moving forward, it is essential to continue amplifying the voices of women writers and integrating their works more fully into the literary canon. By doing so, we honor their contributions, enrich our understanding of English literature, and foster a more inclusive and equitable literary discourse.

In embracing the diversity, depth, and significance of women's literary contributions, we not only pay homage to the past but also pave the way for a more vibrant and inclusive literary future. Let us continue to celebrate and champion the voices of women writers, ensuring that their legacies endure for generations to come.

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