

I. Representation of Gender Roles in Nicholas Sparks' *A Walk to Remember*

The present research work focuses on Nicholas Sparks' *A Walk to Remember* that dwells upon the silent mode of resistance against the exploitation of women in Beaufort, North Carolina of 1990s. In the novel, the female character Jamie Sullivan develops the sense of consciousness and protest against the society by remaining silent and taciturn. She resists against her domination as well as exploitation given by the Beaufort society by formulating silence. The text of this research *A Walk to Remember* shares a central concern with silence. The character's silence is ultimately a choice of formulated silence as alternative for the negatively connoted imposed silence and the silencing of other. This novel shows the tendency of male to look at the female on the basis of their physical beauty and attractiveness. So the protagonist Jamie Sullivan protests against the Beaufort society which portrait female characters on the basis of their physical beauty and attractiveness. She resists against the contemporary society by formulating silence.

The novel *A Walk to Remember* demonstrates the resistance against the Beaufort society of 1990s by the means of silence. This novel also focuses on how a girl is dominated and become a victim of satire because of her physical appearances. But the innocent people are unable to give vent to their fierce sense of opposition to the insensitivity and indifferences of the society towards them. Whenever women tried to express something they are silenced and resigned. They are hardly vocal and vehement against the atrocious and arid ideology of the Beaufort, North Carolina of 1990s. Here, in the novel, the female character Jamie Sullivan resists against the society by formulating her silence. The growing silence and taciturnity of her contains sense of resistance. More than their vocal sense of opposition it is her silence which

reveals her strong sense of dissent and disagreement against the society which regards female just as an attractive object to entice male.

Nicholas Sparks' works are famous for the romantic love stories and in this novel also he begins the tale of true love, first love and over lasting love that one will never forget by which the novel tug at reader's heartstring. So, the novel also portrays the tragic experience of Jamie Sullivan on the behalf of women in the Beaufort society of 1990s. Jamie has become the victim of satire because of her simplicity and innocence as the dresses she wears are not attractive. But she does not change herself and remains same maintaining her simplicity and innocence as a mode of resistance by the means of silence. The major focus of this research is on Jamie Sullivan who grows to reside in a society and struggle to achieve her identity beyond her father with her intelligence and moral goodness rather than her physical beauty and attractiveness. In the novel, Sparks writes: "Jamie didn't care much about outward appearances, because she was always looking for things like inner beauty and I suppose that's part of the reason she looked the way she did"(16). Here, Sparks tries to focus on the side that superficiality and beauty does not lie on the outer appearances of female but it lies inside the person's heart. Sparks, through Jamie, has expressed his views who was always looking for the things like inner beauty rather than her physical beauty.

Sparks' present novel *A Walk to Remember* emphasizes on the plights of women due to their simplicity and innocence and their resistance against society by the means of the silence. Sparks' novel also depicts the tragic experiences of females to communicate with other in a place like school because they are judged by their outer appearances. They struggle to claim themselves, in order to change their lives and secure a rightful place within the social network of relationship they themselves

constitute. They usually absorb the psychic pain involved in such a struggle. In the novel, Sparks examines the quest of Jamie for her selfhood and identity challenging the social norms and values which portray female simply as an attractive object without her identity and intelligence. She struggle against her society by maintaining her silence as a strategy of protest which consider female as weak, emotional, submissive, sentimental as well as an attractive object to please men.

As for Beaufort women, they are, according to Elaine H. Kim views “as submissive and dainty sex objects...only sexual, imbued with an innate understand of how to please and serve” (64). These stereotypes of Beaufort Americans for females echo a long- standing theory of orientalism. The theory of orientalism is the foundation of such American stereotypes of Beaufort society: female- inferior and submissive, male-effeminate and emasculated. The proliferation of such orientalistic stereo typing only serves to bind the Beaufort society into a marginalized minority.

The text of this research *A Walk to Remember* shares a central concern with silence. Jamie does not straightforwardly oppose her society. Nor does she openly criticize the males of her society. She knows that it is not reasonable to go against the society directly. Similarly she does not like to sacrifice her life in being submissive towards the society. She has a goal in her life. That is to establish her identity beyond her father by remaining in her own and making her simplicity and innocence as her strength by the means of silence.

Most of the time, Jamie is silent. She has become the victim of satire by her friends as the dresses she wears are not attractive. But Jamie is adamant in her silence. She is not vocal in her rejection towards the society. Similarly, she cannot insist that she wants to achieve her goal in life by remaining same in her own. That is why she is silent. Her silence is fraught with the spirit of resistance. She is alone and

singlehanded in her resistance against the politics of the society. Her laconic posture is the spirit of her resistance. If she had become vocal and vehement against the Beaufort society, her voice of opposition would not have been stronger. So she remains silent. It is her silence that tells plenty of important things about the Beaufort, North Carolina of 1990s. Women are marginalized as well as oppressed by gender. In the novel, the protagonist Jamie's silence is ultimately a choice of formulated silence due to her resistance against the negatively connoted imposed silence.

The more silent the person is the more strong spirit of resistance he or she can evoke. For the dramatic evocation of resistance, silence is mandatory. In the Beaufort society, direct and straight forward resistance has almost lost the power to produce effect. Hence, the silence of resistance has acquired tremendous power.

The protagonist is silenced by the pressure of having to measure up to an American hegemonic feminine model of Beaufort society that emphasizes the elimination of the female figure and the opposition of femininity to masculinity, which includes passivity. Due to this internalization, combined with the history of the inferior female, the female is therefore continuously silenced by the males because of her status and stereotype as female. They undermine the importance of female whose voice calls out for an inclusion of (re)definition of Beaufort femininity- an inclusive model which opens up the restrictive western notion of gender oppositions into pluralities. The protagonist Jamie in *A Walk to Remember* is a minority- is silenced by the norms and values of Beaufort society.

These established configurations of silence are the foundations for a resistance to stereotyped understandings based on character's gender and sexuality. This research examines the complexities of these contributing factors in imposed silences and the

formulated silences, as the female character resist being bound by stereotypes and gender roles.

The protagonist, Jamie Sullivan is frequently victimized, as well as become the matter of satire because of being female and for her simple physical appearances too. She is doubly victimized. Though she is victimized, she is conscious of achieving her goal for her own separate identity beyond her father by maintaining her silence. The American stereotypes of Beaufort society has considered that female should be attractive enough rather than being intelligent to exist. So that they can fulfill their desires. Females are always marginalized for their own identity and their identity is further marginalized because of their father and husband before and after marriage. In this sense, Sparks' writes: "Being the minister's daughter couldn't have been easy, but she made it seem as if it were the most natural thing in the world and that she was lucky to have been blessed in that way"(18-19).

The novel *A Walk to Remember* has received many critical appraisals since its publication. Different critics have viewed it from different perspectives. Some of them define it as the quest for self-identity and others define it as plight faced by women due to their simplicity and innocence. Some of them focus this novel as importance of women's eternal beauty rather than transient physical beauty. Jonathan Perry, one of the critics argues that Spark's this novel more inclines towards the plights faced by women due to their simplicity and innocence. He argues that how Beaufort society often neglects the eternal beauty of girl and gives priority to her physical beauty. He further argues that she is bound to struggle to exist her identity besides her simplicity and innocence. He writes:

In the zeal to create the character who struggles against the society and her friends because of her physical appearance who embodies a

wholesome, positive adolescent ideal, the novelist have invented the seventeen year old girl with no self-doubt, no emotional weakness, no character flaws, simple and crystal clear complexion.(25)

Here, Jonathan Perry states that Nicholas Sparks has created a character named Jamie, who is simple as well as innocent. Sparks further depicts her struggle to make her identity in the Beaufort society of 1990s. He also focuses on the tendency of the men to look towards women on the basis of their physical beauty and attractiveness, neglecting their intelligence, identity and moral goodness. Although intelligence and moral goodness are taken in concern but this novel shows how male gives first priority to physical beauty and attractiveness in order to socialize simply in a place like school in the novel.

Likewise, Susan Stark also comments upon the Spark's novel *A Walk to Remember*. She explains it as the "womanist novel" (65). Similarly, John Monaghan says that the protagonist Jamie Sullivan, daughter of Hegbert Sullivan, a minister of church, for her life is not simple. She rejects the traditional customs and conducts of individuals that regard women to be sentimental as well as emotional. She focuses on women's development independent to men by using the faculty of reason. In this regards John Monaghan writes:

The main character Jamie, a seventeen year old girl sets on her journey to exist her own identity beyond her father's identity. What is more, Jamie neglects and doesn't give proper attention towards her physical appearance which causes problems in her way towards her goal. (35)

Here, according to John Monaghan, Jamie does not believe in external beauty. For her physical beauty is transient and a girl should have her eternal beauty and intelligence. Because of her simplicity and innocence, she has become a matter of satire though she

is intelligent and morally good. Through the character Jamie, it has become clear how the superficiality and judgment is based on appearances. It also focuses on the tendency of male to look towards female on the basis of their physical beauty.

Sparks, in this novel shows that how a girl faces problem in order to socialize in a place like school due to her physical appearances. Due to her simplicity and innocence, she cannot make friends in her school rather she has become a victim of satire by her friends. Despite this, she has not changed herself and remain in her own maintaining silence as her mode of resistance. She focuses on achieving her goal to make her own identity beyond her father. Due to her simplicity, her friends care too much about what people think of him if he talks and makes friendship with her. In the novel, Landon states: "My brain suddenly clicked through the scenarios as I tried to figure out which one. I should do-talk to her where my friends would see us or talk at her house"(51).

Lisa Alspector, one of the critic argues on Sparks novel. She says that "A story about intelligent high school girl that deals with her emotions and her goal to achieve her identity" (85). Though Jamie has always become the matter of satire by her friends, she does not change herself. She remains on focusing on her goal. She takes her simplicity and innocence as her strength to protest against the Beaufort society. She wants to prove the society that intelligence, simplicity and eternal beauty of a girl are more important than the physical beauty and attractiveness. She maintains silence as her strategy to resists against the society which creates different rules for women that women are emotionally as well as mentally weak and sentimental. They cannot exercise their intellectuality. Jamie has to prove the society that women are also equally intellectual to men if they get the equal opportunity to prove themselves. She does not opposes the society directly nor she accepts the false norms and rules of the

society. Rather she has maintained her silence against the society to prove her identity beyond her father. In this context, Octavio Roca says that, “women as not only marginalized but also oppressed by gender” (50).

In the Beaufort society, discrimination of male and female is a major problem. Male treats female as a secondary object regarded themselves as superior to females. They give female stereotypical ideas and views that female are weak, emotional as well as sentimental. Directly opposing stereotypical definitions of Beaufort femininity with hyper feminine traits only gives one other singular type. This opposition results in an equally restrictive Beaufort feminine definition without opening room for plurality. In the novel *A Walk to Remember*, The female character, Jamie serves to demonstrate female types bound by the stereotype. In this text alone, to suggest for one other singular alternative type in opposition to the passive and effeminate stereotype is clearly insufficient. It is through recognizing formulated silence in this text for the female character Jamie she finds alternative definitions of femininity. This text under analysis arrives at formulated silence, which allows fluidity and thus plurality in the definition of American character subjects.

The female character Jamie, in the novel, through her formulated silence seeks to establish her identity, in order to redefine her gender and reinvent her identity as an American girl as a plural object. In this context, Christy Lemire also argues this novel as “a redefinition of gender roles” (90). A central silence, one seemingly imposed on her, is in effect a formulated silence; in which by choice the female character Jamie participates in silence; in an extended space for redefinition and creation of herself across time and gender. The protagonist’s silence which seems to have arose from an imposed silence is but transitory for the protagonist to establish a formulated silence

as resistance. In this formulated silence, the protagonist also creates room for alternative definitions to the currently destabilized definition of femininity.

Journeying through these levels of complexity, the characters under study seeks resistance to binding and restrictive social norms of American stereotype of Beaufort for females. By studying a text *A Walk to Remember*, the research not only attempts to draw a different levels of recognition across decades to prove the need for plurality in the subject of discourse under the field of American literature for gender, but also to trace the development of discourse within the theme of silence. In the novel *A Walk to Remember*, the female character Jamie seeks to reinvent her identity as a girl equal to male. It also illustrates that silence is for the greater part a room, and thereafter a passage way for the protagonist Jamie to resist stereotypes. The theme of silence in the novel- for the room of creative space to exist identity (although it also serves as resistance) and a space for a passage way for resistance. The theme of silence is still being used as a predominant means of resisting binding stereotypes and social norms, whereas resistance of the female struggle has had its part in history. This is so to the extent that the current female discourse is not only about resistance but at the same time about creating a creative space in gender roles and plurality in the subject.

The analysis of the text *A Walk to Remember*, published in 1999, shows the discourse towards femininity. The focus of this novel exists in the binds of feminine stereotypes for the protagonist, and therefore in a need for resistance of such restrictive stereotyping. An element of silence proves to be the central issue in the novel whether as an imposed silence, a formulated silence or participatory silencing of others.

In the novel, Jamie tries to dismantle the stereotypes of Beaufort society to liberate women against the natural law of equality. She takes the voices against the inadequacy as well as ideologies of men. Therefore, she formulated silence against the society to eradicate the ideology of domination to establish a healthy and equal society for both genders. So, she is concerned for the creation of new society in which there will be no forms of discrimination.

In the novel, the protagonist Jamie focuses on the political, economic, psychological and religious equality. She opposes the gender stereotypes and discrimination against women based on the assumption that women are passive, weak and physically as well as mentally helpless. The Beaufort society always creates female as a secondary creature, inferior to men, weak in social as well as mental strength. She opposes these stereotypes imposed on females not directly as well as straightforwardly but she opposes by remaining silence focusing on her goal to exist her identity beyond her father in the same Beaufort society of 1990s. Rather than focusing on her outer appearances, she is conscious on focusing on her creative zone to exist her identity. She is in the thought that women are also equal to male on their intellectual level and they can prove themselves if they get the opportunities as men.

In the novel *A Walk to Remember*, the female character Jamie tries to seek her identity and existence in her society by applying the faculty of reason. She asserts that individual identity of women should be presented through the assertion of feminine existence. She challenges the stereotypes towards females by maintaining her silence and taking her simplicity and innocence as her strength. She posits her view that both gender are similar in the kind of virtues they possess. Throughout the history of Beaufort, North Carolina, women has been represented as intellectually and morally

inferior to men, and this supposed inferiority has been used as the excuse to keep them in a subordinate position, without the power to act or even to think freely. But Jamie seek resistance to binding and restrictive social norms of American stereotype of Beaufort society for female. She analyzes how sexual differences is constructed with male created discourse in Beaufort society of 1990s. Society has created the stereotypes that reason has been uncultivated in females, while sensibility and emotionalism has been allowed to grow excessively. So, by concentrating only on the emotions, women have been cut off from rational virtue, a quality further obscured for them. But in the novel, Jamie asserts on the liberty and political rights of women. She argues for greater equality for both genders and for the removal of traditional injustices.

Jamie opposes the bad impacts of norms that society has imposed on females considering them as a secondary object to male. Society gives the false impression that women should be beautiful and delicate. They cannot exercise their intellectuality but are trapped in the narrow area due to the impacts of these norms and values. She argues against this oppression by maintaining her simplicity and innocence as her strength. She does not resist directly or openly. Rather she formulated silence against the society by focusing in her goal. She clearly knows that society have kept women in a state inhabits moral and intellectual growth and only increases their dependence on men. Independence, which sees as real basis for true equality can only come through the redefinition and creation of herself across time and gender.

Jamie knows that women must exercise their reason in a number of ways to achieve independence. Society have made females the subject of domination and humiliation as well as the property, controlled by their husbands. So, she tends to remain silent and resigned against the society. She is hardly vocal. Her growing

silence contains the sense of resistance against the Beaufort society. More than her vocal sense, it is her silence that reveals her strong sense of rebellion on her. She has work on to create equality between both genders.

The major protagonist Jamie, of the novel *A Walk to Remember* is guided by the sense of self-respect and genuine regard for human beings. This novel shows the tendency of Beaufort society of North Carolina towards women which has become the Beaufort stereotype towards female. But the protagonist of the novel Jamie participates in silence; in an extended space for the redefinition and creation of herself across time and gender. Jamie has maintained the spirit of resistance inherent in the silence that has pervaded in the novel. The language of silence is the most effective technique of projecting the resistance against the ideology of Beaufort society of 1990s. So, here the female character Jamie Sullivan, in the novel develop the sense of consciousness making her simplicity and innocence as her strength against the stereotypes towards female. She challenges the society remaining on her own by using the faculty of reason to make her identity in the same Beaufort society beyond her father. She is against the traditional norms and values existing in the society. So, she formulated silence as her strategy to resist against the Beaufort society taking her simplicity and innocence as her strength.

So, this thesis is divided into three chapters. First chapter is about the general introduction in the concept of silence along with the introduction of the text and the writer. The second chapter is textual analysis which analyze the text through the lens of silence perspective. Finally, third chapter is the conclusion of the overall thesis which gives a short out look to this thesis work.

II. Silence as a Strategy of Protest in Nicholas Sparks' *A Walk to Remember*

A Walk to Remember is regarded as one of the finest novel of Nicholas Sparks. Through this novel, Sparks has become successful to explore the stereotypes that exist in Beaufort, North Carolina of 1990s towards women. This chapter investigates the attitudes of Beaufort society towards females in relation to their agency as well as their appearance. Similarly, this chapter shows the spirit of resistance inherent in the silence that has been pervaded in the novel. This research shows that the language of silence has become the most effective technique of projecting the resistance against the ideology of Beaufort society. Different sorts of convictions and concepts about resistance are discussed in this chapter. The present study seeks to reveal the struggle of the protagonist Jamie in the novel *A Walk to Remember*. In the novel, Sparks has included the female sufferings and their consciousness for their equality due to the imposed stereotypes on them. This present thesis aims to explore the protagonist Jamie's consciousness for her identity beyond her father. She resists against the society by formulating her silence. More than her vocal sense of opposition, it is her silence that reveals her strong sense of disagreement towards the ideology of society. The more silent she is, the more strong spirit of resistance she has evoke. It is a journey of Jamie and her transformation from the traditional woman to a more progressive woman.

The Beaufort society has created different codes and conducts to suppress women by giving them secondary position to men. Because of which the protagonist Jamie Sullivan in the novel, resist against such male bias rules and regulations and shows her consciousness towards the rights and equality of gender. She does not straight forwardly oppose the society nor does she openly criticize. She maintains silence. Her silence is fraught with the spirit of resistance. It is her silence that tells

the plenty of important things about the ideology of Beaufort society and their stereotypes about female. The novel further explores that how superficiality and judgment of a person is based on their physical appearances. But Jamie, in the novel takes her simplicity and innocence as her strength to resist against the Beaufort society by the means of silence for the redefinition and recreation of gender equality. In the novel, Jamie refuses to internalize the stereotypes that the Beaufort society has imposed on women. These stereotypes regards female as emotional, sentimental, submissive, attractive and delicate as well as less capable of reason than men. But Jamie argues that if men and women equally possess reason, they must be equally educated in its use. She has a goal in her life. That is to get equal rights for female as male. She does not want to limit herself in household works and kitchen. She insists that women have an independent right to education, employment, property and the civil law. Women have the right to choose her career in terms of their rationality. She is against her society that regards female simply as an attractive object to please men. She further insisted on the rights of women to provide increased opportunities and independence. In her silence, she resists against the multiple oppression of sexism and class prejudices imposed on women in Beaufort society. She wants to achieve greater freedom for women to work and to remain economically and psychologically independent of men. She is concerned with the marginalization of all women: that is, with their being relegated to a secondary position. She argues that women are capable of moral and intellectual improvement as men are.

Silence is the term meant to refer to the tendency of people to remain in silent when they feel that their views are in opposition to the majority view on a subject. To vindicate silence as a politics of resistance in Spark's *A Walk to Remember*, the researcher makes use of the tool of the politics of resistance. When the individual

sense of direct resistance produce no immediate effect, the silent mode of resistance becomes imperative. This research adopts that kind of theory of resistance which follows silence. This research has shown that how individuals are compelled to demonstrate their rebellious sense of resistance. Indeed, silence and secrecy can be a means for both maintaining and challenging gendered inequities. At an institutional level, secret societies reinforce the power of those who know and exclude those who do not. They can build trust within groups while casting suspicion on others. This is often a gendered process. Daniel Evans is the critic of the explicit and direct form of resistance which has become ineffective in producing intended reform in the society. He demonstrates his view as follows:

Development agencies often use silence to stonewall controversial policies, especially regarding gender. The persistent gap between implementation and official support for gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment raises questions about commitment to gender transformation. If words are important, silences are too and a reflection of what is excluded from daily exchanges verbal or written among development practitioners and policy makers. (83)

Thus, silences can undermine official policies without openly challenging them, reminding us that they can control meaning / knowledge and thus deserve study in themselves. Oppressive regimes have often silenced critics and denied wrong doings against women, thus perpetuating masculine's practices and gender hierarchies.

Silence is the relative or total lack of audible sound. By analogy, the word silence can also refer to any absence of communication, including in media other than speech.

In Beaufort society of North Carolina of 1990s, men control the conceptual area and determine social values as well as the structures of institutions. It is the man who

explains, analyzes as well as directs the female since he has the power to define everything else. In the Beaufort society, women are perceived from the masculine perspective. They attend male dominated schools and colleges and read books prepared by the men. Women are controlled and cultivated through social institutions. They are the subjects to such institutions and naming system and ultimately they adopt the image made by male power.

In the novel *A Walk to Remember*, Sparks has become successful to show how the females in Beaufort society has adopted the stereotypes made by males. They are not allowed to take part to make any decision nor they are allowed to express their views towards any subject. They are excluded from different fields even from the government level. Their hopes and thoughts are not taken into concerned. They do not have the right to direct some work. In this sense, Sparks in the novel writes: "My mother nodded as she chewed a mouthful of peas. She didn't speak much when my father had the floor. That's the way it was in my family. My father's word was law. But the fact was, even after I agreed, I didn't want to do it" (21-22).

The male in the Beaufort society control the conceptual area and determine the social values. Because of the stereotypes that prevailed in society, females are not allowed to express their views on the particular subject. They are submissive towards the society. Their lies a imposed silence in them because of the society as well as the male members of their family. Satisfaction of females is not important for the Beaufort society. So, they have no choice without being submissive towards the society. In the novel *A Walk to Remember*, Nicholas Sparks through the protagonist Jamie has become successful to show that how her formulated silence and her physical appearance reveals her strong sense of disagreement and her intentions. She has bitter findings about social experiences that are instances of gender discrimination

based on stereotypes. Society always gives secondary role to women therefore, they are behind men. Females never get equal rights, opportunities and social freedom, engaged in their family and society. But Jamie rejects this discriminating factor of stereotypes towards female. For her, these are only creations and constructions, not the natural qualities of women. She takes her simplicity and innocence as her strength by maintaining her silence which reveals her strong spirit of resistance towards the Beaufort society. In this context, in the novel *A Walk to Remember*, Jamie through her silence reveals to Landon that: “That action- not thoughts or intentions-were the way to judge others, and I didn’t care much about my outward appearances, that’s part of the reason I look the way I am” (158).

Jamie in her silence reveals that how people take the superficiality and judgment on the basis of their outer appearance. She has always become the victim of satire because of her physical appearance. But she did not care much about it because she always believes in inner beauty rather than physical beauty. She has a goal in her life, which is to maintain her agency by her intelligence. She resists against the Beaufort society and its stereotypes that regards women not as human being but simply as an attractive object with no sense of reason. She is in the thought of breaking the stereotypes by her formulated silence. She wants to create plurality in the definition of representation of gender in Beaufort, North Carolina of 1990s. In the novel *A Walk to Remember*, the protagonist Jamie’s silence is ultimately a choice of formulated silence as alternative for the negatively imposed silence. Social oppression apparent in marginalization resulting from these stereotypes is heard in the silence of Beaufort women. Silence is also used as total communication, in reference to non-verbal communication and spiritual connection. When the individual sense of direct resistance produces no immediate effect, the silent mode of resistance becomes

imperative. Silence also refers to no sounds uttered by anybody in a room or area.

Silence is an important factor in many cultural spectacles, as in rituals. In discourse analysis, speakers use brief absences of speech to mark the boundaries of communicative logic. Silence in speech can be hesitation, stutters, self- correction or deliberate slowing of speech to clarify or aid processing of ideas.

These are short silences. Longer passes in language occur in interactive roles, reactive tokens, or turn- taking. Joseph Glynos, who is known for his brilliant talent in blending silence and resistance, relates the notion of resistance with everyday life. He says:

Resistance also often takes the form of silent acts / performances in daily life. Just as wearing a veil may be a form of symbolic opposition to colonial rule or to the right- wing politics emerging in many parts of the world, particularly in opposition to feminine minorities so too are acts of resistance to patriarchal- oppression around the world. (27)

Silent vigils and symbols can disrupt and challenge the discourses of the powerful while providing space for solace, sharing and collective empowerment. While acknowledging the importance of voice, it is important to remember that silence can also be the means of resistance, a way of holding one's ground against the encroachment of oppression. Moreover, silence is a site not only of resistance but also of transformation, the home where new dreams and visions are born. Silence and secrecy can be evidence of desperation and disempowerment, but they can also be strategic choices offering tools for gradual, subtle renegotiations of gender hierarchies and practices.

Silences and secrecy can take many forms and can serve many purposes. They can reflect disempowerment as well as innovative strategies for survival in dangerous

circumstances. It also reflects mechanisms for renegotiating gender relations, collective challenges to oppressive regimes, and ways to resist oppressive circumstances and find space to breathe and find strength. They can foster performativity challenges to the status quo and subtly undermine patriarchal and class hierarchies. The challenge facing researchers interested in investigating this realm are many. Firstly, it is important to recognize that the use and expressions of silence and secrecy intersect with class, race, gender, ethnicity, and other factors. According to Robert Delbridge, “Victims of oppression are also shaped by specific circumstances over time and place. Obtaining research permission may require lengthy diplomatic discussions with powerful gatekeepers, especially when those same gatekeepers have a vested interest in maintaining secrecy and silence” (212). It also requires attention to local sensitivities, gaining support from local partners, and careful pruning of contentious language in the research proposal. Even the silence bears within itself the seed of disgruntled mind. Silence is, to some extent, reflective of the will to resist when language fails to deliver the sense of resistance. Women are oppressed by gender by internalizing the stereotypes of good, loyal, obedient and passive. They want to resist being bound by stereotypes and gender roles. This opposition results in an equally restrictive feminine definition without opening room for plurality. Similarly, in the novel *A Walk to Remember*, the protagonist’s silence which seems to arise from internalization, an imposed silence, is but transitory for the protagonist to establish a formulated silence as resistance. In this formulated silence, the protagonist also creates room for alternative definitions to the currently destabilized femininity of Beaufort.

The protagonist, Jamie seeks resistance to binding and restrictive social norms of American stereotype of Beaufort for both genders. She knows that direct and

immediate modality of resistance can hardly produce the intended and expected effect in the society. Her growing silence contains a strong spirit of resistance towards the Beaufort society of 1990s. Even its own impossibility of silence, it must at last comprehend for the sake of possibility of resistance. By working silently, she provides herself a space where she can create a self-invention avoiding the stereotypes prevailed in the society. Through her formulated silence, the protagonist finds a space and choice to remain in silence and resists to change the American stereotypes of Beaufort, North Carolina as equality for both genders. The novel's central argument is that, throughout the history of Beaufort, women have been always given a secondary role in relation to men, being relegated to the position of other. Whereas man has been enabled to transcend and control his environment, furthering the domain of his physical and intellectual conquests. Woman has remained imprisoned within immanence, remaining a slave within the circle of duties imposed by the society. Jamie too is victimized as well as excluded from different opportunities. Though, she is victimized by the society, she is conscious for her roles and responsibilities in the society. She is well-informed about the ill-treatment of male upon female. Here, in the novel, Sparks expresses his commitment to explore the oppression of women due to the stereotypes prevailed in the society. He further assists them to resist against such oppressive treatment upon them through the protagonist Jamie Sullivan. In the novel, Jamie focuses on the equal value and rational capacities of women. Jamie through her actions reveals that at the core, both genders are equal and women should be allowed to pursue any avenue of thought or career that appeals to their individual capabilities or interests. They also have the right to live their life as human being not just as an attractive object.

The novel, *A Walk to Remember* demonstrates the resistance against the regime of American stereotypes of Beaufort towards the female. Females are trapped in the imposed internalization of the stereotypes prevailed in Beaufort society. Whenever women tried to express something for the equality of gender, they are silenced and resigned. They are hardly vocal and vehement against the ideology of Beaufort society. The growing silence and taciturnity of females contains the sense of resistance. In the novel, the protagonist, Jamie too is silence in her actions towards the society. Her silence shows her resistance as well as disagreement towards the stereotypes about females. She does not straight forwardly oppose nor does she openly criticize. But she maintains silence which clearly shows her unwillingness to adopt the stereotypes about the ideology of Beaufort society. In this sense, Nicholas Sparks states: “Instead of answering right away, though, Jamie glanced away for a long moment. I got a sinking feeling in my stomach because I assumed she was going to say no” (32).

Jamie maintains silence whenever she is asked to make a choice as well as decision. She tends to remain silent and resigned in her actions. She is hardly vocal. She does not openly criticize the society nor she is vocal in her rejection towards the gender inequality prevailed in the Beaufort society. Her silence is fraught with the spirit of resistance against the stereotypes towards the female. If she has been vocal and vehement, her voice of opposition would not have been stronger. It is her silence that tells the plenty of important things about the Beaufort society and its stereotypes towards the female. Intelligence and rational capabilities are not taken into concerned. Only the way how the girl looks on her appearance is important for the Beaufort society of North Carolina of 1990s. And, if a girl like Jamie in the novel does not fulfill the expectations of the society, she has to face the problems. But Jamie wants to

change the stereotypes about female by maintaining the gender equality in the society. She believes that identity of a girl does not lie on her physical appearance. Jamie believes in eternal beauty rather than physical beauty, that is the part of the reason she looks the way she did. Her focus is to establish her identity by changing the stereotypes prevailed in the Beaufort society about females. For this, she takes her simplicity and innocence as a part of her strength to struggle against the society. She maintains silence as a strategy of protest against the Beaufort society. For this, she has to become a subject of satire by her friends. They don't want to be around with her as well as they don't want to be seen with her. In this context, Sparks in the novel writes:

Being seen with her once was bad enough... but being seen with her every day? What would my friends say? I think deep down she suspected that no one would ever do her a favor because of who she was and that even to her, it was obvious that no one wanted her around much (81).

Here, Sparks shows how a girl is always victimized as well as humiliated if she does not fulfill the expectations of the society. Society view Jamie as she has done a crime. Due to her simplicity, her friends care too much about what people think of him if he talk and make friendship with her. She does not have any friends. Her friends does not wanted to be around with her much. Despite this, she has not change herself and remain in her own by focusing on achieving her goal to change the stereotypes and maintained the gender equality in Beaufort society.

Being a female, she is well-known about the female's sufferings and their pathetic condition in the society. She expresses her commitment to explore the oppression of females and assist them to resist against such oppressive treatment upon them by using the faculty of reason. By which she steps ahead in the path to achieve

her goal. That is to change the stereotypes and create gender equality. For this, she maintains silence, in which by choice, Jamie participates in silence. It further gives an extended space for the redefinition and creation of gender equality in Beaufort society.

Jamie seeks resistance to binding and restrictive social norms of American stereotype of Beaufort society of North Carolina for both gender. She challenges the society that judge the females by their outer appearances not by their rational and intellectual capabilities. Society does not allow females to be expressive as well as use their rational capabilities. They are not allowed even to choose their career by their own. So, the protagonist Jamie's silence is ultimately a choice of formulated silence as alternative for the negatively connoted imposed silence. This alternative of formulated silence opens space for plural redefinitions and creation of individualized identities in their currently restrictive and marginalized positions as Beaufort women. She resists by formulating silence for a similar possibility of plurality in the definition of female stereotypes of Beaufort.

In Beaufort, North Carolina females, who try to express their ideas and feelings, are victimized by the inferior and alternative psychology of women under the stereotypes of Beaufort society. Women have been claimed with the concepts of softness, sympathy, beauty and sacrifice which have further weakened and subordinated them. They are not judged by their rational ability. Women have from the very beginning of their life has to struggle against the effect of socialization which became the struggle against man's oppressive reading of women.

Spark's through the protagonist Jamie, emphasizes on the sufferings of women at the hands of men and their struggle for survival. In the novel, he examines women's search for selfhood and their fight against oppression based on the

stereotypes prevailed in the Beaufort society. Through this novel, Sparks has become successful to show that women are not the secondary object to men. They have also the same rational capabilities to that of men by which they can make their own identity in the society equal to that men. Sparks has challenged the stereotypical ideas about females that they are weak, sentimental and emotional as well as they should be attractive. Rather he has presented the protagonist Jamie Sullivan in such a way that she is not physically attractive but has an eternal beauty. She is intelligent enough to exist her identity beyond her father by using the faculty of reason. She wants to change the stereotypes prevailed in the society by maintaining equality for both genders. As the superficiality and judgment of the person are based on the outer appearance, Jamie wants to change this view towards female. She concentrates on the submissive position of females in the society for their redefinition and creation of gender equality.

In the novel *A Walk to Remember*, the protagonist Jamie Sullivan maintains silence to resist against the Beaufort society and its stereotypes. Jamie refuse to internalize the stereotypes that he Beaufort society has imposed on women. This novel demonstrates the resistance against the ideology of Beaufort society towards women. Jamie maintains the silent mode of resistance against the society. More than her vocal sense of opposition it is her silence which reveals her strong sense of disagreement towards the society. The language of silence is the most effective technique of projecting the resistance against the ideology of Beaufort society. That is why, she is silent. She does not straightforwardly oppose nor does she openly criticize. Most of the time, she is silent. The more silent she is the more strong spirit of resistance she evokes. Direct and straightforward resistance has almost lost the power to produce effect. Hence, the silent strategy of resistance has acquired

tremendous power. Silence is, to some extent, reflection of the will to resist when language fails to deliver the sense of resistance.

In the novel *A Walk to Remember*, Sparks shows the plight of women due to their simplicity and innocence. This thesis also explores that how superficiality and judgment of a person is based on appearances. Due to this, Jamie fails to make friends and cannot socialize herself in school despite her intelligence and moral goodness. She has always become the matter of satire by her friends due to her physical appearances. Though she is neglected by her friends, she does not change herself and remain in her own. She maintains the way she looks. She only focuses on her goal to maintain her agency through her intelligence not by her physical appearance. She wants to change the stereotypes prevailed in Beaufort society about female which judge females on the basis of their physical appearances. The Beaufort society has considered females as secondary object and they have no right to think or act. She challenges the norms and values of the society which considers female not as human being but simply as an attractive object to entice male. She resists against the society by maintaining silence and taking her simplicity and innocence as her strength. She formulated silence in order to redefine her gender and reinvent her identity in the same Beaufort society.

In the novel, the protagonist Jamie is conscious for the rights of women for their independence and freedom. She does not want to internalize the stereotypes of the society rather focuses to dismantle these stereotypes from the society by creating a new society which maintains gender equality. She wants to maintain the equality in creative space in gender roles. The focus exists in the binds of feminine stereotypes for the protagonist, and therefore in a need for resistance of such restrictive stereotyping. She tries to create equality between male and female. Females have to

struggle against the domination upon them. Societies have made females the subject of domination and humiliation. She seeks to create equality between male and female by using the faculty of reason so that they can be independent. She maintains silence as a strategy of protest against the stereotypes of Beaufort society to reinvent her identity. She knows that the sense of direct resistance produces no immediate effect, so she applies the silent mode of her resistance which becomes imperative. Her silence is fraught with the spirit of resistance. Amit Ray has been regarded as one of the important theorist of resistance. He has propounded plenty of modalities of resistance. His views regarding resistance have provoked fruitful consequences. He has thrown spotlight upon the constructive power of silence which transcends the limitations of the dreary world. He has made the following statements about the specific quality of silence:

In discourse analysis, brief absences of speech mark the boundaries of prosodic units used by speakers. Silence in speech can be the result of hesitation, stutters, self- correction, or the deliberate slowing of speech for the purpose of clarification or processing of ideas. Those are short silences. Longer pauses in language occur in the interactive roles, reactive tokens or turn-taking. According to cultural norms, silence can be interpreted as positive or negative.(29)

Silence can evoke many things which language and straight forward mode of communication can't convey. He has sought to convey why and how the choice of silence become necessary to foreground inexplicable and incommunicable truth. Silence has become the mode and strategy of deviating from the orthodoxy of truth which can be detrimental to the collective aspiration of freedom fighter.

Silence is the term meant to refer to the tendency of people to remain silent when they feel that their views are in opposition to the majority view on a subject. Working silently one can provide a space in which they can manipulate language into action; a tool of self-creation and self-invention. This mix, along with the self-conscious action of bending the rules, allows space and time for the self-creation. In the novel, the protagonist Jamie maintains silence against the stereotypes of the Beaufort society which in turn allows her to recreate her role as a female and to self-invent as a female. She creates space and time in her silence in which invention becomes the possibility. By changing the gender stereotypes of Beaufort society, she accumulates plurality for a renewed identity for female. Jamie wants to create a new society based on the inclusion of politics of gender which stands up against injustice based on difference. The imposed stereotypes of society on Jamie has pushed her even further into the extreme of silence. So, she rejects to internalize the stereotypes imposed on her by the society by maintaining her silence.

In the novel, Jamie opines that women are affected by the misinterpretation of the lifestyle of the society. Their learning is mere repetition of some conventional ideas, but not creative ones. They are compelled to follow what the society order. To violate the rigid norms and values is shameful activity for them. Society creates binaries among gender and keeps female under their control. They are taught to remain inside the four walls. But Jamie refuses to internalize the stereotypes as well as the conventional ideas of society towards females. She resists against the society by formulating silence. She makes silence as her strategy to protest against the society. Jamie takes her simplicity and innocence as her strength by rejecting to internalize the stereotypes imposed by the society about the beauty and delicacy of females. Through this formulated silence, the protagonist finds a space and choice to remain in silence,

and in resistance to the old definitions, in a promise to reinvent and recreate the definition of gender equality in Beaufort society of North Carolina of 1990s.

In the novel, Jamie posits the view that the Beaufort society has prevented women from realizing their creative possibilities. She argues that the society has restricted the women's creativity. She even believes that women always have to face social and economic obstacles to their literary ambitions. She focuses on women development independent to man. Through this novel, Sparks shows that how women are imprisoned within the social norms and values and are stopped from the opportunity to exist their own identity in the society. Females are not even allowed to speak for themselves. The Beaufort society has developed the stereotypes and conventions to be followed by the women. They cannot express their feelings, sentiments and emotions rather suppressed them on their inner psyche. Jamie, the protagonist of the novel too has words to express. She has filled her throat to be expressed but she cannot express it in-front of her father, friends and society. So, she is in the search of the appropriate platform to express her inner emotions freely. In this regards, Nicholas sparks further states:

Most of her friends kept their distance, and Jamie did not have many friends to begin with, so she spent most of her time alone. She has lots of different emotions- she wasn't always cheerful and happy. All the words from decades of her life filled her throat. All the words to her mother, to her friends, society. (39)

Here, the protagonist Jamie has a lot of things to be expressed. She wants to express her inner thought, with her family member, father but she dares not to speak any word in front of him. She does not speak and maintains silence because in an Beaufort society, females are not allowed to be more expressive. Females have a lot of

sufferings, experiences and problems. As she has no friends, she cannot express her problems even with her friends. She wants to express all her desires with her male members of the family. But the society has developed the conventions as well as the stereotypes to be followed by the women. Jamie has a desire to exist her identity by changing the stereotypes prevailed in the society by creating gender equality. But she is not allowed to speak and she maintains silence. The character Jamie's silence is ultimately a choice of formulated silence as alternative for the negatively imposed silence on her. Thus, Nicholas Sparks wants to blur such boundaries which keep female away from the reality. So, in the novel *A Walk to Remember*, he has used a character named Jamie who wants to transform all the traditional things into new. She wants to bring a real change in the life of women of Beaufort, North Carolina of 1990s. So, she goes on a mission to bring the change in the life of females. She takes her simplicity and innocence as her strength and maintains silence as a mode of resistance against the society which does not allow female to become expressive as well as have their own identity.

Sparks novel *A Walk to Remember* shows how the protagonist Jamie is compelled to adopt new forms of resistance against the gender stereotypes of Beaufort society. The oppressive pressures of conventions and norms of society have become unavoidable. Male has both power of judgement and power of reason. But females are compelled to remain on household works and they have no power of judgment. Rather they are regarded as sentimental, emotional, delicate and attractive with no sense of reason. The gender role and education system is constructed in society in such a way to form certain beliefs or culture, which makes hierarchy between male and female. Society has constructed the rules in such a way that women are regarded as secondary to men. But the protagonist Jamie rejects to internalize these stereotypes prevailed in

the society. She wants to recreate a society by creating gender equality. She maintains silence to resist against the Beaufort society. Direct resistance is useless. It is incapable of generating reform and change in the exploitative ideology of Beaufort society. Vocal form of resistance is totally useless, ineffective and sterile. The ideology of Beaufort society is strong and impossible to defeat and change. No matter how organized resistance against the society might be, it neither reforms nor replaces the norms and values of Beaufort society. Direct, vocal and ideologically organized forms of resistance have proved to be utterly fruitless and unproductive. In these modes of resistance, women have no strong possibility of emancipation from the insensitivity and dehumanizing ideology of the Beaufort society towards them. It is almost axiomatic that the traditional method of resistance is fragile in-front of the dehumanizing and alienating ideology of Beaufort society. So, in the novel, the protagonist, Jamie Sullivan has thought about the new effective method of silence to deal with the Beaufort society. In the novel, Jamie maintains silence. She clearly knows that direct and straight forward resistance have proved to be utterly fruitless and unproductive. So, she takes silence as her mode of resistance against the gender stereotypes prevailed in the society. Her silence carries crucial theme of resistance. By protesting vehemently, Jamie knows that she will not get anything. She is fully aware of the futility and feebleness of her opposition. That is why, she is taciturn and laconic. Her laconic posture is one of the dominant examples of the fact that she is not in conformity with the internalization of the norms and values that the society has imposed on her. The silence shown by Jamie is the willingness towards non-conformism. When the vocal and vehement mode of direct resistance fails to generate the intended reform and change, silence becomes the meaningful mode of resistance. The resistance has sought a new form. The silence of Jamie in the novel carries and

conveys profoundly significant essence. The essence of silence is that silence can be the language of resistance against the dehumanizing ideology of Beaufort society towards the female. In the novel, the protagonist Jamie thought that there is no chance to escape from the fate of the internalizing of the norms and values of the society upon her. Her single outcry is not effective. So, she remains silent. By not taking the other women of the society, Jamie hopes to effect change in the degrading situation of the women. The more her silence grows the more uncomfortable the situation become. Though outwardly silent, Jamie is inwardly alert and awake to the alternative way of launching revolt to the orthodox torture and the dehumanizing impact of Beaufort society towards female. So, Jamie alone remains silent. She does not oppose the society straight forwardly. Nor does she support it. For her, to internalize the norms and values of society is to step ahead for the further silencing and marginalization of women in the Beaufort society. So, in her formulated silence, the protagonist Jamie wants to recreate and redefine the representation of gender in the Beaufort society of North Carolina of 1990s by maintaining the equality between them. Sparks through the novel, *A Walk to Remember* shows that how the Beaufort society has created the artificial boundary between male and female. Females are attributed the entire negative images such as emotional, weak, inferior, imaginative, attractive, beauty and so on. They are used only as the means of entertainment. The society has forcefully established the male biased norms and values which the females are compelled to internalize as the culture. Women have always been considered inferior and incapable of any serious thinking. Society creates different codes and conducts to be followed by women. They invent different myths inferiorizing women to dominate them. And slowly and gradually, the women have been established as the 'other'. Such types of inequality between male and female creates the sense of hatred

towards male and the victimized one starts to rebel against the victimizers. Likewise, the protagonist Jamie in the novel rejects to internalize the codes and conducts that the society has created towards females. Society has imposed Jamie to internalize the norms and values as the other women of the society. But she opposes the society by maintaining her silence. She does not reject directly because she knows that the direct resistance have been proved unproductive. Her silence carries the spirit of resistance. She is not ready to live her life just being as an attractive object not as human being. She wants to create her own distinctive identity maintaining the way she is. She does not want to limit herself focusing on her outer appearance. As the society is more concerned about the outer appearance of a girl, she believes in the eternal beauty. That is the part of the reason, she looks the way she is. She wants to change the stereotypes of the society that the inner beauty of a girl is more important than her physical beauty. Because of her outer appearances, she is always victimized and humiliated by her friends. But she does not change herself and remain in her own. She takes her simplicity and innocence as her strength to resist against the society. She focuses on her goal to change the norms and values of the society towards female by creating her own distinctive identity in the same Beaufort society. Sparks through the protagonist Jamie has become successful to show the sufferings of girl due to their simplicity and innocence. Because of her simple outer appearance, Jamie always have to face the bitter experiences that are the instances of gender discrimination. She resists against the traditional norms and values that regards female simply as an attractive object to entice male. She further rejects the values that regards female weak, sentimental and emotional. For her, these are only creations and constructions, but not the natural qualities of women. She resists against the society by being against the norms and values given by the society towards females. She does not resist

directly or by being vocal. Jamie is presented as a girl who is simple as well as innocent. Due to her simplicity, she could not make friends in her school. This novel, through the protagonist Jamie shows that how superficiality and judgment of a person is based on the appearances which can be seen in attitude of Landon Carter and his friends through most of the story towards Jamie Sullivan.

Though she is humiliated by her friends, she does not change herself and remain in her own by maintaining her silence and using her simplicity and innocence as her strength. In this context, Sparks in the text writes:

For as long as I'd known her- and this was going way back, remember- she'd always worn her hair in a tight bun, almost like a spinster, without a stitch of makeup on her face. Coupled with her usual brown cardigan and plaid skirt, she always looked as though she were on her way to interview for a job at the library (16).

Here, in this statement, Sparks shows the determination of Jamie for achieving her goal in life. She was a kind of girl who believes that beauty of a person does not lie on her outer appearance. Rather she believes in eternal beauty. She focuses on the equal value and rational capacities of women. She resists against the false notions that regards females as beautiful, emotional, delicate and attractive. Rather she maintains herself in a simple outward appearance without a stitch of makeup on her face. She does not resist directly nor being vocal. Rather she silently maintains herself in a simple outward appearance against the codes and conducts of the society. She wants to achieve her goal to change the stereotypes of society by existing her identity. Education helps women to achieve their individuality and independence because it opens the outside world for them. She believes that women must be educated in the proper use of reason. So that they can overcome from the inside world.

Therefore, she does not change herself and remain silent in her own maintaining her simplicity and innocence as her strength to resist against the society. In the novel, *A Walk to Remember*, the protagonist Jamie Sullivan is silenced by the pressure of having to measure up to a American hegemonic feminine model of Beaufort society of North Carolina that emphasizes the elimination of the female figure and the opposition of femininity to masculinity, which includes passivity. Due to the internalization, combined with the history of inferior female, female is therefore continuously silenced by the males because of her status and the stereotype as a Beaufort female. Thus, the protagonist, Jamie rejects to internalize the stereotypes regarding female in Beaufort society. As the society has imposed the various norms and values to be followed by female, Jamie shows her disagreement and unwillingness to adopt such stereotypes. She does not want to bound herself in four walls. As she is conscious about the status of women in Beaufort society, she wants to maintain balance between both genders. She does not resist by being vocal because she knows that direct resistance being vocal has proved to be unproductive. So, she maintains silence with the spirit of resistance to change the stereotypes regarding female in Beaufort society. She knows that rather than being vocal the language of silence is the most effective technique of projecting the resistance against the ideology of Beaufort society. She wants to create the sense of self- respect and genuine regard for female as human being not just as an attractive object to please men.

Jamie rejects to internalize the stereotypes by being against the views given by the society towards female. Jamie is presented as a girl who is innocent as well as simple in her outer appearance. As the superficiality and judgement of a person are based on outer appearances in Beaufort society, Jamie is always victimized and humiliated by her friends. Not a single friend of her want her around rather they feel

ashamed of being with her in-front of other people. But she does not change herself and remain on her own. She focuses on her goal to change the norms and values that the society has imposed on women by maintaining the gender equality in Beaufort society. That is why, she feels so lonely and estranged. She has no option other than remaining silent. Through her silence, she wants to demonstrate her view. But her friend did not understand her as well as her silence. She maintains silence for the equality of gender but her friends make fun of her because of her rejection to internalize the stereotypes of Beaufort society. They make fun of her because of her outer appearance as she does not present herself in an attractive way as other women in the society. In this context, Sparks through Landon in the novel states: "I'll never forget that day because of how quite she had been, and I had the funny feeling all day long that something important was on her mind" (131).

The silence of Jamie conveys plenty of important things. It hints at the futility of the active and direct modality of resistance. Here in the novel, Jamie's silence is modular example of how silence can serve as the technique of resistance. Silence is not an example of helplessness of Jamie towards the ideology of Beaufort society. Beneath her silence, there lies a dissatisfaction and complaint of her towards the society. Her friends have made fun of her because of her silence, she has an important thing on her mind and she wants it to bring out in practice in the society. That is to change the prevailing stereotypes of the society towards female by maintaining the gender equality. Her friends make fun of her as she does not present herself in attractive way. Rather she maintains silence in-front of them. She is hardly vocal. She applies her simplicity and innocence as her strength against the stereotypical ideas of society about female. By the means of silence, she resists against the society to bring out her dream into practice.

Jamie's silence is not the self-chosen loneliness. Nor is it an affirmation of her falsely superior wisdom. On the contrary, her silence is fraught with several implications. Her silence is with the spirit of resistance against the ideology of Beaufort society towards women. Her silence is brimful of meaning. The silence which the protagonist Jamie adopts in the novel is communicative of the fact that non-silence and communicative forms of resistance are barren and sterile. Jamie knows that her formulated silence opens space for plural redefinitions and creation of individualized identity of female in their currently restrictive and marginalized positions as Beaufort women. Beaufort women are marginalized as well as oppressed by gender stereotypes prevailed in the society. Jamie, by formulating her silence refuses to internalize the codes and conducts of the society towards women. She clearly knows that due to this internalization of the American stereotypes of Beaufort society, women are continuously silenced because of their status as well as stereotype. In the novel, the protagonist Jamie, resists against the Beaufort society being bound by the stereotypes and gender roles.

In the novel, *A Walk to Remember*, Jamie through her formulated silence seeks to redefine her gender and reinvent her identity as an American girl as a plural subject. The protagonist Jamie participates in silence; in an extended space for the redefinition and creation of herself across time and gender. In the novel, Jamie seeks resistance to the social norms and values of American stereotype of Beaufort imposed on her to internalize which further leads her to marginalization and oppression by the society. The focus of the novel exists in the binds of feminine stereotypes for the protagonist, and therefore in a need for resistance of such restrictive stereotyping. Being silent, she has an important thing in her mind. That is to establish a creative space for female as well as to reinvent their identity as a Beaufort woman. By

maintaining her silence, she is rejecting to internalize the stereotypes of Beaufort society. Her silence shows her complaint as well as dissatisfaction towards the society about female. So, she is more conscious towards recreating her role as a female and to invent herself. Jamie's silence is not the result of her internalization of the stereotypes prevailed in the society but her silence shows her rejection towards the internalization of the stereotypes.

Jamie through her formulated silence finds a space and choice to remain silence. Through her silence, she resists against the old definition about female in a promise to create a bright future for the female in the same Beaufort society. She wants to create a society which maintains the gender equality. Her only goal in life is to change the stereotypes of the Beaufort society so that the women also can live a life as human being not just as an attractive object. Jamie focuses on the equal value and rational capacities of women. So, she resists against the traditional norms and values of the society that regards female simply as an attractive object. She resists against the false notion of the society that regards females as beautiful, emotional, delicate and attractive. For her, these are only creation and constructions, but not the natural qualities of women. She resists against the society by maintaining her silence as well as by being against the views given by the society towards female. She does not resist by being vocal but by formulating silence and by her appearance to create a bright future for female in the Beaufort, North Carolina of 1990s.

Another critic Dalia Rodriguez links the discourse on silence with the politics of resistance. He delivers commentary on the nature of the silence as the politics of resistance. In the present convoluted world where deception and exploitation have taken unidentifiable form the mode of resistance needs to take vigorous form. The following citation exemplifies how silence can be used as the strategy of resistance:

It is my goal to reinscribe the potential of silence as a strategy of resistance. Through narrative, I complicate rage in a modest way, by conducting a self-examination of sorts. I address how silent rage has served the following purposes for me: as a possible road to resistance and transformation; it has helped me gain clarity as to making sense of protest against oppression; and has served as a reminder of the need to (re)politicize self, essentially being a catalyst for social change. (17)

Dalia Rodriguez warns that while silence may serve as a source of resistance, there are also several dangers of remaining silent, which may occur when being victimized by hegemonic ideology overall. Silence is the instrument to launch revolt against domination and exploitation: it can evoke many things which the language and straight forward mode of communication can't convey.

Spark's novel *A Walk to Remember* explores the sufferings of women and their consciousness for their rights and equality in the society. In the Beaufort society, men control the conceptual area and determine social values as well as the structures of institutions. It is the man who explain, analyze as well as directs the female since he has the power to define everything else. Women can't reject this oppression and they internalize the stereotypes given by the society. They become submissive and gradually adopt the images made by the society towards women. But Jamie rejects to internalize the stereotypes by being against the views of society. She clearly knows that society have given secondary role to women. That is why, they are always behind men. She seeks resistance to the restrictive social norms of American stereotype of Beaufort for female. She knows that with the internalization of stereotypes, she will further step ahead to the marginalization and oppression by the society. She knows with the internalization of stereotypes, women are excluded from different

opportunities. They are not allowed to take part in politics and education as well. They are trapped in the tyranny of laws which is made by the society. So, Jamie rejects to internalize the norms and values of the society towards women. She wants to change the stereotypes of the society by maintaining the gender equality. Thus, Jamie moves towards the path to create her own identity by using the faculty of reason neglecting the views that women are weak as well as emotional.

Jamie adopts the silence to resist against the ideology of Beaufort society. She resists against the society in the promise to create a bright future for female. She rejects to internalize the stereotypes by formulating her silence. As she knows that the direct and straight forward resistance has proved to be unproductive, she maintains silence. More than her vocal sense of opposition, it is her silence that reveals a lot about her strong sense of disagreement and unwillingness to adopt the prevailing stereotypes of the society. While acknowledging the importance of voice, it is also important to remember that silence can also be a means of resistance, a way of holding one's ground against the encroachments of oppression. Whenever she was asked to make a choice and made the subject of satire by her friends, she remains silent. Instead of being vocal about her intentions and thoughts, she adopts silence. In this context, Landon states: "Jamie turned away and got a far-off gaze in her eyes, making me wonder what she was thinking, I was beginning to notice that she did this whenever she was nervous or wasn't sure what to say"(71).

Jamie demonstrates the resistance by the means of silence against the ideology of Beaufort society. The more silent she is, the more strong spirit of resistance she evokes. Though she does not speak a lot, but her silence evokes the plenty of important things about the Beaufort society. She also does not believe in being vocal. As she know that vocal resistance have been proved to be unproductive. She does not

believe in words. But she believes that her words and thoughts to be applied in action. Her silence is filled with her spirit of resistance. She has formulated silence as her strategy to create a space for the creation and innovation of self across time and gender. Though, she is always humiliated as well as victimized because of her outer appearances. She does not change herself and remain in her own. She also does not break her silence towards the society about her intentions and thoughts. Instead, she further continues her silence. Beneath her silence, there lies her dissatisfaction and complaint towards the society about the restrictive stereotypes towards the female. As Jamie does not fulfill the expectations regarding the stereotypes of the Beaufort society, she has to face problems. She resists against the society by being against the expectations of the society. She maintains herself in a simple outer appearance by maintaining her simplicity and innocence as her strength. She takes her silence as her strategy of resistance towards the society. Her silence hints at the futility of the active and direct modality of resistance. Her silence does not mean that she is helpless to internalize the stereotypes of Beaufort society. Rather her silence is fraught with the spirit of resistance. The silence shown by Jamie is the willingness towards the non-conformism. She is always criticized by her friends for her simple outer appearance. But she does not care about it. In this context Landon states: "I had to admit, though I knew she'd still be underdressed compared to others at the dance. As always her hair was pulled up in a bun" (38). Jamie had to face the bitter experiences that are the instances of gender discrimination. She resists against the Beaufort society by rejecting to internalize the restrictive stereotypes regarding female not as human being but just as an attractive object. For her, these are only creations and constructions, but not the natural qualities of women. Sparks shows the determination of Jamie for achieving her goal in life. That is to change the prevailing stereotypes of the Beaufort

society by creating the gender equality. Through her formulated silence, the protagonist Jamie finds a space and choice to remain in silence. So, she is in resistance to the old definitions, with a promise to bring a bright future for female in the same Beaufort society of North Carolina of 1990s. She wants to redefine and recreate the new identity of females in their currently restrictive and marginalized position of Beaufort society. Thus, the language of silence has been the most effective technique of projecting the resistance against the ideology of Beaufort society.

Throughout the history of Beaufort society, female struggles between “equality” and “difference”. Here, in the novel, Jamie also struggles for equality. Jamie too feels the loss of her identity in the internalization of the stereotypes of the Beaufort society. In the novel, she is opposing a long established tradition: that reason and sensibility belongs to men whereas emotionalism, attractiveness and sentimentality belongs to women which inferiorize the women from rational and intellectual areas. For her, it is morally requisite that women be given the liberty and scope to perfect their souls through the exercise of their reason. Jamie rejects to internalize the restrictive gender stereotypes of society by formulating her silence. She resists against the society by formulating her silence so as to create a new society based on gender equality. She takes her simplicity and innocence as her strength to resist against the society. Beneath her silence, there lies her strong sense of resistance towards the society with the thought of redefining and recreation of self. The silence which is described in this research is communicative of the fact that non- silence and communicative forms of resistance are barren and sterile. Hence, the present research work conducts by using the modality of silence resistance and its resistance theory.

III. Conclusion: Jamie's Silence towards the Society

Nicholas Sparks' *A Walk to Remember* puts forward unique model of resistance against the ideology of 1990's of Beaufort, North Carolina. The present research works dwells upon the silent mode of resistance against the exploitation of women in Beaufort society. The vocal and direct forms of resistance against the exploitation have become ineffectual. That is why, the protagonist Jamie Sullivan develops the sense of consciousness and protest against the society by remaining silent and taciturn. The character's silence is ultimately a choice of formulated silence as alternative for the negatively imposed silence on her. This novel shows the tendency of male to look at the female on the basis of their physical beauty and attractiveness. So, Sparks through the protagonist Jamie has become successful to show the sufferings of a girl due to their simplicity and innocence. Because of her simple outer appearance, Jamie always has to face the bitter experiences that are the instances of gender discrimination. So, she protest against the stereotypes of Beaufort society which portrait female characters on the basis of their physical beauty and attractiveness. Instead of changing the spirit and goal of resistance, she has changed the language of her resistance against the stereotypes of Beaufort society towards female.

Silence can serve as consent to stereotype and, when reserved, can equally serve as resistance to the same stereotype- a creative response. The contributing factors of gender and sexuality results in the development of such a strong need for resistance. The text *A Walk to Remember*, indicate a call for redefinition in the stereotypes of Beaufort society of 1990's. Among the reasons for the continuing call for redefinition is a longstanding dissatisfaction with the stereotypes towards female. The text *A Walk to Remember* is a struggle of resistance is clearly a effort of the

protagonist Jamie Sullivan to redefine and recreate the new identity of females in their currently restrictive and marginalized position of Beaufort society.

Sparks' present novel *A Walk to Remember* emphasizes on the plights of women due to their simplicity and innocence and their resistance against society by the means of the silence. This is the core idea of the present research. The protagonist Jamie struggles for her selfhood and identity challenging the social norms and values which portray female simply as an attractive object. She struggles against her society by maintaining her silence as a strategy of protest which consider female as weak, emotional, submissive, sentimental as well as an attractive object to please men. So, here the female character Jamie Sullivan, in the novel develops the sense of consciousness making her simplicity and innocence as her strength against the stereotypes of Beaufort society. Though she has always become the victim of satire due to her physical appearances, she did not change herself and remain on her own. She is against the traditional norms and values existing in the society. So, she formulated silence as her strategy to resist against the society taking her simplicity and innocence as her strength.

Through her silence, Jamie resists against the old definition about female in a promise to create a bright future for the female of Beaufort society. She wants to create a society which maintains gender equality. Her only goal in life is to change the stereotypes of Beaufort society so that the women also can live a life as human being not just as an attractive object. So, she resists against the stereotypes of the society. She does not resist by being vocal but by maintaining her silence and by her appearance to create a bright future for female in 1990s of Beaufort, North Carolina.

By remaining silent, she is actually saying that she is not in favor of internalizing the norms and values of society. Since she has the actual knowledge

about the dark core reality of the ideology of Beaufort society towards women, she has no option other than remaining silent.

In short, it can be said that resistance has different kinds of forms and manifestations. The strong and communicative language may not be fruitful all the time. So, the discourse of silence is more conducive to the proliferation of the spirit of resistance than the vocal resistance. Whether imposed silence or the formulated silence, the very concept of silence reveals an emerging plurality to bring light to a struggling field of stereotypes towards women. It is a means to struggle for the plurality of gender definitions at the same time for resistance against the stereotypes imposed upon the marginalized figures in the society.

Works Cited

- Alspector, Lisa. *A Walk to Remember*. *Chicago Reader* (January 20, 2002):page 16.
- Delbridge, Robert. *Decadence and Dignity*. London: Harper Collins, 2006.
- Evans, Daniel. *Power and Resistance*. New York: Greenwood publication, 2010.
- Glynos, Joseph. *Rhetoric of Resistance*. West Port: Houghton, 2009.
- Kim, Elaine H. *Asian American Literature: An Introduction to the Writings and Their Social Context*. Philadelphia, Pa: Temple University Press, 1982.
- Lemire, Christy. *A Walk to Remember*. *Chicago Tribune*(July 20, 2002):page 25.
- Monaghan, John. *A Walk to Remember*. *Detroit Free Pres*(January 25, 2002):page 10.
- Perry, Jonathon. *A Walk to Remember*. *Boston Globe*(January20, 2002):page 6.
- Ray, Amit. *Indian Ethos of Redemption*. New York: Norton, 2012.
- Rodriguez, Dalia. *Disintegration of Political Emancipation*. New York: Rutledge, 2012.
- Roca, Octavio. *A Walk to Remember*. *San Francisco Chronicle*(January 25, 2002):page 20.
- Said, Edward. *Orientalism*. London: Penguin Books, 1978.
- Sparks, Nicholas. *A Walk to Remember*. North Carolina, October 1999.
- Stark, Susan. *A Walk to Remember*. *Detroit News* (January 25, 2002):page 12.