

Benevolent Misogyny in Cinema A Study of the Representation of the Concept of “Women against Women” in Iranian Cinema of the 1390s (2011–2021)

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Abstract

This study aims to investigate the representation of the concept of “women against women” in cinematic works. It is a qualitative work in the field of cultural studies that seeks to explain and analyze a certain set of contradictory actions represented under the concept of “benevolent misogyny” among women in Iranian cinema. According to McQuail and Cracker’s views on the cognitive function of cinema, cinema images, although not free from prejudice, can be a slice of social reality. Considering the social context, a critical reading of the selected 1390s four films was conducted so that we can uncover and reveal some of the hidden layers of discriminatory structures against women through everyday and mundane things and images. The results of this study show that Iranian cinema paints a picture of misogyny in a historical and social context that marginalizes its repressive character and emphasizes its benevolent intentions; for this reason, the characters in the films are usually unaware of this situation and tolerate the reproduction of discrimination against others from the same gender. This representation is generally considered commonplace and natural, and is presented in the margins of the main theme of the film.

Keywords

Women Studies, Iranian Cinema, **Misogyny**, Feminism, Discourse Analysis.

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Gender Segregation in Urban Space and Intimate Gender Relations: A Comparative Study of Flexible and Inflexible Segregation

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Abstract

This paper is an anthropological investigation of the effects of the emphasis on gender segregation in private and public spaces on the quality of intimate relationships between girls and boys. Policymakers pursue an emphasis on spatial gender segregation with the goal of promoting moral health and preserving the Islamic identity of cities. To assess how policymakers' goals regarding spatial gender segregation affect users' actions and attitudes, we took advantage of the participation of two groups of girls with different lifestyles. One of these two groups, which adheres strongly to gendered spatial segregation rules, was identified as having an inflexible lifestyle and compared to the other group, which adheres more flexibly to gender segregation and is referred to as the flexible lifestyle group. Lefebvre's theory was used to emphasize space as a social product and to distinguish between spatial action, spatial representation, and representative space. The research method was ethnographic and comparative, focusing on participant observation techniques and ethnographic interviews. The research shows that inflexible gender segregation is associated with secrecy and riskier decisions. Thus, the research shows that inflexible spatial segregation does not meet the moral and identity goals of policymakers.

Keywords

Urban Anthropology, Gender Anthropology, Spatial Gender Segregation, Ethnographic Method, Comparative Method, Friendship between Girls and Boys, Adolescent Girls.

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The image of women in cinema (Analysis of Ten Films from the 1380s (2001– 2011) from Iranian Cinema)

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Abstract

As scientific and artistic approaches and ideas converged and raised the relationship between society and art, the image that different groups, especially the lower strata of society, including women, gave of themselves became a serious subject of media research. Based on the ideas of feminist theory and the discourse approach, this article describes how this image is portrayed in the films (10 films) of the 2000s in Iran. The article analyzes the relationship between the images they create and the prevailing political discourses during this period. The results show that women's lives tend to be portrayed as modern and non-patriarchal in most of the films, but these modern women are never in a polar state. They exhibit the main features of both discourses simultaneously. Looking at the totality of the images, despite the fact that these works are influenced by the attitude of the directors and their discourse affiliation, the social conditions of the theme of "femininity and masculinity" are reflected in these films. It is as if the films also reflect the conditions of the real transition of society from the traditional to the more modern stage.

Keywords

Cinema, Femininity, Feminism, Masculinity, Representation.

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Representation of a Female Character in the Books of Holy Defense Diary, (Study of Saji, Sabah, the Best Days of Life, Bright Lights of the City)

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Abstract

The memoirs of the Holy Defense are one of the most enduring documents in the history of Islamic Iran. September 22, 1980 the Baathist regime in Iraq launched a military strike against Iran and the imposed war began. From the beginning of the war, women and men worked in the form of aid and support groups, which they took over and continued until the end of the war. After the war, women combatants recorded their memories in the form of novels, memoirs, and oral histories of the war. This paper examines how the personality dimensions of women combatants in Holy Defense are portrayed in 4 selected memoirs. These four books, titled Sabah, Saji, The Bright Lights of the City, and The Most Beautiful Days of Life, though written with a focus on female personality, are nevertheless timely and effective works in the field. The results of this paper show that the portrayal of the female personality can be classified into four areas of meaning using the method of thematic analysis: insight, tendency, action, and personality forming factors. In the area of insight, themes such as religious, moral and revolutionary beliefs can be addressed and in the area of tendency, themes such as self-made, powerful, bellicose, curious and chaste are mentioned. In the area of action, themes such as helping, religious, revolutionary, military, cultural and religious activities are mentioned. Finally, family-centered, personality-building factors are emphasized.

Keywords

Female Character, Representation, Memoir, Holy Defense, Woman and War.

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An Analysis of Female Personality in the Novel “Under the Feet of Mothers” by “Buthaina Al Eissa”

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Abstract

Women's literature as one of the literary schools in Arab countries, especially in Kuwait, began in the fifties and reached its peak in the seventies to nineties. In the meantime, Buthaina Al Eissa, as one of the activists in this field with the publication of the novel “Under the Feet of Mothers”, has succeeded in portraying the problems of women and Kuwaiti society in transition with her literary pen. The most salient features of the novel are the polyphony and the multiplicity of female characters who appear alternately. The author portrays the sufferings of women from their point of view and depicts the changes in the society of women. It seems that “Buthaina Al Eissa” tries to inform her readers about a change that is taking place by raising the awareness of the new generation. In this study, the female characters of the novel are analyzed using a descriptive-analytical method, and their inner fears and aspirations are presented. The results of the research show that “Buthaina Al Eissa” was able to express her feminist views and ideas in the novel “Under the Mothers' Feet” and confront the stereotypes of patriarchal culture by relying on her literary knowledge and writing skills. In this literary work, the author reflects the patriarchal and anti-feminist ideas of Kuwaiti society by creating different female characters and reflect their two reactions: ‘surrender’ in the older generation and ‘rebellion’ in the next generation.

Keywords

Feminist literature, Under the Feet of Mothers, Buthaina Al Eissa, Characterization, Women.

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Analysis of the Representation of Gender Culture in the Novels of Iranian Women Writers over Three Decades

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Abstract

Among all literary genres, the novel has the greatest relation to society and real life. Women writers have also chosen the novel from the beginning to write about different aspects of their lives and gender. In this paper, women-related themes in the novels of Iranian women writers of the 1370s (1991-2000), 1380s (2001-2010), and 1390s (2011-2020) are examined using the content analysis method, and the impact of the social and cultural developments of each decade on the content of the novels is revealed. For this reason, two novels were selected from each decade. The results of the studies show that the social and cultural developments have a great influence on the writers' views in paying attention to the characters and female themes of the novels, and the development of the novels' content is in line with and influenced by the development of the society. In the novels of the 1370s, male dominance and violence are more prominent, and women do not have much power and status. Also, the female characters in the novels of the 1380s have almost the same conditions as in the previous decade, and the discussion of identification in this decade is very important. But the women in the novels of the nineties have gained independence and freedom of action. They are active in the society and have different concerns and demands.

Keywords

Novel, Gender Culture, Female Writers, Representation, Social Developments.

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The Pathology of Media in the Representation of the Family and Its Species (Case Study: Local TV Series of Ilam Broadcasting Organization)

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Abstract

In the present study, the pathology of the media in three series of the local TV of the Ilam Center is analyzed. In order to pursue the above objective, the present study based on the representation theory and semiotic reading of the transformed text has tried to mean the semantic implications and cultural images that the series “Qal O Qawaleh”, “Bra O Bash” and “Harka ra Khoi”. The analysis of the results shows different types of concepts related to the social family in the Ilam Broadcasting organization: the creation of a double family image, the questioning of differences, the reproduction of stereotypes based on respect for tradition. Based on the results of this research, in the traditional family, adherence to local customs and resistance to modernity was portrayed as a value; in this family, the woman is usually the “adopted wife” and the main decision maker is the man, and when the woman decides on an important issue, the result is abnormal. What is shown in these series can also be seen in the community. In other words, the direction of the provincial TV channel of Ilam in the series under study focuses on the admission of masculinity and traditional femininity, and its emphasis on other masculinity and femininity has dominated the form of representation during the years of the series of plays (2009–2013).

Keywords

Media Pathology, Ilam Broadcasting Organization, Family Representation, Family Species, Qualitative Content Analysis.

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