

Tribhuvan University

Redefining the Second Sex in Paulo Coelho's *The Winner Stands Alone*

A Thesis submitted to the faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
in Partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree
of Master of Arts in English.

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July 2010

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Acknowledgements

My gratitude and indebtedness go to Dr. Man Bahadur K.C., Reader in English at Prithivi Narayan Campus, Pokhara. His scholarly, selfless guidance and suggestions played a vital role in finalization of my dissertation. In successful completion of my dissertation, relentless inspiration and motivation by various well-wishers has been crucial. The warm and incessant love and encouragement of my parents, father Om Bahadur Karki and mother Bijaya Karki energized me to overcome all sorts of obstacles.

I thank Mr. Homnath Sharma Paudyal, teaching assistant in English for his encouragement and inspiration. Along with him, I express my thanks to all lecturers and teachers who have guided me to complete my post graduate studies.

I am equally obliged to my cooperative and sagacious, brothers Kiran, Jeevan, Dibash and friends Basanta Poudyal, Bimal Raj Dawadi, Kamal Regmi, Ramesh Raj Dawadi and others for their moral support in my academic field.

Lastly, I express my gratitude to my best friend Poonam Gurung, for her support in everything I do.

Rashmi Karki

Prithvi Narayan Campus, Pokhara

July, 2010.

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CHAPTER ONE

Introduction

1.1 Background

This research attempts to analyze the novel *The Winner Stands Alone* by Paulo Coelho through feministic perspective, examining different characters like Igor, Ewa, Hamid and Gabriela. The purpose of analyzing the novel with feministic perspective is to prove that the female characters in *The Winner Stands Alone* come forth opposing the traditionally assigned gender roles to women, and to redefine the traditional notion of second sex. The novel is a story of a Russian telecommunication tycoon Igor who does anything to reclaim his lost love-his ex-wife Ewa.

Coelho has investigated the contemporary world of celebrity and what is hidden underneath the facade. The action surrounds 24 fateful hours at Cannes film festival. Igor has come to Cannes with the intention of winning the heart of his ex-wife Ewa, who is now married to superstar designer, Hamid Hussian. While she was with Igor, she was under a complete male domination without her private identity, so she had no exposure of her talent but after she got married to Hamid Hussian, she has got comparatively greater freedom and it has given her chances to expose her talents outside. Being, a successful fashion icon, Ewa has no private life. Knowing that his ex-wife will attend Cannes with other successful celebrities, Igor plans to convince Ewa of his presence. He believes this will motivate her to return to him.

Paulo Coelho's novel *The Winner Stands Alone* opens new avenues on the formulation and interpretation of second sex in the realization that only male cannot synthesize the whole of female life. The interpretation of female, which arises from life itself and which grows in the individuals themselves from their experiences, realization, recognition and affirmations are the concern of the present research. By

intensely observing the novel *The Winner stands Alone* by Paulo Coelho through different characters like Igor, Ewa, Hamid, Gabriela and others in matters of their actions and words, the research has yielded discursive politics which he reflects in the words and actions of his characters. Coelho defends the need to redefine the second sex as the female experiences take resort to the idea of inclusiveness, not through the lenses of patriarchal traditional definition, merely relegating women to puppets.

Everyone has a particular idea of the world, and for Igor, killing a person is like destroying the universe. Igor feels killing is acceptable if there is good reason for that like avoiding human suffering or bringing back the attention of the women he loves. He also believes that Ewa wants to come back to him but lacks the courage to leave her new husband. According to Igor, each time he destroys the world, he will send her cryptic text message so that she will understand his desperation to get her back into his life again.

Only after destroying four universes, Igor realizes that attempts to get his beloved back were all in vain because Ewa was so much in love with Hamid and was living with him happily. But, his male ego doesn't let him remain silent and he could not watch his ex-wife living comfortably with another man. He even dares to ruin their blissful world by killing those happily married couple, Hamid and Ewa. Igor represents the traditional male psychology.

The title '*The Winner Stands Alone*' relates Igor's situations after his half a dozen of murders by various methods. He is all alone though he still feels that he is a winner. But by destroying, anyone's mind, he destroys everything that a person sees and experiences along with all their dreams, hopes and ambitions. The novel presents the conflict between a male individual evil force and female sentiments- as Igor is the representative character, who envelopes traditional male sentiments.

Since, the beginning of the society, men's purpose in life has been to serve god, the state and society while women's purpose has been to serve men (315). As males are supposed to have been rule makers, they are seen as the norm but women as the other not merely because of sex difference but because of personality are supposed to have been the followers of the rules and norms set by the male dominated society. Men are considered to be bold, strong, assertive, independent, aspiring and logical. Women, on the contrary, are considered to be timid, yielding, dependent, self-sacrificing, emotional and intuitive. Women have accepted these roles and categorizations for a long time. Because of this acceptance of such discrimination for long time, domination upon women has been a type of customary rule in the andocratic society. Many organizations have been working upon these injustices to raise the status of women up in the society. However, they have to be satisfied with little success. Along with these movements women too have to take a step ahead to uplift their social and personal position in the society. But, the social institutions of each society religion, law, finance, educational institutions, literature and art reinforce gender roles and gender stereotypes so insistently that through the process of internalization, women come to accept what has been socially established.

In many societies women have been relegated to the position of 'other' by various forms of patriarchal domination. The female sex which is also called the Second sex shares an intimate experience of patriarchal oppression and repression. Its core area of concern is to create discourses regarding the experiences of women and somehow, language to express those experiences, for the theorist of second sex often argues that the history of language has been male centered, so, it does not correspond to many of the experiences of women. Therefore, the gist of second sex theories has been to establish the marginalized in the face of the dominant, inverting the structure

of domination, and substituting the tradition of male dominated history of language and discourse formation, where the experiences of women have been undermined. They seek to create female language and female discourse to give an outlet to their experiences which the traditional history of male dominated language and discourses could never have navigated, nor explored for the theorists of second sex believe that female experiences are foreign to male.

Females are bold and courageous enough to change the general traditional concept regarding gender roles. One is not born but rather becomes a female (310). Women came to realize this in authenticity of the life they lead. They struggled immensely to create this space. Their quest is for self knowledge and self realization which can in turn lead to the relationships based on mutual respect and understanding. Thus, the female characters of this novel try to redefine the general concept about the women- supposedly false concept as they were created by male on the basis of their interest rather than according to fact or experiences. They tried to break the stereotypic roles and images of women. Women are the victim of the false system that requires great reform - to find identity and meaning in their lives through their husbands and children. They need new premises for redefining female history, which was lopsided because of male domination and interference.

Redefining generally means to define something that has been already defined. Traditionally, the andocratic society has assumed that female are second sex “the other”. They have been defined to be weaker, less courageous and more submissive. They have been taken as the means of male’s entertainment and bearing children. The society gives females the jobs of washing, cooking, cleaning and child bearing, which confined them within the walls of the household. The female characters of the novel *The Winner Stands Alone* strongly come in opposition to this traditional definition of

female and they try to define the state, position of female in a way different from how it has been defined in a traditional way. The need to redefine the concept of second sex is core area of this study. Redefining the traditional concept of male defined world of second sex by female can find the meaning of females lives based on their individuality. This is what the researcher is trying to deal with through the female characters and their activities in the novel.

Paulo Coelho is not only one of the most widely read but also most influential writers in the world today because of his outstanding representation of social reality in his texts. He was born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on 24th August 1947. He had a dream of pursuing an artistic career which his so called upper middle class family disliked. Coelho had the idea of becoming writer from his childhood and the concentration in such work put him back in study for which he was admitted to the strict Jesuit School, where he learned to be disciplined in life, but at the same time, he also lost his religious faith.

Coelho is always a non-conformist, and seeks new things and tastes. This made him try everything good and bad that came in his way. During guerilla and hippy movement of 1968, he was the follower of Marx and Engels. He took part in elections and demonstrations. He was involved in progressive movements too. At that time he linked himself with drugs, hallucinogens, magic and travelling. After this his father brought him in the track and due to their wishes he was enrolled in law school and left his dream of becoming a writer. In 1970, after deciding that law school was not for him, he left the university to work in the theater. With the money he had earned as an actor, he travelled through much of South America, North America, Mexico and Europe and lived a life as a hippie and become immersed in the drug culture of 1960s. Returning to Brazil after 2 years, he began a career as a songwriter.

In 1980, he was imprisoned for short time by the then ruling military government, that took power ten years earlier and viewed his lyrics as left wing and dangerous.

After three failed marriages, he married a painter Cristina Oiticia, with whom he was sharing the greatest success of his life as a world famous writer. After his marriage, they set out for the tour of Germany until he underwent deep and spiritual experiences in a concentration camp, which brought him back to the Catholic belief of his parents. There he experienced one of the defining moments of his life. He walked 500 plus miles to the Road of Santiago de Compostila in northern Spain. On the path, Coelho had a spiritual awakening which he described in *The Pilgrimage*.

1.2 Review of Literature

The text, *The Winner Stands Alone* by Paulo Coelho tries to carry out the grief and suffering of its female characters because of the perspectives and thought patterns of its male characters. The females in the novel are not submissive and typical like the females in the traditional novel. The characters like Ewa and Gabriela revolt against the patterns of male dominated society and the beliefs of their male counterparts who make it clear are the byproduct of that thought patterns. So, the novel deals with the conflict between the views of its male and female characters.

Views obviously differ from person to person since different people have different types of perception and ideas within themselves. A work of literature can not remain untouched from this concept. Therefore, numerous critics have diversely commented upon Paulo Coelho's '*The Winner Stands Alone*' since its publication in 2008. Dream, Absurdism, Ambition, Existentialism; thrust for fame, heroic journey, unbridled ambition, desire, reality and suppression are some of the issues interpreted and analyzed by the critics significantly.

The incessant ambition for name and fortune in *The Winner Stands Alone* draws our attention and interest. Igor is a modern man who is materializing everything available in this world. He is even ready to destroy one's world because he believes he can regain his lost love by the means of violence and sufferings. Igor further says, killing poor people is justifiable for he is destined to get the love of his ex-wife Ewa back. For critic Kieron Coreless, this novel is down to earth. He sees the novel as a projection of social reality. For him *The Winner Stands Alone* is a text that imprints the loss of humanness in modern life. In this regards he remarks:

I find this novel very realistic. Coelho had his research on the festival and machinery and predatory social types he encounters there. In his text Coelho cite "The problem is that the festival, these days a byword for celebrity excess and naked ambition. He further says that the emptiness behind the glittering façade, how the struggle to get to top destroys a person's identity and repeats them at inordinate length, until his boundless sagacity becomes a bit wearing". (2)

Similarly, St. John says "Through his complex characters, Coelho illustrates the absurdity of the false dreams we are fed through the strong influences of the fashion and moviemaking industries". (17)

For Glauco Ortolano, *The Winner Stands Alone* becomes source of inspiration to the mankind. He further states, "Paulo Coelho's message is also very single and millennial; happiness lies in finding ourselves". (57)

Though wide varieties of criticism are made about the novel *The Winner Stands Alone*, there are many fields about the text which have remained unexplored. No critic so far has analyzed the text from feminist perspective. So, the present research aims to find out the solution to the problematics- how the female character

Ewa moves ahead in the life redefining the morals and values created for the females in the so-called patriarchal society and why she goes against the traditional feminine roles. The research work also deals with how Ewa paves the way for other females who are still suffering with this gender bias. Thus, the researcher's main focus is to discuss the philosophy of feminism in the following section of the thesis so that the analysis can be made through the very principles as a tool in order to get to the presumed hypothesis that the females are forced to go against the traditional feminine roles because of the excessive male oppression upon females. In the thesis the major three female characters are taken into detailed consideration.

The thesis consists of four main chapters. The first chapter gives a brief introduction about the proposed thesis and includes the review of literature, statement of problem, along with the literary career of the novelist Paulo Coelho. Similarly, the second chapter deals with general theory of Feminism that is used as a tool of the study. Likewise, the third section offers textual analysis from feminist perspective while the fourth chapter concludes the whole thesis in brief.

CHAPTER TWO

Feminism - A Short History

2.1 Origin and Development

Before the advent of the concept of feminism, females had miserable life. Almost every society had its point of view towards females and their point of view was established by patriarchy. Whatever religion a society follows, the males treated females as lower grade human being. They used to be taken as the machines producing children and servants assigned to the jobs like cleaning, cooking, washing and child rearing within the walls of the house.

Before 1920s, women were confined only within the four walls of their houses and were supposed to live passively within that confined space. As women were oppressed, their voices remained unheard. But, with the flow of time, they started to express their feelings and desires in diaries, poems, pamphlets and speeches.

With the emergence of feminist group in the 1960s, Feminist writers advocated collectively for women's liberation and social and political union. They fought for women's rights to vote and to receive education including other reforms of the time like improved medical care, socialized property ownership and class equality.

Feminism, being a political discourse, aims at establishing equal rights for women by giving them equal opportunities like men and freedom to decide their own career and life patterns.

The word 'Feminism' is derived from French word *Feminisme* which was coined by Utopian socialist Charles Fourier. It pays special attention to women's rights and position in a culture and society. No doubt, it is one of the most important revolutions of modern times which includes social, spiritual, cultural, ethnical as well as political facets. Literally Feminism means *womanism* which deals with women's

attitude, experiences, feelings and problems, further more it is the recognition of womanhood.

The law of Manu said “women were created to be mothers” (qtd. in ... freeman167) similarly the Muslim prophet is reported to have said “Many women who will love their husbands and be very prolific, for I wish you to be more numerous than any other people” (qtd. in ... freeman167). The first quote, especially related to Hindu philosophy clearly states women have no other work except producing children and the second quote also reinforces the same idea. These are some of the examples, how women were taken in the past. But, after the 1920s, when the seed of feminism got sown, the situation began to change.

Feminism represents one of the most important revolutions of modern times. It is a voice against the illusion, distortion and the so-called ideologies that the males have been created to suppress woman. Power is always with the males either in domestic life or in a civil life. Women have been suffering economically as well as socially. In order to expose prevailing female anxiety and restriction in the society, Feminism came in practice as a movement to liberate women from domination, suppression and subordination.

Feminism is a political discourse that demands equal rights and legal protection for women. Feminism raises political, social and economical equality for women in relation to men. Though it involves various movements concerning the issues of gender difference, they advocate equality for women and campaign for women’s rights and their interests. Feminism as a literary theory tries to subvert the traditional definition of women, which relegated them to the definition of second sex or inferior sex. In the traditional text, female aspirations and sentiments were male defined. The representation of women in those texts was distanced from reality. But,

today women have raised voice against that domination and subordination. They argue that the experiences of women are foreign to men. So, the women in different times of history has lead a campaign for literary revolution which is also knows as feminist revolution or feminism in literary history.

First wave feminism refers to an extended period of feminist activity during the nineteenth century and early 20th century. It focused on the promotion of equal contract and property rights for women and the opposition to chattel marriage and ownership of married women by their husbands. However, by the end of the nineteenth century, activism focused primarily on gaining political power, particularly the right to vote in all states. It focuses very little on the subject of abortion. But this wave was strictly against women's right to refuse sex with her husband as she has the right to her own body.

Second Wave feminism refers to the period of activity in the early 1960s and lasting till the late 1980s. The second wave feminism was a continuation of the earlier phase of feminism. Second wave was largely concerned with other issues of equality, such as ending discrimination. Second wave feminists saw women's cultural and political inequalities inextricably linked, and encouraged women to understand aspects of their personal lives as deeply politicized and as reflecting sexiest power structures.

Third wave Feminism began in the early 1990s, arising as a response to perceived failures of the second wave and also as a response to the backlash against initiators and movements created by the second wave. This movement seeks to challenge or avoid what it deems to second wave's essentialists' definition of feminity which overemphasizes the experience of upper middle class white women. A post structural interpretation of gender and sexuality is central to much of the third wave's

ideology. Apart from this, it focuses on micro politics and challenges the second wave of feminism which was paradigm as to what it is, or what it is not. Second wave of feminism provided a good space for the discourse of feminism but it got its maturity only during the third wave of feminism.

But the debates between those who believe that there are important differences between the sexes and those who believe that there is no inherent differences between the sexes contend that gender roles are due to social conditioning that lasts till now.

2.2 Prominent Feminists

Feminists believe that it is necessary to understand the system of patriarchy in order to understand the reality of women's oppression today and find out the way to curb it. The representations of women in the literary texts stress and justify sociopolitical oppression over women as natural. Various feminists tried to attack the traditional literary discourse created in terms of female and their experiences. Despite their efforts, the situation has not changed as expected by feminists and they could not establish a solid foundation for feminist literary tradition. But, still it has sown a seed for new theoretical discourse that was emerging.

2.2.1 Mary Wollstonecraft

Feminism started as a general revolt against domination and also showed the equal but opposite force, which can create meaning in literature. The germination of female authorial voice started with 17th century's Female Critic Mary Wollstonecraft. Her essay, *A Vindication of the Rights of Women* written in 1792 well deserves its rank as the great feminist work. She writes:

There are many follies, in some degree peculiar to women. Sins against reason of commission: as well as of omission: but all flowing from ignorance of prejudice. I shall only point such as appear to be

particularly injurious to their moral characters and inadvertent on them. I wish especially to prove that the weakness of mind and body, which men have endeavored, impelled by various motives, to perpetuate, prevents their discharging the peculiar duty of their sex; for when weakness of body will not permit them to suck their children, and weakness of mind makes them spoil their tempers – is women in a natural state. An English writer and a passionate advocate of educational and social equality for women she claims that ‘The mind doesn’t know the sex. (394)

Though, in the extract above, Wollstonecraft argues that sex is a social construction, given by society to men and women to play different roles. It is not an inborn quality. She tries to portray the state of female in the then society, similarly she brings into fore the idea of sex as a social construction. She further remarks:

Make everyone aware that the gender biasness is not natural; rather it is a construct of patriarchal society. With her essay, she is mainly concerned with gaining women rights, such as education, so that they could be fit companions for men. She exposes numerous injustices imposed upon women by the patriarchal society, such as the denial of the right to vote, to hold office, to own property, or to perform any but the lowest jobs of convenient domestic slavers and alluring mistress” denying them any economic independence and encouraging them to be docile and attentive to their looks. Mary believed in sexual freedom, open marriage, and birth control. (394)

She powerfully argued for the establishment of legal, political and social equality between men and women as men and women are morally and intellectually

equal. But, the injustice is that women have traditionally relegated to secondary, subordinate place in society. Mary time and again strongly demands to abandon the idea of essential sexual difference and to provide women with equal educational opportunities that will allow them to think and act as full moral beings. Thus, by the early 19th century the dormant feminist ideologies became prominent through literature and paved the way for various feminists.

2.2.2 Virginia Woolf

The 1960s was called the movement of political feminism which emphasizes social, economical and cultural freedom and equality between male and female. Woolf is one of the greatest novelists who has included the socio-economic dimensions in her books. To express her firm convictions in favor of women's liberation, she produced several writings including *A Room of One's Own* published in 1920, which imparts the consciousness for women's emancipation. In this book she explores deeper concerns of men's anger at women, misunderstanding between sexes and above all psychological conditions under which women are brought up. To write anything by a woman at that time was considered a sin. But, the female writers of her time criticized and condemned the male hegemony, at the same time they were trying to disfigure and deform the male constructed world of language and discourse. Women do not have money and a separate space as patriarchal society has prevented women from realizing their creative possibilities. The following text from *Feminism and Virginia Woolf* by critic Jeffery Overall, tells how hard it was for females to write.

She must have shut herself up in a room in the country to write and been torn by bitterness and scruples. Perhaps, though her husband was kindest and their married life perfect, the society did not approved her

writings. She was strange to their principles and norms. She could not freely tell what she was doing in fear of being discarded by her own society. (819)

The extract above highlights how women had always faced social and economic obstacles to their literacy ambition. Rejecting a feminist consciousness, society hopes to achieve a balance but there was direct imbalance between a Male “Self Realization” and Female “Self-annihilate.” The ultimate belief was that if women achieved social and economic equality, they could freely develop their artistic talents. Literature and artistic talents are open to all, it is a learned phenomenon and it is not limited to sex or gender.

2.2.3 Simon De Beauvoir

The principles of modern feminism were set up and strengthened by the publication of *The Second Sex* (1949). This seminal work has become a classic of feminist literature. According to it men define human, not women. The women are not born as women, women are women, which is just a gender concept of women which defines woman as merely negative object or other to man. But, man is the defining and dominating subject who is assumed to represent humanity in general.

In *The Second Sex* Beauvoir has established the fundamental question of modern Feminism. While defining herself she starts by saying “I am a woman”. (15) She goes ahead saying:

You think thus and so because you are woman but I think that my only defense is to reply: ‘I think thus and so because it is there’ thereby removing my subjective self from the argument. It would be out of the question to reply. And you are a man; for it is understood that the fact

of being a man is no peculiarity. A man is in the right in being a man;
it is the woman who is in the wrong. (15 – 16)

According to her, women have been made infectious in comparison to men, and their representation has been multifaceted by men's belief that women are inferior by nature.

Gilbert and Gubar's in their essay "*The Mad Women in the Attic* (1979) focuses on woman writers and aspires to see the nineteenth century woman writers in terms of 20th century feminism. Likewise, Black women fought for the emancipation of women in America. They opine the black men and women must work together politically to fight against the racism and they define men as the oppressors. This perspective lasted from 1970s to 1980s. Black and feminist lesbians established themselves as the most successful minorities among the subgroups of feminist critics. They attract western literature and culture and their works focus on their self definition as well as their rebellious coming act.

Thus, many feminists raised their voices against the patriarchy, against the arrogance of males and these voices changed the society which has been a long journey of masculine domination. Second sex is a term given to women by men to dominate and suppress them. The efforts of women writers in different phases of feminist literary theory try to rescue women from the obscurity caused by their exclusion from male-dominated anthologies. It is also a struggle against men's oppressive reading of women. In the past the literary authority was patriarchal but these feminist critics tried to revisit and even subvert the patriarchal literary authority that was heavily gender and sex bias. Sex is a social construction. There exists nothing called the first and second sex. It is male writing which has given birth to the idea of first and second sex. Male writing has excluded the female perspective and

even actively opposed or disdained women and so-called female values. It has created a form of textual analysis sensitive to gender differences. It is high time for critics of feminism to blur the idea of sex classification and to view both male and female as equal and similar entity. Thus, the theory of second sex subverts the traditional notion of feminism and tries to politicize feminism for inclusiveness, as far as sex issue is concerned.

When we analyze the subject matter in the novel, we can clearly find that Paulo Coelho is successful in destroying the concept of sex. He has presented his female characters as active, revolutionary and independent of making self decision. These traits of his characters are not the standard set by patriarchal literary authority. So, the male idea of sex classification and sex traits are highly jeopardized by female characters in the novel which has blurred the notion of sex differences. His text is committed to a new political attitude, women in search of identity; it does not deal with the worn-out categories of sex and gender. Though, the inherent spirit of Coelho is to destroy the sex concept and to redefine it.

CHAPTER THREE

Attempts to Redefine Second Sex in *The Winner Stands Alone*

3.1 Redefining the Second Sex

The novel *The Winner Stand Alone* by Paulo Coelho imprints the condition of women in male dominated sphere of discourses. It prints the jeopardizing condition of women in areas of discourses created by males in relation with females. The text tries to subvert those false premises created by men regarding women. The concept of second sex was heavily manipulated and falsely represented in male created discourse in the past. The traditional concept of second sex is reductive and pejorative. So, the concept is revisited and reproduced in its proper and more acceptable form. Female characters like Ewa, Gabriela revolt against their male counterparts, and male hegemony regarding established beliefs and representation of women. Here, Coelho redefine the traditional concept of second sex. He shows that the female now has the spirit to counter against the traditional concept of sex classification as the first and second sex, and against the stereotypical beliefs regarding their role and position both in society and household. In the text *The Winner Stands Alone* the protagonist, Ewa, subverts the traditional concept of second sex according to which female were submissive, weak, soft and unintelligent, she defends the alternative definition of second sex which says that sex is a social and cultural construction and there isn't any universal traits of sex or sex classification. When second sex is redefined, the experiences and understanding of women is not reduced to male interests. It is not enveloped with male principles, and it defends the need for neo- female discourse distanced from the traditional one. In the text, the male characters like Igor and Hamid are guided by their traditional beliefs regarding their view points towards

women but the female characters like Ewa and Gabriela revolt against that concept despite innumerable hurdles and obstacles in their path ahead.

Breaking boundaries associated with gender set by patriarchal society, search for new meaning of female life, and paving a new way for female are the core values of this new definition. In *The Winner Stands Alone*, despite many hurdles, Ewa and Gabriela move ahead in life to fulfill their dream- to live their life as per their aspiration and beliefs, in order to acquire that they have to revolt against the established male values and norms. But, they were adamant on their principles, and they did not compromise to their issues. This subsequently resulted in creating new avenues for women in different sphere of life. It too contributed in opening new doors for women liberty within the house and outside the house.

As civilization is pervasively patriarchal which is controlled, organized and conducted in such a way to sub- ordinate women to men in all cultural domains; familial, religious, political, economical, social, legal and artistic, women themselves are taught in ways which are conditioned to derogate their own sex. Redefining generally means to define something that has been already defined by the society. Ewa, though brought up in patriarchal society, has some opposing feelings towards life of female. She knows a person who thinks with positive and optimistic attitude, always realizes power to attain their goal, so Ewa, moves ahead in life to redefine her life and ascertain new meaning. While doing so, she breaks the walls of previous foundations of traditional patriarchal society in matters of general concept of looking at females, giving new forms and dimension to it which subsequently results in redefinition.

Ewa, leaving her husband in search of a new, more secure life ahead, exemplifies this change in attitude. As the story unfolds; Igor, the Russian

telecommunication tycoon, reached the Cannes in order to gain his ex-wife Ewa back in his life. His wife left him two years earlier against the popular beliefs that male are the ones who left their wife in search of new life and new world. Igor is traditionally masked as he cannot acknowledge what has happened to him. After leaving Igor, Ewa is remarried to a famous designer, Hamid Hussian. Igor is insanely jealous when Ewa left him and married Hussain. He told her that he would destroy the whole world in order to get her back, and he intends to keep his original promise to destroy all the worlds alive and as he is traditionally masked he perceives that he can make anything happen as he is a male. Igor follows Ewa and her new husband to Cannes and plans to cause violence and destruction to win the love of Ewa- traditionally male shows his violence and destructive nature to win women heart. Actually this was not true love. He was jealous because his male ego doesn't let him see his ex-wife live happily with another man. Though, Ewa loves him, she was absolutely terrified with him because of his traditional male perceptions. So, she left him to achieve her dream of becoming a successful business woman with a loving and caring man who would incorporate her in all her endeavors. The extract below is very important to elaborate these issues:

She was merely following her human instincts. Those instincts that were not traditionally male defined. She wants to follow her dream- so she chooses to leave her husband who envelops traditionally male defined values and creeds. For her a husband who loves her for whom she is and who can shake-hand with her in all her endeavors was more essential. (9)

Ewa here stands in favor of love, care and affection in terms of equality and equity not in terms of domination and suppression. In patriarchal society women are judged in terms of money. According to the traditional male beliefs, a woman runs

after money, power and fame. But, Ewa seeks for true happiness. For every woman, work is important; everyone has right to be happy with work. To seek true happiness, self realization and self understanding is important. In the text, Ewa simply follows her real instinct and chooses love and happiness against money and power, and here she seems to refute male defined principles regarding women. She really wants to be a millionaire not in terms of money but in terms of love and freedom by choosing her individuality against all odds. Igor, the representative character of male oriented society seeks power, fame, money against happiness and love. On the way to achieve these material things, he becomes a workaholic and ignores his wife. As workaholic think work is everything and everybody becomes happy with work but they do not comprehend the real aspects of life like love, happiness and freedom. Ewa who loves Igor more than anything else in the world fails to receive love and time from her husband. So, she follows her human instinct to leave him and to choose for a partner who listens to her physical and mental desires. Similarly these lines from the novel *The Winner Stand Alone* in regards to Gabriela- an important female character in the novel, show this quest properly, "A strange, delicious calm comes over her. Suddenly, she feels protected, loved, and grateful to be alive. No one's forcing her to be there, enduring yet another humiliation. For the first time in years, she's aware of her power, a power she had never thought existed. (81)

Gabriela protests against her family boundaries and sets out to explore her dreams and career in Film industry. She experiences innumerable hurdles and discouragement from friends and family in this patriarchal social structure. But, when she is chosen for a film, she feels powerful and she feels as if she can fight against this demarcation for the first time in her life. This thought of empowerment is the hint of awakening in female self and the seed of looking at female kind with a different

lens. Gabriela has set out to explore a world of hers and this sense is germinating new beginning in the road to redefining the second sex. It too illustrates vividly how happiness lies in finding oneself, one's own desires and dreams and fulfilling them despite all odds.

3.2 Olivia: A stereotypic female

Olivia is one of the main characters of the novel *The Winner Stands Alone*. She hails from a mediocre family and works hard everyday to make her living. She sells grocery items near the beach in Cannes. This is how she supports her old parents. She is an epitome of her family economy. Igor- the protagonist of the novel is insane after his wife abandons him to pursue her dreams. To prove that he will do anything to get her back he starts killing people. Igor kills Olivia without reasons to make things happen in his process to get his wife back. Olivia who takes care of her old parents by selling grocery items is killed by Igor –to accomplish his whimsical desires and Olivia is victimized without reason. She becomes the victim as two men, Igor and her boyfriend, who use her in order to fulfill their personal desires. Being a good human being, she tries to help Igor by listening to him but as soon as she finds her life in danger she tries to escape from the situation. But, unfortunately she has already been in a trap set by psycho killer, Igor. The lines of Coelho below illustrate the idea vividly:

Olivia tries to imagine what is going through the mind of the man beside her. How anyone ... Her boy friend, could for example, can be quite brutal and sometimes hit her for no reason, and yet she can't bear to be apart from him even for a day. She always tolerated all sorts of male domination and she always kept her ready for the pleasure of the man near to her. (19)

The text draws female submissive nature. Olivia loves her boy friend so much that she does not bear to remain apart from him even for a single day despite the fact that he often exploits her. He loves her when they are having physical relationship. Otherwise, he ignores her. But, she is too much devoted towards him. She respects their relationship. Her boyfriend has no moral values. He uses women just to satisfy his sexual desire and to calm his anger. Despite this she does not have the courage to raise voice against such physical and mental exploitation.

A number of organizations are working for the rights of women but the problem which is being faced by women is that they are victims to male created discourses according to which women have to bear all these sufferings to create a happy family. Male has defined women as weak, feeble and submissive and many women cannot get rid themselves of this cultural aspect of their upbringing and revolt against the male domination. Olivia is a representative character of this traditionally trained female character that imprints the decorum of male developed discourses. But, some women have the courage to raise voice against this discrimination. Majority of them remain silent, as if they are born to live their lives on the structure of male developed culture and belief. In this regard Igor says:

Yes she will be the sacrifice. She is the message he must send, a message that will be understood as soon as it reaches its destination.

Before going over to her, he observes her tenderly; she doesn't know that in a little while, if all goes well her soul will be wondering in the clouds, free for even from an idiotic job that will never take her where dreams would like her to go. (15)

Igor chooses yet another woman as his victim in order to get his wife back. He chooses women not men because he too feels that women are not human beings.

When he exclaims “Yes she will be the sacrifice” (54), we can clearly envision his ill intentions to womankind. He chooses a woman as his victim because he too believes that women are fragile and easy prey. Igor uses Olivia as a vehicle to prove his love for Ewa. Igor being a superior male from a super class feels that he has every right to kill anyone in order to free them from their sufferings and pains. Despite being a young girl, she has a lot of dreams but with the arrival of this evil force, those unfulfilled dreams are shattered into pieces. Igor feels he needs to destroy few universe or world to get his lost love back. But, he fails to realize that when a life is destroyed, he destroys a part of universe- everything a person feels experiences and sees also dies with them. He wants to destroy others’ world in order to rebuild his own world. Olivia tries to console him by listening to his stories with patience but he kills her by using martial art technique. She is dead but she looks as if she is asleep- in her dream remembering some lovely days or else having nightmares about her violent boy friend. In this regard Igor foregrounds his male understanding regarding female and Igor remarks:

He has freed the soul from that fragile body, freed a spirit incapable of defending herself against a bullying coward. If her relationship with her boyfriend had continued, the girl would have ended up depressed and anxious and devoid of all self-respect, and would have been even more under her boyfriend's thumb. (27)

Igor understands the challenges of Olivia’s life and he boasts about his destroying her. The remark above brings forth the idea that Igor is clothed with traditional beliefs –he assumes that male is the ruler of mankind. He feels that he has freed Olivia from depression and sufferings. He thinks that he has freed her from being misused by her boyfriend in the future. Olivia becomes a puppet of these two

devilish men, Igor and her boyfriend, who use women according to their needs. Igor feels that if this relationship had continued she would have ended up being depressed, losing all self-respect. But Igor fails to understand the similar position faced by his wife with him, he neither gave enough time nor love to his wife. He wants to free Olivia. But, he is still chasing Ewa even after her second marriage when the reason why Ewa left him is evident to him. This double dealing attitude of Igor is stereotypical to traditional male attitude. According to the traditional belief men can achieve everything they want in life.

Olivia is representative of the typical female character who worships males as God. Whatever woman does is for the sake of male. Women are impelled to live in oppression due to men's concept about them as object not as a subject. Male take women as their private property- they think that they can do whatever their whims tell them to do regarding women. This sort of relegation of women to mere puppets has brought inconsiderable disparity between male and female. Women are taken as machine to produce children and quench the physical thirst of men. Thus, even today women are afraid to break the boundaries and raise voice against such exploitation because most of what we do is governed by what is acceptable rather than what we think is correct. Thus, Olivia loses her life because she fails to protest against Igor's bad will. She is paid for remaining silent by Igor and Igor never takes her with human sentiment rather he compels her to do what he intends her to do. Therefore, because of this submissive attitude she dies.

3.2.1 Gabriela

She was an upcoming film star in the novel; she believes she is the best actor of her time. She was born to win and shine. She knows people who have achieved stardom are not at peace with themselves, as they have lost their originality in the gilt

and glare of Hollywood; they are insecure, full of doubts; they are unhappy and are complaining. But, she still feels that she can shine without any bad effects and remain in solace with herself.

She is one of the representative characters of the novel *The Winner Stands Alone* who embodies the spirit to redefine second sex. She advocates for individuality. She speaks about economical, social and cultural liberty of female and this make her representative character of the redefined second sex. She is bold, intelligent and knows her interest. She does not rely on her male counterpart for decision making, for guidance and help. But, still she faces a lot of problems from her male counterparts. She revolts against them. She refuses to get directed from their perspective and she discards how they want her to act and behave. In the abstract below Coelho paints some of her innate characteristics:

Gabriela, the optimist, the one who has persevered in order to reach stardom and now needs to think about the premiere, the invitations, the flights by jet, the posters put up in all the world's capitals, the photographers on permanent watch outside her house, interested in what she's wearing and where she buys her clothes, and in the identity of the blond hunk she was seen with some fashionable nightclub. (204)

This line signifies her typical modern character distanced from the traditional female character and the roles that were assigned to her. Gabriela does not relate to the male constructed assumptions about women and her social and cultural roles. She is an independent woman who has risen to stardom because of her beauty and acting skills. She is even higher than many males of her time. Her photographs are used by advertisement companies for commercial gains. She is paid heavily for a photograph. The supermarket and shops where she goes to buy clothes and accessories are in

news. She no longer belongs to the patriarchal defined group of second sex rather she has destroyed those premises ascribed to women and this foregrounds how sex is a constructed category.

Man has always been interested towards physical things of women (178). No matter how talented a woman may be, the only thing that matters to male is how quickly she surrenders herself in front of men is highlighted. Men usually feel that as long as women have got gorgeous breasts, thigh, buttocks, and belly in good trim, they would conquer the whole world. Today, women talent does not matter; nobody looks at her capacity and potentials. They look at women as a thing of beauty- who is reduced to physical beauty only. Men never notice what women are wearing because they are always mentally undressing her. This kind of thing always hinders women to achieve the height of success in their lives. They are easily manipulated by men and because of this they easily lose their focus. But, modern women use both physical and mental beauty to fight against this domination. The lines below states:

Her mother wanted her to study chemical engineering, and as soon as she finished high school, her parents sent her to the Illinois Institute of Technology. During the day, she studied protein paths and the structure of benzene, but she spent her evenings with Ibsen, Coward and Shakespeare while attending a drama course paid for money sent to her by her parents to buy clothes and course book. (35)

Patriarchal society is destined to impose its authority upon female. Female is constructed entity by society that is guided by patriarchal values and ideology. The extract above throws light on this idea of gender bias. Parents especially perceive that they must impose their authority upon their daughters for they think daughters are incapable of making their own decision. They usually think that they should decide

what their daughters should wear, what they should eat, how they should behave etc... Gabriela faced the same problem. Her family wanted her to be a chemical engineer though they know that their daughter wanted to be an actor and she has no fascination to engineering. They send her to Illinois institute to become chemical engineer. But, as it is not her subject of interest she uses the money that her parents send her to watch the dramas of Shakespeare and Ibsen. Thus, this resistance of Gabriela is the outcome of her internalization of self. Male centric assumptions about women are lambasted by Gabriela. She revolts against her parents' idea and starts doing commercial ads as it was her field of interest. The refutation of gender biases and the spirit to continue within those male constructed ideologies exemplifies the counter spirit of Gabriela who defends counter feminism rather than adhering to the stereotypical interest of feminism.

The lines below add light to this idea as well: "They've all perhaps quarreled with their families, who are convinced their daughter will end up working as prostitutes" (77).

These lines also amplify the idea further: "We've all heard about an illness in Central Africa called sleeping sickness. What we should know is that a similar disease exists that attacks the soul. It's very dangerous because the early stages often go unnoticed" (139).

The extract above states that acculturation is one of the important parts of human life. Here, the sleeping sickness that exists in Africa is metaphorically speaking about ignorance and lack of education. Similarly, in the absence of knowledge, our soul is contaminated-we fail to treat both male and female as the product of the same source. The early age of human life is of paramount importance in human understanding. When parents raise male and female children in different

ways by assigning them different types of work, dress and roles they develop to be different but they are born in the same way. However, the culture is given to them separate them from transforming them to who they are and how they have to live. In saying this, the writer in the extract below want to say that female are dominated from their early life so they grow to become different, more feeble, weaker and softer in comparison to their male counterparts because they are meant to be so. The lines below from Coelho add to this idea as well:

Though both girls and boys are born through the same process they grow differently. Society and family assign different roles to them. The process of socialization for boys and girls are different according to their gender. Boys are usually given more freedom and liberty. Girls are often neglected and forced to do household activities. (77-78)

The lines above express feelings of all female characters including Gabriela in the novel. Liberty for women is a far cry. Their dreams and aspirations are possible only when they try to woo man and when they are ready to sleep with them in bed. The reality is that they must accept the consequences of male domination, the patriarchal divisions imposed upon them by society itself. But, this male created history of female –where she is represented as second sex should be challenged; it should be subverted for it undermines the female ideologies so the essence is to overthrow this hierarchy of male by redefining the second sex. In the text *The Winner Stands Alone* Ewa exclaims “If you believe in victory, then victory will believe in you” (134), so, a very strong anger against male defined assumptions is evident in the words of female characters of the novel.

The lines below exemplify the determination of characters like Gabriela who want male to assign a different meaning for female life and female dignity. Here

powerful determination is to create a different meaning for the second sex, which has been heavily distorted in regards to the male discourses regarding female.

I'm my own best friend and my own worst enemy. Before coming here, I was thinking that I didn't deserve it. That I would not be able to meet your expectations, and that you have probably chosen the wrong candidate. At the same time my heart was telling me that I was rewarded because I hadn't given up and had fought to the end. (138)

These lines above illustrate the hostile attitude of female towards the male created discourses regarding female. They regard female as dirty, weak, feeble, unintelligent and submissive humans. But, the resistances of characters like Gabriela towards these sorts of false representation project agitation of female towards the male incursion into their experiences and reality which was totally misrepresented in the past. Their vow to fight this sort of male created evils to the end amplifies their determination to redefine the second sex.

Intelligence is a universal gift. But, it takes proper understanding and knowledge to use it. So, Gabriela wants to use her intelligence to fight against male hegemony. She believes when one is faithful towards what he/she is doing, they will never lose hope and courage. She is mentally prepared to give her best in her profession. Gabriela knows that only the fittest will survive. She is ready to fight against all odds and not to surrender herself to the male governed premises regarding women. She has a rock solid determination to fight till the end and it this illustrates her determination vividly. Gabriela who travels to the Cannes International Film Festival despite her parents protest intends to fight against the traditionally defined roles of women and she tries to fight against her male defined roles of female, she projects her as an inspirational character in the novel. "One day I'll wear what I like,

but right now, I just need to be given a chance” (29). This is what she exclaims in the novel *The Winner Stands Alone*. This line of her shows how the definition of sex is just merely a social and cultural construction.

3.2.2 Ewa

One of the important Female characters in the novel *The Winner Stands Alone* redefines the stereo type vision of the second sex. According to the traditional beliefs- women were supposed to remain submissive to their husbands. But, she revolts against this value and left her husband to pursue her dreams and aspirations. She is not a typical stereotypical female character in the novel like Olivia. She represents modern –revolutionary women.

Ewa is a representative female character revolting against androcracy in the novel *The Winner Stands Alone*. It is Ewa whom the novel encircles. She was married to Igor, a rich man from a highly sophisticated class (also called superclass in the novel). But, she was not a happy woman. She was impelled to live in oppression due to man’s concept about women as objects not as a subjects. She could not accept the patriarchal social decorum that has dominated women and ignored their identity. Women’s subjectivity and identity have always been sought in relation to their male counterpart. Ewa revolted against this disparity. She chooses a man who loves her not his work. Igor, her husband, was extremely selfish. He was a typical product of male defined principles and values, who thought that women are only supposed to please their male counterparts and they have to serve and treat them like a king. He has no feelings and sentiments for the desire and wishes of women. Ewa who thrives for equality, equity, independence and happiness, cannot accept Igor’s biased principles; moreover, he was a workaholic who completely ignored Ewa and her desires. Ewa is in search of a loving husband who can acknowledge who she is, who can respect her

and love her deeply but not rule over her. As everybody in this world has a dream of a blissful home with loving husband and loving kids. But, her dream remains a dream because Igor cannot give all this to her. He is more concerned about his work and career and in this quest he ignores the sentiments and feelings of Ewa. In this regard this extract says:

On the road to power, there's no turning back. He would be an eternal slave to the road he'd chosen and if he did ever realize his dream of abandoning, he would plunge immediately into a deep depression. For him, work matters but for me love and freedom is the only quest. I'm not in his priorities; I think he loves his work and money. (134)

Igor is too much obsessed in gaining material comfort and he believes it will come from money and position. Power means money to Igor. He feels money is the sole God to which whole humanity is enslaved. That's why he runs after money, after work. The quest of money and power has blinded him- he forgets his wife and her aspirations. He is slave to work and he ignores his wife. What she need was much attention and love from him which he fails to give her. Actually, he turns to be a workaholic because of his beliefs in material achievements and he cannot make love with his wife because of his tiredness of hard work. He behaves like a machine that works continuously- there are no feelings and no emotion within him. Ewa who needs much love, affection and care from her husband realizes that Igor has no feelings for her. He had no sex with her for a long time. He did not share his problems with her so she felt- she is just a puppet in this world. Her feelings were ignored. Igor could do what he liked with her but for her there was no room to express her. Her desire goes unnoticed. Her married life becomes hellish. She can't bear this pain of being all alone. But, in this deserted world of hers, there arrives a new man- Hamid, who was

the kind of man she was longing for. When she found Hamid in her life, she left Igor and moved with him. She leapt over the fence of patriarchal principles and beliefs. Her leaving Igor exemplifies her quest for freedom and liberty, on one hand and on the other hand, it is a slap for the male constructed values and belief. Ewa tries to break this pattern. She lampoons the idea that women are second sex- as defined by male. She tries to redefine this concept by taking a stepping stone in this course by refusing Igor. She has a great disdain for Igor who dresses in male constructed values.

Despite years of her marriage, she is totally empty from inside. She always wishes for a baby of her own but Igor has no time for her. She tries to engage in household work to fulfill her emptiness but she is not satisfied with it- for she realizes the value of her own existence. She always compromises everything- even her desires and dreams for Igor and her married life but she cannot find peace and solace in it. She feels excluded and relegated to animals. In this regard she asserts:

Yes I'm satisfied, but the problem is you're not, and never will be.

You're insecure, afraid of losing everything you've achieved: you don't know how to quit once you're ahead. You'll end up destroying your self; you're killing our marriage and my love. (98)

These lines clearly bring out her frustration and sense of loneliness. Being an honest person, Ewa confesses that she is satisfied with what she had but her male partner is not and it has led her to utter dissatisfaction. He always wants more and in his pursuit to more and more achievements, he cannot realize what he has lost. He has lost all the fruitful and good times with his wife. Her life is really hellish because of his quest for material achievement which for her is not important. Ewa senses that she has to enjoy her life and live it according to her principles and understanding rather than being submissive to her husband- whose priorities are different to hers. Ewa

wants to prove her individuality and come out of her domestic boundaries. She cannot pretend to act according to the patriarchal social norms and values. She realizes that she needs a new definition of herself- different to what patriarchal society has assigned to her. She starts to work in a big Moscow shop and within a quick period of time gains great success there. This shows that male and female have same potentials and if women can build courage they can venture into demolishing all boundaries set up to confine females. Women need to come out of the four walls of their houses and create a different identity for her and the world. Modern females are in quest of doing something out of the household. They do not find their existence to be meaningful if they have nothing to do going beyond the four walls of their houses. The existence of females as defined by patriarchal world is like empty existence for them. The lines below foreground this idea further: “She could not stand the empty existence she was leading; if she didn't do something soon, she would go mad”. (98)

Ewa is vigilant. She has decided to fight against the dogmatic principles that male defined social system defined by male has expounded upon her and many other females like her. When she left her husband Igor, Ewa was a winner, which was a step which gave identity to her. Her individuality comes from not associating herself to male defined terms but from revolting against those terms. Thus, she seeks for true female identity and raise voice against patriarchal thought patterns. Ewa is not a typical female character. She is a winner as she tries to redefine herself and in this regard, she brought insurmountable alternation to the definition of second sex- distancing them from the traditional patriarchal definition. When her husband fails to give self-respect and equal right to her, Ewa abandons him. She does not surrender herself to unjustifiable men constructed assumptions, regarding female, rather she tries to destroy them by ignoring and fighting against them. Her bold and courageous

decision to abandon her husband and her quest for a new meaning in her life without any remorse and pain justifies her radical visionary quest. She directly rejects subordination to male. She does not accept the assistance from male intending to make society feel that females need help from males. In the extract below from the text, this sense is further justified:

Ewa is holding a champagne glass in one hand and the mobile phone and an extinguished cigarette in the other. The industrialist takes a gold lighter out of his pocket and offers to light her cigarette. 'No, thank you, it's all right, I can do it myself; she says. 'I'm deliberately keeping both hands occupied in an attempt to smoke less'. (344-345)

Ewa knows exactly what she is doing. She is a strong minded lady with a clear sense of understanding of her actions. When the industrialist offers to light her cigarette, this symbolically represents that women need assistance from men in their every endeavor. But, when Ewa refuses the offer of the man, she seems to prove that women should be self-dependent and self-sufficient and they can be. By this time she wants to establish that when women can rid themselves from the mercy of men their quest for freedom and independence is accessible in reality. Women should not do things in emotions but they must use logic and judgment in their activities. The lines express the idea:

'I left it all behind; Ewa told her once.' And I don't regret it one bit. I would have done the same even if Hamid- against my wishes- hadn't bought a beautiful estate in Spain and put it in my name. I would have made the same decision if Igor, my ex-husband, had offered me a fortune, because I need to live without fear. (354)

Though Ewa was married to a rich Russian business tycoon, Igor, who owned a big mobile company in Russia, she abandoned him for Hamid, a man from England who really admires her and respects her desires and existence. Igor was in bondage of superstitions cultivated on him by his society. He was suppressive and he was not kind towards women. Ewa, who wants to live happily and freely, cannot find solace in his house. Her encounter with Hamid brought innumerable transformations and she moved with him refuting social and cultural expectations. She was not running after wealth and property but for her to live without fear in total freedom and happiness was more important than fortunes. In the text, She says she would have refuted all property and fortunes if she hadn't had the assurance of love, compassion and happiness (148). Ewa destroys the social expectations and she makes her own decision about her life. She did not take help and suggestions from any of her male counterparts- and in this regards she says she has no regret for what she did. Her firm beliefs in her decision amplify her revolutionary spirit which helped her to redraw the previous premises regarding second-sex. It gave a new insight to the area of second sex and destroyed the previous criteria developed and preserved by males according to their interest. The writer who further asserts:

She was more convinced than ever, this was not love. It was some thing sick and morbid, which she would either have to accept and live the rest of her life as a prisoner, she would either have to fear whole her life and live in narrow domestic boundaries or else free herself from this and move away from it as soon as she sense any possibility.

(107)

To Ewa, marriage is bondage with love, affection, devotion, care, rights etc. But, in her relationship with Igor, there is the absence of all these fundamental criteria

that bind the institution of marriage. She feels sick, alone and ignored in this relationship. She is in a dilemma whether to accept this relationship and stay with Igor the rest of her life as a prisoner- or to take a different course in her life navigating new possibilities. Despite the expectations of society and the upbringing of society and culture, she decided to move away from this suffocating relationship and find a new path in her life. She decided to go against all the male constructed norms and values and make her own decision no matter how unacceptable and ugly they are. Society and culture have always marginalized women and they have always dominated them. But, the most important thing is how long women can be vulnerable to this evil act and keep on accepting this sort of unjust norms. Ewa tries to subvert this. The lines below illustrate this in depth:

Whenever they met at fashion shows, he would drop whatever other commitments he had, cancel lunches and suppers, just so they would spend some time together in peace locked in a hotel room, often even without making love. They would watch television, eat drink and speak very little of the past, never of the future and a great deal about the present. (107)

The abstract above talks about the right of women over their body. Hamid feels that women have the right over their bodies. Whenever they met they spend some precious time together in a hotel room. In spite of being locked, they enjoy the moment without making love- their alliances was not only physical but mental and emotional as well. This shows their devotion towards love. Thus, he respects women. Although she was never in love with him, when he proposed her she leaves her husband and a prosperous household because Hamid respects her feelings and gives

enough moral grounds to her where she is happy and feels at ease. But, for Igor women body is a thing of pleasure to male and they can use it in any way they like.

Gaining self respect and support she is very happy with him. In their companies they are always speaking at length about their present and they are not very keen to talk about past and future. This shows their commitment towards each other, which was lacking in relationship between Igor and Ewa, and this lack became the cause, which ultimately led her to abandon him. When Igor asserts “I’d make you come back and I’m good at getting what I want, even if that means destroying worlds” (156). Here, Igor feels that a woman does not have right to choose her life pattern and career. He exhibits his male ego which is imprinted upon him by his culture and society. He could not see the desire of women for their freedom. He is blinded by his patriarchal cultivation and upbringing.

Thus, Ewa, the protagonist of the novel, shows that the patriarchal definition of second sex is unable to reflect the reality inherent within female world. She advocates the need to redefine second sex in more holistic approach. Her argument is that male has license to define, analyze and interpret things according to their interest. They have universalized things and views according to their interest. So, female recognition should not be modeled in old-fashioned ways. Women should find their own language to explore their experiences and their reality. What they need is to create female discourse in the language of female.

Igor Malev has one thing in his mind- his ex-wife Ewa. He is handsome, rich and effortlessly personable, but she left him for her desire to become a successful fashion designer. Hamid, Ewa’s, a new man. Igor never recovered from the sense of loss-after Ewa abandoned him because he is the product of male created discourses regarding female. His beliefs make him sick and it ultimately grows in him a male

ego. He travels to the Cannes International Film Festival where they'll be appearing, intent on winning her back. Igor surfaces the dark side of wealth, false discourses and thought patterns resulting in murder of many lives, including that of Hamid and Ewa. He represents the stereotypical mindset of second sex whereas vigilant and revolutionary Ewa, acts in opposition and her inner core efforts are to re-define second sex. This is what Igor says to himself: "Yes, I had won, but the winner does not stand alone. My nightmares are at the end. An angel with dark eyebrows is watching over me and it will teach me which path to follow from now on. Yes, the dark eyebrows are watching over me". (374)

Igor now confesses that his male ego is slowly fading and he is now haunted by a terrible thought that he has committed a grave mistake. He realizes that an angel with dark eyebrows is watching him over, which symbolically represents the new wave of revolution regarding female emancipation. Male domination and suppression might have won the war, but the winner does not stand alone, for there to be a winner, there should be a loser as well. Female history has been the history of loser. The realization that women need to agitate against male hegemony illustrates that the need to redefine second sex is important and it can actually give justice and freedom to them. The pressure to revisit the male discourse and redefine it in regards to female experiences is need of the present time.

Thus, each and every female character in the novel has shown strong agitation towards the traditional patterns of patriarchy. They have portrayed the need for a new and holistic social, cultural and intellectual sphere for women so that they can live freely and independently without being dependent to their male counterparts. Their quest is to redefine and revisit all the existing mode of discourses, giving it a new and more vigilant shape, enveloping it with issues of female and their experiences. In this

regard the female characters of *The Winner Stands Alone* are calling a new beginning.

They defend the freedom of women and defy the male centric assumptions about

them. They try to destroy the male created ideas regarding female and her true nature.

CHAPTER FOUR

Second Sex and its Redefinition

The traditional definition of second sex is unable to reflect inclusive view of the women world. Because of the authority of discursive and literary practices in male, women have no access to expression and discourse formation. But, in the contemporary time, women have license to define, analyze and interpret things according to their experiences and knowledge. This new power of women has helped them to redefine the male hegemony, the misinterpretation and misrepresentation of male regarding their views towards female, to seek their financial and social rights, which have empowered women within and outside the house no doubt the space of women is not limited to kitchen anymore. They are in major position of power and decision making. Yet, it needs tremendous courage and discursive movements to recognize the second sex in equality and equity.

Even though, Ewa is married to a business tycoon, she is not happy with her married life as she finds Igor quiet different from what she had expected from him. She wanted to have reciprocity with her husband in matters of love, care and respect, but she did not find it in him. She loved him but he loved money and business. She also challenges patriarchal beliefs that a female is more inclined towards money rather than love and happiness. Gabriela tries to control her life and career -but she revolts the male dogmatic norms and values and tries to start her career in film industry. Despite many hindrances and hurdles, she tries to prove her talent without any compromise with the society where a female talent is judged through her outer beauty and physical appearance. Similarly, Igor the typical representative of this patriarchal society wants to keep females under his foot as slaves just to prove male supremacy. He kills Ewa Hamid and the director of the film without any reasons as his male ego

doesn't let him see his ex-wife happily married to another person. He tries his best to control Gabriela's desire to become a film star, but he cannot suppress her desire to remain happy and free. Gabriela is all set to struggle again to get her desire fulfilled. These two female characters try to open various avenues to the women by destroying all the traditional beliefs. They discard the idea that a woman is merely an item of pleasure for man, and female is born just to serve male whereas males are born to serve God, society and State. Since her birth she has been confined within the periphery of her house. Till marriage woman has to remain under control of her father, and after marriage she has to be under control of her husband and at her old age she will be controlled by her son. All these beliefs have been shattered by the female characters of this novel. They refuse to accept those male principles which try to delimit them to the narrow space of male domination and male supremacy.

They argue that female has to search for her own pleasure and liberty. She has to refuse all the violence and suppression. Otherwise, she will be murdered like Olivia. Igor after doing these entire acts believed he was the Winner (in the patriarchal society) but actually he became a loser at the end. He kills Ewa physically but couldn't kill her desire to be free. He could not snatch the happiness and freedom she got within the short span of time with Hamid. Similarly, Igor tried to shatter the dream of Gabriela by killing the film director, but he could not completely erase the dream inside her. He could not block her desire for freedom. Gabriela is all set to struggle again. Therefore, these two representative female characters have challenged the so called patriarchal belief about women by revolting against the male discursive hegemony regarding the second sex.

The female characters in the novel do not like females to be called the Second Sex. There are some impression in their behavior that they want to question 'who is

first?’ and why? They are first sex. They wonder who made males first sex and female second sex. However, they just accept the concept of second sex just as the name to cover the female world. Though, they unwillingly accept the term ‘second sex’, they strongly come out in opposition to what has been said about females traditionally. They come forth with the view that females have been defined with the partial eye of the male dominated society. The creator has no biasness in defining females, but it is the patriarchal society that has defined the second sex for their convenience. In this regards, Paulo Coelho, through the major characters, gives us the message that the second sex needs re-defining. He conveys us this message through the female characters like Ewa, Olivia, and Gabriela. These characters stand in opposition to the roles given to them by the traditional system and act accordingly. Their activity against patriarchy is not directed to oppose males but to raise the status of females in modern society. Paulo Coelho’s characters and their activities are convincing and it can be concluded that he has tried to redefine the ‘second sex’ in a new way.

Male characters try to suppress the female characters till the end in the novel but they failed miserably and the female characters are presented as revolutionary who are victorious at the end over their male counterparts. Female are happy for what they have chosen. They try to redefine the general concept about the women. As women are still supposed to live passively within certain limitations, they try to defend the idea that second sex is just a concept. God has created male and female without any biasness. The female characters in the novel opine that male and female are both conscious about their dignity and they should be gauged in equal terms which is the feminist call of the present day. Not on the principle of superiority and inferiority. The concept of female characters rejecting male established values and norms in the novel depicts their desire to redefine the concept of second sex

(established idea) with that of equality and equity (justifiable idea) corresponding to the core concept of the novel *The Winner Stands Alone*.

Thus, the female characters in the novel try to redefine the second sex by altering the established values. The quest of all female characters to reconstruct the thought patterns of their male counterparts amplifies the projected idea of redefinition.

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