

**Tribhuvan University**

**Transformation of the Female Self in Paulo Coelho's *Veronika Decides to Die***

**A Thesis Submitted to the Central Department of English, T.U  
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the  
Degree of Master of Arts in English**

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Letter of Recommendation

Mukti Nath Dahal has completed his thesis entitled "Transformation of the Female Self in Paulo Coelho's *Veronika Decides to Die*" under my supervision. He carried out his research from December 2<sup>nd</sup> 2017 to March 14<sup>th</sup> 2018. I hereby recommend his thesis be submitted for viva voce.

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Approval Letter

This thesis entitled "Transformation of the Female Self in Paulo Coelho's *Veronika Decides to Die*" submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University by Mukti Nath Dahal has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

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## **Transformation of the Female Self in Paulo Coelho's *Veronika Decides to Die***

### Abstract

*The research studies Paulo Coelho's Veronika Decide to Die by using critical theory of feminism. The protagonist of the novel Veronika struggles for female self in male dominated society. The novel projects Veronika as an experiencer of patriarchal and gender biased society wherein she is affected by rooted patriarchal mentality which is reflected in social practices. Due to domination she is unable to decide her internal desire to be established as an independent identity in the society. Age long practice of patriarchy does not let her come out from moral and social boundaries. Veronika has a sense of freedom which leads her individual freedom but the rooted value of patriarchy confines her in domestic and confined world. She finds dominated position in society and feels restless in society. Having the confined role in society triggers her to extreme decision of death but she recovers it and revives her desire to fight against patriarchy. Dominantly, Simone De Bouviour's theoretical ideas have been applied whose theoretical insight discusses on discourse against women are made in patriarchal society.*

This research study discusses an individuality of a woman character from the novel *Veronika Decides to Die*. The protagonist, Veronika gets a severe and painful life under existing patriarchal society which creates a different domain to define woman. Having knowledge of her contemporary society, she wants to uproot as such rooted forces which have been existed for years. It is her personal wishes and aspiration however, she does not find as easy as she had thought. The inferior position and defeated mentality for women in society causes problem in her personal choice. Veronika finds her dominated position in society when she was rejected by a lawyer. Her broken marriage and position in society create much frustration. It leads her decision to salvage from chain of domination and repression. Later on, she changes her mentality of dying when she realizes if she chose death that would be defeat of her. This insight leads her back fight against society and her personal self.

The research paper studies how transformation take place in the novel, *Veronika Decides to Die* in which a female character seeks her personal freedom and herself by fighting against the patriarchy. She fights against society with uncompromising self. In the novel, she makes decision to die for the sake of redemption from patriarchy; however, she is able to transform her yielding soul into rebelling one. By getting fear from patriarchy, she fantasizes death as a way of releasing from suppression but she changes her decision and fights against as such manipulation. Her struggle against existing norms and values leads her toward not only outer but also inner freedom. Her decision of dying rather than surrender to male dominated society advocates her transformation of self identity. The concept of transformation reflects woman liberation from patriarchal congestion that system suffocates to women. Due to having mechanic force of the patriarchal system a woman does not get her independent self.

The pivotal character Veronika under patriarchal domain is unable to feel a sense of freedom and sense of individuality. This thing of realization in patriarchal society leads her toward rebellious mentality. Her first experience in patriarchy intimidates her yet she is ready to be accepted. But, this initial desire of surrender does not satisfy her. For this reason, she alters her yielding mentality and fights against patriarchal society; however she becomes a victim of the society. Being a helpless in hospital, she desires to fight against repressing ideology. Even more, she avoids her dying desire in order to bring her revolutionary character. For the sake of freedom, she is ever ready to accept death rather than patriarchal ideology. Due to her contradiction in choice of life, she is alienated from society. Her position in society is as normal as a woman in patriarchal society. Having a patriarchal domination and repression, she is unable to enjoy her life. The narrow space for women does not let them feel free.

This paper studies the transformation of the female self in Coelho's *Veronika Decides to Die*. The pivotal character, Veronika cannot feel freedom and individual woman. She imagines life as uprooted from society. She transforms herself from submissive to rebellion by opposing traditional gender bias social structure. She is victim of patriarchal society in which women cannot raise their voice. Veronika experiences torture in life. Veronika searches for freedom in society. Patriarchy denies education for women to make them powerful. Veronika faces discrimination at her work place. She fights she has difficulty in life conscious women raise voice against suppression. Women are discriminated and gender basis. Her only aim is to gain freedom. She suffers because of prosperity and patriarchy. She is alienated she wants to struggle come out of social depression.

Veronika grows up in traditional society where she does not find freedom as a

woman. In such manipulative society, she cannot enjoy with her own choices and desires. The patriarchal tradition victimizes her therefore; she breaks relationship with family life for the sake of personal life. According to the story, Veronika often lives alone and detaches from all kinds of societal life. She does not get her self which had been defined by society. In course of searching a complete freedom, she rather finds death as a freedom. Her definition of freedom is end of life but she comes to realize her wrong decision.

Veronika, a freedom seeker, imagines her life as uprooted from society and any kind of external forces. She wishes to have desired life but she cannot experience as she had thought before. But she experiences life and comes to know that male supremacy makes problem for women to work independently. One of the characters Mary refuses her to be a lawyer then she finds how men are unsupportive for women. In course of living she often gets problem and trouble because of patriarchy. The society always defines women role and position in society.

This study discusses women's experiences in patriarchal society where they feel dominated, suppressed and exploited. Women's desire for seeking independent position in society causes women problem. This can be reflected in work and society. Women's self seeks own world and freedom; however, the society practices patriarchal system and beliefs. Veronika transforms her woman self from submissive to rebellion. In context of novel *Veronika Decides to Die*, it shows a rebellious woman self which resists against patriarchal notion of a woman identity in society.

The patriarchal society has traditional roles and it understands male and female roles as it has been practised since the society formed. Along with birth of either male or female, they are socialized on the basis of prevalent social norms and values. The socialization process employs both male and female and it also

distinguishes their roles respectively. It is a gradual process in which the patriarchal society imposes discourses upon females. But, it is not natural inferiority of women who are made inferior in society. Veronika has been victim of a patriarchal society; therefore, she wants liberation from the society. She states here:

But I know that my soul is complete, because my life has meaning. I will be able to look at sunset and believe that god is behind it. When someone irritates me, I will tell them what I think of them and I won't worry what they think of me, because everyone will say she has just been released from Villette. (148)

Having such desire, she pursues her independent stand even when the society restricts her. Her quest of a complete freedom leads her up to death. It is her decision to be a fighter of the patriarchal society. She does not like society wherein she has to be victim, therefore, "She hated everything; herself, the world, the chair in front of her, the broken radiator in one of the corridors, people who were perfect, criminals(62)". Her observation outside world is open but she cannot experience open and free world due to the social discourses. She intends to live a complete free world.

Simone De Beauvoir examined women's subordinate role as the 'Other' in her book, *The Second Sex*. The book includes the famous line, "One is not born but becomes a woman" introducing what has come to be called the sex-gender distinction.

Beauvoir examines women role as other in *The Second Sex* provided the vocabulary for analyzing the social constructions of femininity and the structure for critiquing those constructions, which was used as a liberating tool by attending to the ways in which patriarchal structures used sexual difference to deprive women of the intrinsic freedom. In *The Second Sex* Beauvoir is about women condition in patriarchy in which the society recreates dominating roles by redefining women existence. 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.

Veronika is victimized. With view of living in freedom and independence, she goes against happiness in repressive society. The patriarchal tradition causes her suffering. She comes across obstacles, domination and restriction and then she cannot think better way as she had imagined. The society assumes a typical position if women think more than the defined boundary then conflict exists between the world and women. As a human being a woman imagines a world where she wishes to be engaged but the society has it's rules and principles in which everyone should be limited. She mentions her thoughts, "Veronika had begun fighting for her life (100)". She has a sense of struggling life but death for her is a kind of place where she can find every kind of choices she wants. She is guided by this notion of life. As her life is reflected, “Veronika did as her mother asked , sure her mother had enough experience to understand life reality. She finished her studies, went to university, got a good degree but ended up working as a librarian" (85).

Mary Daly argues on inherent patriarchal ideology which creates ideological truth about women existence. Such discourse creates moral boundaries for them. The

society has restrictions and compulsions for women. A woman has to accept silently because the society rules over them. In fact, men think that women are just for serving men and women do not have any separate world as this quote says. It is unfair treatment of women. Women are limited and trapped through myths and stereotypes. Mary Daly's idea relates here:

The inherent misogyny in patriarchal thought finds self-justification for relegating women to a secondary social position by identifying women with the body. In patriarchal philosophies, the body as an instrument or tool is to be possessed and mastered, conditioned, disciplined and trained and the universal male appropriation of female bodies is seen as natural. As a passive object, woman's body is seen to justify subduing and occupation. (155)

The traditional gender role considers men as powerful, independent, intelligent, and active creature whereas women as supportive, dependent, unintelligent and passive ones. In this way, historically women are viewed as man's subordinate and someone different from and inferior to men. Moreover, emotional sensibility and sentimentality are the key terms for defining femininity of female.

In patriarchal society, it is not possible women get chances to raise voices. The social ignorance for women invites a conflict between men and women. As a result, women are raising their voice to change the conventional role and notion of female established by culture, religion and society. Veronika struggles for the life of equal status, dignity, opportunity, honor and identity. When patriarchy creates stereotypical images about girls and women then, it serves a powerful function in our society; and when such patriarchal norms and values are long time used, then those exaggerated ideas of inferiority and weakness of women are internalized by the women and

ultimately, they feel themselves powerless and inferior. Women are discriminated from men on the basis of gender that they are socially, culturally, economically, legally and even biologically different from man. Butler has rightly put forward her view regarding the men's perspective of women in patriarchal society. "Female are said to be idealistic humanistic rather than a contributor to society, innocent rather than adventurous, patient rather than ambitious and gentle, tender, soft rather than moral trustworth (41)".

Veronika experiences a kind of torture in her life owing to male attitude toward female. The patriarchal society has repressive social structure by which she suffers. She comes to know all traditional norms and values which were against female freedom and independence. Then, she decides to be away from male shadow in order to find her personal life and freedom. The research considers women space and freedom in patriarchal society; therefore women want to establish new values by threatening patriarchal norms. She expresses:

When I came here, I was deeply depressed. Now I am proud to say I m mad. Outside, I will behave exactly like everyone else. I will go shopping at the supermarket, I will exchange trivialities with my friends, and I will waste precious time watching television. But I know that my soul is free and that I can dream and talk with other worlds which before I came here. (148)

The main concern of this study is to examine why Veronika decides to die and what factors pressurize to die. Her knowledge and experience in patriarchal society pushes her toward death. The patriarchal society and its pressure upon her create hopelessness. At first she accepts her inferiority and decides to die. But, she dares to fight against as such repressive forces after realization of her powerful position in

society. Veronika, in search of liberation of her life, leaves no stone unturned. Again she thinks the way to liberate from those problems.

When we analyze the subject matter in the novel, we can clearly find that Paulo Coelho redefines traditional role of women. 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. His text is committed to a new scenario, 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 create gender equality in society that has been existed for years.

The novel from different standpoints has been studied since its publication however; the researcher has forwarded a new research topic. Unlike the researcher's standpoint, many critics observe it from several perspectives. For example, Leila Montaser Kouhsari points out his view:

The story of insanity and madness in contrast to the monotony of life, like other Coelho's publications provokes the feeling of self-discovery and the power of challenging all limitations and traditions. In the atmosphere Coelho creates, you learn that being different doesn't mean being mad and you understand that the "reality is something the majority deems to be, not necessary the best or the most logical one."

(22)

This critic simply interprets it as an autobiographical novel in which Coelho personal understanding of the world and his personal quest in this world are presented. It means he establishes his own perspective toward world.

Sarangpani R. Shinde studies the novel from psychological perspective and it responses that the main character Veronika undergoes with mental suffering and she does have complexity. He comments here:

Veronika, in *Veronika Decides to Die* decides to commit suicide as everything in the world is a total chaos and she couldn't do anything about it. Her failed suicide attempt brings her to Villette, a mental asylum where among the other mentally disturbed inmates she finds a reason of her own to live on. The doctor reveals to her that she is suffering from an acute heart failure because of the over dose of the pills she took to end her life and is left only with a maximum of seven days time. This fact created a dual feeling in veronika's mind. (3)

He finds psychological effect due to excessive torture and pain causes mental condition due to societal problems. Her perpetual upheaval in mind and changing mentality shows some psychological disorder and problem. Similarly, another critic, SHEME MARY put forward his views:

This fact created a dual feeling in Veronica's mind. At first she was relieved as she would be successful in her decision to end her life at the end of a week's time. But as days passed by the waiting for death turned horrible as she started experiencing the colors and hopes of life. She started to find new meanings of life, love and death and craving for just one more day came from within. (20)

It has highlighted dilemmatic or divided mental ideas that shows mental disorder and complexity. The society does not understand her sense of freedom but she cannot go beyond society.

Another critic, Victoria Beale goes through the novel and studies it as a

reflection of self. He further explicates here:

But the vapidness of Coelho is not his greatest sin. Nor is it the relentless self-promotion. At the heart of Coelho's ostensibly encouraging philosophy is a brutal logic: If you've made it, your success is thanks to the mystical powers of positive thinking; if you haven't, it's your own fault for not trying hard enough. No credence is given to luck—good or bad—to geography or family background, to the substantial difficulties of economic and social mobility. All of these factors can be subsumed by focus and drive and single-mindedness. It's a strikingly callous denial of reality, hedged in cuddly fairy tales. (21)

Beale observes this novel as nostalgia because main character of this novel who is sickened from past memory. She wants to recover her memory but it never achievable in his life. It is psychological interpretation of this novel.

This novel is read from several perspectives however feminism has not been used since its publication as a form of novel. Having several interpretation, analysis and in-depth knowledge Veronika demands her equal love and respect. But unlike his thought, she does not get position. Veronika thinks over patriarchal is a discourse created by society, is against women freedom and independence. As she thinks:

Since all of humanity was condemned with no right of appeal, human kind decided to create a defence mechanism, against the eventuality of God deciding to wield his arbitrary power again. However millennia of the study resulted in so many legal measures that, ultimately we went too far, and justice became a tangle of clauses, jurisprudence and contradictory text that no want could quite understand. (97)

Her preconception against society is negative when she does not find any more

freedom and personal desire. As she moves, she finds obstacles and other society boundaries in which women should be confined. Patriarchy is a layer of discourse which undercover women in patriarchy.

Veronika discloses her wants and desires in her life but her source of happiness are not allowed to consume in patriarchal society. Therefore, she desires to get all things done in reality thenafter she can experience her perfect life. It is her transformation from caged soul to free soul. The following line explains:

In Villette you were allowed to smoke, but not to stub your cigarette out on the lawn. With great pleasure, she did what was forbidden because the great advantage of being there was not having to respect the rules and even not having to put up with any major consequences if you broke them. (99)

The major thrust of this research is to examine how a woman's stable psyche is adversely affected by the oppressive and monotonous phenomena like betrayal by husband, brutal lust of a lecherous man, economic constraints and other patriarchal evils.

The research projects a woman self in patriarchal society where women have been victim. Due to the patriarchal suppression women are physically and mentally imprisoned. *Veronika Decides to Die* by Paulo Coelho is about a woman who seeks own mental freedom or self in patriarchal society. The protagonist of the novel Veronika is affected by patriarchal society. She is entrapped in patriarchal ideology therefore, she decides to fight against such patriarchal norms and values. She seeks her personal freedom though the society denies women freedom. Veronika does not feel comfortable when other social forces interfere in her personal living. Her ultimate desire of being free from all kinds of forces leads her toward personal liberation. She

thinks about having liberation by going away from society where she can live freely.

The research focuses on the protagonist's quest for freedom in patriarchal society wherein she has been victim. Even, she thinks about death which could be alternative option to have freedom. She does not take the death as a negative way but it is an alternative way to get freedom. The social reality she ever faces is frustrated. She interprets freedom in terms of committing suicide. In addition, she gets tortures from society and she even experiences male unfair treatment over female. She observes society and people but her inner desires lead toward physical and mental freedom.

The novel *Veronika Decides to Die* projects a women character who has been suffocated by patriarchal norms and values. Veronika who finds this world is meaningless unless women get freedom. But patriarchal norms and values always keep women under boundaries. Veronika, the main character of the novel, seems to be suffocated from the suffering. She realizes in her life, surroundings and she seeks meaningful life. It is explained here; "Veronika was, by nature, passive, and for the first time in her life, it made her ponder the truth of a saying that was very fashionable amongst her friends; nothing in this world happens by chance" (2). The society does not understand female self and it becomes problem in her life. She longed to die in the quest of liberation in life. This is how her quest of liberation linked with death instinct. She thinks that she shouldn't have to fight with any problems after death. Thus, death becomes the way to liberation. She determines to search the meaning of her life, it is explained:

Thinking that she would never manage it she had even considered slashing her wrists, it did not matter that the room would end up awash with blood, and the nuns would be left feeling confused and troubled,

for suicide demands that people think of themselves first and of others later. She was prepared to do all she could so that her death would cause as little upset as possible, but if slashing her wrists was the only way, and then she had no option. (2-3)

The above line describes her condition in the society in which she engages in fighting against society. Moreover, she wants to go away from family and human society and her present condition pushes her toward meaningless life. To escape from her angst she wants to escape from her social and cultural life. She experiences her life differently than common understanding. Therefore, she points her visions towards life as well as she presents her present condition:

She picked up the four packs of sleeping pills from her bedside table, instead of cursing them and mixing them with water, she decided to take them one by one, because there is always a gap between intention and action, and she wanted to feel free to turn back half way. However, with each pill she swallowed, she felt more convinced; after five minutes the packs were empty. (1)

Veronika feels dominated and isolated by the society where she lives. Her feelings of getting freedom and individuality lead toward struggle against patriarchal unfair treatment. She is suffocated under social practices therefore she seeks own individual world where she could get a perfect freedom.

In patriarchal social system, for the justification and maintenance of male monopoly of positions of economic, political, and social power, women are made powerless by denying them the educational and occupational means of acquiring economic, political and social power. Therefore, women have occupied the inferior position for a long time. As the women are undermined under the patriarchal

restrictions for centuries then they identify themselves as recovered patriarchal women in the sense that they have internalized the norms and values of patriarchy which can be called as culture that privileges man by promoting traditional gender roles. These gender roles have been used very successfully to justify inequalities where women are excluded from equal access to leadership and decision making position (in the family as well as in politics, academic, and the corporate world). In this way, women have been victim of gender discrimination of patriarchy and male ideology which ultimately cause them to suffer from repression, suppression and mental torture.

Veronika works in a famous magazine where she does not feel comfortable due to the discrimination of male co-worker. She discusses with author regarding about magazine as well as a new perspective, but the author ignores her suggestion and advices. It makes her realization that women are commonly considered as inferior. Her struggle is to enable herself to find her desired life and freedom. She finds undesired domination and the society always restrict her. Her perspective is explained here:

The first line of text shook her out of her natural passivity the tranquillizers had not yet dissolved in her stomach but Veronika was by nature passive, and for the first time in her life, it made her ponder the truth of a saying that was very fashionable amongst her friends; nothing in this world happens by chance. (2)

Pain and suffering of her life provides inner strength to struggle for own freedom. But at the same time Veronika sees darkness in her life. She thinks the society cannot fulfill women quest for freedom. She does not find the society as what she dreams. Her anger makes her believe that her dream to become an independent is not possible.

She says that to some extent all human beings share a feeling of isolation from the view of the suffering. While working in Magazine, she does not feel comfortable. No country people concerns on this magazine. Moreover, she feels all people show their indifference toward though; it has significant ideas in it. Her writing and perspective is taken as insignificant. She further explains:

She put the magazine to one side, there was not point now in getting indignant with a world that knew absolutely nothing about the Slovenes; her nations' honor no longer concerned her. It was time to feel proud of her, to recognize that she had been able to do this, that she had finally had the courage and was leaving this life; what joy! Also she was doing it as she had always dreamed she would- by talking sleeping pills, which leave no mark. (2)

When Veronika is ignored by others then it creates a disgusting feeling in her mind. Henceforward, she takes everything from pessimistic point of view. Veronika's feelings of angst set her apart from her family and society. Her flight parallels to her flight from his family. Masculine value system considers women as passive, submissive, intuitive and brainwashed creatures; and accordingly, women's images is distorted by the suppressed ideology of patriarchy. Such distorted images about women are deeply embedded in the society, as a result, women have to face many inequalities and gender discrimination throughout the history. In this sense patriarchal ideology is biased masculine value system which is one-sided and creates false assumptions about women's nature. It is an assumptions designed to dominate women, and it always assigns to them subordinate and peripheral position in the society. In this regard, women for centuries have been mistreated, repressed, deprived and tortured by the males.

It is a flight from the oppressiveness of her family and from her life. To be more explicit it is shown here:

Veronika knew that life is always a matter of waiting for the right moment to act. And so it proved. In response to her complains that she could not longer sleep at night, two friends of her managed to get hold of two packs each of a powerful drug, used by musicians at a local nightclub. Veronika left the four packs on her bedside table for a week, courting approaching death and saying good bye- entirely unsentimentally- to what people called life. (3)

Veronika's bitter experiences contribute to her inability to understand interest or affection for her. Even she realizes patriarchal social structure where women have suffocated life experiences. She further shows her despair of living in dominating patriarchal society rules and regulation.

Veronika has difficult time each and every step in her life. Her daily affairs are described as she spends her time. She faces societal blame and inflict upon her characters, however she continues her struggle against society:

it would be downhill all the way with old age beginning to leave irreversible marks, the onset of illness, the departure of friends, she would gain nothing by continuing to live, indeed the likelihood of suffering only increased. The second reason was more philosophical; Veronika read the newspapers, watched TV and she was aware of what was going on in the world. Everything was wrong, and she had no way of putting things right- that gave her a sense of complete powerlessness. (6)

Veronika has different notion regarding of her life. Having a family, friends and

relatives in everyday life, she does not feel happy. Furthermore, she finds her life suffocated and depressed. She finds her life empty so she decides to take her own life but her failed attempt leads her to Vilette a local mental hospital in capital of Slovenia.

When women were conscious towards their rights and freedom then they raised their sharp voice against the oppressed and suppressed masculine values system. Similarly, they understood that such so called masculine value system is not truth at all rather a strong weapon to dominate and suppress to women by man. In such a way, they rejected an uncritical adoption of male values and devaluated the traditional discriminating gender roles. Besides challenging the traditional social structure, women were also very much conscious about their individual identity and independent life style. As it has been seen in text:

She turned back to the piano, In the last days of her life , she had finally realised her grand dream: to play with heart and soul, for as long as she wanted and whenever the mood took her. It did not matter her that only her only audience was young schizophrenic; she seemed to understand the music, and that was what matter. (102)

Women are discriminated on the basis of gender that they are socially, culturally, economically, legally and even biologically differentiated from man. Women are undermined under the male domination so they are treated as an 'object' which has no identity of their own but on contrary, men are considered as 'subject', the 'self' having independent identity. Women are always defined as subordinate being to man. As Simon De Beauvoir notes:

Woman has been assigned the role of parasite-and every parasite is an exploiter. Women has need of the male in order to gain human dignity,

to eat, to enjoy life, to procreate; it is through the service of sex that she gets these benefits; because she is confined to that function, she is wholly an instrumentality of exploitation. (626)

Beauvoir further insists that since the human civilization, women are nicely treated as the subordinate to men. Women are taken as 'parasite', which is dependent on others body just for its living life. So in such a way women are objectified, instrumentalized and colonized by men in order to exploit and dominate them. In this way, women are suppressed, slaved and chained without social historical and cultural facts. Hence, women are defined in relation to male standards and needs. They are evaluated in terms of masculine value system and their identity is constructed in relation to men. So, a woman is expected to fulfill the men's need physically and sexually. It is the men who defined her according to their needs and beneficiaries. She has no right to make decision of herself. So is her identity in male dominated society. In such a way, the prejudice ideology is created by the male in order to maintain their supremacy, which is internalized in such a way that it seems to be permanent in society. Women are trained to internalize such masculine truth as an absolute and transcendent reality or as an unalienable aspect of her life. It is explained; " Gradually the universe returned to its proper place and Veronika stood up. Toward had not moved in all time but there seemed to be something different to him : there was tenderness in his eye a very human tenderness" (122). Veronica's activity shows her hatred for life itself. The narrative explains her journey of transformation of self. She quests own personal freedom in her society and world. She finds physical imprisoned in patriarchal society, therefore she looks for freedom. As a result, she ever searches a different world where she can enjoy freedom:

She had spent many afternoons walking gaily along the streets of

Ljubljana or gazing- from the window in her convent room- at the snow falling on the small square with its state of the poet. Once, for almost a month she had felt as if she was walking on air, all because a complete stranger, in the middle of the very square, had given her a flower. (6)

This extract shows her desire of liberation. She ever imagines a complete freedom where she lives. This instinct drives her, but she does not find such place on the earth. Therefore, she decides to commit suicide by thinking that it may take her toward complete freedom. This kind of situation pushes her toward depression and frustration. The novel explains her continual attempt for committing suicide:

If god exists, and I truly don't believe he does, he will know that there are limits to human understanding. He wastes one who created this confusion in which there is poverty, injustice greed and loneliness. he doubtless had the best of intentions, but the results have proved distracters; if god exists, he will be generous with those creatures who chose to leave this earth early and he might even apologies' for having made us spend time here. (7)

Veronika is presented as an achieving daughter, a frustrated young woman, a betrayed wife, an exhausted girl. Throughout her struggle to be in and out of this world, her only aim is to gain freedom. She is betrayed from society, her family and her husband therefore it creates hatred feeling. As a result she decides to salvage from patriarchy.

It is described:

She was in a mental hospital and so could allow herself to feel things that people usually hide from themselves, because we are all brought up only to love, to accept, to look for ways round things, to avoid

conflict. Veronika hated everything, but mainly she hated the way she had lived her life, never bothering to discover the hundreds of other Veronikas who lived inside her and who were interesting, mad, curious, brave, bold. (62)

It describes an opposition woman feels between essential aspects of the self, between what is socially prescribed on the basis of gender and what is defined on the basis of the self, between what a woman feels she should be and what she feels she is. She demonstrates a continuity of theme and expression concerning central division of the self. She rejects masks and roles and refuses to accept the limitations of social ideologies. It represents her own mutilated self' tormented by both past and present and resulting in deep sense of crisis. She feels exploited and cheated by the society of which she is a part. She protests limitations of world and social injustices therefore, she searches her salvage. It is explained.

That is why she had chosen suicide- freedom at last. In her hearts though there was still a doubt: what if God did exist. Thousands of years of civilization had made of suicide a taboo and affront to all religious codes: man struggles to survive, not to succumb. The human race must procreate. Society needs workers. A couple has to have a reason to stay together. (7)

She always interprets her life from negative perspective therefore; it makes her life more panic and sufferable. Her choices and options make her life more difficult. The first thing she wants is to be free from social, domestic and other ideologies but she cannot get it in reality therefore, her perspective changes into negative.

Veronika finds suffering and discrimination in this world because of rooted patriarchal discourse. Finding such condition, she evokes her strong desire for having

freedom. As the society guides her, she ignores all the happenings. Further she defines these social problems do not free human beings. All the time, she attempts to be free from earthy burdens but it seems unavoidable. Her regular attempts for getting freedom ultimately activates her negative thinking as it has been explained:

She hated everything. The library with its pile of books full of explanations about life, the school that had forced her to spend whole evening learning algebra, even though she did not know a single person, apart from teachers and mathematicians, who need algebra in order to be happy. Why did they make them learn so much algebra or geometry or any of those mountains of other useless things? (63)

Her own painful experiences hit her then she wants to escape from the suffering. The present situation does not favor her. In course of finding total freedom, she thinks many ways. All earthly happenings and experiences related to everyday works do not give her any more happiness. To get triumph over an adversity by regaining the self, she ever struggle but it does not lead her toward endings. To portray the depths of her depression and madness that needled beneath the exterior façade and touched the heart on a profound level. She suffers from severe lost of self identity; her words are like an echo from the subconscious that haunts the soul; "Veronica hated everything, but mainly she hated the way she had lived her life, never bothering to discover the hundred" (61). Veronika has no hope of continuing with life any longer. She feels the shock of dismay. She is all set to leave the land for her existence. She prefers freedom and choice. She is presented as a freedom fighter. Her concept of choice and freedom is concerned more with inner reality of earthly living. In addition, in patriarchy, social stratifications are studied of male samples. In other words, males develop a vested interest in the maintenance of the basic structure and their own advantaged

status. In order to maintain the gender roles status quo, they attach negative attributes of feminine role than to the masculine one. The men feel themselves as superior and women as inferior. More importantly, the interest of males or the leaders of political, legal, economic and cultural institutions are best served by maintaining and reinforcing traditional gender roles.

Therefore, she seems more subjective, thoughtful and alienated. It is not possible for her to exist or be without choice. Her idea supports the choice and freedom. Therefore, she wants to be away from all kinds of domination and interference. The following line explains:

Thought will come back, but try to push them to one side. You have two choices: to control your mind or to let your mind control you. You are already familiar with the latter experience, allowing yourself to be swept along by fears, neuroses, insecurity, for we all have self destructive tendencies. (91)

She says that the enjoyment and happiness depend upon our choices and interest. To make our life as heaven or hell, it depends on our choice and responsibility. All our comforts depend upon the occurrence of eternal phenomena. It is our duty to confront with external phenomena and make our life meaningful. Further, it is explained in the novel:

Don't confuse madness with a loss of control. Remember that in the Sufi tradition the Nasrudin, is the one everyone calls the madman. And it is precisely because his fellow citizens consider him mad that Nasrudin can say whatever he thinks and do whatever he wants. So it was with court jesters in the Middle Ages: they could alert the king to dangers that the ministers would not dare to comment upon because

they were afraid of losing other positions. (91)

She fails to recognize the anxiety and fear that prevails within her. Not finding the angst in herself, she decides to commit suicide. Veronika is exhausted all the time. Her anxieties entrap her in a cold insensitivity toward the women and men he meets and inhabit her attempts to define him.

As a self-conscious woman, Veronika wants to struggle. Unable to bear the terrible responsibility of her nominal freedom, she gives herself up to the struggle, seeking redemption perhaps through seeking escape from the fear of angst. As long as she lives on her own, she will never break out of her isolation. This led to the idea that people have to create their own values in the world in which traditional values no longer reign. The old values concerning human existence ceased to operate. The idea of absurdity and purposelessness of man defines life of human being is meaningless. In this incoherent, disordered and chaotic universe the individual destinies were obstructed and torn apart. The idea always shows life as an absurd, incoherent, disintegrated and disordered. Moreover, emotional sensibility and sentimentality are the key terms for defining femininity of female. By describing these terms are used to define women as weak, submissive, easily influenced, sensitive to being hurt, less adventurous and passive creature. As Virginia Woolf says:

Women are supposed to be very calm generally: but women feel just as men feel, they need exercise for their faculties and field for their efforts as much as their brothers do; they suffer from too rigid a restraints, to absolute a stagnation precisely as men would suffer; and it is narrow - minded in their more privileged fellow creatures to say that they ought to confine themselves to making puddings and knitting, stocking, to playing on the piano and embroide ring bags. (822)

Here, Woolf suggests that women are thought to be calm and silent which are the false notions of understanding femininity. Patriarchy assumes that female voice must be soft, slow and low pitched. If she honestly obeys it than she is considered as a 'good' woman but if she violates it or speaks in high pitch then she is regarded as monster or she is criticized as 'shrill'. In male dominated society, she is regarded as a disabled woman who cannot have self determination.

Veronika struggles hard to come out of the social repression which causes depression, frustration, pain, alienation caused by male dominated society. The feeling of void within her makes her seek for different places and cities, where she could in a real sense emerge as a woman of passivity. She thinks at different matters or issues about life but she only activates her death instinct. She resides struggling with her anxiety:

Veronika regretted that slap, not be abuse she was afraid of the mains reaction, but because she had done something different. If she was not careful, she might end up convinced that life was worth living that would cause her pointless pain, since she would soon have to leave this world anyway. (41)

As a sufferer, Veronika attempts to find happiness and meaning in a modern world characterized by alienation, isolation, loneliness and frustration, in authenticity and absurdity. With her anger, she struggles to exist within anxiety and cope with anxiety within existence. But, she does not hope of living when she finds everything around her is against her desire of life. Ultimately, she desires to escape from earthly suffering and thinks that spiritual life can be optional for her. As she mentions:

I m not quite sure, but our group has resolved to investigate all prohibited experiences. All my life, the government taught us that the

only purpose of searching for a spiritual meaning to life was to make people forget about their real problems. Now tell me this would not you say that trying to understand life was a real problem? (90)

This extracts clarifies her choices of life or her inner desire of living life. This world does not give any more happiness for her so, having regular and repeated boring life pushes her to choose death or freedom from this world. She wants to live alone where no one disturbs her.

The novel discusses women's suffocation in male dominated society.

Veronika as a victim of the patriarchal society does not get individuality and personal freedom. The portrayed society in novel is male dominated in which Veronika tries to get redemption from root of patriarchal discourse. The particular society where she lives is overruled by patriarchal norms and values. The society exercises social, cultural, political, and moral ideologies of patriarchy by which she is defined. Along with her intense desire of having freedom she chooses death as an end of domination.

The research explores how Veronika transform her self from dying mentality to rebellious one. Veronika advocates her desire for freedom and death could be possible option for freedom. It is her extreme decision which cannot free her individuality. For this reason, she positively changes her decision of having freedom. By arousing a daring and fearless resolution she acts as a freedom fighter. Veronika envisions her life as men do have, therefore, she changes her receptive and submissive soul into rebellion one. Veronika struggles against opposing forces for having freedom because she realizes her position in society. Her journey from dying mentality to daring one is transformation of self which represents rebellious nature of women against patriarchal dominion. One of the representative characters Veronika embodies rebellious, resisting and fighting soul of women.

A woman character in society identifies an individual one. Primary thought of women is to get personal freedom. If society does not allow them to live independently then women are likely to be violent. Veronika in this novel expects a perfect and complete life in society but she loses her hope when she comes to know ruling power of patriarchy, then she gets torture and emotional pain. Either at her home or outside home, she does not get individuality. The society interfere women along with certain conventional ideology. The society does have a domineering mentality whereas her husband shows authoritative power over her.

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