

Investigating gender subversion: Bridging the blur through Shinwari and Colfer's depiction of women survival in Pashtun Afghan culture and American culture

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Abstract:

The paper attempted to investigate the gender subversion of the stereotyped ideas of female subjugation and male domination in society. The paper portrayed marginalization and dislocation of women in the far end communities of the world. Shinwari's (a Pashto Afghan author) and Colfer's (American author) depiction of women's endeavor of survival through gender subversion among the ideologies of masculine superiority and feminine inferiority, provided the subject of investigation. Butler's (1999) theory of gender subversion provided the theoretical framework to investigate, through textual analysis, the characters of Zarlasta from Modern Woman (Shinwari, 2013, The Rain) and Charlotte Bailey from The Enchantress Returns (Colfer, 2013) for the study. The paper measured how far the female characters are successful in remonstrating against the gender stereotypes to gain personal liberty, power of expression and empowerment. The findings revealed that women, despite cultural context, endeavor to subvert gender which provided them with proper strength and vigor to protest against the hegemonic patriarchal norms. The two authors portray women who equip themselves with proper education and social status and thus, establish their protest against the men folk in society. The results cannot be generalized, but they lead to diverse results of subversion, a final acceptance and a final submission, after the determined struggle.

Key words: Gender, subversion, Pashto culture, women depiction, women survival.