

Female Voice and Struggle: An Introduction

The primary goal of this research is to focus on female issues and their quest for identity resisting the marginalized position of them in Margaret Atwood's *Cat's Eye* with a view of revealing female protagonist's role in this great literary masterpiece. *Cat's Eye* portrays the realistic pictures of women and their subordinated experience of and suffering in the patriarchal society. So far as the female characters in this text are concerned, the writer has glorified particularly the female characters, who search their identity struggling in patriarchal society.

The novel primarily focuses on the female characters and their situation in the patriarchal society of Canada and their search for identity struggling in patriarchal society. In such society a woman suffers a lot and is treated as a non-human being. Even though, this study also shows the reaction against the male dominated and they resist for their existence.

Cat's eye by Margaret Atwood was published in 1988. It is mostly written in flashback technique. The novel unfolds in Canada of the mid 20th century, from world war 2nd to the late 1980s and includes a look at many of the cultural elements of that time period, including feminism and various modern art movements. The book was a finalist for the 1988 Governor General's Atwood. The novel begins with the Elaine's return to Toronto on the occasion of a retrospective show. Elaine Risely, at mid life returns from Vancouver to Toronto, a city she fled many years earlier after the end of her first marriage. While attending a retrospective of her artwork, Elaine is obscene with the memories of her childhood, adolescence, her family the men she loved. The story is a retrospective account of the Elaine Risely middle aged artist who returns to her childhood home of Toronto for showing her work.

Margaret's Atwood's *Cat's Eye* deals with the women's issue. In this novel Atwood has shown the situation of women in patriarchal society. Atwood's fiction mostly portrays the physical and psychological violence in relation between men and women. This novel portrays the realistic pictures of women and their subordinate experiences and sufferings in patriarchal society. She raises issue of marginalization regarding "search for female identity. The protagonist of the novel Elaine has no agency in her family so she decides to create her own identity as successful painter. Although patriarchy stands as a barrier to create her identity but she struggles with patriarchal society and creates her own identity as a painter.

Margaret Atwood is a Canadian novelist and was born in Ottawa, Canada in 1939 and grew up in northern Quebec and Ontario, and later in Toronto. She lived in numerous cities in Canada, the U.S. and Europe. Margaret Atwood, the author of more than 30 volumes of poetry, novels, short stories, literary criticism, social history and books for children. Atwood's work is acclaimed internationally and has been published around the world. Her novel includes *The Robber Bride* of the Trillium Book award, *Alias Grace*, winner of the prestigious Gilder Prize in Canada and the Premio Mondello in Italy, *The blind Assassin*, and winner of the Booker Prize. She is the recipient of the of numerous honors, such as Sunday Times Award for literary Excellence in the UK, The National Arts Club Medal of honor for literature in US and she was the first winner of the literary prize. She has received honorary degrees from universities across Canada and one from Oxford University in England. Atwood has received 60 awards for her writing and 14 honorary degrees.

Atwood also held the presidency of the writer's union of Canada 1981 and was the president of International P.E.N. Canadian center from 1984-1986. A lifelong Academic, she has lectured at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver,

taught English at Sir George William University in Montreal and served as a chair in the writing departments at the University of Alabama, New York University, Macquarie university in Australia and Trinity university in San Antonio, Texas.

Atwood has won the several awards for her writing and gain international acclaim. Her novels are seen as very feminist although her style is very individual. Atwood has helped to define and identify the goals of contemporary Canadian literature and has earned a distinguished reputation among feminist writers for her exploration of women`s issue. Her novels are well crafted and her manner of writing is very personal and the way in which she successful presents each character as if she is really were him or her is most astonishing. This also makes her language, expression and ideas vary enormously, each character unique. Being a feminist novelist, Atwood sketches female character as a protagonist. coming on age during the feminist revolution of the 1970s, Atwood echoes the sentiments of women`s rights in all her books. Atwood never shies away from hard hitting political statements like unfettered, unguided nationalism, the penchant for violence in the Americas and antiabortion demonstrators in her work. She serves as a content and the strident voice in the ongoing political and social movements of the day, speaking out against anything that doesn`t push society towards tolerance and the understanding.

Despite all her work, this research gives emphasis on her best novel *Cat`s Eye* in which I found radical feminism. By scrutinizing the text, this study gets various problems of the female, that`s why it takes the point of female issues or research. The protagonist of the novel, Elaine Risely has no agency in her family where as her brother Stephen has a great authority in his decision making and social, cultural and political aspects. Stephen teaches Elaine to be subordinated in front of the social norms maintained by males. Elaine`s husband also forces her to follow the male

ideologies and rules as such. So those male characters show their oppressive violence and superior nature to her. She is only expected to cave woman for her husband.

Elaine feels herself being lost in her own male dominated society. So she decides to create her own identity as successful painter by her own action and desire.

Elaine Risely is a marginalized woman out of the family. However she doesn't surrender in front of the norms, rules and subjugation imposed by the patriarchy, Rather she becomes a strong woman and decides to create her own self according to her own action and desire. The present researcher here tries to analyze why the central character leaving everything that binds towards her husband and family search her existence. The rebellion protagonist resist, the male ideology redrawing the boundary of mainstream society to create her own agency in society.

Since the publication of the *Cat's Eye* many critics have interpreted in different ways. Regarding the Trauma Janet Lorenz opines that:

Cat's Eye explores the girlhood experiences of artist Elaine Risely as she negotiates her relationship with cordelia, a mean girl who bullies her relentlessly through emotional manipulation. There have been many nonfiction book written on the topic of girl aggression in recent years, Mean Girl and Odd Girl Out come to mind, but Atwood's novel gives a gut- wrenching insight into the victim's frame of mind. While still managing to suggest the pressures that many motivate the aggressor. The protagonist never really 'gets over' the damage done to her tormentor, and her scars color all her subsequent relationships as well as her idea of herself. (16)

Janet Lorenz describes the traumatic experiences of Elaine especially when she makes relationship with cordelia, mean girl who manipulated her emotionally the mos.

Moreover he also depicts the scars that are in the psyche of the central character which colors her forthcoming ideas.

Another critic Jamie Sindell opines that:

Cat`s Eye is one of my favorite novels and it still resonates with me today as much as it did when I first read it. First and foremost, Margaret Atwood is an incredible writer. Her deft handling of and the richness found in her descriptions and narrative is exquisite. *Cat`s Eye* is more than a novel about girl bullies- it transcends that simple description. It is about Elaine, an adult woman, taking an introspective look at her life and the impact her childhood played in her development as well as her feelings of inadequacy and loneliness. (32)

Here Jamie Sondra Sindell focuses upon the flashback techniques of the novel. She centralized her idea upon how Elaine remembers her childhood life and its impact upon her present life.

Another critic L. Clouse argues that:

Cat`s Eye is amazing in its nuances. Atwood is the queen of creating a story that never picks, but never quite buttons out, steady heart beat the whole way. In *Cat`s Eye*, I felt like I was told a story of the life of a woman, Elaine, who ruminated on all the details of her life without ever becoming insufferable. She describes each person who has touched her life with offhand comments and wit, throwing out quote after “memorable” quote. (46)

Closer points out the suffering that the central character has to undergo throughout her life. Here he also describes the comments and wits for which Elaine become the prey and which remain as a lifelong trauma for her.

Another critic Stephen Ahem argues:

Margaret Atwood's novel *Cat's Eye* is a case study in the pathology of female identity construction in contemporary middle class- Canadian society. Conventional social codes and behavior are dissected in detail; in the words of one critic, the novel "reads as an anthropological catalogue of the evolution of Toronto's tribal customs from the forties to the eighties". (5)

Stephen Ahem focuses on identity. For him this novel is the construction of female identity in contemporary middle class- Canadian society.

Similarly Steven G. Keilmen says:

I will warn that some of the visual language is irreverent, and disturbing well ... that's Margaret Atwood. I don't personally like it, but that's her style. However, *Cat's Eye* has a dream-like quality that's utterly grounded. That's the brilliance of her writing. Ethereal and blunt reality all at the same time. I've never read another who manages that combination quite like her. (24)

Aven G. Keilmen shows the dream-like quality of Atwood's writing which he finds brilliant in style. Though he shows his dislikes towards the visual languages of Atwood but at the same time he praises her combination of such writing.

Another critic Carol Osborne argues:

Recovering memories of the past leads Margaret Atwood's protagonist in *Cat's Eye* to her own recovery. In having Elaine create a complete sense of her through art, dream and memory, Atwood revises the structure of the traditional bildungsroman and kunstlerroman, privileging what feminist psychoanalytic theorists have posited as a

feminine way of achieving self-knowledge. Instead of following a linear plot that emphasizes separation of the past as the mark of maturity, Atwood creates a circular structure emphasizing the protagonist's return to the scenes of her childhood and her reunion, of only in her imagination, with key figures from her past. (8)

Carol Osborne focuses on the memory. He says Elaine the protagonist of the novel constructs the self through the memory. Recovering the memories of the past leads the protagonist Elaine Risely to her own recovery.

Unlike the aforementioned critics who have opined in these ways, the present researcher will explore the suffering and the quest of identity of Elaine which will be the Radical feminist reading of the text as it dramatizes the suffocation of female self in the patriarchal world and most importantly it advocates for "female identity".

Feminism is a general term covering a range of ideologies and theories which pay special attention to women's issues. It is a discourse that involves various movements, theories and philosophies which are concerned with the issues of gender difference, advocate equality for women and campaign for women's right and interest. The term tends to be used for the women's movement, which began in the late 18th century and continues to campaign for complete political, social and economic equality between men and women. Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary defines feminism "The belief and aim that women should have same rights and opportunities as men; the struggle to achieve this aim" (466). Feminism is further defined in Feminist Theory:

As a movement seeking the reorganization of the world upon a basis of sexuality in all human relations; a movement which would reject every differentiation between individuals upon the ground of sex would

abolish all sex privileges and sex burdens and would strive to set up the recognition of the common humanity of woman and man as the foundation of law and custom. (7)

Feminists are united by the idea that woman's position in society is equal to that of men and that society is structured in such a way as to benefit men to be political, social and economic detriment of women. However, feminist have used different theories to explain these inequalities and have advocated different ways of readdressing inequalities and there are marked geographic and historical varieties in nature of feminism. From the ancient time, it has been recorded that civilization had over taken by the male deity worshiping patriarchal cultures in which men were political leaders and women were kept in subordination. In classical times and early Christian era women were excluded from public and were made subordination to men. For example, Aristotle in politics argued that women were inferior to men and must be ruled by men. He called the female is female by the virtue of certain lack of qualities. St Paul told Christian wives to obey their husband and not to speak in church. The Thomas Aquinas believed that woman is an imperfect man. Throughout most of the second millennium in most societies women were deprived of property, education and legal status. They were made the responsibility for husband if married or their father's of other male relatives if not. So feminist criticism arouse to counter such patriarchal notion. There are many women who protested against discrimination, inequality prevailed in the patriarchal society.

There are various categorization of feminism. For instances liberal feminism, radical feminism Marxist feminism, Socialist feminism, black feminism, third world feminism, postcolonial feminism and so on. Among them Radical feminism is a current feminism that emphasizes the patriarchal roots of inequality between men and

women, or, more specifically social domination of women by men. Radical feminism was first fully articulated in the late 1960s, and it argues that men's patriarchal power over women is the primary power relationship in human society. Radical Feminists argue that this power is not confined to the public world of economic and political activity, but that it characterizes all relationships between the sexes, including the most intimate. Radical feminism focuses patriarchy as a system of power that organizes society into complex of relationship producing what radical feminists claim is a 'male supremacy' that oppresses women. It challenges and overthrows patriarchy by opposing gender roles and male oppression of women and calls for a radical reordering of society. Radical feminists believed that eliminating patriarchy and other systems which perpetuated the domination of one group over another will liberate everyone from an unjust society. They also believe that the main rival of women is patriarchy, which guarantees male supremacy and the subordination of women at work and home. So they advocate lesbian relationship to free themselves from men. They argue further that differences in behavior and attributes between men and women are biologically determined rather than socially acquired, and that women embody superior qualities.

Radical feminism locate the root cause of women's oppression in patriarchal gender relations, as opposed to legal systems (as in liberal feminism) or class conflict (as in socialist feminism and Marxist feminism). Radical feminism views roots of patriarchy as dividing rights, privileges and power primarily by gender, and as a result oppressing women and privileging men. Radical feminism tends to be more militant in their approach. This type of Radical feminism too appeared in Elaine Showalter's writing. Elaine Showalter for example, describes the change in 1970s as a shift of attention from andro-text to gynotext. She coined the term gynocriticism, meaning the

gynocriticism, meaning the study of gynotext. In other words, it's a mode of criticism done by women, of the text written by women. The subject of gynocriticism as, she says "are the history, styles, themes, genres and structure of writing by women: psychodynamics of female creativity: the trajectory of the individual or collective female career: and the evolution or laws of female literary tradition" (115). She divides feminist criticism in two types, which is concerned with woman as reader and woman as a writer. Radical feminism opposes existing political and social organization in general because it is inherently tied to patriarchy. Thus, radical feminism tends to be skeptical of political action within the current system, and instead support cultural that undermines patriarchy and associated hierarchal structures. Radical feminism viewed patriarchy as a "transhistorical phenomena" prior to or deeper than other sources of oppression, "not only the oldest and most universal form of domination but the primary form" and the model for all others. Later politics derived from radical feminism ranged from cultural feminism to more synergetic politics that placed issues of class, economics, etc on a par with patriarchy as sources of oppression.

Radical feminist in western society assert that their society is a patriarchy that primarily oppresses women. Radical feminists seek to abolish patriarchy. Radical feminism posits the theory that, due to patriarchy, women have come to be viewed as the "other" to the male norm and as such have been systematically oppressed and marginalized. They also believe that the way to deal with patriarchy and oppression of all kinds is to address the underlying causes of these problems through revolution. While early radical feminism posited that the root cause of all other inequalities is the oppression of women, some radical feminists acknowledge the simultaneous and intersecting effect of other independent categories of oppression may include, but ate

not limited to, oppression based on gender identity, race, social class, perceived attractiveness, sexual orientation and ability. Radical feminists believe that men use social systems and other methods of control to keep dominant men and women suppressed. They also believe that eliminating patriarchy, and other systems which perpetuated the domination of one group over another, will set free everyone from an unjust society. They helped to make the connection that translated radical protest for a radical equality over to the struggle for women's rights; by witnessing the discrimination and oppression to which the black population was subjected, they were able to gain strength and motivation to do the same for their fellow women. They took up the cause and advocated for a variety of women's issues, including abortion, the Equal Rights Amendment, access to credit, and equal pay.

In the 1960s, radical feminism emerged simultaneously with liberal feminist and working class feminist discussion, first in the United States, then in the United Kingdom and Australia. In the United States, radical feminism developed as a response to some of the perceived failings of both New Left organizations such as the Students for a Democratic Society and feminist organizations such as NOW. Initially concentrated in big cities like New York, Chicago, Boston, Washington and on the west coast, radical feminist groups spread across the country rapidly from 1968 to 1972. Similarly in the United Kingdom, feminism developed out of discussion with in community based radical women's organizations and discussion by women within the Trotskyist left. Radical feminism was brought to the UK by American radical feminists and seized on by British radical women as offering an exciting new theory. And Australian radical feminism developed slightly later during an extended period of social radicalization, largely as an expression of that radicalization.

The ideology of radical feminism in the United States developed as a component of the women's liberation movement. It grew largely due to the influence of the civil rights movements that had gained momentum in the 1960s and many women who took the cause of radical feminism had had previous experience with radical protest in the struggle against racism. Women were historically the first oppressed group, and most widespread. It exists everywhere. Women's oppression can't be removed by social changes. Women's oppression is above class oppression. It has high levels of sexist prejudices, and causes the most suffering to victims. Women's oppression brings a level of understanding to other types of oppression. Radical feminism is said to be derived from several notions of Marxism. The main idea being used from Marxist theory is the concept of the oppressors and oppressed. Therefore radical feminists want to destroy the whole concept of the sex/gender as a class system, and wish to end the idea of difference between men and women. Radical feminism is known for its activism. There are essentially two forms of radical feminism: radical – libertarian and radical- cultural feminists. Radical libertarian feminists beliefs stem from the idea that gender is an aspect that is separated from sex, and that male dominated societies place unyielding gender rules to control women. Patriarchy is the primary oppressor, not the individual men. The deconstruction of the nuclear family in favor for the communal family and contracted motherhood would also break chains of mothering stereotypes. Radical –libertarian feminists believe women should have free rein to choose sexual preferences, essentially nothing is taboo. On the other hand, radical –cultural feminists conclude that the idea of heterosexuality is male domination over females, and it sets the stage for a number of vices such as rape, sexual harassment, abuse and prostitution. They believe women are natural mothers, and the rights of female reproductive are important. To both

classes of radical feminism, men should be educated about women and shown that their attitudes are detrimental to women. Only after this could men and women band together to change patriarchy.

Quest For Female Identity in *Cat's Eye*

The term identity has several facets of meaning. It is the conscious female's will that conceives herself to be and wills to act that gives her an individual identity. In this sense, woman is nothing else but what she makes of herself and her identity is first of all what she conceives of herself. It is whatever meaning the individual assigns to herself.

Secondly, identity is the meaning of the individual on a part of groups or communities of various kinds. In fact, even when the single individual defines herself or is somehow related to. In choosing to create or conceptualize and image an identity, the individual creates a universal image of woman in general. The individual does so in terms of common values that defines individual in her society. The individual conforms to the collective behaviors and common codes in gaining this social recognition. It is her social identity. From the social point of view the self is expressed as the group level as well as the personal. The personal identity is based on idiosyncratic life experiences and individual traits that make each individual distinct from all others. Whereas social identity refers to the identity of the individual as social member. Identity involves reference to the essential self, including values of behavior, attitude, experience and belief of the individual as a social member rather than a simple reference to mere appearance. That includes not only the individual is evaluative and effective components such as self-evaluation and self-esteem but also the society is recognition of her. The loss of one or more attributes of recognition for instances, one's job, title or prestige, definitely threatens the identity of the individual.

But in our society women have to depend upon men for their identity i.e. the social definition who they are. woman's identity is constructed by the patriarchal society. Before marriage she is known in the connection with her father and after

marriage she is known in the connection with her husband and children. Alka Saxena observes women`s position:

Women are indeed living at the mercy of men at present, a woman`s identity depends on the man who come in her life lies in the hands of her father, husband or son, depending on whether she is unmarried, married or widowed. The men determine her fate, make decisions on her behalf and decide what is good or bad for her. (23-24)

Before marriage woman is brought up by her father and later by husband. So she is known by her father before marriage and by husband after marriage. Her identity is constructed by the society but she has no her own identity. So in this novel *Cat`s Eye*, Elaine Risely subverting the patriarchal standards tries to create her own identity as a successful painter through her own action and desire.

In Margaret Atwood`s *cat`s Eye*; the protagonist of the novel Elaine Risely is the representative of all female trying to quest her identity under the oppression of male dominated society. Male dominated society has always treated woman as inferior one who has to obey her father, brother and husband. She has to remain docile and submissive and serve them. Females are limited within house hold work and are not allowed to come public place. They are exploited by the traditional social taboo and there is always power relationship between male and female in which the females are sometimes idealized but most of the time oppressed and exploited. Male dominated society has always repressed the feelings, desires and dreams of the female.

An important figure in the rise of the modern feminism was Simone De Beauvoir who wrote well known book the *Second Sex* in 1949. In this book she reads the whole human history which has done injustice to woman because woman have

been relegated to secondary position to man. A mark of otherness is one's instability to shape one's psychological, social and the cultural identity; Beauvoir analyses man's depiction of women in biology, psychoanalysis literature. Opposing the statement in the Old Testament woman is created out of man's rib. Beauvoir says:

One is not born, but rather becomes a woman. No biological, psychological or economic fate determines the figure that the human female presents on society. It is the civilization as a whole that produces this creature, intermediate between male and eunuch which describe as feminine. (301)

Paternalism regards woman as other and man as one. This mystical otherness of women has nothing to do with nature. This otherness is cultural construct. A female becomes woman after her birth. There is nothing womanish in her. It is the male discourse that defines woman giving them patriarchal identities. Women have always been thought of and treated as an object which regards woman as a second, inferior and weaker sex.

Similarly in this novel all the female characters are treated as other, inferior and weaker sex. Specially the protagonist of the novel Elaine Risely is dominated by her father, brother and husband and treated as inferior and weaker sex. She has no agency in her family. In male dominated society women's are constantly subjected to gender discrimination and differentiated as secondary object. They are not given equal rights. In this novel Elaine Risely is discriminated due to gender difference. She has not given equal rights as her brother. Elaine says:

His school is a private school for brainy boys, though not an expensive one; you get in by passing tough exams. My parents asked me little anxiously, if I want to go to a private school for a girls; they thought

I'd feel left out if they didn't make the effort for me too. I know about this school, where you have to wear kilts and play field hockey.(230)

From the above lines it can be argued that women are discriminated due to gender difference. Being a female Elaine is deprived of many things but not her brother. Elaine studies in a public school but her brother study in a private school where all kinds of facilities are available. Though her parents ask Elaine later to join private school but it was only their pretension. After high school Elaine`s brother goes to California for his further study according to his wish but Elaine study in the same place living with her parents. This shows that how patriarchal society treat female. Though Elaine has also desire to study in a foreign country but she was not allowed to go. Elaine says:

I am still living at home, which is humiliating; but why should I pay extra to live in a dormitory, when the university is in the same city? This is my father`s view, and the reasonable one. Little does he know it isn't a dormitory I have in mind, but a crumbling walk-up above a bakery or cigar store, with streetcars rumbling by outside and the ceilings covered, with egg cartons painted black. (306)

Elaine Risely has a strong desire to be painter or artist. But her parents want her to study biology. At that time painting was not taken as a good job but was only taken as a hobby. Her parents used to say that she could not make a living. Elaine parents want her to study biology but later she also joins Art College in Toronto. In the morning she used to go to biology class and in the evening she used to go to art class. But Elaine`s father would think painting was only the waste of time. Elaine says “As for my father, he thinks my talent for drawing is impressive, but wasted. It would have been better applied to cross section of stems and the cells of algae. For him I am

a botanist manque” (306). But avoiding her father`s suggestion she left her biology class and join drawing class in Toronto college of Art. She used go to the college at night class but at day time she used to do the job for her study. She has to earn money for her study herself. She used to work on a summer on making beds and cleaning toilets from which she earns money and buy materials for her painting. Though her brother studies in California without doing any work. Elaine says “Over the past summer, when I d had a job making beds and cleaning toilets at a resort in Muskota to earn extra money, I d bought small oil painting set one of the tourist shops. The names on the little tubes were like passing words: cobalt blue, Burnt umber, crimson lake” (289). These lines prove that Elaine has to do so low job cleaning toilets and making beds to earn money for her study.

The 20th century feminist writer Virginia Woolf in her book *A Room of One`s Own* argues that:

Women are supposed to be very calm generally: but women feel just as men feel; they need exercise for their faculties and a for their efforts as much as her brothers 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 pudding and knitting bags. It is thought to condemn them, or laugh at them, if they seek to do more or learn custom has pronounced necessary for the sex. (822)

Though women are supposed to be calm generally but they feel as men feel. They also need exercise for the development of their creativity as their brothers do. If a female is provided opportunities and is put in the situation as same as that of male, she can think like a male. That is there is no difference in terms of mental capacity.

But in patriarchal society women are considered to do household activities, raise child, serve family and remain away from the outside affairs like decision making, understanding politics, working for a earning money and getting a education.

Similarly Elaine Risely grows in a society, where son counts but daughter doesn't.

After Elaine's parents sell their house and move to the north of the Toronto then Elaine started to live alone by taking a rent. She gets a job in Art Department of Publishing Company. And after some years she gets a promotion in her office. Elaine says "I get a promotion. After a time I move to the Art Department of Publishing Company, where I design book covers. At night, when Jon is not there, I paint. Sometimes I forget to go to bed, and find that it has become dawn and I have to change into my work clothes and go to work" (350). Elaine is so laborious girl that she used to work day and night. Even she forgets to go the bed. Because of her hard work she soon get a promotion in her office. She never depends on others. Though her parents never support her before marriage and after marriage also she never gets support from her husband.

Virginia Woolf argues that "Lock up your libraries if you like: but there is no gate, no lock, no bolt that you can set up on the freedom of my mind" (824). She argues that though patriarchy always denied creative capacity of a female, creativity is open to all because mind doesn't know the sex. Though there are significant differences between male and female in terms of their experiences as opposite sex, if a female is provided opportunities as and is put in the situation as same as that of male, she can, think like a male. She even believes that women had always faced social and economic obstacles. Women can freely develop their artistic talents if they achieve social and economic equality with them. Similarly she argues that women do not have money and room of her own. The social and economic obstacles before them

always obstructed the women`s creativity. Patriarchal society has prevented women from realizing their creative possibilities.

Elaine has a strong desire to be a painter but she never gets a support from her parents. After marriage also she can`t get support from her husband. Though Elaine marriage with Jon who is a art student. But his mind is also guided by patriarchal norms and values so he also doesn`t like her painting. He never support or help her nor he encourages but always try to discourage her. Elaine says” He doesn`t say what he thinks of my painting, but I know any way. He thinks they are irrelevant. In his mind what I paint is lumped in with the women who paint flowers” (366). But no social, political and economic force stops her strong desire to be a painter. She becomes a famous painter. So “lock up your libraries if you like: but there is no gate, no lock, and no bolt that you can set upon the freedom of mind.

Elaine is also called the feminist painter by many people. She goes to the meeting which is held by women. She is active in every work. They have a group show of only women artist. In every show Elaine`s paint was like by every people. Their first show was held in a small defunct supermarket, west on Bloor Street. In that show there were four women in her group: Carolyn, Jody, Zillah and Elaine. That show held successfully. Elaine was also invited in take part in several groups showing mostly by women. Elaine says:

I am also invited to take part in several groups showing mostly by women: they have heard about the ink throwing, read the snotty reviews, all of which render me legitimate, although from the east. Women artist of many kinds, women of many kinds are in ferment here, they are boiling with the pressured energy explosive forces confined in a small space, and with the fervor of all religious

movements in there , purist stages. It is not enough to give lip service and to believe in equal pay: there has to be a conversion, from the heart. Or so they imply. (400)

At the same time Elaine also invited to take part in foreign country to show her art. She also received a junior grant from the government arts program. She says “I ‘ve received a junior grant from government arts program” (394). Her art become famous everywhere in national and international level. Most of her painting used to sell in higher prices. She was an independent woman. Elaine says:

[...] more of my pictures sell, for higher prices. I’m represented by two regular galleries now, one east, one west. I go to New York, briefly, leaving Sarah with my single mother friend, for a group show organized by a Canadian government which is attended by many people who work with the trade commission. I wear black, I walk on street, feeling sane in comparison with the other people there, who will all seem to be talking to themselves. I come back. (402)

This is how Elaine becomes a famous painter. Though Elaine was dominated by patriarchy but has never lost her passion to be a painter. She is also called a feminist painter by the people because mostly she used to do the women painting. In patriarchal society females works are never respect their work rather they devalue and denigrated them. Jon her ex-husband never respects her work and never understands her. So she struggles to create her identity. Though patriarchal society was a barrier for creating her identity but she became a successful to create her identity.

The term patriarchy has been derived from the Greek word patriarchs, meaning “head of the tribe”. The principle of patriarchy appears to be two fold: male shall dominate female and elder male shall dominate young. Patriarchy is a cardinal

concept of the radical second wave feminists, who define it as “system of social structure and practices in which men dominate, oppress and exploit women (Wabaly, 1990:214) The feminist concept of patriarchy as a widespread social system of gender dominance evolved in the in the context of emerging North American and Europeans women`s liberation movements and the intellectual and political climate of the late 1960s to 1970s, which emphasized large scale social system and structures- capitalism and racism. Kate Millet in her groundbreaking book *Sexual Politics* (1970) introduced the feminist use of patriarchy. Term patriarchy derives from the Old Testament paternal rule of a family, tribe or church and patriarchy is a formal sociological or anthropological category for societies organized into kingship groups and governed or dominates by the elder male (30).

According to the radical feminist, patriarchy is a “sexual system of power in which the male possess superior power and economic privilege”. Patriarchy is “the manifestation and institutionalization of male domination over women and children in the family and the extension of male dominance over women in the society in general”. It implies that male hold power in all the important institutions of the society and women are deprived of access to power. It does not imply that women are either totally powerless or totally deprived of rights, influences and resources. Perhaps the most popularized expression of the radical feminist theory of patriarchy has been in the interconnected realms of reproduction, sexuality and violence. The feminist analysis of rape radically reconceptualized men`s sexual assault on women and as a political use of violence that regulate and punished women and maintained patriarchal power. The radical feminist theory of patriarchy often are viewed as theories of ideology, analyzing the ways that male domination is fostered and perpetuated by culture, religion and science as well as socialization and psychic development. Many

of the large scale discussion of patriarchy have emphasized the role of male dominated religions, male principles and patriarchal attitudes and characterized the patriarchal world views one founded on dichotomies or binaries, hierarchies and power. Other feminist have interpreted patriarchy as one worldwide system. For these feminists, male dominance over women represents the original social hierarchy, template from which other forms of exploitation of nature can all be seen, in this vie, as predicated on an initial domination of women by men. A vision of patriarchy as global and universal also informed the efforts of first world feminists to work with women internationally, especially in the South, and to establish “global sisterhood” in a struggle against a presumably similar – if no single form of oppression by gender.

As a whole feminist scholars have defined patriarchy as the rule of father, including rule of older men over younger men and father over daughter as well as husband over wife. According to Kate Millet” patriarchy`s chief institution is the family” (33). For her, the family`s main importance is an agent of socialization, the primary social institution through which young children learn the values and expectations of their society. Thus it is within the family that boys and girls first encounter patriarchal power and the sexual division of labor, and it is through the example and domination of their parents that they are first taught the role, temperament and status appropriate to their sex.

Similarly in *Cat's Eye*, Elaine Risely also suffers from her father, Brother Stephen and later from her husband Jon. They are the representative of the patriarchy. At first Elaine`s father and brother practices a form of oppression over her. Being a girl she was always restricted from all kinds of freedom and rights but not her brother. Elaine says:

When I go out with my friends I'm supposed to be home on time. If I'm not, my father has a long conversation with me in which he explains that being a home on time is like on time for a train. If I were to be late for a train, I would miss the train, wouldn't I? [...] my father is exasperated; he jingles his keys in his pocket. "that's not the point", he says. (255)

From the above lines it can be argued that how Elaine's father discriminate Elaine being a girl. Her father wants her to do according to his wish. But her brother is not. When she goes out with her friend and sometimes become late he becomes angry. In patriarchal society the status of women is no better than slaves. Their position is relegated to the secondary position to male sex. They are not allowed to speak with their family when they like and they have no right to criticize their respected family members view. They are not permitted to go in public place and take part in any political affair. Neither are they allowed to make their decision by themselves.

Kate Millet in her *book Sexual Politics* argues that:

The relationship between the sexes has been based on power, and that they are therefore political. This power take the forms of male domination over women in all areas of life: sexual domination is so universal, so ubiquitous and so complete that it appears natural and hence becomes invisible so that it is perhaps the most fundamental concept of power. (25)

In patriarchal society, the relationship between the sexes has been based on power. Male have always power over female and they dominate female. In this novel *Cat's Eye* also the relationship between the male and female is based on power. All the male characters in this novel have a power over female characters. Elaine's father

have a power over her and her mother. Elaine`s mother have to do any work according to her husband`s wish and desire. But her father do according to his wish, never asked anything with is wife. Even Elaine`s mother buys her cloth according to her husband wish. At the same time Elaine`s father also never used to come home on time always at night with unspeakable power. Her mother has to do all the house work. Her condition is like slave. Though she work all day and night but she never have respect but always remain docile and submissive towards her husband Elaine says [...] “daytime is ruled by mothers. But fathers come out at night. Darkness brings home the fathers with their real, unspeakable power. There is more to them than meets the eye. And so we believe the belt” (176). Similarly Elaine has also to do work on others home after a school but not her brothers. Elaine says “After Christmas I`m offered a job. The job is wheeling a Brain Fin stein around the block in his baby carriage after school, for an hour or a little longer if it isn` t too cold, one day a week. For this I get twenty five cents which is a lot of money” (141). Though Elaine was born in Canadian middle class family. But she has to do works on others home after a school. Both Elaine and her brother Stephen were of same age, her brother was elder than her both used to study in the school level. So in patriarchal society female are dominated with in the family. So family is the main institution from where child is socialized.

Kate Millet in her book *Sexual Politics* argues that:

Patriarchy`s chief institution is the family. It is both a mirror of and a connection with the large society; a patriarchal unit within a patriarchal whole. Mediating between the individual and the social structure, the family effects control and conformity where political and other authorities are insufficient. As the fundamental instrument and the

foundation unit of patriarchal society the family and its roles are prototypical. Serving as an agent of the large society, the family not only encourages its own members to adjust and conform, but acts as a unit in the government of the patriarchal state which rules its citizens through its family heads. Even in patriarchal societies where they are granted legal citizenship, women tend to be ruled through the family alone and have little or no formal relation to the state. (12)

Family is the main institution of the patriarchy. It is primarily maintained by process of conditioning with childhood socialization within the family and reinforced by education, literature and religion to such an extent that its values are internalized by man and woman. In patriarchal society females are oppressed with their family member and taught to be oppressed. Likewise, in this novel Elaine's brother practices a form of oppression over Elaine when they as children play games which he always wins, he teaches her to be a victim under patriarchy and willingly conforms to this role.

Elaine says:

Stephen gives me a gun and a knife and we play war this is his favorite game. While our parents are pulling up the tent or making the fire or cooking, we snack around behind the trees and bushes, aiming through the leaves. I'm the infantry, which means I've to do what he says. He waves me forward, motions me back, and tells me to keep my head down so the enemy won't blow it off.

"You're dead", he says.

"No. I'm not."

"Yes you're they got you. Lie down". There is no arguing with him since he can see the enemy and I can't. I've to lie down on the swampy

ground, propped against stump to avoid getting to wait, until it's time for me to alive again. (26)

The above lines clear that Elaine is taught to be victim under the patriarchy. Her brother Stephen is the representative of the patriarchy where he always oppressed his sister. Elaine says:

Once in a while we fight. I don't win these fights: Stephen is bigger and more ruthless than I am, and I want to play with him more than he wants to play with me. [...] Stephen is teaching me to see in the dark, as commandos do. You never know when you might need to do this, he says. You can't use a flashlight: you have to stay still, in the darkness; waiting until your eyes becomes accustomed to light. Then the shops of things begin to emerge, grayish and glimmering and insubstantial, as if they're condensing from the air. Stephen tells me move my feet slowly, balancing on one foot at a time, careful not to step on twigs. He tells me to breathe quietly. "If they hear you they'll get you," he whispers. (27)

Similarly in this novel there is a sexual exploitation. Basically two characters Elaine and Susie were the victims of sexual exploitation. Sexual domination is one of the universal domination in the world. Females are sexually exploited even within their own family. They are sexually exploited by their husband, friends, and so on. Female are taken as a sex object. Patriarchy is based primarily up on male violence and control of women's sexuality. In patriarchal society knowingly and intentionally they take female as a sexual object and member of minority class. Due to sexual exploitation many women become mad and suicide. Kate Millet argues that "sexual domination is so universal, so ubiquitous and so complete that it appears 'natural' and

hence becomes invisible, so that it is perhaps the most pervasive ideology of our culture and provides its most fundamental concept of power”(25). Kate Millet further argues that:

Patriarchy is primarily maintained by a process of conditioning which starts with childhood socialization within the family and is reinforced by education, literature and religion to such an extent that its values are internalized by men and women alike; for some women this leads to self hatred, self –rejection and an acceptance of inferiority. Despite the success of this interior colonization, patriarchy also rest upon economic exploitation and the use or threat of force. This means that its history is a record of man`s inhumanity to woman and that the thousands of women who die in the United State each year as a result of illegal abortion are victims of the same system as the Indian woman forced to die on her husband`s funeral pyre, the Chinese woman crippled by foot- binding and the African girl whose clitoris is cut. In all societies too, patriarchy relies upon sexual violence and rape. In this context, sexual relations between men and women are but an expression of male power. (186).

Where as in *Cat`s Eye* Susie who is in love with her art teacher Josef is sexually exploited. Susie became a pregnant but when she becomes a pregnant. He does not care her. She wants to marry with him. Susie try to meet Josef and search everywhere but she didn`t get him, she become frustrated and helpless. Search him everywhere but she can` find him. Elaine was a Susie`s friend and Elaine says:

[...]“Have you seen Josef?” She asked. Her voice was plaintive, which annoyed me. I lied not well “Josef” I said, flushing. “No. why would I?”

“I just thought you might know where he is,” she said. She wasn’t reproachful, but hopeless. She walked out, slumping like a middle aged woman. With such an ass end, I thought no wonder Josef’s keeping away. He didn’t like scrawny woman but there was a limit in the other direction too. Susie was letting herself go. (339)

Though Josef was an art teacher, but in the name of love he has a sexual relationship with his own student. He thinks “women are helpless flowers or shape to be arranged and contemplated. He thinks they are smart or stupid” (338). Male thinks female as object of pleasure. They use them according to their need. In this novel Susie when she didn’t get help from Josef and she can’t think what to do and she takes abortion pills herself. Susie calls Elaine in her home but when Elaine go to Susie’s home, Susie was alone lying on the bed. Elaine says:

On the carpet there’s a dark foot print. Susie is behind the curtain closes off the sleeping area. She is lying on the bed in her pink nylon sortie nighttime, white as an uncooked chicken, eyes close. The top covers of the bed and the pink tufted spread are on the floor, underneath her, across the sheet, is a great splotch of fresh blood, spreading out like bright red wings to either side of her.[...] I wipe my mouth on Susie’s body blue towel, wash my hands in the blood spattered sink. I don’t knows what to do next; whatever this is, I don’t know what to be involved. I have the fleeting, absurd idea that if she’s

dead I will be accused of murder. I think of sneaking out of the apartment, closing, the door behind me, covering my tracks. (340)

Therefore in love crude sexual domination is involved. Love perhaps even more than child-bearing, is the pivot of women`s oppression today and that love in a patriarchal society cannot be based upon equality. Kate Mille “Love, too can be but a confidence tricks, part of patriarchal ideology designed to hide the realities of power; not until patriarchal has been overthrown and sexuality radically transformed can men and women relate in any way as equal human beings”(186). Similarly, Simone de Beauvoir says [...] “the act of love is, as we have seen, a service rendered to the man; he takes his pleasure and owes her some payment. The woman`s body is something he buys; to her he represents capital she is authorized to exploit” (450). Similarly Elaine is also sexually exploited by her art teacher Josef .Elaine has also affair with Josef .At one time he has affair with the two girl Susie and Elaine. In the name of love he has also sexual relationship with Elaine. But he never marries them. So when Elaine knows his habits she decided to leave him and marries Jon.

Existing sexuality is a symptom of patriarchal society, the product of a world in which men have authority, women are economically dependent and male needs and desires set the agenda in all spheres. Sexual behavior becomes bound up with the idea of ownership, domination and submission, and is conditioned by a man made culture in which pornography is all-pervasive, sexual violence is tolerated, women are treated as sex object and different moral codes exist for men and women. Prostitution therefore becomes a symbol of male power which is both a product of patriarchal sexual relationship and a means of legitimizing them, for through prostitution the male sex-right is publicly affirmed and men gain public acknowledgement as women`s sexual masters. Therefore sex and love between men and women cannot

exist on a basis of equality, but are likely to involve at worst rape and violent humiliation, at best emotional dependency and the neglect of women`s sexual needs.

Similarly Elaine is also dominated by her ex- husband Jon, who is the representative of patriarchy. Elaine marriage with the Jon by her choice but her marriage turns out to be a failure and unsuccessful due to carelessness, unaffectionate and dominating behavior of her husband. He always wants to have power over her and always tries to oppress her. Elaine wants freedom, love, affection and understanding from him but instead of loving and caring. He used to fight with her. He never comes home in time, if there is no body in home he comes but if there is Elaine and her daughter in home he doesn`t come. He has no any affection towards his family. Though he has born one child but he never fulfill his duty as a father.

Elaine says:

For weeks he has been more silent than usual, and homeless.

Homeless, that is when I`m away at work he is there all right, even when Sarah`s is preschool. I have begin to find signs, tiny Cleves left in my way like bread crumbs on it, two used glasses in the sink, a hair pin that is not mine, beneath a pillow that is. I clean up and say nothing, hording these things for times of greater need. (391)

Jon has extra marital affair with another girl whose name was Monika. He used to come home in mid night and sometime he does not come home also but he never informs his wife where he is. In patriarchal society husband can do whatever he like and go anywhere but in patriarchal society female have to take permission with her husband or with the family members if she has to out in her works or relative house? Her whole life is only for caring and serving him but her wishes, desires, individuality and dream are of no value. Elaine fulfills her wifely duty but her husband Jon never

fulfils his duty towards his wife. When Elaine becomes sick there is no person to give her water also. Even at that time she has to do all the works. Elaine says:

I am sick a lot myself this winter. I get her colds. I lie in bed on weekend mornings, looking up at the ceiling, my head clogged and cottony. I want glasses of ginger ale, squeezed orange juice, the sound of distant radios. But these things are gone forever, nothing arrives on a tray. If I want ginger ale I'll have to go to the store or the kitchen, buy it or pour it myself. (394).

Elaine, the narrator and the protagonist of the novel anticipated that her husband will understand and help her in pursuing her dreams but her husband behaves reversely beyond her anticipation. Her marriage becomes passionless and unhappy. He never does understand her feeling. He is always indifferent with his family. She says:

In the day time I go to work, come back, talk and eat. Jon comes over, eats, sleeps and goes away. I watch him with the detachment; he notices nothing. Every move I make is sadden with unreality. When no is around I bite my fingers. Indeed to feel physical pain, to attach myself daily life. It ticks like a clock; time inside it. It has betrayed me, and I am disgusted with it (358).

Due to her husband`s behaviors she becomes serious and ill-tempered. She used to bite her fingers but he notices nothing, he remains always indifferent. Instead of loving her he always have fight with her. If Elaine says her husband something he attacks her suddenly Elaine says “Jon throws a glass of milk the milk not the glass: he knows his own strength, as I do not. He throws the box of cheerios unopened” (366).

So in this novel all the female characters are dominated by males in one way or another. They have no agency in their family.

The emergence of the feminist theories in 1960s and its chorological evaluation as counter discourse to the existing patriarchal discourse create an environment of feminist resistance against patriarchy. Patriarchal society that restricted women`s freedom and blocked their individual development. The deeply rooted patriarchal cultural foundations of the society were systematically questioned with the birth of feminism. Before 1960s the concept of masculinity used to be taken as privileged over the feminists and feminism. In patriarchal society there is always privileged by masculinity. But after 1960s the margin has been redrawn through the emergence of methodologies which brought crisis in the traditional concept of masculinity. Because of many cause and consequences that are developed in the post war period such as late capitalism, radical feminism, practice of homosexuality and decolonization strike the normative masculinity into the state of crisis.

The birth of theories like deconstruction, and post- structuralism played vital role to blur the hierarchy between primary and secondary, male and female, center and margin, masculine and feminine etc. This kind of division also creates hierarchs one or more of the categories are privileged or devalued. Western society considers gender as a binary demarcation of human being and their opposition social practice and one as positive. The discourse of patriarchy concentrates on the gender identity and gender problems. The term ‘patriarchy’ is defined by Oxford Advanced Learner Dictionary as such” ruled or controlled by men; giving power and importance only to men.” This patriarchal society is always male centered and it excludes women from many religion and political activities and so on. Patriarchal society discriminates with in a social system on the basis of sexual membership. In binary opposition to each

other: female and male. The relationship between these categories is not an equal but hierarchal one.

In patriarchal society, the tradition of making man feel superior and woman reducing herself almost becoming an instrument of man's pleasures as well as other is embedded in our culture indeed in our psyche. Because of the strong social shackles of their upbringing and the prevalent ideas of the womanhood, they might not revolt against the situation directly. But they try to resist the subordination in their ways. Some of which are implicit action and some explicit revolt.

The major character Elaine in *Cat's Eye* doesn't surrender domination imposed upon her. She always struggles against gender discrimination and violence. The novel basically focuses upon the female character Elaine Risely who is living in a society which is rigidly patriarchal. She revolts against the patriarchal society which is rigidly patriarchal. She revolts against the patriarchal society to create her own identity. Her father, brother and husband representative of patriarchal society support and follow the orthodox against whom she revolts. Elaine says "there's nothing to worry about as far as I can see" (255). In patriarchal society daughter is not allowed to go anywhere without the permission of her parents but son goes anywhere according to his wish. Patriarchal society thinks that female should be confined only in the four walls of the house. So the protagonist of the novel Elaine Risely revolts against the patriarchal norms and values. In patriarchal society the daughter should live with her parents before marriage but Elaine's parents when they sold their home of Toronto and then moved to the north but didn't go with her parents and live alone. She says:

I don't miss my parents. Not yet or rather I don't want to be living with them. I am happy to be left to my own devices, my own messes. I

cannot get haphazardly now, snacks on junk food and take without worrying about balanced meals, go to bed when I like, let my dirty laundry rot, neglect the dishes. (350)

Elaine has started disobeying and breaking patriarchal norms and values prevailing in patriarchal society. Disobeying her parents Elaine lives alone. She goes against the patriarchal norms and values. In patriarchal society marriage is done with the hands of parents. But in this novel she herself chooses her partners and marriage him. This is also a kind of revolt against patriarchal norms and values.

Similarly, Elaine Risely also resists against her husband Jon who always wants to dominate her. After marriage he wants her to do only household activities but Elaine has a strong desire to be a painter but her husband didn't like her painting. He thinks that her paintings are irrelevant. But Elaine resists against her husband. She says "There is freedom in this: because it doesn't matter what I do? I can do what I like" (366). In patriarchal society if woman has to do any work she has to do according to the interest and desire of her husband. Simone de Beauvoir in her second sex says that "She has to please men if she is to be succeed in her life as a woman" (90). Definitely if woman has to success in here work she has to please man but Elaine doesn't do that and resist patriarchal norms and values. As a female Elaine was pushed every. Male as an oppressor and female as a oppressed. But Elaine started to resist her husband some time she resists silently and sometimes verbal attacks. Elaine says:

At first I do not win these fights, because of love or so I say to myself. If I were to win them the order of the world will be changed, and I am not ready for that. So instead I lose the fights, and master different arts. I shrug tighten my mouth in silent rube, turn my back in bed, leave

questioned unanswered. I say “Do it however you like”, provoking sullen fury from Jon. (361)

Simone de Beauvoir who is the 20th century existentialist feminist in her *Second Sex* argues that:

[...] humanity is male and man defines woman not in herself but as relative to him; she is not regarded as an autonomous being. Michelet writes: woman relative being ... ‘ And Benda is most positive in his *Rapport d` Uriel*: The body of man makes sense in itself quite apart from that of woman, where as the latter seems wanting insignificance by itself [...] Man can think of himself without man; she can't think of himself without man; And she is simply what man decrees; thus she is called ‘the sex’, by which is meant that she appears essentially to the male as a sexual being. For him she is a sex –absolute sex no less. She is defined and differentiated with reference to man and not he with reference to her; she is incidental, the inessential as opposed to the essential. He is the subject, he is the absolute –she is the other. (282)

Paternalism regards women as ‘other’. They treat women as weaker sex or second sex. So othering the female, patriarchy expects devotion from female and makes her subordination. The female is always an ‘other’ and ‘second sex’; it is a denial of selfhood or subjectivity of a female. So, as an ‘other’ she is supposed to devote herself to a male to empower the self of a male. This other is dependent, secondary and margin. For patriarchy the female as ‘other’ is necessary only to serve the self of a male, to identify the male. Women are considered as the essential ‘other’.

Patriarchal notion expects women to be ‘other’ and object. Beauvoir argues that male

is considered as 'self' and subject but female is treated as 'other' and 'object'. Male is considered as subject who is assumed to represent humanity in general.

Similarly in this novel, all the female characters such as Elaine, Susie, Mrs. Smeath and Elaine's mother are regarded as weaker or second sex. But they resist against male dominated society. At the same time Elaine resist against her husband. Elaine says:

[...] I threw things at this man. I threw a glass ashtray, a fairly cheap one which didn't break. I threw a shoe (his) and handbag (mine), not even snapping the handbag shut first, so that he was showered with a metal rain of keys and small change. The worst thing I threw was a small portable television set, standing on the bed and heaving it at him with the aid of the bouncy springs, although the instant I let fly. (283)

The above lines clear that how Elaine resists against her husband. She is aggressive towards her oppressive husband and resist in many ways. In patriarchal society women are treated as commodities. Man considers himself as prestigious and active whereas woman is treated as passive. The sense of 'other' is not natural but defined by self. In fact, concept of gender is based on male ideology, is created out by male dominated society too. Simone de Beauvoir in her argues that:

the relationship of the two sexes is not quite like that of two electrical poles for man represent both the positive and the natural, as in indicated by the common use of man to designate human being in general; whereas woman represents only negative, defined by limiting criteria, without reciprocity. In the midst of an abstract discussion it is a vexing to hear a man say: 'you think thus and so because you are a woman': but I know that my only defence is to reply: 'And you think

thus and so because it is true, ‘thereby removing my subjective self from the argument. It would be out of question to reply: ‘And think the contrary because you are a man’, for it is understood that the fact of being a man is no peculiarity. A man is right being a man but it is woman who is wrong. (282)

In patriarchal society woman is defined as a negative but man as a positive. A man is right being a man but it is a woman who is a wrong. In patriarchal society myth is created about women in different sectors like religion, philosophy, science, literature etc. The nature of patriarchy is ego centric which creates myth about women and these myths are just created to rule and subordinate women. Male define themselves as transcendence, active, clever, independent, subject, bright side etc where as they define female as passive, weak, dependent, object, immanent, mysterious dark side like commodities. Generally such myths are created to dominate the women. Similarly in this novel also Jon follows the same myth which is created by the male to dominate the female. Elaine says:

Jon sits in the living room, having beer with one of the painters. I am in the kitchen, slamming around the pots “what’s with her?” says the painter. “She is mad because she’s a woman”, Jon says. This is something I haven’t heard for years, not since high school. Once it was shaming things to say, and crushing to have said about you, by a man. It implied oddness, deformity, sexual malfunction. (366)

But Elaine resists against such myth. She says “I go to the living room doorway. “I ‘m not a mad because I ‘m a woman,” I say. I ‘m mad because you’re a asshole” (366). In this way Elaine becomes unable to stop her indignation and starts to quarrel with her husband. She starts sudden attack on him. She in her later age lived a rebellious life,

she rebels against her patriarchal norms and values to show that she too exist and she too have identity. She too has her own feelings, desires, and longing but her husband always restricts her feelings and desires. So she decides to leave him and try to create her own identity. She says:

In the morning after he leaves, I bundle Sarah into the stroller and take some of my grant money out of the bank. I don't where to go. All I can think of is away. I buy tickets to Vancouver, which has the advantages of being warm, or so I suppose. I stuff our things into duffel bags, which i `ve bought at Army Surplus. (397-398)

In this way Elaine resists against traditional norms and values and fought for her own identity and gender equality. She cross the limitation created by the males in the society for her own identity. She longed for her freedom through the great emancipation. She makes a decision to leave Jon and decided to go to Vancouver with her daughter Sarah. For successful marriage life wife and husband both should have better understanding of each other`s interest, desires and feelings. As such qualities are absent in relationship of her husband and Elaine. She was always oppressed and victimized physically and mentally by her husband where she didn't get her identity .She has no agency in her family so she decided to leave Jon and live alone for her identity and individuality. She says "It`s the city I need to leave as much as Jon. I think it's the city that killing me" (397). Though her husband comes to visit for reconciliation but Elaine divorce with him. So Elaine lives a rebellious life against the patriarchal rules. In patriarchal society a woman is not allowed to leave home and is not allowed second marriage but Elaine is against the traditional norms and values. In Vancouver she marriages with Ben. In this way she resists against the traditional norms and values.

Elaine`s Resistance Against Patriarchy and Emancipation: Conclusion

After analyzing the novel in detail, the researcher comes to the conclusion that Margaret Atwood`s *Cat`s Eye* deals with search for woman`s identity. It basically focuses on female character Elaine Risely who is a representative of all female in patriarchal society who is prevented from creating her own identity. She has a strong desire to be a painter but patriarchy always restricts her creativity. Elaine`s brother, her father, the fathers of her childhood friend, her husband Jon and her art teacher Josef all can be seen as the representative of patriarchy as they are portrayed as a oppressive, violent and superior to the women around them.

Elaine`s brother practices a form of oppression over Elaine when they as children play games which he always wins; he thus teaches her to be victim under the patriarchy, and Elaine willingly conforms this role. Her father also always tries to oppressive her being a girl. She was not given equal rights as her brother. Her brother was sent in private school where she was sent in public school. At the same time the father of Elaine`s childhood friend is too describe as oppressive and violent heads of their family. Similarly Elaine`s husband Jon also practices patriarchal influences over Elaine as their relationship and subsequent marriage are based upon social norms of patriarchy where Elaine is expected to care of home, and family while Jon has more freedom and has the right to criticize Elaine, but not vice versa. He never understands the feeling of women and goes to fulfill the social expectations with in the form of patriarchy. He does not take the responsibilities towards his family. He has an extra marital affair with another girl and is indifferent to his family. Elaine wants understanding, communicative and affectionate husband but her husband turns out to be uncommunicative and unaffectionate. The qualities like mutual understanding, absence of male chauvinism, domination and self-centeredness creates a harmonious

husband wife relationship but such things are absent in the relation between Elaine and Jon. He always forces her to follow male ideologies.

The protagonist of the novel Elaine Risely, however, does not surrender to domination imposed upon her. She has strong desire to create her own identity as a painter rather than sheltering under other`s identity thus she later becomes a successful painter. She rebels against her parents, against their ironfisted patriarchal rules. Similarly she rebels against her husband who always wants her to follow male ideologies and restricts her creativity. She struggles through her life to show that she too exists and she too has her own feelings, desires and longings. So she decides to leave Jon and go to the Vancouver with her daughter Sarah. She starts to live with her daughter only and becomes a famous painter. Though her husband goes for the reconciliation with her but she divorces with him who never understands her and then she gets married with another man Ben.

This study concludes that to break the walls and bonds of patriarchy is not an easy task: it proves that female can also do what male can do and create other potentiality as male do. Patriarchal society always takes female as object whereas male as subject. Basically in this novel females are victimized by domestic and sexual violence but they resist against such violence At the same time this study explores the woman`s strong desire for creating her own identity through her own action and desire and getting emancipation. It also shows that consciousness in women to liberate themselves from the male created notion which subjugates women character like Elaine and Susie either through the silence or verbal attack or going against conventional norms of society.

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