

Tribhuvan University

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Agency in Helen Benedict's *Sand Queen*

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A Thesis Submitted to the Central Department of English, T.U.

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In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the

Degree of Master of Arts in English

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Salina Siwakoti

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Roll No.: 595

T.U. Regd. No.: 6-2-826-56-2010

Central Department of English

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Kirtipur, Kathmandu

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Salina Siwakoti

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Agency in Helen Benedict's *Sand Queen*

Abstract

Analyzing Helen Benedict's Sand Queen (2011), the present research claims that agency plays a vital role in shaping and articulating choices of the people even in the most uneven of the times like the war. Making a detailed study of two of the characters in the context of Iraqi war, this paper attempts to see the ways in which their choices are negotiated in the critical time. Kate is an American soldier in the prison guard-guard. Kate who became friend with Naema, an Iraqi medical science student. This study focuses on the way people face their bad times during the war. It shows the consequences of war -and their effect in the individuality of people involved in it. Benedict presents the real picture of war and its consequences penalty. By applying the theories of inner psychology as developed by John Locke, Immanuel Kant, and Charles Taylor, this study presents approaches Kate and Naema as the major characters who assert themselves amid the war.

Key words: Agency, Free Will, War and Gender, Iraqi War, Arab Women, Choice

This research focuses on the ways people find themselves asserting amid the most uneven circumstances. Discussing on war and its consequences in the formation of agency in people, it analyzes Helen Benedict's perceptions of Iraqi war in which the interaction between the Islamic people and -the US soldiers takes place. This research studies war and its consequences. Very abruptly you have gone into the different sentence: how do you connect? War has become a great problematic reason to American soldiers during war time and to those Iraqi people. Because of war people had to face many problems like rape, homelessness, sickness, mental disorder, sexual harassment, and suicidal case. Soldiers of the time have also faced the

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consequences of the war. The primary characters in the text are presented in the form of Kate, Yvette, and third eye. They undergo the horrors of sexual exploitation during

war time. ~~SALINA, WHAT IS THE TOPIC OF THE THESIS? ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT THE NEGATIVE ATTRIBUTES OF THE WAR OR AGENCY? YOU NEED TO REWORK ON THIS PARAGRAPH TO SUIT YOUR TITLE~~ Yet, they decide to do an agreement to help each other for their personal benefit. Kate agrees to help Neama to learn the Neamas's native language, wants her as a translator whereas Neama compromises to know about her father and brother's condition in the camp. ~~certain things and refuse to do certain other things~~. What are the factors leading to determining their choice? How do they make their decision? This research study attempts to explore the answer through the analysis of *Sand Queen*.

As a machine to rob away their dignity, war punishes the innocent characters like brother and father of Naema. She loses her control after her father and brother are captured by soldiers during war. They have faced the traumatic conditions and touch ~~her~~ ~~thing~~ ~~I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT ADJECTIVE IS THIS~~ inside the prison and triggered time and again. They are treated in a harsh manner ~~so badly~~ ~~SALINA, YOU ARE SO JUDGMENTAL. WHY GIVE SUCH WORDS THAT SHOW YOUR ATTITUDE?~~ inside the prison during the war. Naema and her family are from Iraq. Naema's father is captured by Saddam's soldiers and treated as animal before American soldiers capture them. The happenings during that time is ~~were~~ so merciful ~~merciful~~. ~~YOU MUST STOP SUCH JUDGMENT IN YOUR WRITING. WHERE DO YOU FIND THINGS MERCIFUL? YOU ARE A RESEARCHER? DON'T MAKE CLAIM WITHOUT ANY PROOF. YOU MUST HAVE FELT KINDNESS TO THOSE PEOPLE BUT I DON'T FIND THEM INTERESTING AS~~

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~~YOU DO AND I CANNOT BELIEVE IN YOU. YOUR WRITING MUST BE ABLE TO GIVE YOU CERTAIN SENSE OF JUDGMENT BUT YOU SPEAK TO LOUDLY AND DON'T ALLOW OTHERS TO JUDGE.~~

Life ~~was~~^{is} pathetic ~~JUDGEMENT~~ due to threat posed by the soldiers during war. Naema suffers many ~~WHAT ARE THEY? HOW MANY?~~ changes in her life since the war began. There ~~is~~^{was} ~~IN LOVE OF PAST TENSE? YOU MUST BE ABLE TO TELL THE HAPPENINGS IN NOVEL OR MOVIE OR A PAINTING OR A DRAMA IN ETERNAL PRESENT TENSE/ YOU CANNOT NARRATE THE THINGS LIKE IN YOUR LIFE/ PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION TO WHAT YOU HAVE WRITTEN WHEN YOU BRING REFERENCE FROM THE STORY~~ no any color in her life. She felt that her life has become worst than that of before. Earlier, ~~b~~^P Because of U S invasion her family was forcefully shifted to rural area at their grandmother's home. When they moved the scene of the devastation created by war throughout the journey made them afraid hopeless.

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Naema in this novel talks ~~THIS IS GOOD BECAUSE YOU USE ETERNAL PRESENT TENSE TO TALK ABOUT THE EVENTS IN THE NOVEL~~ about how ~~S~~^{sad} ~~YOUR JUDGMENTS ARE THE MOST HORRIBLE THINGS/HOW SAD=HOW SAD? HOW DO I UNDERSTAND THE INTENSITY OF THIS SADNESS? YOUR NASTY JUDGMENT KILLS ME. I REALLY DON'T TOLERATE THE LANGUAGE WHEN YOU USE SUCH HORRIBLE ADJECTIVES~~ dam Hussein rule has affected her life. She also talks ~~GOOD~~ about the situation that her father had faced when he had been imprisoned by Saddam's his regime. Her father (Halim Mohammad al- Jubur) aged fifty four and had two heart attacks already. She reveals that her father cannot live in the camp with those hundreds of man. Her brother (Jaki Jassim) is a child. These Americans understands

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nothing. The novel portrays Iraqi people as terrorist during the war War during that

time shows Iraqi people as terrorist. The U.S military think ~~sought~~ BAD: USE

~~PRESENT TENSE~~ Iraqi people are terrorists. They think ~~thought~~ ~~thought~~ BAD: USE

~~PRESENT TENSE~~ them that they are ~~were~~ ~~thought~~ BAD: USE ~~PRESENT TENSE~~

born to do terrorist activities in the country. Every IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE

~~EVERY IS SINGULAR AND IT TAKES SINGULAR NOUN; WHY DO YOU USE~~

~~THIS WORD AS PLURAL THING, YOU HORRIBLE GIRL~~ Iraqi citizen is ~~people~~

~~were meant~~ ~~thought~~ BAD: USE ~~PRESENT TENSE~~ viewed -as terrorist ~~for~~ by these

American YOU NEED TO RETHINK USING DIFFERENT WORD IN THIS

~~SENTENCE~~

Soldiers ~~soldiers~~. The U.S troops had no mercy for any Iraqi people. FOR

~~SUCH SENTENCE, RESEARCHERS ARE SENT TO JAIL/ YOU WRITE FUNNY~~

~~THINGS AS WELL/ PLEASE REWORK ON THIS SENTENCE. They were~~ ~~thought~~

~~BAD: USE PRESENT TENSE~~ commanded to shoot those people.

Not only Naema, Kate who is American soldier also faces s ~~d~~ ~~thought~~ BAD:

~~USE PRESENT TENSE~~ the horrendous effects of war. It shows GOOD VERB that

war had ~~thought~~ BAD: USE ~~PRESENT TENSE~~ created ~~problem~~ too ~~WHICH~~

~~PREPOSITION IS BETTER: TO OR FOR? THINK AND JUDGE PROPERLY~~

soldiers who fight GOOD VERB at those time. Kate is nineteen years old U S

Soldier: she is Catholic who is assigned prison guard duty in southern Iraq. Kate has

suffered from ~~many~~ from many ups and down upheavals FOR UPS AND DOWNS I

~~WOULD USE "UPHEAVALS"~~ during war time THIS IS NO NEW THING:

~~EVERYBODY DOES IT DURING THE MOST DISTURBING TIME.~~ War also

created ~~s~~ ~~thought~~ BAD: USE ~~PRESENT TENSE~~ mental sickness in her life. Trauma

and fear can be seen CAN YOU MAKE THIS SENTENCE ACTIVE? within her. She

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is also ~~was thought BAD: USE PRESENT TENSE~~ ~~the~~ a victim of sexual harassment

which drives ~~GOOD VERB~~ ~~her~~ to traumatic condition. ~~Kate becoming of Robert~~

~~shows how much war can affect people~~ ~~WRONG SENTENCE CONSTRUCTION:~~

~~YOU SAY SOMETHING WHICH YOU DON'T MEAN:~~ Sergeant Kormic has

~~made~~ ~~GOOD VERB~~ ~~rule~~ different ~~rule~~ for Kate. He wants her to work all the time

during duty hours. There ~~iwere limited~~ ~~was thought BAD: USE PRESENT TENSE~~

~~no any~~ doctors, medicines and a hospital so the death rate ~~is~~ ~~was thought BAD: USE~~

~~PRESENT TENSE~~ high. By bringing characters like Kate, ~~Helen Benedict~~ ~~writer~~

~~THIS IS A SPECIFIC WRITER: YOU MEAN TO REFER TO BENEDICT HELEN.~~

~~SO YOU NEED TO USE ARTICLE "THE"~~ wants ~~YOU KNOW THE USE OF~~

~~VERB: SINGULAR VERB IS 'WANTS' NOT 'WANT'~~ to show that war ~~has impact~~

~~on both~~ ~~the invader and the invader~~ ~~can affect~~ ~~IS THIS RIGHT~~ ~~invaders also~~. There

are other characters who suffered ~~thought BAD: USE PRESENT TENSE~~ due to war:

~~like: †Third~~ ~~eye~~ ~~and~~; Yvette, ~~etc~~ ~~I HATE ETC IN RESEARCH PAPER. ONLY~~

~~THOSE STUPID PEOPLE WRITE WORDS THAT AVOID SPECIFICITY. IF YOU~~

~~HAVE ONE OR TWO THINGS, WRITE THEM SPECIFICALLY. BUT DON'T~~

~~WRITE ETC WHICH MEANS I DON'T KNOW FURTHER THAN THIS:~~ Third

~~Eye~~ commits suicide ~~GOOD VERB~~ due to harassment by own military friend

~~kormic~~ ~~Kormic~~ ~~PROPER NOUN MUST BEGIN WITH A CAPITAL LETTER~~ and

Boner.

This paper ~~shows the~~ ~~explores~~ ~~the real face~~, consequences, ~~hidden~~ ~~and hidden~~

facts of the war which ~~was thought BAD: USE PRESENT TENSE~~ ~~is~~ ~~hardly~~ ~~not~~

presented in mainstream history. Exploration of happenings and incidents are ~~WHAT~~

~~IS THE KEY TERM IN THIS NOUN PHRASE: EXPLORATION OR HAPPENING~~

~~AND INCIDENTS (I AM AMAZED TO SEE BOTH HAPPENINGS AND~~

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~~INCIDENTS BEING USED TOGETHER) I WANT YOU TO BE A THINKING HUMAN. SUBJECT VERB AGREEMENT IS VERY ESSENTIAL TO GET THE DEGREE. IT IS SOMETHING I'M TRYING TO TEACH YOU~~ shown by this

research during the war which was not shown by mainstream. ~~This paper attempts to~~

~~discover that trauma can affect both invaders and native, NOT ACCEPTABLE~~

~~Internal conflict and threatens can lead people to traumatic condition. REWORK ON~~

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~~THIS SENTENCE War doesn't DID I ALLOW YOU TO USE CONTRACTION IN~~

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~~YOUR WRITING? YOU DID NOT LISTEN TO ME CAREFULLY. IN~~

~~RESEARCH, YOU USE FORMAL LANGUAGE AND YOU MAINTAIN~~

~~CONSISTENCY IN WRITING. BE CAREFUL. I TELL YOU THIS THING SO~~

~~THAT YOU WON'T REPEAT THE MISTAKE IN FUTURE come peacefully;~~

~~rather It~~ comes as a storm and gives wound to normal people. War has made people

helpless. War ~~brings about create SUBJECT VERB AGREEMENT IS BROKEN~~

destruction, ~~kills destroys destroys SUBJECT VERB AGREEMENT MAINTAINED~~

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social life, ~~promotes, promotes disorder and, violence, and makes people GOOD~~

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homeless. Many people are forced to leave their home town ~~which triggers DOES IT?~~

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~~them and takes them to stage of trauma. HAHHAH!!!!~~

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This study aims at exploring structural causes that leads to a situation like ~~war~~

~~war as such~~. The actual incidents during war are ~~rarely not~~ presented in mainstream

history in that the people fail to realize such things vividly and such presentation of

events shocks the people. This research study sheds light on the hidden faces of war

through the exploration of the hidden. Along with this it, is assumed to help other

research enthusiasts and general readers to deal with complexities created by war and

get to understand the factual causes and consequences leading to such incidents.

War as such brings ~~damages~~ War-damages in an unexpected amount, is dangerous for all of us. War is never heard progressive rather it is full of atoms. It ~~War~~ breaks the mutual relationship among people. War creates pathetic condition of every victim, by making people homeless, shattering everything present in the place, separating family member, relatives, and the loved ones. ~~War makes people homeless. Everything gets shattered by war. War separates our family member, relative and our loved ones.~~ Hidden sense of loss is triggered because of all the reasons mentioned above. For example, war can affect not only single people ~~individuals of a nation but the whole nation as a singular entity.~~ ~~but entire nation too.~~ War is source of cultural trauma too. During war, death of people value does not count ~~is a regular act that brings no shocks and surprises. The,~~ constructions are destroyed due to atoms and bombing in devastation. People of war time are the real witness of every traumatic action possible in human life.

This research focuses on free will of the two protagonists of different tribes. The first one is an ~~One as~~ American ~~soliders~~ soldier named ~~as~~ Kate, who she guards the prisoners; and, the other is an Iraqi girl, Naema, who. ~~She~~ feels her life miserable after her father and brother are captured in the war. *Sand Queen* shows the war between two countries. Likewise, it also shows the disagreement and conflict between two cultures. War is the main cause behind the traumatic condition of Iraqi people and soldiers who go to are ~~fighting~~ in the battlefield. People are forced to leave their hometown due to war. ~~The harsh reality has not been presented.~~ So, this study ~~this study~~ study shows the primary source of suffering in wartime.

Famous 2011 novel *Sand Queen* ~~was is~~ written by Helen Benedict. As a female, she raises the ~~voice in novel writing of women at war.~~ She she gives voice to marginalized ~~women at war and silence in the margins~~ of society. She is both

journalist and novelist in the US. Also known as the best writer for her writing on social injustice, she sheds light on the issues ignored in the mainstream social, political discussion. She was bBorn on November 5, 1952 in London. Her to parents who were American anthropologists,anthropologists; she was raised partly in London and partly in California as she attended university in both place and achieved her Master's degree from University. She isNow a professor at Columbia University. sShe is author of seven novels, five nonfictions, and a play. This novel is set in 2003, at the beginning of the war in Iraq, in the military as OIF (Operation Iraqi Freedom). She has won many prizes. She is the prize winning author of twelve books. Three books at which she got prize are of Iraq war. Her writing mostly foeused-focuses on women soldier, about their sexual assault during war time. Novels such as, wolfWolf season-Season (2017, Bellevue), Sand Queen (2011, soho press), The lonely-Lonely soliderSlider (2009). she

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She was awarded for her play by human rights arts. She was awarded from other books too. Like: exceptional merit in media, national women's political caucus, the ken book, Arsonon award for social justice etc.

Helen Benedict's-SandBenedict's Sand Queen pictures the faces of war, bringing the two stories of female as protagonist, (kate-Kate and Naema). It also comes up with two races that have no understanding between each other and war between two countries. Kate is nineteen years old an American soldier, a catholic, assigned to guard prison duty in southern Iraq. The other is an Iraqi noncombatant, Naema. She is twenty two year medical science student living in Baghdad whose life is horribly influenced e by the US invasion. Her father and brother are captured. She was shattered after her father and brother are taken away in the custody of the US army.

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This novel explores the horror and terror of the Iraq war on women, both soldiers and civilians. ~~by Sand Queen~~ merges conventions from two traditions. This fiction is the first war (antiwar) fiction where ~~we find the~~ protagonist is a soldier. ~~The~~ ~~a~~ Author ~~also~~ has ~~also~~ tried to present a nonfiction version of Iraq war through women's point of view. Entering in the chapters feels ~~as if~~ suffocation has taken a birth because ~~we find the~~ physical surrounding ~~is viewed as~~ miserable ~~thing: one finds~~ ; the continuous heated blasts of grey sand, hatred of civilians and constant suspicion that ~~don't do not~~ see a rescuer. *Sand Queen* follows three narrative threads: the war experience of Kate Brady, an American soldier serving in Iraq as ~~military an army~~ ~~woman~~, the disrupted life of Naema, an Iraqi medical ~~science~~ student who has become as refugee by American soldiers, ~~and the struggle of Naema's people to set themselves free.~~

Kate and Naema meets at the prison camp in the novel as Naema searches for her missing father and brother, who are in the prison of American soldiers that is guarded by Kate. This encounter binds their narratives. Kate's story shows the pathetic condition of women ~~soldier's soldiers:~~ ; Naema ~~story~~ and Kate's ~~stories~~ ~~is~~ ~~somehow emerge~~ parallel ~~of to those of the at~~ civilizations that must accommodate the violence of war. The ~~clashes~~ of two cultures is shown through characters like Naema and Kate. ~~Each of the character in this regard represents her culture: the West and the Middle East. Their experience as women in culture, instinct in different gender identity.~~ Kate Brady is shown as a model figure of trauma experience. She ~~does~~ not only experienced ~~from war:~~ ~~she also suffers from loss of illusions, expectations, her identity and efficiency as a soldier in the war. but also from the happenings and from the shattering of her illusions about her identity and efficiency as a soldier.~~

The opening scene of “The biggest frigging spider” breaks the stereotypical role of Kate, shows Kate as not as stereotypical female. She is not afraid of spider; she has already killed it and hung it over her bed. By doing such activity she wants to warn male soldiers who teases her time and again. The Description of the desert wind as “a creepy, skin pricking sound” The wind and shadows brings fears, desires, and terrors. She and other two women had to adjust with other thirty-nine man in her troops at the middle of desert. Those mean in troops regularly harass her. One of the military commanders from their troop ha issued order that women cannot walk during night. Two male soldiers attempt to sexually assault Kate during the day at her duty time. She is tortured time and again. After many attacks Kate had to depend upon other male member for her rescue to be rescued. She was shifted at the checkpoint to the position of prison guard in a tower all day long. Kate is frustrated of those prisoners who throw stones and pebbles towards at her. She is tired of those comrades who had find the subject matter for gossips in about the stories associated with her, her. Kate understands her experience and work through these mansmen. She finds her boyfriend Jimmy Jimmy dating with someone else after she resumes control of her actions to go away from hospital and catch bus to Jimmy Jimmy whom she loves. She now realizes that she joined joins military force in order to do something impressive achieve remarkable things in life, to earn respect and become stronger; however, such but dreams keep her aloof from her daily reality, people, and her desire to be in the world, those dreams that she had made her aloof. Her decision of becoming soldier causes made her victim of mental illness which derives her to become as a robotic human working day and night in the battlefield.

Unlike Kate, story Naema’s story evokes fear, tears, and horror throughout the novel. Her narrative starts a week after her family flees to Baghdad to her

Comment [K. Phuyal1]: This is clumsy construction of your sentence. This sentence has so much information that the writer of the sentence is unable to control all the noun phrases with the verb in the middle. Please try to simplify the sentence and keep in mind that such practice makes you a weak writer.

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grandmother's house in the countryside. Naema gets affected after her father and younger brother ~~were are~~ detained by American soldier. She is silenced ~~and there:~~ she begs to leave her younger brother alone, ~~but they ignore her.~~ Naema, her mother, and grandmother become restless after Naema's brother and father are arrested by the US army and detained in the barrack, captured away. Kate meets Naema at camp Bucca, a prison in Iraq. Naema and other people visit this camp daily in a camp in search of their relatives ~~ownes~~ captured by the American army. Naema comes close to Kate as she starts working as a bridge between the native and the foreign through translation, being her translator. Kate knows that Naema has good English skills and her ~~or~~ medical knowledge ~~background~~ becomes helpful in understanding ~~to those~~ people what they say about. They ~~form a contract~~ make a deal between each other and make a relation based in needs of the war: Kate needs Naema for her safety in a foreign land while Naema requires Kate's assistance to get to meet her people in foreigner's custody.

~~Struggle of both women can be seen in the war. Kate helps Naema in order that she wants to do something good for Naema's family.~~ Kate agrees to let Naema act as a translator because she provides information of ~~those~~ the masses nearby her prison gates. The uncertain future of both women (Kate and Naema) can be seen in the backdrop of Iraqi war. Naema's family is threatened by war time and again. Naema's existence becomes ~~more~~ deeply intertwined with her mother and grandmother. Naema's mother reads the letter that her husband ~~'s~~ wrote when Naema's father was imprisoned under Saddam Hussen. Naema's mother wants Naema to read her husband's love letter. But, Naema ~~ignores~~ refuses to ~~to~~ read the letter because she ~~cannot~~ 4 read of her father's suffering.

Divided over several sections, Benedict weaves a story of hope in *Sand Queen*
~~female character end up dead by enemy combat or kills them or gets physiology disorder like Kate.~~

Benedict's novel consists of many themes like:

~~Theme of domination of language~~

~~Theme of war~~

~~Theme of sexism~~

~~Theme of cultural conflict~~

~~Theme of racism~~

~~Theme of self respect~~

~~Theme of bond~~

~~Theme of leadership etc.~~

Sand Queen ~~by Benedict~~that is a story of hope. It presents gives courage amid
~~the dire situation of and image of war to every reader.~~ The struggle from the rare point
of view of women at war is visualized in the narrative in order to show
interconnectedness between women across cultures and their ability to retain hope
even during the most uneven happenings in humanity.~~early.~~ Nineteen years ~~old~~ Kate
Brady ~~joined~~joins in the military service to earn dignity and self-respect in society for
herself and her family.~~do something in the society/family for self respect.~~ But instead
of ~~such~~what she seeks for, she finds herself lost in the corner of the desert ~~inat~~ Iraq in
2003.

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Kate is found guarding the prison of American ~~army~~armys. ~~There~~ Kate meets
~~there~~ Naema who is an Iraqi medical science student. Her father and little brother
(Zaki) have been detained in the army camp. Kate and Naema promises to help each

other. They have a kind of contract in-between because Kate does not understand the language spoken by the visitors around the camp: Naema agrees to work as Kate's translator. There come many Iraqi people whose families are detained in the camp by Americans. Those people come in search of their family members. These people want to know the situation of the detainees in the camp, and to know how they are. As a prison guard, Kate is supposed to answer a lot of questions from the native people. Why they are kept there? When they will free them? Many of them are kept there with no reason. Innocents are detained by Americans. Though they are angry, Kate ~~doesn't~~ does not understand their anger because she does ~~not~~ understand what they are talking about. ~~Here,~~ the problem ~~can see~~ of the language among Iraqi people and American soldier Kate Brady is observed in such situation. In fact, this situation demands communication channels that can connect the native with with foreigner. But when she meets Naema and finds her English fluent, she wants her as her translator. Naema comes up with certain agreement that if Kate looks after her father and brother in the cell, she ~~agrees to work as~~ will be working as her translator to Kate. Naema tells that those mass around camp are very angry and they want their members back: they ask when their people will be set free from the detainment, they are asking that when they are coming back etc. These Iraqi people ~~will not~~ do not go away until their family members return from the cell ~~their family.~~ The conflict between Iraqi people and Americans appears in such situation as a form of resistance from the local people, can be seen here. Although Naema suffers from bombing, starvation and loss of her family members and home she still struggles to survive.

— ~~Both Here, two women~~ “Kate and Naema”² struggle to survive and hold the situation of position and people whom they are in love. Both of them come to have with drastic and unforgettable effect on their life. By bringing Kate and Naema,

the writer wants to show the contrasting experiences of two women's intention in a war. ~~The happenings after women enter in military force have been shown.~~ Men's treatment towards women is also presented in the novel in that the men enforce physical domination on the women in general. The complexities of the war are enhanced when such domination from the men is overly exercised. ~~has presented. We call feel the physical domination of men towards women during war time.~~ Kate as female soldier has to faced the harsh conditions ~~at the~~ camp at Bucca. She has to work for long hours ~~ed so long~~ in the camp. She is forced to serve for about twelve to fifteen long hours of duty in a single shift, without any sleep for such a long period of time every day. ~~The shifts were of twelve to fifteen hours long. So, she could not sleep.~~ The temperature of sandy desert was so high. There were thirty-three dirty men's in her troops with whom she had to adjust in a ~~camp.~~ They snored all night long and fart at the same time. Few miles away, ~~that~~ the prisoners used to chant and scream whole night. The presentation of horror in human life portrays real nature of war in general.

Kate's sergeant Kormic chooses Kate to handle those local Iraqi ~~c~~Civilians, thinking that the sight of a female soldier will win the heart and mind of others. Kate sSurvives even while by struggling her boring long days in tower by guarding ~~the~~ over the endless stretch of sand that follows to the horizon. Kate tries to keep the mutual attachment with other two women in her troops. ~~They are Yvette and Third eye. These women-~~ suffer in the ~~war~~war; they were sexually harassed by their own troops ~~are also sufferer who commits suicide because of touchier.~~ They work in ~~at~~ the beginning work together for their safety but come with little success. This does not count much in their life. ~~which doesn't count to~~

~~them~~ They are defensive; yet, they are ~~and~~ aware of what they are. Kate, Yvette, and Third eye always walk on eggshells. They are very much conscious about what they do, what they say, and how they appear. These things are perceived by the men's.

Working as a woman in the battlefield in itself is a horrible experience.

— A turning point in the novel occurs when a sergeant attempts to rape Kate.

After the case, Kate becomes like a robot due to the sexual harassment turns into a in the camp robot. ~~There happened a conflict which made a sergeant to attempt a rape to Kate which shows the turning point on becoming a robot.~~ In other words, her life becomes so mechanic that she cannot live fully like an individual human being.

The free will and the right to choice are not much meaningful in her life. As an agent,

her self gets narrowed down. She experiences several emotional attacks compounded

by the hardship of the military ground. Once, Kate decides to report about her fellow

soldier to the senior officer. But later, she does not report, taking it as worthless act to

report to the officer, thinking it becomes worthless. Men in her troops call her Sand

Queen. She ~~is~~ gets this name named Sand Queen because she is only limited option of

their entertainment. She is not beautiful; still, the army men admire her in the desert

battlefield of Iraq, not through she is not beautiful.

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On other the side, Naema wants to know the status of her father who was

imprisoned and tortured by those rules of Saddam Hussein. Kate later find both

Naema's father and brother. Also, her brother Zaki ~~Though Naema's quest is fulfilled,~~

Kate has much more to suffer. She cannot keep her boyfriend satisfied because of the

distance, ~~who loved playing guitar, Kate later meets both of them but she becomes~~

surprised on meetings. Kate boy friend cannot maintain the love because of long term

distance. So, s She finds him with another girl. On the other hand, Naema gets her

boyfriend Khalil back. In fact, Naema and Kate appear as two fulfilling selves to

each other. Both of them suffer in their own ways during the war; however, the way they assert their agency in the quest of meaningful life really matches in that they supply the other of what is missing in their experience as a woman.

— The devastation that war has brought in *Sand Queen* ~~which~~ has affected both Kate and Naema. ~~War is shown in a difficult terminology. There is disappointment in the effort of both the women's life.~~

Still, they do not refuse to assert their uniqueness in quest of dignity that life has to offer everyone.

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~~This study is centered on the ways women assert themselves even amid the~~
 The primary objective of this study is to present the horrors of war which is results in the root of trauma. ~~The~~is novel brings the issues of both war and gender, including the narratives that are generally left outside the mainstream history. ~~is based on war and gender as a theme. Novel only talks about the war in the mainstream history.~~
 Happenings like rape, mocking, physical torture, ~~;~~homelessness, and starvation ~~ete~~ are not brought in the mainstream discussion of history. ~~history.~~ War ~~has created~~ brings in violence, destruction, and disorder, forcing people to leave their houses and communities. ~~ete as a result people are forced to leave their home.~~ In such mobile state of people, women are the most victimized one. However, the women assert their choices and find out their special strategies to assert themselves. This novel presents both domination of women and the assertion of their choices in the most uneven of the times. ~~Domination of women can be seen throughout the novel. The pain and suffering is the root that create trauma when people are forced to leave the place that they loved.~~

Moreover, war ~~takes out our family member, relatives, and our loved ones~~is destructive. It takes many lives. This is not cause behind suffering. The memories that

are left makes people miss them in a special way, traumatize. Though, time is supposed to heal the wounds of war and mishappenings in history, individuals preserve the incidents within their personal psyche. Though, with the passing of time impact the suffering may be reduced but once encountering the similar incident makes individual traumatized. It triggers the hidden sense of loss and the same suffering function in the psyche making the subject socially and politically numb, occurs of those like past. Like individuals, the nations also suffer from the war in equal ways. Not only individual suffer from war nevertheless sometimes entire nation fall under it. Thus war is also known to be cultural trauma. By viewing the destructive creation impact of war on people, the role of agency or the volition to act becomes a primary aspect of study in this research. The horror leading people into a paralyzed state of life becomes the proper context in which Kate and Naema assert their choices and make negotiations in their life to seek the meaning, suffer from mental illness. In this way, this horrific situation created by war is successfully presented by Benedict in this text.

Various critics have examined Benedict's *Sand Queen* from various perspectives. Some scholars pay attention on the issue of war where as other concentrates on comparing the complex relationship of Naema and Kate. Benedict presents the fiction as measurable in her Author note states that:

The United Nation reports that hundreds of thousands of Iraqi civilians have been killed, two million have fled the contra and two million more have been internally displaced. The water and sewage system, electricity and hospitals continue to be barely operational and much worse than they were before the war. Daily violence continues and corruption is rife, while disease

and birth defects are on the rise from depleted uranium and other pollutants of war. (147)

From this argument we can clearly get the idea that she pays more attention in representation consequence war. War has destroyed Iraq completely. War makes their life panic. As a result, they are forced to leave their home. Obviously, she has rightly portrayed the picture of war in this fiction. But she does not project the text through the prospective trauma theory. She goes on the field, talks with the victims and writes this fiction. Her presentation seems mimetic.

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Similarly, Carol Gladstein has pointed the issue of traumatic suffering in the novel. He also finds the suffering of the characters in the war. He finds both Naema and Kate traumatically suffered throughout the war. He asserts that:

Both women are facing uncertain futures. For Naema the war has threatened home and family, and starvation is looming. For Kate who joined the military to prove her toughness to her father, service has brought the violence of roadside bombings and fit any of abuse from male colleagues. (304)

Gladstein draws the consequence of the war. He shows the uncertainty, suffering, horror of the war. He represents Naema and Kate as the victim of war who has no any future and trying to come out of war trauma. The people witness themselves are the witness of bombing during the war and it permanently destroys their sense of coherent view of the surroundings. The people become effect of the dehumanizing machine of war in that they are forced these times. They were forced to become a witness even while they do not choose to be part of such phenomenon. Since it cuts both the ways, both Iraqi people and American soldiers become part of this. It shows that not only native Iraqi people are in trauma but also American soldiers became the victim of trauma. For instance, Kate, Yvette, Third eye, Kormic,

Boner ~~are such unwilling witness of war situations, etc.~~ Kate has lost all the sentiments, feelings, and emotions after seeing the death of her intimate friend Yvette. She ~~now turns completely mechanical: she begins to then~~ behaves like a robot. ~~The denial of agency in Kate results from the war.~~ The male soldier Kormic and Boner try to get rid of their trauma by harassing their crew member. Their active comrades in force. Third Eye commits suicide. ~~In this way, war as a destructive machine puts agency under pressure in both the invaders and the invaded. Thus, war is dangerous for both organizer and narratives where war is held. This harsh reality has not been presented. So, this research paper want to present the alternative history and show the war is the primary source of suffering.~~

~~Various~~ Many critics have examined Benedict's *Sand Queen* from various perspectives. Some scholars pay attention on the issue of war ~~whereas while~~ others concentrates on comparing the complex relationship of Naema and Kate. ~~However, the research focuses on the role of agency in determining their behavior in the novel.~~

Benedict has presented about the suffering of both Muslim and American ~~people in the novel.~~ She wants to show that war is dangerous not only for native but also for organizers themselves. She states that:

Two women, an Iraqi refugee whose father and young brother were detained by American soldiers, and a 19 year old American Army specialist, wrestle

- With the complexities of war.... Kate Brady meets Naema Jassim at camp
- Bucca, a huge U.S prison in Iraq. Naema and other Iraqis come daily in
- Search of men detained by the Americans. (304)

~~Benedict~~ Here, she presents the suffering of Muslim girl Naema and others whose relatives are imprisoned by American soldier. They come every morning outside the camp in order to know about their men's condition. In the mass, Naema understands

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English and becomes the translator ~~of to~~ female American soldier, Kate. Kate and Naema meet each other in the camp. It is very difficult for lonely female soldier to handle such huge mass. Naema comes there in search of her brother and father who ~~were are~~ arrested by ~~those the~~ American soldiers. She says that both of them ~~were are~~ innocent. It gives suffering, pain, and torture to both of them. Even though the situations are adverse, the women across cultures can feel for each other and choose to work for each other.

Both the protagonists Naema and Kate raised the issue and consequences of war upon the individual human being. ~~They are right in their point of view. The duty at war field as a soldier suppresses Kate's choices as a young girl. She is present there to safeguard her national interests.~~ Nevertheless, people are not only affected by war individually but they suffer collectively too. ~~But Benedict does not talk about collective suffering of the people. The horrors of the time brings people together to help each other. They develop intimacy across cultures as they begin to assert their choices to help and rescue each other. They develop sympathy for each other's sorrows and begin to help each other. Due to various reason people develop soldiery with each other. As a result suffering of other becomes their own and by seeing the pathetic condition of other they become traumatic.~~

The miserable situation of the war time is also significant in the novel. The destruction of life and property shows the most horrific picture of the war. To illustrate the point, Similarly, Benedict presents the fiction as miserable ~~in her Authors note state that:~~

The United Nations reports that hundreds of thousands of Iraqi civilians have been killed, two million have fled the country and two million more have been internally displaced. The water and sewage systems, Electricity and hospitals

continue to be barely operational and much worse than they were before the war. Daily violence continues and corruption is rife, while disease and birth defects are on the rise from depleted uranium and other pollutants of war.

(147)

~~From this The stated argument shows that the author we can clearly get the idea that she pays more attention in representation of war consequences, also because she is a war reporter. The impact of her journalistic practices are often realized while reading the novel as well. War has destroyed Iraq completely. It drives-fuses into the life panic-of Iraqi people panic and pain. As a result, they are forced to leave their home. Obviously, the novelist she has rightly portrayed the picture of the war in this fiction; still, she also pictures the characters asserting their choices to do and not to do certain things. The novelist develops her narrative through the experiences of the people from the field But she does not project the text through the prospective trauma theory. She goes on the field, talks with the victims and writes this fiction. There are many things that strike me while reading the fiction.~~

During the war time nobody knows the future happenings because everything is unpredictable, what happen. Their future is uncertain. The issues of gender and violence associated with this are dependent on this unpredictability in the time of war. All these raised the issue of war and gender. There are other issues too but, this study only focus on war and gender. While focusing on Moreover, this study raises the issue of sexual harassment of female soldier. But the research work concentrates on presenting horrendous effect of the war, the role of agency also comes together. Generally, women are supposed to be the effect of action. This study shows the ability and power that they develop in the war to assert their choice and cope up with the uncertainty of the most difficult of the times, not only upon the

native but upon the invader too. Furthermore, this paper does not pay attention on analyzing this through the lense of feminism.

Both This text presents two protagonists of different thoughts. Kate and Naema. ~~Both are~~ sufferer throughout the fiction. The effects of the war are seen on both of them even though the former is the invader while the later is the invaded. The impact of war remains same in both of them though they represent diverse culture. Effect of war is faced by both females .One as invader another as native Iraqi people. War has become a component to hit mental states which has inflicted severe trauma in common people like Naema and Kate, who look helpless under the predicament of conflict zone. There lies irony in their thinking but this paper relies on demonstrating suffering of character faced due to war in order to create alternative history.

WRITE A PARAGRAPH ON WHAT YOUR THEORY IS AND WHO ARE YOUR THEORISTS: AGENCY AND FREEWILL, SUBJECTIVITY, SELF: INNER PYSCHOLOGIST, JOHN LOCKE, CHARLES TAYLOR, IMMANUEL KANT.....WITHOUT CITATION

This study is ~~built~~based on the framework of the theory of inner psychology as developed around the theme of 'agency.' Theory is about the agency which talks about the freewill of the characters. The research makes use of 'agency' as the key theme to studyIt studies about the inner psychology of the people of Kate and Naema in the novel. Specifically, aAgency refers tomeans the ability of choice that enables making the decision of oneself for self. Also, it focuses onis also selection of alternatives from a host of possibilities in life, ~~taking the positive alternative selection of life.~~ This decision of life ~~makes~~ puts the subjecthim/her in a position to regulate/_control over

the facts, deeds of society. Agency also refers to the act of telling the life stories.

~~Some publish their stories as well as some share their story through oral in the society.~~

Freewill is about moving force in the sense of causing action. In the fiction *Sand*

Queen, the freewill of Kate ~~and~~, Naema has been presented as the force that helps

them cope up with the situations and circumstances.~~shown~~. Kate's decision of

becoming soldier ~~shows is~~ her freewill. Her inner psychology puts in a position to join

the US Army to seek for happiness and success. Similarly~~She is guided by her inner~~

psychology. Whereas, Naema accepts to work as ~~decision of becoming the~~ translator

to Kate because she know Kate can help her, ~~is self decision of her.~~ In this sense,

agency ~~Agency somehow is~~ can be also known viewed as the force founded on ~~as~~

psychological relation that connects different people's action and thoughts. ~~In the~~

~~fiction Kate and Naema are the connected examples. Though they are of different~~

~~religion they are somehow connected by their action~~ This study interprets Helen

Benedict's *Sand Queen* through the theory of agency as developed in the western

discourses of John Lock, Hegel, Immanuel Kant, and Charles Taylor.

KEY ARGUMENT: PARA

The novel presents its major female characters as the ones who choose to
shape their life on their own. Though some of the structural forces appear to mould
their taste and choices, they stand firm in their way to success, happiness on their

choice and decision. As the Islamic feminist Anitta Kynsilehto ed in her *Islamic*

Feminism: Current Perspectives staes:

Women's struggle against family restrictions is their rejection of forced
marriages. Having themselves sometimes been confronted with this custom,

they frequently questioned and criticized the practice of forced marriages,

insisting that "Islam prohibits marriages against the will of the women". (75)

Kate, Third eye, Yvette are American soldier. Along with the awful incident they have faced sexual harassment in war is because they are few member as female in the troops. She asserts will power as courage of female who goes against the restrictions by giving the example of marriage.

The female characters in the US Army face sexual harassment as they are a few in number. The structural cause has adverse impact in their subjectivity; however, they struggle and go on in their duty. They discharge their duty in the war. Life carried atoms and bombs of torture given by their male fellow. Iraqi people face the internal conflict as well to find themselves in the most miserable condition. They became the victim of war. Their life is pathetic due to internal conflict and threatens given by soldiers from America. They were tortured and tortured brutally by Saddam's soldier-army and American's soldiers. Such dreadful circumstances created by war are not presented in the mainstream history.

This research paper aims to depict out alternative history. It is highly beneficial for all the reader to understand horror of war and gives them a lesson that war is dangerous for all of us. It gives nothing except evergreen wound. Getting this lesson it will motivate them to maintain peace and harmony. Along with this, it will be helpful to the reader to deal with complexities created by war and gives them way to come out of it.

Agency refers to the body of understanding about oneself that helps to make decision for oneself. In fact, the freewill and choice from all other possible alternative in life emerge out of human power of selection. Such power of selection puts one in a position to enforce control over social reality. The enforcement of control results in social organization. In this connection, Sidonie Smith and Julia Watson comes with the idea of agency. As they argue,

People tell stories of their lives through the cultural scripts Available to them, and they are governed by cultural strictures about self presentation in public. How do narrators negotiate Strictures about telling certain kinds of stories? How, for instance, do particular women write around cultural stricture about female, duty, virtue and modesty when they are engaged in the act of telling their life stories for publication.(176)

Both the writer s wants to show the life of people who tells the story through cultural scripts. Those people come up with rules and regulation to present self in the community. These cultural strictures about presenting self in public is found in Kate wtoo. Who is the character in Benedict's *Sand Queen*. Benedict writes:

No matter how much I yell and try to shoo away the wrinkly old couple and the rest of these damn locals, they won't budge. They just keep on crowding around me, yelling in Arabic and pushing their fucking photos into my chest. I'm just about to poke one of them with my rifle, hard, when a female voice calls out from the crowd" I speak English- do you need help?

Here, this paragraphThe above lines showpresents Kate trying to prove herself in the mass. She ignores those local people who come around her. Iraqi people shows photos of those who are locked in the camp. They pushfix suchthose photos oin her chest and speak in Arabic language of which Kate does not understands even a single word. In anger, Kate in anger points at them as if to shoottries to shoot them pointing out. Suddenly y, she hears a voice of a same aged girl who stops her. Kate is an American soildersolider and she hadhas to do so because she is structurallywas forced to control social reality.

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It is not only the assessment of actions and their justifiability that requires a consideration of the public space in which they are regarded. Allen ~~speight~~ Speight has rightly pointed out this issue in the following words:-

If justification cannot refer to interrigibly known intentions, it would seem also that desire cannot be required as a motivating force in the sense of causing action merely because an agent's ability to assume himself that his desire to act is really "his" would seem to require instead some account of desire formation that shows how desires are embalded in a pattern of norms or social norms. (p-5)

~~Here, we can find t~~The use of desire which is mentioned not only in the spirit itself ~~isbut~~ also initially ~~embalded~~ put in the stage of norms and values. Desire for ~~allen~~ Allen Speight is not required as motivating force for causing action because the act is the agent's ability to require the desire formation.:-

~~Michael Adelberg has reviewed on Benedict's Sand Queen where she talks about similarities and dissimilarities. She want to show the twist of stereotypes.~~

~~Author Benedict constructs Sand Queen around two main characters Kate and Naema. Adelberg says:~~

~~These two women are strikingly similar in a few important ways. They are the same age and in love with faraway men. Both are also facing existential changes. Kate is being subjected to persistent and grotesque misogynist behavior at Iraqi prisoner camp that she guards with her platoon, while Naema is caring for a frail mother and grandmother as her father and brother are prisoners in the camp Kate guards. Despite these similarities, Mrs. Benedict has carefully crafted Kate and Naema as mirror; one is short, one is tall, one is educated one is not. One is secular and rational. In short,~~

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~~one woman is managing tough circumstances exceeding well, while the other is overwhelmed and heading for a breakdown. (1/2)~~

~~From this argument it clearly shows the idea that they~~Stereotypically, Kate and Naema function as two opposite faces of the war. They pay equally attention in representation of war. It shows the free will of both the characters. As Adelberg writes,~~says:~~

These two women are strikingly similar in a few important ways. They are the same age and in love with faraway men. Both are also facing existential changes. Kate is being subjected to persistent and grotesque misogynist behavior at Iraqi prisoner camp that she guards with her platoon, while Naema is caring for a frail mother and grandmother as her father and brother are prisoners in the camp Kate guards. Despite these similarities, Mrs. Benedict has carefully crafted Kate and Naema as mirror: one is short, one is tall, one is educated one is not. One is secular and rational. In short, one woman is managing tough circumstances exceeding well, while the other is overwhelmed and heading for a breakdown. (1-2)

The twist of stereotype is also found in them. Like Kate, ~~Naema~~ is emancipated and in control. Kate is pulled down by Christian fundamentalism. Though they are of different culture, values, countries, and norms, t-etc. They ~~both~~are both confronted with the same~~are facing the~~ problem created by the war. Devastated by the war, they suffer the same fate.~~Their situation may be different of suffering but they are broken by the devastative war. War has destroyed Iraq completely.~~

The relationship between agency and inner freedom are intimately connected. What fails as doer, actor also genuinely acts a the thing upon which the action takes place.~~What is it failed at being doer, a thing that genuinely acts and instead to be a~~

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~~thing that is merely acted upon, passive in relation to its own behavior.~~ It is widely believed that the answer to this question about agency holds the key to the question about inner freedom. In this connection, Charles Taylor writes:

~~Our significant purpose can be frustrated by our own desire, and where there are sufficiently based on misappreciation, we consider them as not really ours, and experience them as fetters. A man's freedom can therefore be hemmed in ___ by internal, motivational obstacles-~~ (qtd in Garnett 9).

These lines of argument assumes too literal or metaphysical or interpretation of our talk about desires being "outer" or "alien". The idea of inner constraint necessitates a theory of inner freedom that can be thought of as distinct from the desires. This is the way in which claims about inner freedom might be taken to rest on claim about agency. ~~Talking about inner freedom, when~~ When a person is subjected to the unauthorized control of something else, ~~then that~~ the person lacks freedom. In this case, inner freedom is a matter of acting under the control of other forces. For this reason, freedom and agency are often taken together.

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Similarly, Benedict also shows the inner desire of Kate, who is the protagonist of fiction. ~~As the prime actor of the novel, she~~ She is a female soldier throughout the fiction. She is guided by her thought which ~~makes~~ ade her as a representative of nation. In other words, she represents the West, her nation, and the true voice of her culture. She states ~~that~~:

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Two- shoes who volunteered for bake sales and church bazaars- the girl everybody smiled at but nobody listened to. So when I heard the Army recruiter at school talking about how noble it is to serve your country, I thought it sounded perfect. I wanted to do something impressive like that,

something that'd make people sit up and take notice. Anyhow, half the kids in my school were enlisting – the half who got the most respect. (23)

Benedict presents the inner force of Kate. Because of her choice, she joined military force. She ~~wanted~~ wants to do ~~something~~ impressive things and achieve success in life. When she hears ~~d~~ about army recruiter talking at school talking about serving to nation, Kate feels that it is ~~nobel~~ Nobel thing to do in her life. Though the structural and ideological dimension in persuading the thing are there, the major focus lies in viewing the reality as a pure choice of the subject under examination. So, she ~~without other force~~ joins army without any second thought. She was determined to serve the nation. Kate does not know the consequences that she will have to come across in her life after she joins the force. She thinks that the determination works to join the soldier, ~~she wants it~~ ed to ~~something~~ new, impressive thing for the nation. Kate's strong determination, will, and consciousness put her in a position to embrace the decision of joining army ~~curious made everything possible~~.

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Talking about the nature of the person or investigating into the composition of a person, the assumption really amounts to ethical criteria of personhood. These are the relation that hinders other agency in a very specific way. It is also regarded as psychological relation that connects different thoughts. As Locke write, says:

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What is the distinctive ethical status of persons that this criterion claims to capture? It follows from the criterion that all person both occasion and face the same choice concerning whether and when to engage in agency regarding relations with one another. Furthermore, persons must always view this choice as ethically significant- whichever way they choose and on whatever ground. (So for example even if person should choose always to show the disregard for

the agency of others on egoistic grounds, they would still have made an ethically significant choice.) And finally, person mutually recognizes one another as the only agents who both occasion and face this ethical choice. (5)

Locke's innovations lay rather in his particular account of the distinction and the defense he gives to it. He proposes a novel analysis of the personal condition. Person's identity is analyzed on the basis of the attributes and other circumstances that surround the being. ~~He too defended that analysis and experimented about person's identity.~~ Furthermore, he dives deep into the structural aspects to examine the rules that determine the particular form of one's self. His distinction rests on ethical consideration.

Benedict ~~by~~ By bringing a woman soldier as protagonist in her fiction, Benedict ~~she~~ wants to present the ways the prime characters experiment with and develop their identity. ~~prove that how the character experiment and develop her identity.~~ How does the female army-soldier ~~makes~~ the identity in the lost island? How does she ~~creates~~ her identity leaving the home town? ~~In the given paragraph Benedict presents:~~ shows:

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The drive back to our tents takes twenty minutes, long enough for a serious nap, so I drop my head back against the cooler behind me and doze with my eyes half open like a cat. Rickman's crammed in beside me and DJ's up front with Kormick, but none of us says a word. We're all too pooped even to move our mouths, let alone shout over the wind and the groans of the humvee rattling over the stony desert. My neck bounces against the hard cooler as we bump along, and my knees are folded up almost to my ears because of all the

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crap stuffed in here- weapons and water and ammo and first aid and MREs and tools and toilet paper and baby wipes and god knows what. I ache all over and each bump feels like it'll snap my head off. But I'm too frigging wiped out to care. (1-2)-

~~In the given paragraph, the struggle for creating identity can be seen in the above extract is seen.~~ The girl from a religious family moves to experiment with herself. The harsh reality of life can be easily seen ~~easily~~ through this given paragraph. ~~Here,~~ The character faces the hardship of life because she has ~~ed~~ desire for joining military service and fight for nation. Her choice brings her to confront the reality of the daily life. She would have experienced life differently had her choices remained different in the beginning. The happening in the camp during the mission is presented in the given lines. The defense of female soldier presented in the extract also reminds of the choice of the subject also lead to further choices and invention of strategies to cope up with the uneven situations is shown.

~~Many of the discussion are held on agency. Question like what is agency? How it works? Are raised. Before~~ The scholarship on agency has been manifold since multiple issues arise out from the of situation of war this many problems were raised on the rubric of the philosophy of action but now the rubric of freedom of the will is discussed. As the field of agency is as vast as the freedom of will, certain doubts always reside in the academic debate. In fact, is almost as mysterious as freedom of the will. It is harder for the skeptics. The will that Immanuel Kant argues; is a kind of causality. As such, and as such, it must function accordingly with laws. Though certain limitatations are viewed in the exercise of freewill, it is still noted as the force that determines the course of action. It implies:

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A free will- a fully self determining will- would be one that is not moved by any alien cause. That is, it would not be subject to determination by any law that is outside of itself. Since a free will must operate in accordance with laws, and yet must not be determined by any law outside of itself, the freewill must be determined by a law that it gives to itself- a law that legislates to govern its own movements. The free will, must be, an autonomous will. In other words, to be free is to be motivated by thought that the principal in accordance with which you propose to act is that you would will as a law. (qtd in M. [Korsgaard](#) [Korsgaard](#) 12)

The given [paragraph-extract](#) assumes that the law depends on acting on [the subject](#)~~you~~. Kant talks about the knowledge ~~which-that~~ comes without experience ~~which is known~~ as apriority. There are other writers ~~too~~ who support apriority. [For instance, Writers like](#) Plato, Descartes, Spinoza, [and whole lineage of rationalists follow that knowledge before experience is possible,-ete](#). It is the reflection of self. It means that in Kantian theory [of autonomy is linked to the action is,- which we know](#)~~all~~ as self determination [comes from the inner being of choice. Agency requires self-determination, self-consciousness, and self-reasoning.](#)~~It is also thought which we ought to do. To become agent is to become self-determined, conscious. Agent as such establishes complete control over her actions. Giving control to our actions is what agent does.~~ Thoughts, movements, action ~~is-are~~ controlled by self determination which agency [is supposed to carry with itself.](#)~~has~~. Such agents are called self-determining agent.

~~Unlike, Helen~~ Benedict ~~has~~ presentsed her protagonist as an agent. Naema and Kate are deeply rooted by their self-determination. Both of them are determined to do the actions they ~~decide is right in their life, though~~. Kate wants to join army to grow up ~~and set herself in quest of achievement and success in her life. Likewise, Whereas~~ Naema is in search of her captured brother and father as the source of her family happiness. They are brought together in the context of war where they require to depend on each other.

When I get up to the wire, Naema greets me with a cool look. She's standing in front of the crowd this time; I guess the people recognize her as their interpreter now. Her head's wrapped in a lavender headscarf that doesn't look as good on her as the blue one did. It turns her skin sallow and makes the circles under her eyes look like bruises. Or maybe she's just too worried to sleep. I would be, if it was my dad and brother in here. (37)

The given paragraph illustrates the action of a protagonist. Naema has faith that she will meet her father and brother one day. So, she regularly visits the camp ~~regularly at~~ every morning. There, Naema meets Kate as a prison guard. Naema also worksed as an interpreter to Kate. Kate's freewill bringsought her as soldier who guards prison. Both the characters are self-determined and conscious about the happenings in their life. Naema has suffered extreme changes in her life, since the war beginsan. Though she finds her days worset than she had her time earlier, before she does notn't become hopeless.

Actually, the meaning of their life is derived from their interaction in the backdrop of war. The importance of cultural studies of the person focuses on identity. Sometimes identity is found to be lived and sometimes alive.

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~~Sometimes they are never ending process and in process too. The person must be predicated upon continuing cultural development, development of identities, imagined world, and discourses etc which inform each moment of combined production and are themselves transformed by that moment. It is the process of agency and identity. In Marxism and Literature Raymond William says:~~

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~~The strongest barrier to the recognition of human cultural activity is this immediate and regular conversion of experience into finished products. [... It is misleading to habitually project endings] not only into the always moving substance of the past, but into contemporary life, in which relationships, institutions and formations in which we are still actively involved are converted, by this procedural mode, into formed wholes rather than forming and formative processes. (Williams 1977: 128-129; quoted in Harvey 1996: 24-25; interpolation by Harvey)(qtd in holland7)~~

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~~The thought of William influenced Bakhtin and Vygotsky. Humans are not only remembering past rather they are stepping to the present life. They are still forming the society in a progressive way. They have thought and feelings with them. Vygotsky comes up with the idea of "inner speech" which was important notion. Williams's book has been in process for a long time. The ideas of identity collectively are discussed through this book of different scholar's.~~

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Similarly, Benedict also ~~has shows~~ the inner psychology of her characters in her fiction. The imagery visions are ~~shown~~ illustrated through characters. She presents ~~Writer shows~~ the flashback memories of Kate ~~-her -Her~~ old loved days before she joined military. Benedict ~~by bringing kates~~ Kate's words to depict love and the happy time she had ~~she want to show the love and best days she had.~~ As Benedict writes, She wants to present the memory.

I remember one time we went down to Myosotis Lake to watch the sunset with a bottle of tequila, because that was most romantic thing to do around Willowglen. We sat on top of a picnic table, drinking and watching the gulls fly over the lake. The sun was already low in the sky, the air still and windless, so, the water lay flat and silent as a sheet of silver, reflecting the rose and salmon pinks of the sunset without even a ripple. Then we heard a splash and strange munching sound. "Let's go look," Tyler mouthed, and he put down the tequila bottle and slid off the table. (39)

Kate remembers her old days when there was almost romantic thing around to do with. Through the given lines, she wants to show the old beautiful memories that she had. The composition of her inner self ~~inner psychology of character has been appear in this form~~ presented. The rRelationship and inner feelings make her what she is now ~~are shown~~. The self-perception of her inner self ~~Imaginary vision which gives life to her present position is shown~~. Kate dreams the past days with Tyler. She is soldier/guard of prison at present. The connection between past and present is shown by examining the formation of agency within her ~~through agent~~.

Social perception is guided by implicit of grounding of theory agency in one self. Agency consists of person, groups, or supernatural elements. Purpose, reason behind, and character provides frames for the formation of answers. Agency is the findings concept about cultural difference in social perception. ~~Hence~~ The different kinds of cultural representations call for analysis of different kinds of historical, sociological, and psychological factors. As Sperber explains,

The diffusion of folk tale and that of a military skill, for instance, involve different cognitive abilities, different motivations, and different environmental factors.... Though which factors will contribute to the explanation of a

particular strain of representation cannot be decided in advance... potentially pertinent psychological factors include the ease with which a particular representation can be memorized, the existence of [relevant] background knowledge...and a motivation to communicate the content of the representation. Ecological factors include the recurrence of situations in which the representation gives rise to... appropriate action, the availability of external memory stores(writing in particular), and the existence of institutions engaged in the transmission of the representation_(qtd in Morris, ~~Menon,~~ ~~Ames~~:7)

The difference and similarities, motivations, abilities cannot be decided without properly locating them in the proper context. The subject under consideration must be thoroughly explained before such dimensions are properly approached. The social reality, the historical context, and the motivations that grow within oneself result in shaping the force called agency in one's being.~~at advanced.~~

~~Sometimes our analysis differs. The cultural values differ, for instance agents are more likely to come to mind for perceivers in one culture to another. There are other public forms that carries concept of agency they are institutions. Texts and institutions are overlapped. They are seen in the eyes of law.~~

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~~Furthermore, in Benedict's *Sand Queen* by contrast, American law centered on duties and even included people for group punishment. American law differs in their legal system.~~

~~Throughout the research t~~The freewill of two characters Naema and Kate shapes the course of the action in the novel as their agency plays pivotal role in framing of the narrative.~~has been described.~~ The hardship created by war has been

presented through Naema Jassim, a medical science student and refugee from Baghdad whose father and brother are captured by Americans soldier and imprisoned at Bucca. She is a determined, conscious, strong lady who knows what she does and what she aspires to do. ~~She tries to her mother and grandmother strong.~~ She cannot take care of her grandmother when she takes her grandmother to the hospital because she sees many person sick, wounded, in the war. etc. ~~†~~ Though ~~she is~~ a medical science student, she cannot see the happenings around the hospital. In a sense, she is also structurally limited in her ability to carry out multiple functions. However, she does not quit working. So she starts helping. When she returns back to her grandmother, there she does not get the life of grand-~~mother. mom.~~ The critical situation of the war robs her grandmother from her: There were no hospitals, doctor, medicine, nurses at the time of war. Because of crisis she loosed her grandmother. Nevertheless, she does not lose hope. She has strong volition and she knows how to assert herself amid the crisis of life. is strong, kind hearted girl.

~~———— In search of her father and brother she reaches the camp Bucca where she meets Katy Brady. Kate is an American soldier, the guard who embarks upon her duty at camp Bucca. She is determined to be a soldier, from the school days. She was sent to do duty on the prisoner camp. She and other two women were placed there in a platoon of thirty nine soldiers. Others were males. She had to work for Fourteen to fifteen hours shifts long on the hot sunny days. The main problem is that she had to sleep under the same tent with those other male soldiers. She was harassed by her troop's members as well as Iraqi prisoners time and again.~~

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Sand Queen shows the horrific incident happenings of the war war and brutal incidents in which two strong women from two different cultures assert themselves have to face the chaos of it. Helen Benedict's *Sand Queen* tells the story of

Kate and Naema as assertion of agency in the time of war. ~~The true incidents in the fiction are presents by Benedict. It is the realities of war for both military and civilian women's.~~ *Sand Queen* is the part of the two women's stories.

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