

**Tribhuvan University**

**Struggle for a Coherent Sense of Female Identity in William Faulkner's *Light in August***

**A Thesis Submitted to the Central Department of English  
In partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of  
Masters of Arts in English**

**By**

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Mrs. Gita Sharma has completed her thesis entitled "Struggle for a Coherent Sense of Female Identity in William Faulkner's *Light in August*" under my supervision. She carried out her research from 12<sup>th</sup>, July. 2009 AD to 20<sup>th</sup>, January, 2010 A.D. I hereby recommend her thesis be submitted for Viva Voce.

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**Letter of Approval**

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## Abstract

This research work has studied William Faulkner's novel, *Light in August*, as a novel that projects courageous women who resist the traditional gender roles, based on patriarchal ideology which has conventional and biased attitude for the gender equality. William Faulkner has highlighted women who have revolutionary spirit to redraw the biased concept of patriarchal ideology to search the female identity. Women's consciousness, challenges and their resisting activities and behaviors are commended highly advocates in the novel by the side of strong woman character, Lena Grove. She is a courageous lady who is much concerned about the women's value, freedom and emancipation to dismantle the masculine supremacy existing in the society. She has crossed the childish behavior and has attained the strong mother by the conception of maturity. By the help of the female character, women's consciousness and the resisting activities help to deconstruct it, her sacrificed towards child become new society. By the help of the child she wanted to fulfill her dream of equal treatment of women in the society. Her efforts are directed to a search for coherent sense of self. I think, it is possible through the coming generation.

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## I. William Faulkner's *Light in August*

This research work focuses on William Faulkner's famous novel '*Light in August*' to study the patriarchy is the boundary of the society to get coherent sense of female identity. Lena Grove is a female protagonist who is suffering from social disparity towards female this shows that how she struggle at different places to gain a coherent sense of female identity.

William Faulkner is a famous American novelist of the twentieth century. He writes in different field, about the old south becoming new, racial and family tragedies, clash of new generation and ways of life. These are the main motto of his writing is to historical change in American society. He born in 1997 and heard many stories from his grandfather and other heroes of the American south. As a result this take in close acquaintance with southern customs and attitudes, family background closeness to his region country, the town of oxford helped him to shape themes and setting in his career his thought is that to bring newness in the construction of the novel.

William Faulkner was poor in his studies, left his studies and joined in grandfather's bank. He has changed his track to the poetry writing and painting. He has got a chance to for literary discussion and helped acquaint him with so many literary figures as Ezra pound, Robert frost, Cornard Aitkin and Sherwood. Anderson. As an experienced he was preoccupied with both the events and the implication of world war. His early book deals with that Subject matter. Faulkner published *The Marble Faun* with the preface given by Phill Stone. *Soldier's pay*, his first novel, wrote in 1926. The publication of the novel was possible with the help of Sherwood

Anderson; *Mosquitoes* are his next novel published in 1927. *Sartoris* (1929) helped him find himself as a writer. It is about family. Legend centered young Bayard a war experienced, became major writer from *Sound and Fury*. According to Robert Pen Warren the article entitle Cowley's Faulkner 1946 says "William Faulkner has written nineteen books which for range of effect, variety of characterization, humor and tragic originality of style.

In 1950s Faulkner won the Nobel prize for literature and established the "William Faulkner foundation". In many of his books we found the theme of racial crime. For him, the civil war merely transferred the crime against the Negro in a new way. Among his works, the Negro is a central figure of his studies. In the book *Sound and Fury* he focuses love force and humor towards every person in his orbit by calling you damn old nigger. In *Light in August* Faulkner's treatment of the main character Joe Christmas shows his revolutionary attitude, in this novel's main protagonist is either a Negro blood or white blood. Similarly in the case of female protagonist Lena Grove she had struggled to establish of her own identity and her child. Joe is called Negro by social constructive definition, not by blood. In the other way Faulkner here under cuts the official history and methodology of white society the word 'Nigger' is a creation of white man.

In Faulkner's next novel *Absalom, Absalom!* The same theme as *light in August* is repeated. There is too deep scene concerning race as described by Rosa. There is great wish for the abolition of the boundaries of caste and door. In the *Intruder in the Dust* Faulkner has shown race constantly. The novel deal with the extreme hatred conditions towards Negro is seen. William Faulkner is not an isolated aesthetic phenomenon but he has inherited a strong and ambivalent family legend, who felt himself displaced in his life. Judith Bryant Wittenberg comments:



Faulkner's work reflects and is strongly influenced by the events and tensions in his own life. Since the tensions are more significant than external events. The study is necessarily psychological and philosophical literary criticism is so notoriously beset with pitfalls that it is worthwhile to point out things. (634)

Similarly, Donald M. Kartiganer's perception of Faulkner is that he is a modern, the term is honorific writer concerned with flux and change, and that his fragmentary form is used to communicate the inhumanity or chaos, which is reality. Oxford was the town to feel sympathy towards Faulkner's literary ambitions. It mocked him for trying to break away from the rules of conventional life. Perhaps it is to find a more sympathetic environment by the meeting of the different friends.

Thus Faulkner was able to produce more than a dozen of novels during his life time but also to portray the common themes but write in very strong way like southern history, race, physical aspect of the character, myth these are the themes of his writing.

### **Critical View on *Light in August***

After the publication in 1932 this novel, *Light in August* has garnered a wide range of critical consideration from a number of academician's researchers and scholars alike. Some of the critics have viewed feminist, post structuralism, new historical, gender and psychoanalysis point of view. Among them one prominent critic Alfred Kazin views on that the novel as a tragedy. As he writes certainly his perspectives on the tragic incident of Joe Christmas gives the sense of modern tragedy. Similarly John Longly says that the novel deals with that "the analysis of the protagonist, Joe Christmas, as a modern tragic hero protagonist "(173).

William Faulkner's *Light in August* takes place in the first two decades of the twentieth century. Its characters are mostly marginal, outcaste. Faulkner's original title of this powerful novel "Dark House", but after a chance remark from his wife he went into his study crossed out this title and replaced it with *Light in August*. So many Faulkner's novels from this period onward this one deals with the difficulties of transcending race and gender in American south.

*Light in August* is an exploration of social conflict which caused psychological alienation in the society of the Southern United States. Faulkner takes a modernist approach in *Light in August* abandoning a conventional linear lives and motivations of characters, during a brief fateful period of time in the books. It is steeped in violence, preoccupied with the distortions and distractions of religion perhaps influence by fact that Faulkner started the novel soon after his wife gave birth to a daughter who died few days of her birth so using the working title Dark House but his wife replace the title *Light in August* and plumbed the often dark interior space of his characters, who wounded various ways.

Lena Grove, the female protagonist of the novel, is pregnant teenaged lady who is searching the man who made her pregnant and left behind abandoned. *Light in August* highlight the pregnancy and child birth of a teenaged lady, Lena Grove originally planned to call the novel "Dark House" which is also become the working title for Absalom !. *Light in August* can be seen in the novel as Lena Grove's newly born child, the baby is born in August and the "Light" symbolizes of the New generation, That generation untouched by racism, prejudice and hatred of the past.

William Faulkner's *Light in August* addresses the discussed elements of female identity, coherent sense of identity by resisting the age old hegemonic discourse and practices of Patriarchy. The main female character has been dominated from the

preserver or the so called brother and sister in law. She gets out of the house, only that the bearing of the child. On that period, she is not mature and she has nobody on her support. The male of the patriarchal society use female and gave trouble to her. The society makes her weak than the male but she had struggle for two purpose one is search the father of her unborn baby and gave identity of that baby which is untouched by the previous hegemonic patriarchal society .On the other hand she is wandering for the emancipation and searching for who is Lena and what is her status in the society.

This kind of analysis shows the exploited of the women physical and mentally. In his plight of the female protagonist of the novel's protagonist Lena Grove, bounded within the patriarchal authority. Her resistance against patriarchal norms that shows the growing consciousness developed in women's mind. Faulkner resists the psychological, physical and mental exploitation of women. Despite this difficulty Lena Grove is challenging the male superiority and raising the voice through unborn baby, whose father is unknown. That type of deed which is never accepted in the patriarchal society. Her resistance against the domination of her brother and other male at the quick decision is that she left the brother's house and struggle alone for the sake of her unborn baby and quest for emancipation.

To achieve the goal of this thesis feminism is the methodology to prove the hypothesis. That shows the various representation and ideas are regarding woman's cases. The works and ideas of the feminist critics and theories like Virginia Woolf, Gilbert and Geber, Simon de Beauvoir, Mary Wollstonecraft, Elaine Showalter and et all. The other area also included in the theoretical modality. Whatever the different feminist critic take common subject matter they emphases about the issue of equality, gender freedom of women feminism tries to dismantle and redraw the boundary, long

established patriarchal system so called man made canon which subordinate and suppresses women.

According to the feminist critics that females are the "other" but that have been othered by the male dominated society. So it is not segregated othered it is the exploitation of women both physically, psychologically and mentally by men. Women expose their potentialities don't stay as it is when they become unbearable rebellion occur when time comes.

*Light in August* is the isolation of individual from communities and from one to another. In the first four chapters of the novel, Faulkner presents four major characters, each of them are separated from society in some important way. Lena Grave though she realizes cheerfully the kindness of strangers, is morally isolated because of her illicit pregnant and on the other hand she is socially isolated because of her constant traveling. The sullen Joe Christmas is isolated because of his seemingly mixed racial heritage which causes him to emphasis the differences between himself and those other people. Similarly Byron Burch is like Lena, morally isolated of his choice and makes one friend. Reverend Gail Hightower himself is isolated as an outcast rejected by the society.

Faulkner establishes similarities between Hightower and Lena. Early on both characters use language willfully to manipulate or obscure the truth thus as church elders were unsure whether Hightower is lying to cover up his wife's indiscretion, "believed what he was telling or not Lena also distorts the facts surrounding her pregnancy and status as an abandoned single even though community gossip exposes both Lena's and Hightower's predicaments they both continue in as a form of self protection, a way of easing the shame way they feel at being betrayed by their respective partner".

When the text published in 1932 it is not out of critical considerations from the various critics. Among them one of the prominent critics Alfred Kazin views the novel as a tragedy. As he writes certainly his perspectives on the tragic incident of Joe Christmas gives the sense of modern tragedy. The plight which she bears and searching for emancipation that give the framework of Joe Christmas story "The analysis of protagonist, Joe Christmas as a modern tragic protagonist "(173). The southern landscape encodes their ancestors their family, history and their identity place in this sense in a space to which meaning has been describe Carolyn Jones says: That human relationship that occurred there holds the ultimate meaning the region has for the Blacks and they also inscribe the realities that have affected psychological wholeness and self identity (38).

In this way, Millgate's the novel as a story of man alienated from the society. The sense of alienation and struggle for existence of the main character is clear through lines *Light in August* is the story of a man doomed, determinate terrible alone a desperate violence and lifelong search for a place in society and sense of his own identity "(65).

Joe Christmas the main male protagonist and Lena Grove is female protagonist of the novel. Joe's tragedy is that he does not know himself what he is .Being black and white he is truly be a part of either society .This awareness of this dichotomy makes him take up the role antagonist in a situation .By this analysis Peter Swiggart writes:

In *Light in August* Faulkner condition his exploration of south's puritan mentality; at the same time he introduce racial miscegenation as central dramatic issue .as a white southerner convinced that he has Negro ancestry Joe Christmas direct his racial prejudice inward against

himself ,and the resulting torment commits him to a path lonely  
violence.(265)

Most of the criticism concerning the novel *Light in August*, usually considers the troubling and problematic character of Joe Christmas. Christmas certainly deserves the attention paid to him, but too often this attention not only misrepresents the issues surrounding him, but also obscures other noteworthy elements of Faulkner's complex novel.

Of course, the central character of Joe Christmas has dominated criticism of the novel, primarily because he represents the problematic and touchy issue of racism .Those who wish to prove that Faulkner either was or not a racist often turn to Christmas's day (hence his name) called a nigger bastard, by the dietitian at the orphanage when he catches her with a young doctor and ever after Suspects that he might possess some negro blood. All this prompts many readers to see in the Christmas a symbol of racial tension and conflict for instance, in his italicized amendment to the except from the novel he used for 'the portals'; Faulkner. Malcolm Cowley refers to the Character as Joe Christmas, the mulatto. (51)

Faulkner's *Light in August* is a story of the south, the murder in Jefferson, Mississippi and the love affair of the Northern spinster, Miss Johann burden, with the mulatto Christmas. Here finally Faulkner gives expression not only to the bitterest profound cultural problem of the south but to its dominant culture. In addition to Joe Christmas the novel relates to the story of another character, Hightower who is also isolated sterile living in his memories of old south. Another critic Gregory Meverson says:

The novel presents as much different economic surround Instability constitutive of a society in economic crisis is transferred to the novel's character system ...rather than from class struggles inflamed by socio-economic catastrophe in which social change is brought about naturally and gradually by the political moderate native southerner assisted by the "best black".(115)

Some critics have assumed that the novel's ambiguity concerning Joe's racial identity supports the interpretation of Faulkner as social constructionist. In an influential analysis, the literary critic Thadious Davis argues that Joe Joanna relationship deconstructs both the literary critic Black beast narrative and Black White binary. Joe ravishes Joanna but she wants it is described in language of blackness. He says:

How struggle Joanna is in the Faulkner croups .She is a only major women character in his fiction who had to cross racial lines of sexually excepting the special case of Joanna Burden Faulkner's major women ... never had either love or sex across the race line .it is one of several things that did exist in southern culture that he simply ruled out of his fiction. (385)

Joanna is a major women character who is able to cross the racial boundary for the sake of sexuality. Faulkner's none of the women character cross the race line for love and sex. But Joanna is the sexual partner of Joe, a black male protagonist of the novel. She is frustrated because her grandfather and brother have been killed for the help of black. So, she should do the work for black community and she makes her status strong only for the support of black. She met different black people and lived the rest life along with them.

## **II. Feminist Approach in Gender Equality**

Feminism is a political movement that emerged in the late 1960s with the aim to enhance their social, economic and political status both in theory and practice. The main objective of feminist movement is to bring women's potentialities into light and make them aware of their own existence in the patriarchal society. Females were endowed with little opportunity to forward their ideas. Now they try to dismantle the prevalent patriarchal hierarchy in which they are inferiorized with the male identity. Feminism attempts to define women as autonomous human being. Arronne S. Fraser, she is light of feminist," the object of feminism was to elevate the equal light and human right, status of women of race language or religion in all fields of human enterprises and to eliminate all discriminations against women"(44). Therefore, it studies of women's bitter reality of oppression and rejection of the freedom of personal expression. Now, at present, the feminist movement seeks to alter patriarchal stereotypes of women as relatively weak passive docile and dependent individual who are considered less rational and more emotional than men. Feminist advocates for women like men in every field.

Throughout the history women have been devalued as inferior, passive, kind, beautiful and emotional whereas men have been regarded with the prestigious positioning of superiority, rationality and arrogance. Men always enjoyed the position



of center, but women were sidelined and marginalized in the peripheral section of the society. Though there is not such natural rule and characteristic to prove hierarchy between men and women culturally fabricate normatively of the society from ancient to present viewed woman as the women the other of man's self, men with culturally designed mindset presupposed that they possessed rights fundamentally to subjugate women and to make women subordinate or an appendage to men. They established a unanimous ruling authority to control women in all aspect of humanity politics, religion, economy and education. Male supremacist ideology taught and directed women to internalize gender biased assumption that they are of less value and they are genuinely inferior and unequal to men. The permanent male prejudiced ideology denied the women right as human being. The definition of women by men did not value women as human being rather they defined them as object and commodity to fulfill masculine desire.

Feminism as a theoretical discourse advocates for the rights of women and their political social and economic equality with men. It is a principle redefining women's activities and goals from its own perspective and refusing to assent on the cult of masculine chauvinism and superiority that reduces women to sex, a second sex submissive, other. It aims to eliminate the subordination oppression, inequalities and injustices that women suffer because of sex discrimination. It is that because man and women are not equally treated. So the notable thing is that a woman is equally strong, powerful and active as man. So it is useless to blame women is discriminating on the basis of gender which is critical as well unsatisfactory. Raising the situation of women is in public spaces due to gender discrimination.

In the concept of patriarchy believe that the entire cultural spectrum is dominated by a patriarchal value. Women are made to be subjugated by male; the

female values are in negation to the male. All the feminist critics are concerned with the destruction of patriarchal ideology. So, feminism is a massive complaint against patriarchy. Freeman: "feminism is a term that emerged long after women started questioning their inferior status and demanding in their social position "(3). As it is concerned, with women's right and emancipation, it is a political theory and practice to untie all the social bondages of patriarchy, about defining feminist criticism, Toril Moi writer:" it is a specific kind of political discourse's critical and theatrical committed to the struggle against patriarchy and sexism ,not simply a concern for gender in literature"(204). Feminism became a dominant force in the 1960s and changed the face of times as women realized their inferior and subjugated position in the patriarchal society and began to fight against their inequality. It had its origin two centuries earlier with the publication of Mary Wollstonecraft's *A Vindication of the Rights of the Woman* (1792) that is the first format book of feminist writing.

Wollstonecraft advocates educational and social equality for women one argues that society can never retain women only in the rate of convenient domestic 'slaves 'and alluring mistress by denying their economic independence and encouraging them to be docile and attentive to their looks to the exclusion of all else. She speaks with uncommon force and vigor about the institutionalized, culturally sponsored operation of women criticizing the patriarchal educational system Mary Wollstonecraft states:

To do everything orderly manner is a most important precept which women, who generally speaking, receive only a distortedly kind off education, seldom attend to with that degree of exactness that men, who from their infancy are broken into method observe-this Negligee

kind of generalizing matters of fact; so they do today what they did yesterday merely because they did it yesterday. (94)

However the feminist of the twentieth century was backed and heavily influenced by the work of Mary Wollstonecraft, the British feminist powerful and revolutionary argument for the establishment of legal, political and social equality between men and women, implanted by Wollstonecraft, the British feminist writer, whose "*A Vindication of the Rights of woman* (1792) well deserved its rank as the first feminist work" Adams (394). It was the first women's text with feminist spirit. With the introduction of this book, the women writer started exploring their experience through books but they have been frequently marginalized by male literary canon Mary Wollstonecraft, a British political thinker emphasized on awareness of women which could only be possible when they are nurtured with proper rational learning, education brought into the mainstream of multi-dimensional development of society. She generalizes that the equality of gender should be based on capacity, skill and intelligence. The feminist powerful and revolutionary argument for the establishment of legal, political and social equality between men and women, implanted by Wollstonecraft couldn't accelerate so speedily for more than one century.

After the publication of *A Vindication of the rights of Woman* (1792) Virginia Woolf's *A Room of One's Own* (1929) revolutionized the women's consciousness in the twentieth century. This led to other significant books that expose the female voices such books are Simon de Beauvoir's *The Second Sex* (1949), Kate Millet's *Sexual Politics* (1970) Elaine Showalter's *A Literature of their Own*, Sandra M. Gilbert and Susan Gubar's *The Mad women in the Attic* (1979) and so on, which represent a new era not only in the women's consciousness but in the whole intellectual circle, too.

In this way feminist can be broadly defined as politics directed at the changing existing power relation between men and women. The growing consciousness of women it has been developed after the 1960s seeks to break men's hold over women by giving vent to " feminism" a distinct position.

A prominent writer Kate Millet favors power as an inevitable matter to change the society. In her *sexual politics*, she has cited the fact that power is exercised in the society by subjugating women. She emphasizes that women should be given power to develop their status and career. She says, "Patriarchy dominates and subordinates the female to the male or treats the female as an inferior male. Power is exercised directly or indirectly in the civil and domestic life, to constrain women "(137). In the large canvas of male literary works, women are presented just as sexual object whose roles are subservient to those of the central male protagonist. Violence and domination seemed to be the main idea by which the unequal power relations in the area of sexual politics are maintained. She analyzed the sexual politics of literature in her work. She considers politics an institution through which power is exercised in the society. She says: "The essence of politics is power" (205). Violence and suppression upon women by patriarchy is the main issue raised by Millet.

Virginia Woolf in *A Room of One's Own* (1992) argues about the imbalance power of the society between men and women. She says feminist movement is to liberate women don't have their own room the meaning of one room is they do not have their own room. It means they don't have their own right, prestige, space and don't have any identity. Room is the place where people get comfort .It means women have don't their any right, like get comforting room. They write their literature in common room women writers don't have their own right, she herself protest against the patriarchal society for not providing right to own a room of her own. As a writer

she feels difficulty in accommodating in her husbands room. She further says that, women should have their own room to go with their writing works and they should have their own income for their survival, so that it will not be necessary for them to depend up on their husbands.

Men and women are human being but these two sexes have not shared this world equally. Man is independent but women are not so. Women are confining within the four walls of a house and handicapped. Men's legal status is everywhere but women's status is just opposite in comparison of male. Men's rights are concrete and female's rights are abstract .The concept of male and female is gendered concept made to highlight men. Virginia Woolf's comments:

It is vain to say human being ought to be satisfied with tranquility ; they most have action; and they will make if they can not find it .Millions are condemn to a stiller doom than mine and millions are in silent revolt against their lot. Nobody knows how many rebellions format in the massages of his life which is people Earth women area supposed to be very calm. Generally ;but feel just as men feel; They need exercise for their facilities and field for their efforts as much as their brother's do; they suffer from too rigid a restraint 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 embroidering bags .It is thoughtless condemn them, or laugh at them, if they seek to do more learn more than custom has pronounced for thief sex. (822)

Women are thought to be calm being clearly refers that women's right to speak freely it has been cut off. She can not revolt means she counted as passive being she should not react against any type of disturbance and discrimination. It is that men and women are not equally treated so the notable thing that women are equally strong, powerful and active as man. So, it is useless to blame woman of discriminating on the basis of gender which is critical as well as on satisfactory. Rising at the situation of women in public spaces is not highlight due to gender discrimination.

Elaine Showalter, one of the Gynocritic has not only shaped feminism but has also introduced Gynocriticism; it is a criticism by the women for the women and of the women. Like Woolf, she also wants to see happy women. According to her a woman can be as much tyrannical as a powerful man is if she is extremely powerful in the family. Gynocritics eschews the inevitability of male models and theories and seeks a female model. Thus Showalter's search here remained constitution of her *A Literature of Their Own* (1977) in her book. The effort had to be to understand female subculture, to reconstruct the literary past with attention to it for her beginning was to see that past to questioning the male created theoretical ground.

Elaine Showalter has entitled women's culture in which she claims that women have their own sort of culture and language. They have their own types of body the speaking style and language. The capacities of thinking and behaving the psyche and the meals have their own. Showalter's *A Literature of Their Own* (1977), it describes the female literary tradition in the English novels from Bronte and onwards as a development of a subculture by arguing that since women, in general constitute a kind of subculture with in the frame work of a larger society, their works definitely demonstrate a unit of values and conventions. Showalter's further analysis of historical development of feminism. It present three important stage of a female

literary tradition feminine, feminist and female .The collaboration of the two contemporary feminist Sandra M Gilbert and Susan Gubar are important both for understanding present world of feminism and historical roots they started to extensive study of women writers and set of a feminist literary tradition. Their influential work, *The Mad Women in the Attic* (1974) explores pressure of psychology under which females are writing. It describes several key envelopments in the history of women's writing.

Gubar and Gilbert have argued that women state backward because women writers grew both afraid and lacked of the ability to the express themselves artistically .The influence book *The Mad Women in the Attic* brings out that those feeling emotion and experiences into language and by developing their writing style. Gubar and Gilbert main argument is that artistic creativity of the nineteenth century tradition was perceived basically as a male quality. It is fact patriarchal superstition upon the women writers who are imprisoned within it. The verities of theoretical emergence have presently influenced feminism that brought broad concept about it. This covers a wide scope and includes different aspect of humanity despite focuses on entire issues of women.

From the very beginning women were treated as valueless beings, which could not enjoy all the rights as males can enjoy. The patriarchal society could not give the right to the female. Women started different movement for voting right. In 1921 for the first time women were given voting right in England. In 1949, women were given voting right in France. On the step by step women were concentrated on giving legal equality. These women also fought against discrimination in educational sector and job opportunity.

Simon de Beauvoir, a French feminist critic says that there is no difference between two sexes like male and female in the process of biological creation. When "*The Second Sex*" first appeared in 1949 Beauvoir was attacked by those who felt her account of women's lives was too heavily based on her personal experience and her middle class values. She was also criticized for her historical in accuracy and anthropological at suppositions. Slowly and gradually women started writing to reform the society, to change the attitude of women's towards women. Women of the every society have to look after their children, household works, cooking food, washing clothes and are also force d to do the work outside of their house for solve the economic problem. The term feminism is originated from the awareness of the women. The concept of feminism was popularized since the women's liberation movement of 1960s in America after that feminist started to revolt against male hegemony to protest women from their domination. In the society women's identity has been shaped by the values and norms set by male. The main cause of women's suffering and undeveloped is due to the domination of powerful males. The Greek philosopher Plato, philosophical theories have glorified women for their physical beauty only but not for the adventurous works women's positions and status is always shaped by the norms and values set by males. Women's writing reflects women's voices. These writing reflect the painful life of the women. The concept of gender or the system of male and female it is not inborn concept. It is not predominated fact but artificial man made to discriminate women which is not a natural construction to discriminate male and female Simon de Beauvoir says:

One is not born, but rather become a women no biological, psychological or economic fact determinates the figure that human female present in society it is civilization as a whole that produces that



creature, intermediate between male and female eunuch, which is described as feminine. Only the intervention of some one else can establish in individual as another in so far as he exists in and for himself as sexually differentiate. (203)

At the beginning the human civilization, the defect is creates division between men and women. Civilization as a whole gives birth to gender concept. Gender helps to divide human beings as male and female. So, discrimination takes in process of division human civilization is defective in the sense that it generates the conscience of "self" and "other" .thus the concept of female is gendered concept because introduces man as "self" and woman as "other" on the second so man becomes the first and the women always second in this order of civilization which is highly defective. Whole civilization or culture is male created or centered therefore women's position is discriminated; displaced distrusted deviated by the male on the basis of gender. The human civilization or culture is male centered, Therefore composes women as subordinate to the man, woman is defined as other "Second", because man is self and the "first". So Beauvoir focuses on our civilization and culture, says that it is defected because it is highly gendered. She wants to change the whole civilization and culture which helps to destroy the concept of gender discrimination. The society is man's made in certain place for man. But in contract women's position and place are not in this society women's identity place and position is not static and to developing but only arbitrary .It is because of discrimination between man and women on the basis of gender.

Position and space for women is not this world due to gender discrimination. The space is said to be made only for male. So that female are in this space but this space is surrounded by men .Thus there is males chain to surround women and to

deprive them from social, economic as well as social position. Women are surrounded by the world of others are devalued in the public space. Women are compelled to be busy at their domestic work to ease their lord for the ruin of their own. The history of woman is the histories of subordination .Woman were not counted as independent being like men having no basic facts. Simon de Beauvoir says:

Through out history they have always been subordinated to men and hence their dependency is not the result of a historical event or a social change –it was not something that occurred. The reason why otherness in this case seems to be an absolute in this part, that is lacks the contingent or incidental or historical facts. (22)

In this way, women are discriminated, repressed, slaved and chained with out social historical, scientific, cultural event. She argues that the main cause of discrimination is the concept of gender. In this concept, human being is divided into two parts, male and female. To solve the problem of women as mentioned by Beauvoir first of all solve the problem of gender discrimination.

Almost all the feminist critics in some sense are revisionist questioning and the adequacy of conceptual structure strike against the canon. In this way Sandra Gilbert claims;" It wants to decode and demystify all the disguised questions and answers that have always shadowed and connection between textually and sexually, genre and gender psychosexual identity and cultural and authority. "(36) Virginia Woolf speaks for women that a woman can not fulfill her literary ambition in the lack of social and economic support. She discloses the reality in her essay, *A Room of One's Own* "A women must have money and a room of her own if she writes

fiction"(4).women's position in the society is depends upon tradition view. While talking about women's situation that placed by society, Conrad Phillip Kottak says:

Gender stratification describes an unequal distribution of resources between men and women sometimes a distinction between women's domestic work and men's extra domestic productive labor can reinforce a contrast between men as public and valuable and women as domestic men less valuable. (276)

Gender inequality is heavily practiced that women are made disable for extra-domestic work. They are compelled only in domestic works and excluded from other opportunities of productive work. In contrast, men are let free for extra domestic works. In such a way, this culture construction of gender discrimination defects female and compelled to be busy at only domestic and less valuable works. Therefore, female's position is complex, poor and miserable due to patriarchy intermingled with gender discrimination. In this sense, gender discrimination is highly patriarchal.

Regarding gender discrimination, patriarchy is created certain norms values in which males are figured out in the superior position and female as inferior. So we can define patriarchal norms and values as misogynist ideology. In misogynist ideology, women are inferior in two ways: women are normally inferior, evil, bad, sinful and harmful, at the same time women we inferior in competence-physically, intellectually and spiritually. Sheila Ruth views:

Women are simply not as able as men, not as competent in any task except those traditionally designated ' women's work'. It is said that women are less capable than men of doing any kind of work requiring a high degree of rationality, abstraction and intelligence because

women are intellectually inferior and characteristically not given to rationality and logic. (159)

Sheila Ruth asserts that women have not the intelligence, the instincts, grit, the motivation, the stamina or the strength of men. It is claimed that the great scientist, inventors, legislatress, entrepreneurs, artists, humanists, authors, sportsmen and warriors have always been men. Moreover in business, industry, politics, in the professions and professional schools, it is men who have the superiority and authority over women. Because of the lack of intellectual competency, women can not do the things what men do. Therefore, they are obviously inferior. In such a way, the false concept is developed by male supremacy, which is quite circular, superficial and fallacious but also it has the tremendous power in society which is accepted by a majority both female and male.

There is male hegemony in term of many things such as marriage, labor division economic and independence. As a matter of fact marriage is a bond of heart between a man and women they are based on companionship replace with mutual respect, compassion and involvement. In the west marriage, has been a side part of women life where they try to maintain individual respect. According to some women marriage as a loss of authority freedom and happiness it is simply because the males activities and exploitation in sexual relationship. They have to abandon their will and dreams for the sake of other have will and dream. For them, marriage is a continuum of sacrifice.

Similarly women are marginalized in the labor division as well as since men dominated society on the view of western women labor division based on the biology. They are the suspicious of the biased patriarchal society. The conception is that women are weaker than man and suitable for household work.

According to Finances Lear; "If a woman has no means of earn a living she is dependent upon a man. When she is dependent a man she is not free. She does not trust him as well, because if you are dependent, you can not trust. There can not be a healthy relationship if you are dependent upon somebody else for survival"(500). Women want to be economically independent to realize the existence and happiness.

In the above mention, the various models of feminism share certain assumptions and concepts that underline the diverse ways that individual critics explore the factor of sexual difference and privilege in the production the form and content the critical analysis and evaluation of the work of literature.

The concept of women in history is presented inappropriately because it is guided by patriarchal power. The patriarchal, which makes women consent on their inferiority in front of male. Women in the society consciously consent on their subordination before male. They are encouraged to force their inferior status and accept male exploitation as natural. From the human development or history is entire male centered and women are in the history is completely absences in it.

It describes feminist discourse helps us to that arguments and justify William Faulkner attempts' to the struggle for a coherence sense female identity in his novel *Light in August* (1932) and to show how patriarchy is abstract the women of the time through the impact of patriarchal ideologies in English society. Women challenge the Manish assumption, its insufficiency and one-sided. In order to enhance women's rights and to secure women's libration need to fight against the oppressed and suppressed system of patriarchy. The masculine norms and values are social constriction which is based on the difference created between male and female. The biological differences between women and men is not the essential difference

The discourse has conferred us a perspective to observe and analyze the novel into the deep manner. So it has enable grasp the psyche, the intellect, the sentiment and the felling of female and their urge to bring a revolutionary change in the society so that women can live independently with their supreme existence and individual identity.

Women have to the works which is done by male. They have to change which is created by the male up-rooted society. They can do the work as equal to male. For the identification of female they should not calm, serious, passive. Do not show the inferior in front of male. We can assert the idea we must have strong determination through out the strong attachment to establish the identity of female is the part of whole. Withough a part whole can't be complete exist feminism is a great tool for the emancipation, freedom of a women. In this novel, Lena Grove reaches different places for the identification of herself. When she hears there in south can be more forgiving of female sexuality in some circumstances. The scenario it is too difficult to reach and stay to the south. It is very difficult to other but Lena has to do the works which make her brave lady.

### III. Lena Grove's Search for Coherent Sense of Self

Lena Grove, the female protagonist of the novel *Light in August*, Faulkner shows the female character Lena Grove suffers from male dominated society. She is young teenager and orphan, but she is pregnant by Lucas Burch who is far away after making her pregnant. That is the cause she has nobody for her support and on the other hand, she is illegally pregnant. It is a sin in the eyes of male dominated society because of that all the norms and values are created by male. As the feminist critic Simone de Beauvoir says in her book, *The second sex* says that females are free to choose come out of void, but paternalism regards women as "other". They treat women as weaker sex or second sex. She argues that male is considered as "self" and subject but female is treated as "other" and object. By creating binary opposition male takes advantages and gets reputation. She further says that she was attacked by those who felt her account of women's lives was too heavily based on her personal experience and her middle class values. Historical, biological and psychological perspectives on women, a consideration of the prevailing patriarchal myths about women and an account of female love and sexuality in because virtually all of its forms. Here in the novel, Lena Grove is human but she is not equally treated as human being. The patriarchal ideology guided society forcefully treated and giving trouble and restricted from the society. Being a women, who is rewarded in the society she can not do anything against the society nor to revolt from the society.

The female character Lena is actually born as a women, a part of society but the patriarchal society has made her an inferior. Bing a women she can not talk anything on opposition of the society." Lena says I have come from Alabama: a fur piece. All the way from Alabama a walking. A fur piece"(5). It shows that she is

wandering and feeling of self humiliation to get a quest for emancipation. Likewise, she is searching for the father of her unborn baby. It must be done for the innocent child. The unborn baby symbolically means that the new generation as a whole which is not follower of the male centered society. It is the destructive point of the preformed society which is very harmful to women. Male made norms and values restrict the female's freedom and justices. They become victim of the society. Lena has childish nature she doesn't know what was happening, she is bearing child before her marriage, at age of twelve. Male made norms and values are not accepted the work it is a wrong deed or sin. Men are equally responsible for the deed but only lady is under the hardship of punishment and troubling herself physically and mentally. So the feminist critic Virginia Woolf comments in her essay *A Room of One's Own*.

*Light in August* resides in a male centered, dominated world, exploring masculine brutality and the idea of Byronic hero (named for the nineteenth century English poet Lord Byron). He is the brooding, restless, and flared individual wounded by life's cruelties and slights women exist on the edges of this world. Women characters of the novel dismantle the masculine brutality. It means for the Lena, the lady having so many difficulties and the struggle without the presence of man like the Byronic hero, she is innocent healthiness contrast with other because they suffer from different kinds of diseases and depression. She also seems to an iconic image of the depression. Even the trajectory of her from parents' home to a crowded lean to room to a penniless Journey on foot. She is the girl of that family which is wandering around homeless and broken heart; she has lost the track at the young age so she is pregnant. At that kind of environment the large number of people lost their memory. Some of them receive the death. Behind this situation, Lena Grove cross out those situation she has a determination of further success. She is in nature's lap. Nobody



help her but time is with her side. Lena, at one with nature's generative powers and cyclical rhythms, seems to reside in a separate and timeless realm, she can easily survive on the kindness of stronger, perceiving her month long journey as "a peaceful corridor paved with unflagging and tranquil faith and people with kind and nameless faces and voices" (7). She has been continuing her journey to prove her determination of self identity.

Faulkner talks about another female protagonist Miss Burden, a White woman. She has been working for the Black community.

She was lying on the floor, her head had been cut pretty near off; a Lady with the beginning of gray hair, The man said how he stood there and he could here the fire and there was smoke in the room itself now, like it had done followed him in.(70)

Killing of Miss Burden that referred to the last date of a person who wanted to challenge the man made rule created by patriarchy. Joe Christmas is hybrid product of interracial relation between white mother and black father, who killed her for the sake of property. Miss Burden is occasionally lover of Joe Christmas. She wanted to child, telling the lie of pregnancy. She wanted to show the negative attitude of the male in the society. Miss Burden wants to safe herself by shorting the gun towards him but the poor Miss Burden wants to fight the male. But he killed her by the razor on her neck. She had struggled at the last stage of her life.

They brought Miss Burden to town and there was paper at the bank she had told them would tell what to do with her when she died. It said how she had a nephew in the north where she come from, her folks come from and they telegraphed the nephew and in two hours they got

the answer that the nephew would pay a thousand dollar's reward for who done it.(71)

Here in the novel, she started to revolt against her family she lived far from with her family. She should live her life independently. The norms and values made by patriarchy are the main restriction of the development of the feminist ideology. Miss Burden wants to challenge the society when ever man does the work which is accepted to the society but the work which is done by female that is not accepted or it should be sin for the female. She wanted to change the works which is equally treated to every human being. Her boldness is immeasurable. She challenges not only the man made law which is remove able for the people's need. She dares to what ever comes in front of her. She is not afraid she picks up the gun and shoot the man who used her three years back only for the sexual satisfaction. She was living that man but he should not accept her as wife and do not give chance to maternity.

A lady who has sacrificed her charity for the emancipation of self but the complex legacy of male dominated society she can not do well. Because of her family's commitment to lead her, fight for black equality. It is ironically expressed her charity itself that causes her death from that man whom she always try to help with heart. Joe Christmas brutally murders her because of her patronizing impulse to control and improve him. It shows her bravery who wanted to change a man made law and improve the multidimensional man into good man it shows her equality to the man not separated by "self" and "others".

Lena Grove is only distinct character whose journey starts from her illegitimate pregnancy by Lucas Brunch. She had 35 cents and started journey to search the father of the unborn child. Little quantity of cents she has had a strong determination for the work. By the help of strong determination, Lena Grove reached

from far distance Alabama. On the way of her imagination, she had crossed so many difficulties but she continues her journey like the slow moving creature. Her strength with bearing the child is one of the strong points of herself. On the mid part of the novel she is not active but the first and last part of the novel she is active as she is winning the race. We can imagine Lena Grove is an earth. Earth gradually grows the crops to the people similarly she is supposing to fertile land, which has to grow the child before the time of her age factor, at the age of 12. Because of her determination she is able to born the baby of the Lucas Bunch only for the new hope. The most mindless of the Faulkner's female, although the evidence is overwhelming, it never penetrates her trick skull that the father seeks for the child even if she found him, would be worse than no father all (157).

Imagination is most powerful weapon for the development of any proof. It helps to the people for the creativity. That creativity leads any people to the points of inspiration. Such case is applied into Lena's life. First of all she has imagined and wants to give the birth to the baby. That baby symbolized the new generation. Faulkner in his statement is that "It is much fun to try to write about women because think women are marvelous, they are wonderful although they are too difficult" like the Shakespeare's drama "Hamlet" Hamlet is so strength man but his inner quality is womanish so that he can't revenge the murderer of his father. The patriarchal society says the Lena Grove, Milly and Hightower's wife are the fallen women. But the Lena Grove changes the reality upside down in the sense that her baby was born it symbolize the generation which is untouched by racial discrimination that is erased by the born of the baby. The baby is the blood of whom she is always struggle for the giving the birth of baby, which is not accepted in the society.

Lena seems iconic image of depression. Her penniless journey started from her home for the sake of self identity. In summer season whole families wandering around homeless broke even with babies in their arms. She however deliberately pursuing her lover Lucas Burch is a figure driven by not by depression era necessity but by the life force. She at one with natures generative powers any cyclical rhythms, seems to reside in a separate and timeless realm moving with the untroubled change of season, little impacted by the hardship and unmarried pregnant women.

Joe is the reputed black man, sexual fantasy leads people into the destruction of that preteens: similarly the downfall of Joe Christmas, "It is Joe's latent sexuality that involves him with Joanna". Joe Joanna sexuality is the main cause of the destruction death of the individual. Here in the book Joe Christmas and white lady Joanna's relation is inter racial relations. The study of the Faulkner's books naturalistically dares the multiple levels of meaning in this novel. To be sure of that the use of these modernism "games" undoubtedly freed Faulkner to express his fearful attraction and abhorrence of his feminine side. Archetypal rules we play in the society that gives shape and substance beyond our individual lives. *Light in August* is one which aligns him with marginalized whites 'Byron Bunch, and Lena Grove, and other of more ambivalent racial and sexual subject position like Joe Christmas. The novel provides William Faulkner with the means to critique fluctuation in racial, sexual spatial and social arguments in American culture and to ponder the effects of those influction of white psychology.

Lena and Byron represent an ideal-typical community uniting Nature and the Protestant work ethic (divorced from psychopathological Calvinist psychology). This community includes those white workers who, embodying Jeffersonian ideas.

Here in the novel "Lena Grove is watching her hands they are moving now plaiting shyness. It is apparently, some musing reflex of the hand along. I just kept asking". (497) she thinks that she is not talking to any body she is unable to speak because of the norm and value of the man centered society. Her shyness and watching her hands, which are moving it shows that how the patriarchal society treated women were nothing to speak in front of the males. At the growth of the female child that kind of mentality grown up which is dehumanized women. They did not want to speak what they think or the matter of discussion. These lines shows women were afraid of the norms and values created by patriarchal society.

In this way, she reached the earth in the heavy dusty shoes; she looked up at him, serene and peaceful. Its been right kind; she said (581) she is walking different places to fill different or to get emancipation on the one hand, and the other to give birth to the baby which symbolized the new generation which is untouched by social disparity. The earth symbolizes the nature, which treat human being as the equal. Earth is not discriminate as black, white, male and female. If houses are made for the population which has grown up more then earth's capacity there must be the natural disaster. Likewise, Lena Grove had struggle with the man made norms and values when the time comes she speaks on the opposition of the patriarchal society such the natural disaster. The male ideology wants to keep women just inside the house not to keep their property into their name but here in the text Johanna Burden next female character, white women whose grandfather was killed at the advocacy of black's equality. She had a cabin and a lot's of property kept with her. Joe Christmas a cruel man who killed Miss Burden in the case of property.

Joana is a woman, who lived in along with the cabin. She is rejected by her neighbor and she has so many black friends. She is busy to improve and established

her name and fame in the black community. Her grandfather was killed at the advocacy of the black and brother was killed because of mixed blood. In that type of scenario, it is difficult to protect in the black experience. Masculinity goes and reaches to the top. They wanted to destroy blacks and female of the both community. At the very scenario Joanna Burden's courage is the causes of to establish her identity and developed her business. Joe charismas, always meets Joanna Burden and they became officially lover a white women and mixed blood male. Johanna's grandfather was murdered by the curse which is given to the whole race/black from the god. When Johanna asked about his family he answer one of the mixed blooded family Johanna does not mind whether he is of Negro not instead white community she loves with him she also remains as best partner to Joe. By entering realm of lustful, sexuality with Joe and Joanna descends into black lady female. This happens because of her rejection of the chaste role constructed for white womanhood by the legacy of slavery Johanna's work can be considered as strong challenges to the white society.

Your grandfather and brother are lying there murdered not by one white man but by the curse which God put on a whole race before your grandfather or your brother or me or you were even though of. A race doomed and curse to be for ever a part white race's doom and curse for its sins his doom and his curse. Forever and ever mine your mother's yours. Even through you is a child. (252)

Lena's journey starts from north to south because it is recognized; there was less domination of female. She is young, optimist women and seven months pregnant who walks from Alabama to Mississippi in the hopes of finding the father of her baby Lucas Burch and self emancipation. Her struggle is built at the time of her pregnancy. If she wants the abortion of the baby it is possible but she wanted to struggle of that

present scenario of the patriarchal society. Her confident of giving birth to the child at the young age it shows that revolution starts on the birth of the child. The mother who has born the child either she faces domination and sacrifices her or the difficulties which is coming in front of her. Here in the text.

'Sacrifice, me the sacrifice? It seems to me the sacrifice – 'Not to her. For the Lena Groves there are always two men in the world and there number is legion: Lucas Burch and Byron Bunch. But no Lena, no woman, deserves more than one of them. No woman. There have been good women who were martyrs to brutes, in their cups and such. But what woman, good or bad, has ever suffered from any brute as men have suffered from good women? Tell me that, Byron.'(238)

The above mentioned paragraph shows that the women, who have child on the absence of baby's father. She can sacrifice herself for the sake of her child. If the baby's father is with her or not it is too difficult. The single lady does every activity at help needed time. Here in the case of Lena Grove she is pregnant teenager. Even she doesn't know the man who made her pregnant but the optimism help to move her. Unknowing she accepts the bearing the child. Child is the heart of the mother so that she cannot abortion of the child. She wanted to give the birth to the child. To fulfill her dream of equality and identity gives emphasis to the female break the hierarchy to the recognize women. According to Sandra Gilbert and Susan Gubar if the tradition is not changing any development of the women's activities. Are not possible here in the text she had struggled to give the birth to the child she made that the equality of female identity which is not given in previous. Lena Grove visits Alabama to Jefferson on foot shows that she had struggle what ever difficulties held upon her had easily acceptable.

The novel explanation for these men's unstable and migratory employment is equally at odds with the reality of depression era. Joe and Lucas rootlessness is depicted as innate, Joe's life is out of savage and lonely street which he has chosen of his will. The scenario of depression time many people commit suicide and some of them are wandering without any aims. Lena Grove, who is white in color but marginalized white, they were suppressed by the dangerous white. As the result they have struggle for their emancipation, the time change or the new generation is the new hope of the emancipation. She is a young, pregnant but she should feel the hope of new development which is coming out of depression. She has had so many troublesome to live the life. She feels that coming generation could be broken the uprooted norms and values of the society after the birth of the baby the baby is symbolizes the new generation. The time is coming Lena is about have the baby.

The doctor arrived too late this time also. Byron had to wait for him to dress. He was an oldish man now, and fussy, and somewhat disgruntled at having been wakened at this hour. Then he had to hunt for the switch key to his car, which he kept in a small metal strong box the key to his car, which he kept in a small metal strong box, the key to which in turn he could not find at ones. Neither would he allow Byron to break the lock. So when they reached the cabin at last the east was primrosecolour and there was already a hint of the swift sun of summer. And again the two men, both older new, met at the door of a one room cabin the professional having lost again to the amateur, for as entered the door, the doctor heard the infant cry. (298)

This society is made by the males who can only guide and protect female. Male can give security for female in every society. But Lena Grove is going to born the baby



before the arrival of the doctor. Especially the male dominated norm negligence the female whenever female necessary to their help.

With ought any strong determinations the work can not success. Lena is able to give the birth of the baby which is naturally in August, he bring the light for the reformation of the society. The doctor is an old person who is surrounded by the masculine rule, made by rigid patriarchy before the arrival of him. The baby is born it means to say that the shadow of rigid patriarchy is not kept on the body of the baby. So baby symbolizes the new generation. In her period of pregnancy Lena Grove lives alone. Only 35 cents of money she reached where wants. She is only the subject matter of all people to talk but she does not care that she is walking and reached the city Johannesburg. In this way none of the male thinks that any women had struggle when the situation is that of the women like Lena Grove. She can prove the situation twelve years pregnant lady is able to give the birth of the baby without the help of the doctor.

The patriarchal society does not like female supremacy. They give the name like angel but she is not opposing to follow the rules and regulation of that society, society gives different names to the particular lady. In our society, father's name is important for the identification of the baby. The patriarchal society gives us to those types of ideology which subordinate the female when the baby is born in the society.

That child I delivered. I have no namesake. But have known them before this to be named by a grateful mother for the doctor who officiated. But then, there is Byron. Byron of course will take the pas of me. She will have others, more remembering the young strong body from out whose travail even there some strong body from out whose travail even there shone some thing "tranquil and unafraid." More of

them. Many more. That will be her life, her destiny. The good stack peopling in tranquil obedience to it the good earth; from these hearty loins without hurry or hast descending mother and daughter. But by Byron engendered next. Poor boy. Even though he did let me walk back home. (305)

Throughout the above mentioned paragraph there were gossiping the name of the baby where is the father of the baby. Lena is strongly standing in front of them. That is her destiny to search the father of the baby. If the man is found at that time, the fame of the story is end never goes forward. The baby is known before the bras this to be named by a grateful mother. That grateful mother is Lena Grove. The name and fame is stated whenever he/she sacrifices to the work. Here in novel Lena Grove had struggled to give birth to the baby. At that time, she has very little money. Mother should be the great that is why the time of childbearing to birth and giving that baby and make them a human being. To reach the particular stage behind the other work women/mother is the great but the patriarchal ideology guided society gives less priority to the mother it is the matter of discussion we should be able to change the norm and value of that society.

Giving the name of her baby on the side of her own that is the revolutionary act and great resistance against the patriarchal norms. For the patriarchal society that type of work is not accepted. One should struggle and fight against the restrictions and constraint of the society in order to live the life of freedom and satisfaction. For it, one should be patience and honest then no doubt, one day he/she would be stand on their deed, similarly, self-confidences, self-motivation and self-determination should be there in each person for their achievement of independent identity.

Lena Grove further insists that patriarchal ideology and its evil habits are obstacles on the way of her journey. The new born child is the source of inspiration and hope for those are suffering self-depressions. The title of the book is suitable for the Lena's life "Light" it stag/term for pregnancy of the Lena that child born on the month of August, it highlight the pregnancy and child birth.

The patriarchy never gives priority to female. If the woman is pregnant before marriage that is sin, shame, opposition and against the society but here in the book pregnancy situation is highlighted it means to say the situation is changed, bearing child and give birth is the only for the female's individual side not force by the others. Similarly Lena's newly born child " August" and the " Light" of the new generation with hope, that types of generation untouched by racism; prejudice and hatred of the past.

Being in male dominated society, the female protagonist suffers from domination through out her journey. She moves from one place to another, search for the female identity through the journey. Her pregnant by Lucas Burch is not accepted by her brother, her resistance started from her brother's house. So, she left the house and goes for the identity of her, who am I and what is my role in the society. She is hungry for freedom and equality. She had struggled through out her house. Social disparity, depression and racism are the causes which make the society in disorder. Being that situation people of the then society looses their remember memory. At that condition she alone started to revolt the dominant patriarchy, which is rigid never accepts the female supremacy.

'Poor woman,' he thinks. 'Poor barren woman. To have not lived only a week longer, until luck returned to this place. Until luck and life returned to these barren and ruined acres.' It seems to him that he can

see, feel, about him the ghosts of rich fields, and of the rich fecund black life in the quarters, the mellow shouts, the presence of fecund women, the prolific naked children in the dust before the doors; and the big house again, noisy, loud with the treble shouts of the generations. (306)

Lena is in the condition of childbirth other think and imagine but she is strong hearted lady. She is living in a big cabin luck can't return to this place again, she can lived only a week longer. The baby touches the earth inside the big houses before the door. It symbolizes the new generation which is free from everything Lena's face is fixed in an expression serene and warm, with a smile.

These things are the main causes by which Lena Grove established her identity through the child. She can do everything for the sake of baby. She heard the social customs of the noble's community certainly do not make it easy to bean unmarried mother, her story makes it clear that unmarried female sexuality that is not her will that deed is forgiving in south. She is an orphan, image of depression even the trajectory of her life from parents home to crowded land, that penniless journey on foot for the sake of her baby's identities and hungry for emancipation through it new society is up-rooted, which is un touched by race gender and to establish her identity in the society.

Women's superiority which is not accepted by the then male chauvinist rigid ruled society. After the birth the baby everybody was happy. Every body reunite with the birth of her child name of the baby is given from the side of strong mother. Every body taken to the birth of the child is unification of the family. That type of generation which is untouched by social disparity, racism and prejudice and hatred where the child's mothers resist against the society.

#### **IV. Conclusion**

This research has analyzed William Faulkner's *Light in August* from the feminist perspective. It analyzes the novel as white community but marginalized she wants to change social inequality between male and female, good white and dangerous white. Lena Grove, the female protagonist has succeeded to resist against the deep rooted restriction to words women in the society. Patriarchal norms and values have always kept masculine ethos at the center. Such biased and unequal norms and values are constructed by the patriarchal society where women are to be performing certain roles and responsibility these are imposed by rigid rule of patriarchy. Men are taken as controlling figure who have authoritative towards women.

In this regard, the patriarchy has constructed the hierarchy between men and women where women are considered as silent victory of masculine authority in the name of sex, gender, social status and race. Thus, to challenge and undercut such biased patriarchal ideology. Faulkner has presented Lena Grove, Joanna to change the social inequality; these are the main pillar with feminist sprite.

When we go through the novel, we have to find unique presentation of women character, character with her energetic female aspiration and hope at the time of social depression and dismantle society. She possesses the strong female sprite that redraws

all the traditional and conventional ideas and belief. The patriarchy is not accepted childbearing or pregnant before the marriage of the girl, attain to the party. She refuses the patriarchal imposed over mention system before marriage which is greater challenge for the old traditional society. She could not accept the traditional definition of feminine gender roles where women are consider as meek emotional docile uneducated creators. She redraws the allsorts of social and cultural boundaries which are forcedly imposed upon because of Lena Grove's refusal to state with her guardian's house. She had strong determination to leave the house and started to journey with 35 cents. She is challenging the traditional rigid patriarchal ideology and gender discrimination as a whole.

Similarly, she identifies herself as a social being by revolting against the traditional rule, women as well as strong mother of infant child at the age of twelve. According to the social rules and regulation of the men made ruled society women should only involve themselves in household works. It was restriction for women to involve in to the explicit work of the house. The protagonist Lena Grove is fighting for women's freedom and self identity she started a long journey on foot throughout Alabama to Jefferson, for the sake of self identity. On the way, her views patriarchal dominance is the evil force for the empowerment of the women's freedom.

It is said women is the indicator of the failure and successes of the man's life but the male dominance society can not take the women as indicator.

One the one side, Lena Grove is challenging the traditional society by refusing to accept the traditional gender rules and the other hand; she is also challenging it by creating herself autonomous identity in the society. After encountering a lot of challenges and difficulties in her life she is able to birth of the baby which is

symbolizes of the struggle for his mother and new hope and germination of the society.

To challenge the patriarchy dominance society, she focuses on women's emancipation and empowerment which lead to them towards their independence identity. Lena Grove views for the help of self motivation, self confidence, strong determination these are the great weapon of women to the fruitful achievement.

Thus, William Faulkner is a womanish with full understanding of women's status and empower in the society so almost of his writing he writes the female character as the dominance character of the rest that is why he emphasis the Lena's story in circular way in the novel. It relates with his idea of the female as the equal being like male. She is an example of society and gives the light of knowledge who is confined within the four wall of the house not speak about the rigid patriarchal norms we can say Faulkner portrays Lena Grove as a conscious bold courageous and strong determination lady against patriarchal society. Her behavior helps to resist the patriarchal society and victory through the autonomy of self identity.

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