

A BRIEF DISCUSSION OF SOME ASPECTS OF LIBERAL FEMINISM IN THE WORK OF KANDASAMY'S "WHEN I HIT YOU"

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Abstract

The term "intertextuality" refers to the way that texts interact and develop to influence how people read and process information from texts. This study aims to provide a theoretical explanation of intertextuality. Because of this, the majority of recent research has concentrated on domestic abuse, a well-known social issue that hinders women's advancement in a number of ways. The interrelated narrative of multiple works, with a focus on Meena Kandasamy's when I Hit You within the context of domestic assault, forms the basis of the study's methodology. Liberal feminism, a popular feminist perspective, emphasizes the value of equality in social life as well as education in order to promote parity between men and women. It is said that women will be just as good as men when they have the same chances as men, and that this will help society advance and family life, which is a key component of liberal feminism. Liberal feminism, however, falls short of providing long-term, workable solutions to the issues facing women and children given that it examines their circumstances through the lens of positivist knowledge, which has no interest in altering the status quo. Gender stereotypes are harmful ideas propagated by a specific group as a result of generalization and oversimplification. In this study, the term "gender stereotype" refers to negative perceptions toward women that are based more on their gender identity or sexual orientation than on their inherent worth and skill.

Paper Identification



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I. Introduction

The Gypsy Goddess, MeenaKandasamy's blistering 2014 debut, examined caste, poverty, & physical assault in southern India. In her second book, a newlywed writer experiences severe violence from her husband and quick social isolation.

In 2012, Kandasamy wrote an article for the Indian publication Outlook about her own marriage. Now, in *When I Hit You: Or, an Autobiography of the Writer as a Young Wife*, she uses a fictional character who speaks in an urgent first-person voice.

“A woman at whom society cannot spit or throw stones, because this me is a she who is made up only of words on a page, and the lines she speaks are those that everyone hears in their own voice”.

The writings of feminists like Rosemarie Tong, Mary Wollstonecraft, and John Stuart Mill have helped most feminists identify women's goals with extreme clarity. Mill, a liberal philosopher, states that "the subordination of women is an unfair assault on the principle of liberty, which strips them of freedom."

Mill summarizes this by saying that women are focusing on achieving their freedom by choosing the correct path. Similar to this, Namita Gokhale's *Priya: In Incredible* portrays this idea via Priya. "It typically comes out in the end," she says, speaking loud enough for others to hear. I would receive what I deserved right now. The goal of liberal feminism is to help women become more competent and capable. Rachita's life serves as a mirror for Tong's conception of liberal feminism. "We all need a change," I told myself over and over, almost like a mantra, Rachita says. "Everyone needs a change." This illustrates her lack of freedom to live her life as she pleases.

1.1 Liberal Feminism

There has always been a problem with women being oppressed by men, and women have fought against male dominance. Consequently, a number of women's groups have grown up that get together to attempt to solve this shared issue. Feminism is the term used to describe all of these female endeavour's.

Feminism is founded on the idea to give voice to women who have historically been silenced by male dominance and is considered the pinnacle of women's liberation movements. It gives women, irrespective of their age, culture, or ethnicity, the freedom to express who they are both inside and outside of their communities. One definition of feminism is insufficient because it aims to encompass all women, wherever they may be found—in advanced or emerging nations, in the East or the West.

The wide range of topics covered by this ideology also contributes to its plurality; instead of talking about one feminism, we talk about feminisms with different goals, various methods to reaching those goals, and different focal points. However, despite this diversity, their main goal is to empower women by giving them a voice in a society where men are in charge.

There are three distinct waves of feminist movements: first wave feminism, and this emerged in the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century as a result of the industrial revolution, liberalism, and liberal ideas; that era concentrated on feminist causes and equal opportunities to men; the second phase of feminist thought, which emerged in the 1960s and 1990s, centred on women's sexual orientation and the ability to reproduce, challenging the traditional roles of women from drawing a distinction between sex and gender; Third wave feminism, which emerged in the 1990s, defied convention by embracing distinctions in sexual orientation, class, and ethnicity.

Within these different waves of feminism, there are movements known by different names, including Marxism feminism, liberal feminism, socialist feminism, and radical feminism. Generally speaking, each feminist movement grows in reaction to the goals or methods of the others, or as a way to make up for the failings of the preceding one. However, as was previously stated, women never question the one goal they uphold: their freedom.

Since the purpose of this essay is to analyse the present circumstances of Syrian refugee women and children from a liberal feminist perspective, it will be useful to define liberal feminism, go over its main principles, and explain how it differentiates from other feminisms.

The foundation of liberal feminism, widely acknowledged as the pioneering feminist movement, is the equal status of men and women in both public and private domains. These include equal rights to education, parity in the political sphere (such as the ability to vote), equal compensation, improved working conditions, and parity in the private sphere (the home), as this affects the status of women in the public sphere.

The primary political demands of liberal feminists are summarized by Susan Wendell in her article "A (Qualified) Défense of Liberal Feminism" as follows: "the promotion of women's greater autonomy and self-value as people with disabilities, equality of possibilities, the advancement of equal educational opportunities for girls and boys, the elimination of sexism and de facto prejudice, the equal recognition of legal liberties, and the use educational opportunities as an important instrument of social reform.

According to liberal feminists, women lack equality in public spheres such as the ability to vote, equal opportunities in the workplace, and individual voice. As a result, they view education as the most effective means of overcoming these obstacles. Girls and young women can better themselves and be equally sufficient in the public sphere if they have the same rights to an educational institution as boys and men.

Man and woman relationships have been a hot topic in both westerners and eastern societies since the 19th century. In certain cultures, men are portrayed as superior to women. To illustrate, during the early 1970.

revealed based on her empirical studies that the main tenet of management in the United States was widely held to be "think manager—think male." Schein investigated the prevalence of successful traits, dispositions, and attitudes among managers and whether men were more likely than women to possess these qualities.

1.2 Gender stereotype

Gender stereotypes refer to the inaccurate portrayal of male and female triggers. Given that individuals have different standards for male and female behaviour, and because traditional gender roles support these expectations, stereotypes like this one are linked to cognitive processes. Men are expected to be bold, assertive, aggressive, autonomous, and task-oriented, for example, while women are perceived as more emotional, dependent, sensitive, and people-oriented. People's beliefs and assumptions about men and women influence how they should act and behave. Such a mechanism demonstrates how the cognitive process accentuates gender stereotype.

Gender stereotypes are associated with "the regional family structure where men had been more effective to women, who were thought to attend to man's every need," in addition to the cognitive process. As an illustration, true women are typically expected to handle domestic duties like creating a home and raising children,

"The true woman's place was as daughter, sister, but most of all as wife and mother".

These household responsibilities include feeding and tending to the ill, particularly a sick spouse or child. In summary, gender stereotypes are influenced by the native family structure, either directly or indirectly, just as the

thought process is in the majority of global cultures. Even in advanced countries like Japan, stereotypes regarding gender still persist as a result of cognitive processes and the traditional family structure.

Due to the perception that men should be the family' primary breadwinners, most Japanese women are encouraged to stay at home and take care of their families. Women's work patterns in Japan differ from those observed by women in Western industrialized nations because Japanese society adopts this idea.

Because they think it is their duty to be wives and mothers, a great deal of Japanese women wishes to remain at home after marriage. And the majority of husbands continue to desire their wives to follow this custom. Both at work and at home, this leads to gender inequality. Not only does criticism of literature centre on the problem of gender inequality, but.

It illustrates the progression of women's writing from the Victorian era to the present. The movement is divided into three main phases by the author: "The Feminine," which spans from the 1840s, when male pseudonyms were first used, until George Eliot's death in 1880; "The Feminist," which spans from 1880 to the 1920 election; and "The Female," which spans from 1920 to the present, which includes a "a new stage of self-awareness" around 1960.

Women experience violence in practically every area of their lives, which includes the home, workplace, educational system, government agencies, as well as during times of crisis or conflict, regardless of their status, religion, ethnic background, or religion. Violence affects women at all stages of life, not just older women but also girls. The violence toward women and girls can take many forms, including forced prostitution, forced and early marriage, sexual assault and harassment, domestic abuse, referred to as "honour" crimes, or female genital mutilation.

It stems from the gender inequality that women experience from early childhood into later life. A lot of perpetrators believe that society condones or even promotes violence against women. Women think they can act violently without anyone criticizing them. It is one among the world's most prevalent human rights abuses, having detrimental long-term effects on women, their neighbourhoods, and the wider society.

Domestic violence (DV) is defined variously by different people based on their own perceptions, but in common parlance, it refers to the range of suffering that take place within the context of a family system in which one partner abuses and dominates the other. In accordance with Violence against Women and the US Office, domestic violence is described as.

“Pattern of abusive behaviour in any relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another intimate partner”.

The definition goes on to say that domestic violence (DV) "may happen to everyone, irrespective of sexual orientation, age, racial background, religion, or gender" and that it can take many different forms, such as emotional, physical, sexual, or financial abuse. Literature, more than most of the other kinds of culture in general, can depict positive and failing relationships more authentically, as many critics have noted. This is because the length of the story allows for more complex discourse and character development. Therefore, fiction books could be an excellent resource for teaching about domestic abuse to both casual readers and students in a formal classroom setting.

In feminist aspects of existentialism, Beauvoir says,

“What I will try to describe is how a woman is taught to assume her condition, how she experiences this, what universe she finds herself enclosed in, and what escape mechanisms are permitted her”.

The women are forced into a particular condition in their life. Beauvoir says,

“As they are brought up by women, in the heart of a feminine world, their normal destiny is marriage, which still subordinates them to a man from a practical point of view”.

The interaction is the relationship between texts that are infused with allusions and quotations. It's a literary technique that creates "textual interdependence" and links ideas from different works. Literary critic Julia Kristeva asserted in the 1960s which interconnected relationships could be found in a variety of literary genres and that distinct texts developed as a result of their connections to earlier literary works.

Kristeva's concept of interaction is based on Bakhtin's concept that each sentence is strongly interconnected with what has been stated previously within a political and social textual environment. By using these references, authors hope to change the reader's perspective and enhance the text's depth by building on their knowledge and understanding from earlier readings. In turn, the influence structure depends on the.

It's a literary discourse technique that writers employ in non-written works as well as novels, poetry, and plays. Both a reader remembering a particular book while reading others and an author adapting and borrowing from a prior work are examples of intertextuality. Although "intertextuality" is closely linked to the concept of "reference," it is not used to describe a particular kind of literary activity. Instead, it lacks a verb form, giving it broad identifying powers.

The significance of written work as an analytical resource was emphasized by Leavy, who described it as offering a distinct viewpoint on events and people's daily lives in addition to having the capacity to address various interpretations and serving as a widely accessible source of profound reflection. Thus, the main goal of this research is to examine the interaction phenomenon of domestic violence's effects on elements that are sexual, psychological, physical, and economic through the autobiographical writings of well-known Indian author Meena Kandasamy.

Because autobiographical fiction has tangible connections to reality, it's a useful starting point for intersectional analysis. In her 2017 book *When I Hit You Or, a Story of the Writer as a Young Wife*, Meena Kandasamy presents a young, anonymous narrator who is a writers-wife in a four-month-and-eight-day connection to an educational institution lecturer who is also an ardent libertarian. Her ability to write in poetic prose, along with her audacity and candour as a female writer, are all evident in the work.

The work draws from the author's own experience living in an abusive marriage. This story is a feminist essay about finding one's own voice and helping others discover who they are. In terms of societal hierarchy, the autobiography offers a biting critique of the place of women in contemporary Indian culture, especially that of the so-called privileged elites. This work explores the malevolent aspects of the patriarchy ego as represented by the opposing professor's character and how writing serves as the protagonist's liberating force. It was nominated for the Women Prize for Novel and received other noteworthy awards.

Kandasamy (below) writes with poetic intensity,

“Hope prevents me from taking my own life. Hope is the kind voice in my head that prevents me from fleeing. Hope is the traitor that chains me to this marriage.”

Yet sometimes this intensity undoes itself:

“I imagine my vagina falling out of me like spare change. Not with jingling noises, but in a wet, pulpy, silent way ...”

Such word choice runs the risk of weakening our sense of empathy. However, even as that she is defeated—as we are, too, thanks to Kandasamy's use of literary devices like repetition—the narrator muses that every scene has the potential to tell a story.

By turning the novel into an examination on the craft of writing about trauma, abuse, and desire, the danger of desensitization is avoided. She understands that writing can save her life, but she is unsure of how to approach strangers who purchase fiction written for their gain. When *I Hit You*, she responds.

Using chapter epigraphs from Elfriede Jelinek, Kamala Das, and Anne Sexton ("art creates the / pain in the first place"), she connects herself with feminist writers who transcend language barriers as well as differences in caste, race, and culture. It's a strategy to counter the abuser of the novel's claim about the Indian female writer writing in English is comparable to a whore from the Raj.

In fact, Gwendoline Riley's *Baileys Prize*-shortlisted novel *First Love*, which also depicts the writer's character as a young wife, and Kandasamy's work share a lot of similarities in their shared themes and echoes of a classic title (Kandasamy pays homage to Joyce, Riley's to Turgenev). Riley's heroine experiences mostly emotional abuse, but her husband verbally abuses her body, mental clarity, and abilities on a par with the abuser in Kandasamy's book. One nearly wants to offer When I say, "Read this - leave now," to Neve, who, such as her anonymous Indian counterpart, is additionally restrained by both her own mother and societal expectations.

1.3 Objectives of the study

1. To examine how "When I Hit You" by Meena Kandasamy utilizes the protagonist's experience to highlight ideals of liberal femininity.
2. To look at the protagonist's quest for personal freedom and how education fits into her plan for empowerment.
3. To evaluate the story's legal and justice-related elements, such as the protagonist's quest for justice and the legal system's assistance to her.
4. To look into the value of economic freedom and the character's attempts to become financially independent.

II. LITRATURE REVIEW

(Sangeetha, J., 2022) The new mainstream feminism known as liberal feminism emphasizes women's liberation and gender inequality within a liberal democratic framework. The study's goal is to examine liberal feminism from the viewpoints of notable liberal intellectuals through Meena Kandasamy's critically acclaimed book *While I Hit You: or the Story of the author as a young people Wife* (2017). Theories of liberal feminism are included into the study's methodology, and they are investigated and supported by the ideas of eminent liberal intellectuals like John Stuart Mill's *On Independence and the Subordination of Women*, Betty Friedan's *The Feminine Mystique*, and Mary Wollstonecraft's *A Defender of the Rights of Women*.

(Mohan, S., 2022) The term "intertextuality" refers to the way that texts interact and develop to influence how people read and process information from texts. This study aims to provide a theoretical explanation of intertextuality. Because of this, the majority of recent research has concentrated on domestic abuse, a well-known social issue that hinders women's growth in a number of ways. The methodology employed in this study is predicated upon the intertextuality storytelling of multiple works, with a particular focus on Meena Kandasamy's in a situation of a domestic assault, when I hit you. The study's conclusions show that a variety of factors make women more susceptible to domestic violence.

(Patni, G. 2020) Both man and woman are God's loving children and are meant to be together. They are not better than one another. However, because of India's patriarchal social structure, differences exist between the sexes, particularly with regard to the degree of power and freedom that each enjoys. In his 1988 book "Feminine Identity in India," Sudhir Kakar addresses the widely held notion that marriage does not grant Indian women a social status; rather, it is necessary for them to faithfully follow the code of conduct outlined in the legal texts.

(Kandasamy, M., 2018) The scholars' interaction with the two modern Indian writers that have recently captivated readers' attention is a distinctive aspect of Writing Voice March 2018. The 2016 Sahitya academy. The honour was the winner in Punjab, Dr.Swarajbir Singh, discusses the social themes that have shaped his work and the early influences that shaped his writing style. Ingrid Kandasamy.

(Thomas, S. E., 2020) Professor Sarasu Esther Thomas, who is the moderator, began the meeting by extending a warm welcome to all attendees and speakers. She gave an introduction to the organizers, including the Law and the community Committee at NLSIU, the Centre for Women and the Law—the oldest research centre at NLSIU led by Prof. Sarasu—and Leafly et, which had been founded by Mr. Anand Grover and Ms. Indira Jaising.

(Rahmawan, M. A. 2022) In Indonesia, women's involvement in the economy is still relatively low. This resulted from a number of factors, including the public's mistrust of women engaging in economic activity and women's lack of confidence in getting involved in the workforce. This study also aims to demonstrate that women have greater opportunities to engage in economic activity. In order to address the research questions, this study is structured around a literary criticism that adopts the liberal feminism approach advocated by the writings of John Stuart Mill as well as Harriet's Taylor Mill. This essay will clarify how the protagonist, Lucia Sartori, embodies the spirit of feminism. The book Lucia, Lucia by Adriana Trigiani served as the study's data source.

(Dewi, C. P. 2023) Due to the nature of their gender, sexuality, or other physical attributes, women are frequently denied rights under the law. According to Betty Friedan, women in male-dominated societies are too submissive, incapable of independent believed and unwilling to work for themselves. Women also get frequently caught up in the feminine mystique, which means that their primary focus is limited to the obligations placed on their behalf by their spouses such as taking care of the home and serve them. The objectives are to ascertain how feminine mystery is shown in the story and to clarify Ana's attempts to overcome these problems. The researcher approaches a topic using feminist literary criticism.

(Haziri, I. 2021) The purpose of this study is to elucidate the distinctions in approaches to national party abuse against women between the Swedish parties, the Social Democrat coalition, and the Moderates. This text analysis study looks at the strategies that the parties believe are necessary for improved gender mainstreaming while taking into consideration the parties' specific ideologies. Using liberalism, conservatism, and socialism as my directing ideologies, I have conducted a study that looks at how various values balance each other and provides a framework for how things should be done. Because of the way parties use religious locations of departure in their tactics, this could also be referred to as a declaration of norms.

(Yulianti, I. K.2023) Andy Fickman's 2006 the Americans romantic humour sports film is the Man was influenced by Twelfth Night, a play by William Shakespeare. In the film she's The Man, Viola Hasting, a woman who holds that women are weaker than men, experiences unjust treatment when she plays soccer. The research being conducted aims to pinpoint gender disparity markers, explain the ways in which gender inequality is portrayed in the film, and expose the reasons behind the movie's raising of gender inequality. They gather information using

the observation method and Rosemarie Tong's theory of a feminist perspective in order to strengthen the discussion of this thesis. People of primary data encompassed websites, journals, and the original script for the movie.

III. METHODOLOGY

When the abuser and the victim know one another, domestic violence occurs. Relationships between adults and teenagers can experience it. It is possible for the offender and the victim to be separated, divorced, married, living together, or dating. They identify as lesbian, homosexual, or heterosexual. They might be parents to each other's kids.

The duration of the couple's relationship can range from a brief period to a long one. Because of this, the study's methodology takes into account the intertextuality aspects of domestic violence in relation to the autobiographical operate when I Hit You Or, an Account of the Writer as the young Wife (2017) by renowned Indian author Meena Kandasamy as well as other well-known works, focusing on its physical, psychological, economical, and sexual aspects.

3.1 Physical Abuse

Your mental and physical well-being may suffer long-term effects from physical abuse. Physical abuse includes any aggressive physical behaviours, depriving oneself of basic necessities, inadvertent physical harm, and fear of physical violence. Numerous chronic (long-term) health problems, including hypertension, cardiovascular disease, and issues with digestion, can result from it. Injuries may or may not come from physical assaults.

Even seemingly minor acts of physical aggression, like shoving or kicking, can result in extremely painful wounds. Women who have experienced violence are more likely to experience hopelessness, anxiety, or eating disorders.

Examples of this include denying the victim physical needs like food or sleep, refusing cash, transportation, medical care, or support in the event that they become ill or injured, separating the victim inside or outside the home, threatening to use a weapon, refusing to provide or ration supplies, and abusing, hurting, or threatening to harm others like kids, pets, or priceless items. The lines that follow is an excellent example of this,

“He is punching my arms today, but tomorrow he'll wrap his fist around my hair and drag myself through the rooms; the following day he'll deliver a bone-cracking blow to my backbone; and the day after that, his enraged fist will land on my head”.

In addition to self-inflicted wounds and defence injuries, abused men also sustain injuries. Since women are the primary victims of domestic abuse, they frequently sustain serious injuries in heterosexual relationships. The lines that follow demonstrate this:

“My secrets lie in my scars. Sometimes my shoulders slump straight; I wish those breasts would go away. I am a woman whose hair falls out of handfuls, an injustice that is unlike any other and one that is difficult for even close friends to acknowledge. Every hairstyle has a hidden style. Long hours of sitting have hurt my back. The concept of a woman who lacks self-care is mapped onto my cracked heels. My actual body is working against me, rapidly aging and becoming sick”.

Parallel instances of physical harm can be found in Nicholas Sparks's widely read American novel, Safe Haven. Safe Haven has been translated into several languages and has been distributed over a large number of scopes globally. The protagonist of the book is Zahra, who lives in constant fear of her father because he mistreats both his

wife and daughter. Her father is known for being a devoted Muslim who preaches adhering to Islamic law and praying nonstop. Zahra wanted to wed someone who would shield her from her biological father's unjust actions and whom she loved.

Nevertheless, her dream was dashed when she wed Majid, who was a perfect duplicate of her violent father. In Jordan's male-dominated society, stereotypes, marginalization, gender inequality, and the continuous cycle of female subjugation are all clearly criticized by Shalan's representation of Zahra. The lines that follow illustrate this,

“He could not remember breaking either of her fingers, despite the fact it was obvious he had. But he wouldn't let her go to the hospital for an entire week, so she had to take care of the cooking and cleaning herself until the wounds on her face were able to be covered up with makeup”.

3.2 Psychological Abuse

Psychological abuse is characterized by the repeated and deliberate use of various words and non-material behaviours with the aim to cause emotional and mental harm, manipulating others, injury, or intimidation; or to distort, perplex, or influence a person's thoughts and behaviour in day-to-day life, leading to a loss of identity and detrimental effects on their well-being. As Kandasamy say,

“My sense of identity being stolen. If someone else can so readily identify themselves as me, act like me, and take over my life while we share a roof, then I'm no longer myself”.

3.3 Economic Abuse

Economic abuse occurs when an intimate partner controls the other's financial possibilities, making it harder for the victim to support themselves and driving them to depend financially on the abuser. Restricting the victim's financial resources limits the perpetrator's escape routes from a violent or abusive partnership.

Economic violence includes ways to prevent a partner or spouse from acquiring resources, such as preventing them from getting an education, finding employment, maintaining their positions, or progressing in their professions, and acquiring assets. Consistent actions or statements are used to confuse and intimidate the victim of emotional abuse. When victims see themselves in these behaviour's, they begin to doubt themselves and think that they might be the ones abusing people or that you are at fault.

Both men and women who have experienced emotional assault are more likely to experience depression, which raises their risk of drug and alcohol addiction, poor eating habits, and suicide. Kandasamy stated, "I have stopped requesting them to help me discover a job," as an example of this. I no longer believe in myself. One of the many nebulous goals I have for my life that I don't see numerous chances to achieve is getting a job. I understand that my spouse detests nothing in the universe more than the thought of being a writer”.

Similarly, Elizabeth Haynes's book "Into the Darkest Corner" portrays economic abuse through the character of Catherine, who talks about her husband's dominant ways, saying:

“When I informed him, I was considering taking a leave of absence from work, things started to get better. I took the precaution because it would provide me with an explanation in case someone from work called or if I made a mistake. Naturally, he had always wanted me to quit my job from the beginning”.

3.4 Sexual Abuse

A portion of those who commit these crimes sexually abuse their targets. Forced sexual relations with a victim who does not want intimacy is one of the many behaviours that constitute sexual abuse. Research shows that women are more likely to be victims of rape in the Indian subcontinent, making it the country with the highest risk of rape. As of 2016, rape accounted for 10.9% of all crimes against women. One more notable incidence of physical assault against women is marital rape.

Marital rape is the term used to describe non-consensual sexual relations among married couples that result in severe physical abuse and molestation of the female body. Sexual activity performed on a woman without her permission is usually considered rape. The majority of violence against Indian women consists of rapes and unconstitutional sexual activities. Likewise, Kandasamy's spouse employs sexual assault as a tactic to control her. Through the lines, Meena Kandasamy's horrific and pitiful experiences of violent marital abuse are made public, —

“He's pulling me up just by my hair. My head is being overflowing with blood. My vagina would probably fall out onto me like spare change. You did not win the fight against rape. You were unable to prevail. When I lie there, all I can think regarding is death”.

Similarly, in the novel *The Dark Holds No Terror*, the protagonist, Saru explains her predicament as well as her sexual encounter with her spouse:

“The vicious teeth, the sore hands, and the terrifying attack on a gruesomely familiar body. And a face I did not recognize above me. For a while, I was completely bewildered and unable to comprehend anything. Then I started to have trouble. However, my body, aching and damaged, was powerless to stop the terrifying force that overcame me”.

IV. ANALYSIS

“Meena Kandasamy, an Indian novelist, published her book *When I Hit You: Or, an Account of the Writer as the young Wife*” in 2017. It explores the life of the the main character, a young wife who experiences violence and domestic abuse at the hands of her husband, in a semi-autobiographical work. The book discusses feminism in many ways, and liberal feminism constitutes one of the themes that runs through Kandasamy's writing. Here is a quick rundown of some liberal feminism's key ideas in relation to this book:

1. Gender Equality and Freedom: The main goals of liberal feminism are individual freedom and gender equality. In *“If I Hit You,”* the main character's attempt to escape her controlling marriage is a reflection of liberal feminism's central ideas. She emphasizes the value of gender equality as well as individual freedom as she works to reclaim her freedom, autonomy, and right to make her own decisions.

2. Legal Rights and Agency: A key component of liberal feminism is the importance of women's agency and legal rights. The main character must navigate the legal system to leave her abusive marriage all through the entire book. Her experience serves as a reminder of the value of legal safeguards and women's autonomy in exercising their rights.

3. Education and Empowerment: A fundamental component of liberal feminist ideology is empowerment and education. The main character of the book is a strong, intelligent, and well-educated woman. Her capacity to comprehend the situation and ultimately leave the abusive relationship is greatly aided by her education. This demonstrates the liberal feminist perspective that women can become more powerful through education.

4. Public Discourse and Awareness: Liberal feminism frequently concentrates on educating the public about the disparity between genders and promoting change via discourse and legislation. Meena Kandasamy adds to this conversation by bringing attention to the problem of domestic abuse in her book. Through her account of a relationship that was abusive, she invites readers to consider how critical it is to identify and deal with these kinds of problems in society

5. Economic Independence: An additional essential component of liberal feminism is financial independence. The protagonist makes attempts to obtain employment and financial security as part of her quest to take back control of her life. This emphasizes how crucial it is for women to have financial independence so they can make decisions without relying on a partner.

Meena Kandasamy tells a story that is consistent with liberal feminism's tenets in "When I Hit You," highlighting the value of economic independence, freedom for oneself, legal rights, and gender equality. The book offers a compelling examination of the obstacles women encounter in patriarchal cultures as well as their quest for empowerment and independence.

V. DISCUSSION

A woman whose sexual orientation is currently challenged faces a serious issue with gender discrimination. Women's identities have long been shamed in large part by gender discrimination. One uses biological differences to evaluate women. The primary expressions that characterize the socioeconomic conditions are based on biological differences. Despite the fact that women now enjoy a certain degree of independence in modern society, they still long for the uniqueness that they lost due to ignorance, loneliness, and isolation.

Therefore, it is demeaning to evaluate a woman based only on her gender. The patriarchal society needs to understand that although women and men have different biological makeups, they are not sexes that are less powerful. It is necessary to change certain negative perceptions that men hold about women.

To further improve women's empowerment, myths about the past that embarrass women should be debunked. Education helps to break down ideologies in these conflicts. Therefore, these chosen novels depict the anguish and turmoil experienced by modern educated middle-class women, with particular reference to Meena Kandasamy's *When I Hit You*.

These conditions center on the effects and circumstances, along with the mentalities of a middle-income woman in their private lives, professional lives, and workplaces. They realistically portray their fears, struggles, disappointments, and frustrations. The writers discuss the struggles of women for identity and personality as well as the different types of oppression, especially sexual oppression. The only ways to stop domestic violence are to eradicate male supremacy and steer clear of roles that are imposed by culture.

Women's liberation will take off when the cultural implications that are imposed and usual disappear. These characteristics make women particularly vulnerable to the effects of domestic violence, which also affects them because the condition deals with the psychological suffering of the victim, exposing the predicament and the grief of a confined woman in a more profound way.

VI. CONCLUSION

The research focuses on the interconnected phenomena of domestic abuse, which is recognized as a global issue that consists of a distinct pattern of criminal acts that are directed toward a victim as opposed to a single incident.

The study examines a number of texts, concentrating on Meena Kandasamy's personal story *When I Hit You*, which is set against a backdrop of violent episodes that emerge from different relationship events. The methodology of the study highlights the interconnected nature of domestic violence as economic, psychological, sexual, and physical assault.

The results of the study indicate that although the majority of research on domestic violence focuses on the abusers, focusing on the abusive partners can aid researchers in understanding the long-term health effects of domestic abuse. Because the study only examines the interconnected phenomenon of English-language novels, it has a number of limitations. The constraints of the present study offer a framework and suggest directions for future research in the fields of the theory of structuralism feminism, language problems, and cultural diversity.

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