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Complexity In Jean Rhys Wide Sargasso Sea

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Abstract

This article depicts completely in jean Rhys heroines who are frustrated because of the suppression of their identity and economic enslavement through this here in the novel of jean Rhys one finds journey in guest for home and the continuous battle for the sake of survival. The protagonist of jean Rhys were experiences toward undertake physical as well as psychological journey jean Rhys novels are specially described as a detail study of feminist reading so all her heroines are suffering and frustrated towards their female identity ethnic conflict oppression suppression alienation and womanhood so mostly her heroines are suppression a lot of complexities towards their lives and struggles in this novel wide Sargasso sea the heroine is Antoine etc the strong character who suffers a lot.

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Jean Rhys *Wide Sargasso Sea* has been the object of several postcolonial and feminist critical readings. In the novel of Jean Rhys one finds journey in quest for home and the continuous battles for the sake of survival. Rhys protagonists engage themselves traveling from place to place continually shifting with a hope for a better prospect. The protagonists of Rhys make a gradual progress through their experiences toward their destiny. In this sense her characters undertake physical as well as psychological journey. Her heroines are fragments out of her own broken self. In this sense the novel is autobiographical. Mostly her novels are studied as feminist critical readings. In her novels Rhys mostly deals with female identity, image of womanhood, ethnic conflicts, oppression, alienation, merciless exploration, etc. In fact Jean Rhys has attempted to recreate West Indian History in her fiction. Talking these interpretation into account the paper attempts to shift the focus to the psychological relevance of the socio – historical questions of slavery and female oppression for the two protagonist, Antoinette and Rochester.

The apparent dichotomies male/female, black/white, sanity/madness, rationality/unconscious etc are expressed by the hero's "terrified consciousness" and result into the ghosts of womanhood, madness, blackness, and magic through which he represent his wife. Antoinette's psychological evolution, on the other hand is seen as a growing self – division into those artificial polarities, until in the end she finally accepts her inner inescapable and positive complexity. Such complexity is here seen as the principle upshot of the novel, in which an emotionalized and narrative ideas, boundaries and revels the manifold nature of personalities and situation.

Culminating Jean Rhys's career, fusing together the terms of all her other novels and bringing them to their highest form, *Wide Sargasso Sea* (1966) is the perfect conclusion of a life of demons and struggles. Because of its hybridity, its cultural references and moods, the extreme passions and fears it unfolds, *Wide Sargasso Sea* is Jean Rhys most problematic novel,

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reveling the authors own psychological complexity and the inner conflict that tore her mind apart and that is variously reflected in all her heroines. With them, Jean Rhys started the Caribbean origins and the difficult integration into British Society that resulted in a mental spilt that she in writing her character in living will try to resolve.

In this novel in particular the parallels between herself and her heroine are so extensive, including a special sensitivity, a troubled childhood and a painful struggle for identity and for a place in society, any society that they brought back to the author memorise of a remote but still disturbing past. This accounts for the difficulties, Rhys faced in its composition, manually rewriting and revising it over almost ten years. Sometimes writing become so painful that she would stop altogether for days but then, when she was at her frailest, she felt possessed by demonic force which sustained her, her efforts in the end were throughly rewarded, since in Wide Sargasso Sea the heroines (and perhaps the author too) reaches that self affirming solution that had eluded the protagonists of Rhys's previous novels. It must not be forgotten, through, that there is also an important male protagonist in Wide Sargasso Sea, who contents with the heroine for the role of narrator. The story is divided into three parts, told respectively by Antoinette, Rochester and Antoinette again. The choice of dividing the point of view between the two main characters giving each the opportunity to express her/his thoughts, gives the novel the additional value of presenting facts in a double perspective, showing Rhys's ability to understand and express different viewpoints. Morever through the space given to the apparently negative character, it becomes apparent that Rochester himself is endowed with a complex and interesting personality, made up of those very same forces (that is very different proportions) that divide the self of Antoinette.

An exceptionally novel, *Wide Sargasso Sea* tackles various fundamental themes such as race and identify, gender and polities, at the same time it gives voice to extremely varied ways of feeling and unresolved conflicting emotions, precisely because of its abundance of themes, since its publication it has been the object of differing critical readings, some stressing its feminist vindication, other contemplating its representation of colonialism & racial polities when it came out, in 1966 it was first welcomed by caribbean critics who argued that questions of race, slavery and colonialism in the novel were of greater interest that its psychological and sexual content. Conversely, feminist readers in the following decade focused on the portrayal of the role of the woman and its connections with slavery, speculating that Jean Rhys intended to show that the two groups were equally oppressed.

The conflict between blacks and whites, men and women, colonialists and colonized, can in this novel also be traced back to the tension between two fundamental, primary opposing forces reason and emotion, rationality and the unconscious have always been involved in an endless struggle, each trying to win over the other but neither ever succeeding. These forces are represented in the novel us emerging through a number of themes and images, including those mentioned above. So that questions of gender and female oppression, for example, are not just dealt with perse, but also as representing more abstract issues. This is the great tragedy of *Wide Sargasso Sea*, the trouble of an identity "at sea" between two continents and unable to reach either shore.

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The Sargasso sea between the Caribbean and Europe is so wide to Antoinette that she is unable to cross it, so she remains trapped in the middle of it, just like the ships that were becalmed in its shadow water. Since most of the critical attention, as mentioned above, has been devoted to "external" problems, such as race, gender and colonial politics, this paper will concentrate on the psychological relevance of those conflicts, examining the reasons for the internal division that torments the heroine. The interpretation of its solution, represented in the ending of the novel, depends on the assessment of this question. Some consideration will also be given to problematic of the character of Rochester, indicating the factors of complexity in him and subsequently the reasons for his reactions.

Wide Sargasso Sea is a novel of shifting boundaries, communicating with intensity to the reader. The characters however, find it harder to accept that complexity as natural, most of all when then find it within themselves and the people they live with. The most significant emergence of unwanted passions inside Rochester takes the shape of forbidden, as well as irresistible, sexual desire he feels for his wife (despite blaming it one her "Mad Coaxing") in the passionate nights together and the tormid lazy afternoons, desire so extreme that even a dress stretched on the floor makes him feel "savage with desire". The powerful womanhood of his wife and her native third complexity in Jean Rhys's Wide Sargasso Sea, land which is her domain, rouse in his a mixture of attraction and repulsion. As. G.C. Spivak. suggested that, unfortunately, the outcome will not be acceptance but blind fear. Lastly associated to the other three themes is magic, here obeath, praised by Antoinette's nurse Chirstophine and talking on menacing, sinister tension Rochester's mind because it escapes rational explanation more than anything else.

After briefly examining some of the main themes of *Wide Sargasso Sea* as emerging from the viewpoints of frightened male Eurocentric imagination, attention will now be devoted to the real focal point of the novel Antoinette's personality and psychology. The strong feminity, irrationality and sensuality that Rochesters defects in her indeed there although her husband, in his anxiety that side of her well beyond its extent, to the point of seeing her as a mad with what Rochester does not realize, however, is that those qualities are merged with others that oppose them, in a European and Caribbean, rational and irrational traits. The caribbean setting, with its uncertain and controversial history is particularly relevant for this analysis.

It is in part three, the most problematic and stylistically disjointed section of the novel, that the meaning of the whole seems to be decided. The search for identity that has tormented Antoinette all her life now finds its solution false after realizing that her personality is turn in two, Antoneitte's is driven to the extremity of her distress, but from the bottom of her sorrow springs, the willpower to solve her inner conflict. The path to peace proves painful of lonely, and the solution is reached just at she shuts out all external influence in order to come to terms with her self alone and thus to discover what is in her, not genuine but imposed. The novel ends with Antoinette walking in the corridor with a candle in her hand, replicating the beginning of the dream, she has just had but not acting it out. Though it seems problems that the dream will now have its realization. Rhys gives the reader no certainty.

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To conclude Jean Rhys novel 'Wide Sargasso Sea' is actually a complexity work. In this sense many parts, themes are included in this novel, and characters also connected and complicated behaviors are presented in this novel.

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