

## Women Psyche: From Circumscribed Past to Liberated Present: A Special Reference to Arabian Literature

**Dr. Fahim Korasen kandi**  
Assistant Professor  
Department of English  
Shaqra University, Saudi Arabia  
[fahimkandl@su.edu.sa](mailto:fahimkandl@su.edu.sa)

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### Abstract

This paper attempts to bring a psychological transformation of women with reference to Arabian literature, this paper examines Arabian English literary works and through the years how women evolved their status of depiction in literature from circumscribed past to liberated present. Liberated women are those who challenges social norms in the search of the independence. Early literature women did not have the space to establish their identities as an individual they are always depicted and hide behind their familia duty as wife, sister and mother. the writers also did not show any gumption to bring women as their central character in any of their works they produced during that time, here comes the relevant of this paper, this paper examines how women came out form the shadow of men and established their own identity as a woman.

**Keywords:** Arabian literature, women, Psyche, Circumscribed past, liberated present, autonomous writers, resistant readers.

### Introduction

In the past if one examines, literary works produced in Arabian English literature , one could see women end up the as mere shadows of men characters, women's likes and dislikes were circumscribed by the likes and dislikes of men , most of the women characters were confined to acquiesce the order of the men and their domination over women were widely seen in all literary works produced during that era, and readers also entertain such type of narration

only . Women' roles were often confined to domestic sphere, with societal expectations, limiting their opportunities to depict as an independent woman characters. This circumscribed past has influenced their mental health, identity, and self-perception.

For centuries women were not allowed to come out of the stereotypes characters as lovable mothers , generous sister, obedient wife , “ take me all womanly compassion and fill me with manly cruelty” ( Macbeth) since time memorial all the writers depicts women as the synonym of the compassion and men as the synonym of the cruelty in this quote of Shakespeare's work clearly pointing out woman were always put into a so called definition of the society that's why lady Macbeth says take all the womanly compassion and fill me with manly cruelty, these all are pointing out the narrow attitude of men towards women in literature . As the result of the women's liberation movements in 1970s a noticeable change could be seen in the depiction of the women in literature, the women writers decentered themselves from male writers' monopoly, women writers gain the gumption to produce the unique literary works about women representing and analyzing women as a central character , this brought significant changes to the literary arena and set a new stages for the women writers and this changes not only confined in a certain country it could be seen across the world .

The evolution of Arabian English Literature from circumscribed past to a liberated present is a fascinating journey that reflects broader social, cultural, and political changes. In the past the scenario was women were excluded from all the main stream characters in the present the scenario completely changed through the emergences of the revolutionary writers and their attempt to depict woman as their main characters in their works paved the way to establish women identity as an individual. Accordingly, this article will highlight some of the significant literature on the subject of women representations written between in the past era and present time in Arabian English literature. This article gives special attention to circumscribed past ,where how women were depicted by quoting some of the works written during that time and “Liberated present” how women are presenting and depicting in the recent works produced in Arabian English literature .

## 1.1 Objective of the Study

This study aims to analyze how women break the stereo type characters of the past and established their won space in Arabian English literature in the present.

## 1.2 Literature Review

The large volume of the study has been conducted on women literature from stereotype past to liberated present

“Portrayal of women in literature -Through the ages “, Sima Singh in this article brings to the lame light the modern Indian writers who voiced the opinions in as strong contemporary and ultra-modern way through their novels, the author says, women were depicted in their novels exceptional and nonconformist way, she also pointed the women who breaks all sorts of prohibitions and feels unconventional, the author also proven women characters are forerunners of social change and equality.

In another article, “A history of the struggles of the women in literature” the author Lauretta Paterson in this paper argues that women in literature depicted much wider than they were few years ago, women have acquired a degree of consequence and appropriate character. “Images of woman”, the question of woman’s representations in literature, by Nawel Mauaci and Pr. Assia Karced , this article also discusses the underrated narration of women in English literature by patriarchy , this article suggesting that challenging and changing representation of women writers and resistant women reader by quoting different prominent works of literature “Representation of Women in literature through different era “, By Jolina M Lucas and Sweet Childs Ordenize”, in this article the researchers trace into the evolutionary pathway followed by feminist entities in the literature. The researchers argue that Medieval literature were limited to commoditization of the women along with promoting different roles of woman, the later era have focused on praising the beauty of women and was considerably liberal , the research also found women faced satire based on ineffective correspondence with social norms in the Victorian era and in modern age the writings are focused over reliance over feminism for fighting social evils .

“ Women’s portrayal in classic literature and Hollywood’s Golden age to determine its Ramifications “ another article about the deterioration of women in cinema by Lnes Romirez Trelles and Johnny Lopez -Figueroa substantiated struggle women undergone in cinema by setting false portrayal and expectation of women characters in cinema , often women were objectified and little speaking time in movies , in fact , modern media has bettered in its portrayal of women, the article suggests that a line can be drawn that if more woman are involved in Media creation.

### **1.3 Images of Circumscribed Past Women**

Portrayal of women as a subordinate and subservient and powerless with relatively limited roles and rights in live was the common scenario of the literary works produced in the past by male dominated writers in Arabian English literature. Historical overview illustrated that in patriarchal contexts women did not have many opportunities, their roles were always confined to obedient wife, loyal sister, generous mother though the same characters are not reflected from their male counter parts, women always depicted as victims, submissive, and passive destined to obey the likes and dislikes of her spouse. This preconceived notion of writers contributed to propagate negative stereotypical images of women. For instance, in many works in the past women were destined to acquiesce the order of the male oriented society,” season of migration to the North” by Tayeb Salih, is a perfect example to substantiate the above-mentioned statement, the character of Hosna is depicted as a traditional woman who is expected to adhere to societal norms and expectations. Her obedience can be seen throughout the novel when she interacts with male characters, especially with her husband and narrator. When Hosana was coerced by her circumstances marrying a man despite her unwillingness to marry him she was compelled to obey the wishes of her family and society. This shows how society treated woman and forced to succumb their wishes in front of the patriarchal society.

Hosana’s character illustrates how women are often seen as obedient and complaint within the context of their roles in society. Her struggles against these expectations highlights the tension between individual desires and societal obligations, reinforcing the notion of women as

obedient figures in the narrative. This passage substantiates in the circumscribed past women often seen as an object solely made to satisfy man desires.

#### **1.4 The Hindrances of Depicting Woman as Independent Character**

There are many factors that became an obstacle in the growth or development of woman and depicting them as the mainstream characters.

**A. Traditional Role and Expectations:** Early literature often portrayed women within the restrictive social norms, tradition always wanted to see women in undeserving of respect often degraded images by ignoring their identities and feelings, for instance, in “Celestial bodies” by Jokha Alharthi, portrayed the character of Mayya how she became victimization of the patriarchal society by sacrificing her choice of marriage and motherhood. When Mayya’s marriage is arranged her feelings were completely ignored by giving preferences to the family decision and societal norms.

#### **B. Cultural and Religious Constrains**

Most of the characters depicted during the past were influenced by cultural and religious constrains, if women were portrayed beyond the definition of the religion the work would be ostracized and banned, so no writers shown the gumption to give main stream portrayal of the woman that was against religious ideology that prevailed in the past.

Writers like Taha Hussein and early century authors depicted women primarily in relation to their familial roles, often reinforcing religious constrains. these writers advocated for education and social reform yet women’s liberation was not primary focus in their narrative as a consequence of religious constrains.

#### **1.5 Liberated Past**

The evolution from circumscribed past to liberated presented in Arab English Literature reflected a broader societal change as female authors gain prominence and their narrative gain visibility there are many factors paved the way to depict woman as a main stream characters in Arabian English literature

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### **A. Emergence of Female Writers**

Contemporary Arabian English Literature features a growing number of female authors who explore complex characters and diverse experiences, they denounced and rejected the stereotypical male chauvinism through their writings, this wave of gynocentric writers encouraged women writer to write about women's experience and also could develop women's critical readers through their bold independent writing.

### **B. Diverse Experiences**

Modern women writers explore a range of topics, ethnicities and socio economics status, reflecting the diversity of women's experiences in the Arab English literary world.

### **C. Challenging Tradition**

Many contemporary novels depict women who resist traditional roles and assert their independence, "Map of home" By Randra Jarar in this novel follows a young Arab-American girl navigating her identity between her family's cultural expectations and her desire for independence.

### **D. Changing Depiction of Relationships**

Contemporary literature often portrays more egalitarian relationships between men and women reflecting changing attitudes towards, marriage, love, gender.

## **Conclusion**

Emergence of women writers, the rise of female authors has brought diverse perspectives and experiences to the forefront. Writers like Hala Alyan and Zeyan Joukhdar depict strong complex female characters who assert their identities and challenge societal norms.

The evolution of Arab English literature from a circumscribed past to liberated present highlights the complexities of women's experience in the Arab world. As authors continue to challenge stereotypes and offer diverse narratives, literature serves as both reflection of societal changes and a catalyst for further discussions on gender and identity. this shift not only empower

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female character but also inspires readers to envision new possibilities for women's lives in the Arab world.

The paper ends by suggesting that challenging and changing representation of women in literature needs both autonomous writers and resistant women readers.

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Assistant Professor  
Department of English  
Shaqra University, Saudi  
Arabia

[fahimkandl@su.edu.sa](mailto:fahimkandl@su.edu.sa)