

Doris Lessing's Fiction as Feminist Projections

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Abstract

Doris Lessing, an unrivaled novelist in the literary genres around the world, portrays the fundamental problems of women as well as social system of her times. Lessing searches for new models to communicate the experiences of a blocked woman writer, who spends her early life in Africa, becomes an active and a disappointed communist, who is a politically committed writer, a mother, a wife, or a mistress sometimes a woman. With her very keen and subtle attitude, Lessing wants to present women's psychological conflicts between marriage and love; motherhood and profession, unfairness of the double standard; alienation of a single career woman; hollowness of marriage in the traditional order and society. Lessing portrays her women in various social problems and with various perspectives of male against female. She tries to awaken women community to protest against the patriarchy through her feminist writings. For this purpose, this research paper would like to examine the psychological conflicts and traumatic experiences of powerful heroines, including- Anna Wulf in *The Golden Notebook* and Mary Turner in *The Grass Is Singing*.

Keywords: Anna Wulf, Mary Turner, Doris Lessing, *The Golden Notebook*, and *The Grass Is Singing*.

Introduction

Doris Lessing (1919-2013), an influential fiction writer for all ages, focuses on seriously social problems arising out of the marginalization of women in the male-dominated society. She is for all of us and for all times. She shows her keen observation on women's personal problems, which bear the testimony of universal dealing and appeals. As a feminist critic, Lessing has enabled to portray women's social position in the bourgeois family. Her literary works expose an in-depth exploration of familial, social, cultural, economic, political, psychological, racial conflict, and sexual harassment faced by women in the patriarchal system. She has portrayed powerful female protagonists, including Mary Turner in *The Grass Is Singing* and Anna Wulf in *The Golden Notebook*. Lessing hopes to show a new horizon for highlighting female power, freedom, rights, and existence of her contemporary age. As a result, Lessing has not only achieved reputation, popularity, and international identity among audience, readers, professionals, researchers, critics, and scholars across the globe, but also has occupied a highly reputed position in the field of English literature. (Song, 1997)

Doris Lessing is a major force of postwar English fiction, holding a topmost position as an iconoclastic, outspoken critic of society and politics with a sage like magisterial status for the sheer number, variety and scope of her fiction. In terms of literary justice, Lessing, as a British Nobel laureate novelist, playwright, biographer, and short story writer, portrays feminist themes and social problems with a view to creating social campaign as well as social slogan among her sisters, mothers, and above all womankind around the world. She is rightly regarded as the most fearless female writer in the world unabashed ex-communist and uncompromising feminist. She distinguishes herself as one of the well-reputed fiction writers of any era as an influential force in the development of English literature. She gains an international recognition of serious potential with an interest in the style of social themes and women's issues. (Rubenstein, 1997)

Lessing sheds a new light on many social systems and orders being faced by women in the traditional authority: the conflicts between marriage and love; motherhood and profession, unfairness of the double standard; alienation of a single career woman; hollowness of marriage. Her works are of confrontation of women towards an unfairness of the traditional authority. She wants to present social system and contradictory attitudes towards women through her fictions. She focuses feminist concerns on men-women interaction which represent trauma and paranoia in attitudes and values among her women characters. Her works reflect perfect social circumstances as well as alienation as her female characters become career-oriented and assume the roles being assigned to men. She also emphasizes upon the importance of power, freedom, and assertion of women's rights to combine an identity of the domesticity. (Sparks, 1997)

Lessing aims to present the real sketch of marriage, career, love, motherhood, and relations between men and women in

the patriarchal society. The tension, between women's increasing awareness as a complete human being and man's desire to maintain societal position, is reflected in her fictions, where we see that female protagonists need no caretakers. Her texts are dealt with social themes and moral problems affecting women, including sexual double standard, sexual harassment, trial marriage, free love, divorce, and prostitution. Though some of her writings are apparent, provocative expressions of sympathy for women's challenges which confront and represent women characters of boldness and originality, others involve an implied criticism of radical feminism; her work cannot be easily characterized in the political sense. In some texts, her free-spirited young women revert to the traditional roles, especially when they are in a danger of losing a man whom they love and dream to lead a familial duty and care. Thus, Lessing would like to foster her sense of disillusionment with the women's movement and a tendency to blame it for deficiencies in an emotional life. But, she has written the texts in a period of rapid social change, as it seems to us that she is concerned with women's issues very adjacently. (Morgan, 2007, p. 471)

Lessing portrays women in various social problems and with various perspectives of male against female. She wants to highlight social forces which shape women's activities and aspirations, where they are the "New Women" (like Ibsen's women) categories in search of power, identity, and freedom. She allows modern readers to behold the arguments concerning woman's perspective, both her own and those of characters, some of whom are mature from the romantic dependence on man as a fictitious vehicle of fulfillment to achieve both a sense of self and freedom from a male ego's limited perception. Her women are pre-eminent in merit, intelligence, firmness, and integrity. (Das, 2007). Thus, she has given women vigorous and strong voice through portraying powerful women, like Mary Turner in *The Grass Is Singing* (1950) and Anna Wulf in *The Golden Notebook* (1962). Her subtle attitudes women and social system has purely been presented in her writings.

This research, entitled "Doris Lessing's Fiction as Feminist Projections," examine Lessing's select texts in the light of female subjugation, marginalization, subordination, oppression, and sexual harassment. It aims at looking at a thorough-study of Lessing's treatment of women in multi-facets of life. It examines also her skills in exploring women, both in her individual spheres and in relation to the society around them. Thus, it aims to highlight various aspects of women through her literary canon.

Psychological Conflicts in Mary Turner's Life

In the novel, *The Grass Is Singing*, Lessing's strength lies in an exploration of psychological conflict and alienation among individuals. She wants to show a relationship between Mary Turner, a white farmer's wife and her black servant, Moses. Lessing's portrayal of Mary Turner indicates a close examination due to a unique perspective. Mary is defeated and thwarted by the bullying of race, gender, and social restriction. Mary, the victim of such oppression, is unlike other characters of Lessing, as she is never been given any freedom. Alienation, mental and economic constraint, and emotional rift dominate her entire life. After her marriage, she suffers from laxity and meaninglessness of ill-matched marriage. She is forced by the society to accept loveless marriage that she experiences in her personal life. As she grows up in a broken family, alienation and non-involvement subjugate her. Her life is tormented and afflicted by the wave of social insecurity, sexual harassment, and vacuum. Her struggle in the turbulent wave is intensified when the clutches of race and patriarchy dishearten her inner psychology. (Ahmed, 2013, pp.11-16)

Gender discrimination as well as racial conflict is the dominant theme behind the predicament of sterility and alienation in Mary's life. A huge gulf that is created in her conjugal life compels her to be alienated herself from society and family. A dark abyss is manifested in racial discrimination through making a relationship between Mary and her black slave, Moses. He kills Mary to take vengeance on the white and the second sex. For this, Lessing portrays Mary as a victim of the menace of the patriarchy.

Mary Turner's life is very rich in psychological isolation which has accompanied her until her death. At the beginning of the novel, Mary did not have any psychological problems since she led a happier life. The narrators say, "Till she was twenty-five nothing happened to break the smooth and comfortable life she led." (Lessing, 1950, p.33) She experiences her first shock when she knows the truth about herself from people she considers close to her. She thinks that her life goes as she hopes since she is young, beautiful, and her friends like her. This idea is represented in these lines: "She was friend to half the town. And, in the evening she always went to sundowner parties that prolonged themselves till midnight, or danced, or went to the pictures." (Lessing, 1950, p. 35) Her friends and people around her who have the major effect upon her life represent alienation. When she hears them talking about her clothes and age, she realizes the image what she sees herself differs from that of reality. She starts to work hard in order to compromise between what she wishes and what society dictates; she starts to make changes in her life in order to obey societal norms for a woman in her age. This, she thinks, would make her get back her life, because she feels alienated and frustrated to hear them talking. These changes include small things, such as her clothes and hairstyle which do not leave any great effect on her life. There are also radical changes, such as looking for a husband to get married before it becomes too late. This psychological change triggers her alienation, because it creates two types of conflicts: internal and external. The external conflict is clear through

her conflict with her husband, Dick, as they have opposite attitudes each other, a situation which leads to the failure of her marriage. (Georgescu et al, 2011, pp. 23-38) One of the conflicts between Mary and her husband is how to treat each other. Mary began to question him closely as to why he was needed; but Dick touched her arm warningly and shook his head.

“Why shouldn’t I ask him?” she demanded. “He’s lying, isn’t he?”

“Of course he’s lying,” said Dick irritably. “Of course. That is not the point. You can’t keep him against his will.”

“Why should I accept a lie?” said Mary. “Why should I? Why can’t he say straight out that he doesn’t like working for me, instead of lying about his kraal?” (Lessing, 1950, pp. 67-68)

They have different lifestyles, futures and dreams. Even their views about children and servants are different. Their opinions about the servant are clarified in this conversation between Dick and Mary. She gets astonished with rage. When Dick returns, she stands on the veranda with her hands clenches and her face sets.

“How dare you!” she said, her voice stifled.

“If you must do these things, then you must take the consequences,” said Dick wearily. “He’s a human being, isn’t he? He’s got to eat. Why must that bath be done all at once? It can be done over several days, if it means all that to you.”

“It’s my house,” said Mary. “He’s my boy, not yours. Don’t interfere.”

“Listen to me,” said Dick curtly. “I work hard enough, don’t I? All day I am down on the lands with these lazy black savages, fighting them to get some work out of them. (Lessing, 1950, p.84)

They both live and love different places. Mary would live in the town all her life where she would enjoy her life with her friends and at her work while Dick spent his life in the farm where he sees it as a place he could live in. This divergence between the place she wants to live in and the farm she cannot stand aggravates her isolation, because she imagines her life in a different way for which she cannot adjust with Dick.

Dick cannot imagine his life outside the farm, because it is his own property and does not have to ask anyone’s help. Another reason of alienation between Mary and Dick is that they have different outlooks that the other does not accept. For example, Mary always dreams of leaving the farm in order to live in the town where she can work freely. On the other hand, Dick sees his life or rather his existence to be deeply rooted in the farm. These conflicting senses lead to much alienation between them that finally influences negative impact in their mind. Mary’s dream has been destroyed and Dick, at the end of the novel, gets completely mad. These loneliness and conflict between Mary and Dick cause many ‘trauma and paranoia’ since both of them are dissatisfied in their conjugal life. This eventually leads to much pressure in their lives. Thus Lessing clarifies the negative impact of marriage upon Mary since she never puts in her mind the necessity of getting married.

In Mary’s life, the society starts to be an abstraction in her life when she realizes that she has to live in a way society accepts. Doris Lessing portrays in her novel where she sees the social alienation in Mary’s life as an abstraction: “It is terrible to destroy a person’s picture of himself in the interests of truth or some other abstractions.” (Lessing, 1950, p. 42) The individual-society relationship is a key factor in determining her chances of joy or misery. If it occurs, one expects an alienating factor inflicts an inner psychology.

Mary also wants to choose her clothes according to her taste and the most important thing is to stay single since she never thinks of getting married. This conflict between what she wants and what society accepts is the factor that ignites her alienated life. This alienation has harmful effect on her miserable life. This is so because she lives a life opposite to what she wants to do. Through her few years of marriage, she passes through many changes which have great effect upon her life. These alienations stem from the fact that she is not ready to change her life. For instance, before marriage she used to read a lot, lately she appears reluctant even to hold a book. Other evidence of her change is how she turns from an extrovert person to an introvert, self-centered who is not willing to communicate with anyone, even her husband. Because she isolates herself from others, she cannot express her feelings to anyone; she represses these feelings which subvert her psychology. Furthermore, her unsuccessful marriage and alienation from society make her very pessimistic view about her life. She loses hope in the future and the possibility of regaining her former mode of life which surrenders to her dark future. Her pessimism leads to her depression where she stops talking, because she knows nothing will change in her lonely life. There are many factors behind her alienation. The most influential factor is the continuous clash between her and her husband. (Jha, 2016, pp. 121-126) The conflict between them makes her very exhausted which is obvious through this conversation between Dick and Mary: “Dick saw that her thin, sun-crinkled hand was shaking.” He said again, after a silence, his voice ugly with hostility: “I can’t stand any more changing of servants. I’ve had enough. I’m warning you, Mary.” (Lessing, 1950, p. 167) And again she did not reply; she was weak with the tears and anger of the morning, and afraid that if she opened her mouth she might weep anew.

At the beginning of her marriage, she keeps asking him to change the servants according to her wishes, but before her death, she did not ask him to change one of them even though that servant, Moses is the greater cause of her alienation. These outer and inner alienations she undergoes are the outcomes of her surrender to the obligations of society. (Lyer, 2005, pp. 66-78)

Moreover, dress is another reason of Mary's psychological alienation. Tony sees the servant helping Mary in her dress, a situation which makes him very annoyed. Mary is terrified from Moses before taking Tony as her shield to protect her against Moses' cruelty. She is anxious; she even cannot sleep, because she believes that Moses will kill her during the night. The people around her notice her breakdown, especially Dick and Tony. Dick notices how she becomes nervous; and he is afraid of her lonely mind. Moreover, Tony also tells Dick that Mary needs to see a psychiatrist. The narrator clarifies Tony's opinion about Mary's solitude: "As for Mary, while he was sorry for her, what could be said about a woman who simply wasn't there? "A case for a psychologist," he said again, trying to reassure himself." (Lessing, 1950, p. 212) This shows how severe her solitary state is and how worry-inspiring are its effects on those surrounding her. She chooses what she wants to see and hear because she does not want to be harmed. For example, she is not aware of people's opinion about her life and appearance. She always thinks that people around her like her and her lifestyle. She keeps forgetting things because of her loneliness and her inability to cope with her environment. She keeps avoiding certain places and people since they remind her past events. She lives a happy life and is aware that she cannot get that life again. She avoids her friends, the Slatter's Family and her town, because that may produce an inner alienation between how she imagines her life and her actual one. (Bahlaq, 2011)

From the beginning of the novel, Mary lives in denial, beginning from her denial of her age down to her girlish clothes and hairstyles. She also keeps denying the servant's control of her life by ordering him to show her authority over him. The master-slave relationship underlies a profound lonely attitudes in revealing the master's sense of self-assertion and superiority being compared to others. She dislikes a physical relationship with her husband, because it may produce feelings that she does not want to experience, such as the feeling of love toward him. She sees that her life resembles her mother's: "Mary, with the memory of her own mother recurring more and more frequently, like an older, sardonic double of herself walking beside her, followed the course her upbringing made inevitable." (Lessing, 1950, p. 98) She associates her father's image with that of the servant as the narrator indicates: "They advanced together, one person, and she could smell, but the unwashed smell of her father." (Lessing, 1950, p 188). She represses her feelings of hate toward Dick, the farm and her life. She does all that to keep such feelings away from society and her friends, because she does not want them to see her failure.

Mary dreams twice that the native touches her, a thing which horrifies her. The narrator says: "He approached slowly, obscene and powerful, and it was not only he, but her father who was threatening her." (Lessing, 1950, p.188) This incident is based on fear of being touched by a black man. Moses touches her once when he helps her to take some rest when Dick is sick. After this incident, she dreams that he touches her. In the dream, she plays with her siblings, and then her father comes and holds her mother in his arms so that Mary runs away. Moreover, one of the dreams that cause her to become scared of being left alone is the dream when she imagines Dick's death and her isolation from the servant. In this dream, she becomes happy at his death and at the same time, she has a sense of guilt for indulging in such a sort of happiness. In this regard, one of Lessing's critics, O'Neil's, (2004) comments regarding Mary's character may be mentioned:

Lessing's characters, many of them women, are in the process of change and development. Describing the world intricately from their point of view enables the reader to understand how and why change occurs in women's attitudes and opinions. (O'Neil's, 2004, p.790)

From O'Neil's opinion we should pay attention to the change that Mary passes through and her attitude about married women before and after getting married.

Doris Lessing is a feminist novelist who is interested in isolated attitudes of her characters which is obvious through her portrayal of Mary's character. Lessing believes that any character should have a loneliness and conflicts since human life is the stimulus that moves him to do and react in a certain way. In the feminist novel, *The Grass is Singing*, Lessing succeeds in depicting Mary's alienation and relating her mind-set minutely. As already discussed above, this analysis of Mary's alienation is justified as the book highlights her conflict and loneliness, repressed mental satisfaction.

Racial Conflicts

Here in this novel, *The Grass is Singing*, Lessing would like to present antagonistic mentality towards racial conflicts that we can see in the characters of Mary Turner and Moses. She has a negative mentality towards the black people. We are told in the novel that she bites the innocent black servants without cause. But Moses notices the mystery on the very sly, he waits for a time when he will be able to take vengeance on Mary. He never tolerates her contradictory attitudes to Moses's partners. Here in this novel, Lessing would like to present the difference between the black and the white. In this

sense, we understand that Mary is a white lady. On the other hand, Moses is a black man. She maltreats and oppresses the black servants who do work at her house; without any pretexts, she bites them and not only that, at one point, she kills one of her black servants. When any of them take rest for a while, she hardly tolerates this. Moses who work at her house, is rudely treated. To take revenge, Moses also kills Mary at deep night. In this way racial conflicts are reflected in the novel.

Through the two characters, Lessing has tried to show his readers how this obsolete truth work as a dominant theme in her fiction. While staying in Africa, the novelist has gathered bitter experiences. Practically, she would like to prove that the black people are regarded as servants for the white. In the characters of Mary and Moses, we can see that reality. In a real sense the novel *The Grass Is Singing* bears the testimony of racial clashes between the two nations.

Traumatic Experiences in Anna Wulf's Life

Lessing's pioneering novel, *The Golden Notebook* upholds feminist classic, expressive of female anger and aggression of female desire for bodily, intellectual, and emotional freedom. The novel is considered as a foundational feminist work, which belongs to the handful of books through focusing on the 20th-century view of the male-female interactions and the fragmentation of society in the modern age. It also focuses on the theme of art by exploring the problem of female subjugation and marginalization. This inevitable fragmentation of individual consciousness is linked with the striking image of a bomb-exploding inside the mind and leading to dissection and death according to Lessing's unique vision. (Krouse, 2006, p.39)

Lessing wants to focus on human relationship, especially the relationship between men and women as a key image of postmodern humanity or inhumanity. The world of the novel is a female world, but its feminism gains no sense of closeness, or blindness. It intends to signify an inner world of the contemporary female intellectuals. Through the complicated relationship between men and women, Lessing presents a psychological world of the modern free women in front of her modern readers through her narrative techniques and the women character's self-analysis. She maintains her concern in the female issues as a vent through which the panorama of the current society is fundamentalized, especially women's psychological conflicts. (Schlueter, 1986)

Anna Wulf's psychological conflicts mirror the sickness of the world beyond for which she has to face hurdles and barriers. Fragmentation brings about a tragic downfall for Anna both as a mother and as an author. The main reason for her segmentation is her past experience of her life. She suffers from a neurotic, but stupid engagement with Max Wulf, while she does stay in Africa and Janet is the offspring of the outcome of that physical union. Both Anna and Max Wulf are psychologically and sexually not compatible. She gets married Max Wulf, whom she had never a strong attraction of love and finally, after Janet's birth, they gets divorced. She goes to London with her child taking the manuscript of her first novel, *Frontiers of War* with her. She enabled to have a celebrity after the novel's first publication in London. But her first literary career does prove a hurdle to her creative knowledge. So she has to suffer from an awful experience of disguise, and of futility. Her melancholic mood is aggravated by the sudden end of her physical relation with Michael, a medical practitioner. Being discarded by her lover, she is unable to keep aloof herself from him, Anna gets frightened and mentally sickened. Being disheartened by traumatic union with males and disenchanted with communism. Anna, at the age of 40, feels herself as a hopeless and helpless woman. Conflicting senses torture her whole life personally and professionally. In order to remove her lunatic crisis, she decides to reflect the cruel pictures of her bitter experiences through writing four different Notebooks: Black, Red, Yellow and Blue. (Bently, 2009, p.40)

In course of time, Anna divided herself into four, and from the nature of what she wrote, named those divisions. *The Black Notebook* focuses on Anna's psychological conflicts as an author and records her African identities as reflected in the very first novel, *The Frontiers of War*. *The Red Notebook* consists of entries regarding politics and chronicles her continual disenchantment with communal order and system. *The Yellow Notebook* fosters Anna's physical unions and feelings through the fictitious mode. It is a draft of a novel, entitled *The Shadow of the Third* in which Anna's alter-ego Ella reenacts a substantial part of her traumatic experience. *The Blue Notebook* is a diary of daily occurrences and it shows factual accounts of Anna's melancholic love relation with males, her motherhood, intercourse, and psychological problems as well as her expectations and relation with Mrs. Marks.

Anna's quest for autonomy and integrated selfhood bear the testimony of political, psychological, and sexual dimensions. Her aim to get rid of an inner schism and to attain a totality of vision is impacted on communal desire. Highlighting her plan to join the British Communist Party in 1950, she writes: "At the back of my mind when I joined the party was a need for wholeness, for an end to the split, divided, unsatisfactory way we all live." (Lessing, 1962, p. 157) Anna is tormented with an emotional void and a sense of ennui, and eventually moves away from sense and sanity. With disorientation from reality, turning into chaos and nullity, her quest changes its course of direction. Anna realizes her inner ego. The final part of *The Blue Notebook* highlights the cruel and self-destructive hostility for which she leads to a tremendous explosion of erotic energy by healing and delivering her from conflicting senses. A new vigor of life enables her to face the reality confidently. With her release from the inner split, Anna gives up her dependence on compartmentalization that occasions

the four separate note books, and decides to put her into a one book.

In the patriarchal society, men and women have conflicts and solitary attitudes in interests. Women look for security and protection while men refuse the role in which women have a faith. Anna, such a female protagonist of the novel, *The Golden Notebook*, realizes her divergence and knows that the pains she suffers can never be cured, as the problem can never be solved. In the postmodern society, women need men's understanding and sincerity. The self-knowledge, which seems to be the heart of Lessing's theme in *The Golden Notebook*, is indispensable for mental equilibrium and emotional stability, and is, in the case of a female protagonist; Anna is capable of gaining a psychological and mental descent into the chaos. (Henke, 1994)

Ana Wulf as a Model Figure

The novel *The Golden Notebook* conflicts of the postmodern world being crystallized in the narrative. It has a universal appeal that explains its popularity around the world. Anna and her fragmented world holds a mirror to the postmodern reality. In the light of gender politics, the novel is often hailed as a feminist text. Lessing refutes such an argument in this sense that she would like to foster female emotions. Anna and Molly become the empowered women who refute to efface their individuality for the male in their lives as Free Women. Lessing shows how such an appellation becomes a normative category in itself. Gender politics critiques the double standards of the patriarchal society. Moreover, in the light of communism and disillusionment, Anna critiques of her own political affair- a communist party. She tries to analyze her own apathy for party politics. She reasons that the party is losing its grip on popular imagination. She realizes that her self-comrades are trapped in the contrastedness of their own political fantasies. She realizes that the party has become a stagnant principle; it itself stands still; it has no progress and development for the greater welfare of the population. Her mental tiredness leads her to denounce her political ideology. She contrasts with Jack-she reacts against the ossified principle that the party stands for.

Comparative Outlooks

Mary Turner in *The Grass Is Singing* and Anna Wulf in *The Golden Notebook* can be drawn as comparative outlooks. Mary is presented as a young woman, while Anna is shown as a fully matured and adroit woman who is the mouth speaker of Doris Lessing. Mary struggles for a care free life where she does not want any anxieties of life, but we know that life is full of care and complexities, which she tries to avoid from her early stage of life. She likes to live in a pompous and ultra-modern life style despite living with a farmer. She loves city life but her husband lives country life. This type of life is seen in their conjugal system. Moreover, her treatment toward the black servant is presented contradictorily and antagonistically.

On the other hand, Anna is a worldly experienced woman; she knows how to compromise political and social system of the age. Her ideology concerning human life is much more that Mary. Her ideas of life is panoramic. As a globe tracker, Anna has experienced lots where she has tasted the unknown and the unseen. Politically she knows very well how a party is convinced; communally, she knows how to compromise, socially, she knows how to life together; culturally she knows how to cope with different culture. If we look at Mary's character, we will see that Mary grows up in a particular culture and a particular society where she wants to see a liberty of life; where nobody will bother about her; where she wants to dominate. In this way, she wants such a free life.

Lessing's treatment of women as a feminist icon is purely and faithfully is noticed in the characters of Mary Turner in *The Grass Is Singing* and Anna Wulf in *The Golden Notebook*. From their position, both women are devoted to struggle for freedom and liberty of life. They never hesitate to sacrifice their lives with a view satisfying expectations. Their demand is to awaken female community globally. These two female characters have reached the novelist to the pinnacle of reputation and name in the history of English literature. She never compromises with anybody to expose the realities of life. She wants rights and suffrage for female community around the world that we can see in her writings.

Conclusion

In the *Reflections of Ecofeminism in Doris Lessing's The Cleft*, Kubra Baysal points out that Doris Lessing is a great fiction and short story writer of the 21st-century age who has wanted to motivate many writers and readers alike to change their attitudes towards women positively being faced by male domination with a view to keeping discursive matters away from society and culture. Preserving her dignity evermore through her dissenter personality, Lessing has always evaded indecent options and chances of pompous popularity; for this reason she is still deemed as an applauded writer of countless significant works most of which have left profound impacts on the mind of the modern readers. (Baysal, 2013, p.10).

The researcher is of the view that Lessing's fiction, including *The Golden Notebook* and *The Grass Is Singing* make important contributions in the field of English literature, because we get a perfect social picture of Lessing's times. Lessing's portrayal of powerful heroines survives and exerts their presence in today's society in different facets of human life. Through their words and action, each of major heroine in Lessing's fiction appears as representative of any age. Lessing longs for a human society, where there would be no conflicts between males and females. If such

a society exists, undoubtedly the world will be a beautiful place to live in. Her both novels are time-winning. Lessing attitudes to women is critical and panoramic. As a precursor of feminism, if she is hailed, nobody will make objections against her. Her ideology, psychology and philosophy have made her a perfect artist.

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