

MODERN LITERARY FEMINISMS: THEORIES, PRAXIS, TEXTS

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Annotation: *This article explores the evolution and diversity of modern literary feminisms by analyzing their theoretical foundations, practical applications, and interpretive strategies in literary texts. It begins with a discussion of the main waves of feminist thought -from liberal and radical feminism to poststructuralist, postcolonial, and intersectional approaches. The study then examines how feminist praxis manifests in literature through female-centered narratives, the redefinition of gender roles, and resistance to patriarchal discourse. Special attention is given to feminist reading strategies, which interrogate representation, authorship, and ideological frameworks within texts. The article also contextualizes feminist literary criticism in Uzbek literature, highlighting both historical and contemporary voices. Overall, it offers a comprehensive introduction to feminist literary theory and demonstrates its relevance in analyzing both global and local literary productions.*

Keywords: *feminist literary theory, literary feminism, gender and literature, feminist criticism, intersectionality, poststructural feminism, postcolonial feminism, ecriture féminine, female authorship, uzbek women's literature, patriarchy in literature, feminist reading strategies, literary representation of women, gender ideology, feminism in central asia.*

Аннотация: *В данной статье исследуется эволюция и разнообразие современных литературных феминизмов, анализируются их теоретические основы, практическое применение и стратегии интерпретации в литературных текстах. Статья начинается с обсуждения основных направлений феминистской мысли - от либерального и радикального*

феминизма до постструктуралистского, постколониального и интерсекционального подходов. Затем в исследовании рассматривается, как феминистская практика проявляется в литературе через повествования, центрированные на женщинах, переосмысление гендерных ролей и сопротивление патриархальному дискурсу. Особое внимание уделяется феминистским стратегиям чтения, которые исследуют репрезентацию, авторство и идеологические рамки в текстах. Статья также рассматривает контекст феминистской литературной критики в узбекской литературе, выделяя как исторические, так и современные голоса. В целом, статья предлагает всестороннее введение в феминистскую литературную теорию и демонстрирует ее актуальность для анализа как глобальной, так и локальной литературной продукции.

Ключевые слова: феминистская литературная теория, литературный феминизм, гендер и литература, феминистская критика, интерсекциональность, постструктурный феминизм, постколониальный феминизм, *écriture féminine*, женское авторство, узбекская женская литература, патриархат в литературе, феминистские стратегии чтения, литературная репрезентация женщин, гендерная идеология, феминизм в Центральной Азии.

Annotatsiya: Ushbu maqola zamonaviy adabiy feminizmlarning evolyutsiyasi va xilma-xilligini ularning nazariy asoslarini, amaliy qo'llanilishini va adabiy matnlardagi talqin strategiyalarini tahlil qilish orqali o'rganadi. U feministik fikrning asosiy to'lqinlarini muhokama qilish bilan boshlanadi - liberal va radikal feminizmdan poststrukturalistik, postkolonial va kesishgan yondashuvlarga. Keyin tadqiqot feministik praksisning adabiyotda ayollarga asoslangan hikoyalar, gender rollarini qayta belgilash va patriarxal nutqqa qarshilik ko'rsatish orqali qanday namoyon bo'lishini o'rganadi. Matnlardagi vakillik, mualliflik va intellektual doiralarni so'roq qiluvchi feministik o'qish

strategiyalariga alohida e'tibor beriladi. Maqolada, shuningdek, o'zbek adabiyotidagi feministik adabiy tanqid kontekstualashtirilib, tarixiy va zamonaviy ovozlari yoritilgan. Umuman olganda, u feministik adabiyot nazariyasiga keng qamrovli kirishni taklif qiladi va uning global va mahalliy adabiy asarlarni tahlil qilishda dolzarbligini ko'rsatadi.

Kalit so'zlar: *feministik adabiyot nazariyasi, adabiy feminizm, gender va adabiyot, feministik tanqid, interseksiya, poststruktural feminizm, postkolonial feminizm, ecriture feminine, ayol muallifligi, o'zbek ayollar adabiyoti, adabiyotda patriarxat, feministik o'qish strategiyalari, Markaziy Osiyoda ayollarning adabiy vakilligi.*

Introduction. Modern literary feminisms are not merely focused on the analysis of texts authored by women, but rather offer a complex theoretical and practical framework for understanding literature through the lenses of gender, identity, language, and power. Feminist literary criticism reshapes how we read and interpret texts by centering women's experiences and uncovering patriarchal cultural codes embedded in literature (Moi, 1985; Eagleton, 2003).

1. Theoretical Foundations and Approaches of Feminism

1.1. The Wave Model of Feminist Thought

Feminist literary theory has evolved through several "waves" (Tong, 2009):

First wave: Legal and political equality (e.g., Mary Wollstonecraft, Virginia Woolf).

Second wave: Social and cultural critique (e.g., Betty Friedan, Kate Millett).

Third wave: Intersection of race, class, and gender (e.g., bell hooks, Cherríe Moraga).

Fourth wave: Digital activism and trans-inclusive politics (e.g., Baer, 2016).

1.2. Main Literary Feminist Theories

Approach	Key Figures	Key Features
Liberal Feminism	Elaine Showalter	Recovery of forgotten women writers; creation of a female canon
Radical Feminism	Kate Millett	Critique of patriarchal structures in literature and society
Poststructural/Postmodern Feminism	Julia Kristeva, Luce Irigaray, Hélène Cixous	Analysis of gendered language, feminine writing
Postcolonial Feminism	Gayatri Spivak, Chandra Mohanty	Critique of Western-centric feminism, focus on Global South
Intersectional Feminism	Kimberlé Crenshaw	Intersections of gender, race, class, and other identities

2. Feminist Praxis in Literature

Feminism in literature is not limited to theoretical inquiry—it extends to literary practice through:

Representation of women’s lived experiences.

Thematic focus on body, sexuality, motherhood, violence.

Subversion of historical and narrative conventions.

Examples:

Toni Morrison – *Beloved* (1987): The intersection of gender and racial trauma.

Margaret Atwood – *The Handmaid’s Tale* (1985): Dystopian patriarchy and reproductive control.

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie – *We Should All Be Feminists* (2014): Global, intersectional feminism.

Hélène Cixous – *The Laugh of the Medusa* (1975): Concept of *écriture féminine*.

“Woman must write herself: must write about women and bring women to writing...”
 (Cixous, 1975)

3. Reading Texts through a Feminist Lens

A feminist reading treats the literary text as a gendered space (Fetterley, 1978), asking:

How are women represented?

Who is the narrator? Whose voice is dominant?

What ideologies are reinforced or challenged?

Are patriarchal or heteronormative structures present?

4. Contextualizing Feminism in Uzbek Literature

Feminism in Uzbek literary criticism is still in its early stages, but significant voices have emerged:

Historical Women Writers:

Zulfiya – Wrote of love, femininity, motherhood, patriotism.

Halima Khudoyberdieva – Explored inner female worlds, resistance, and spiritual freedom.

Contemporary Trends: Writers like **Nodira Hidoyatova**, **Zilola Isroilova**, and **Iroda Islom** have begun to address themes of gender inequality and psychological depth. Social media platforms now serve as important spaces for feminist voices in poetry, essays, and short fiction.

Conclusion. Modern literary feminisms provide tools to reinterpret texts, uncover gender ideologies, and offer new possibilities for both theory and creative expression. While Uzbek literary space has not yet fully embraced feminist criticism, there is increasing awareness and engagement, particularly among younger generations.

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