



## Woman in Culture and Arts

### Feminist Critique of the Novel "Peyadeh" by Belghis Solamani from Showalter's Perspective

Ayob Moradi<sup>1</sup>  | Mansoureh Shahriyari<sup>2</sup> 

1. Associate Professor of Persian Language and Literature, Payam Noor University, Tehran, Iran. E-mail: [ayoob.moradi@pnu.ac.ir](mailto:ayoob.moradi@pnu.ac.ir)

2. Corresponding Author, Assistant Professor of Persian Language and Literature, Faculty of Literature, Tehran, Iran.. E-mail: [mshahriyari@ut.ac.ir](mailto:mshahriyari@ut.ac.ir)

Article Info	ABSTRACT
<p><b>Article type:</b> Research Article</p> <p><b>Article history:</b> Received: 25 November 2023 Received in revised form: 22 January 2024 Accepted: 23 June 2024 Published online: 1 October 2024</p> <p><b>Keywords:</b> <i>Fiction Literature,</i> <i>Feminist Criticism,</i> <i>Showalter,</i> <i>Novel Peyadeh.</i></p>	<p><b>Introduction</b> Elaine Showalter is one of the leading figures in the feminist critique who, by proposing a practical model, made it possible to examine the literary representations of gender differences in women's writing. In his model, focusing on the position of women as creators of literary works, Showalter considers the content and structural analysis of women's works to depend on the study of biological, linguistic, psychological, and cultural contexts. Belqis Soleimani's novel "on foot " is one of the works that uses the subject of women and the problems that men's culture has created for them as a theme for storytelling. The protagonist of this story is a lonely woman who is expelled from her homeland and displaced in Tehran due to her husband's indecent slander. In this novel, the male characters in the unwritten union each have a role in determining the hero's ominous fate, and in contrast to the female characters, in a fruitless endeavor, each seeks to help the hero in some way. This research seeks to descriptively-analytically examine the text of the novel "Pedestrian" based on the four approaches of Elaine Showalter.</p> <p><b>Methodology</b> This research is based on content analysis. Content analysis is a technique that needs interpretation and is on the border between quantitative and qualitative methods.</p> <p><b>Results</b> Elaine Showalter, one of the most well-known members of the feminist movement in the second half of the 20th century, under the influence of the teachings of this movement in France, established an aesthetic model based on the theoretical basis that for years women writers have tried to follow the literary traditions founded by men. And now it is their turn to get rid of this historical authority. Showalter's main concern is to "provide a new model in relation to women's life, style and experience through the examination of women's experiences, dreams, thoughts and language, rather than adapting men's models and theories" (Abrams, 1385: 788). According to his belief, "Although there is no established or inherent female gender or female imagination, the writings of men and women are deeply different and male critics have ignored an entire writing tradition" (Selden and Widdowson, 2012: 272). The basis of Showalter's proposed model is to extract the characteristics of women's writing in four fields: "biological, linguistic, psychological and cultural." (Hekmat and Dolatabadi, 1389: 58). In this way, at the linguistic level, the most frequently used words in the language of women are examined. At the syntactic level, attention is paid to features such as "simple sentences, equivalent sentences, emotional aspect, deletion and interruption of sentences" (Fotouhi, 2012: 406). At the biological level, the text is examined from the point of view of female biological characteristics, with the premise that female experiences have an undeniable role in shaping imagination and artistic creations. Therefore, Showalter seeks to "follow up the relationship of the sexualized body with the events of a specific historical period and its social customs" (Robbins, 1389: 127). From a psychological point of view, Showalter</p>

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believes that "the woman writer tries to portray her illness, psychosis, boredom, isolation, and mental stagnation in her work" (Showalter, 1981: 195); Based on this, the critic considers the text as a mirror in which the psychological characteristics of women can be examined. The cultural level in Showalter's model can be the main part; because many cases related to biological, linguistic and psychological levels can be investigated in the cultural framework. Due to the focus on the role of society in shaping the female existence, this level of Showalter's model has a lot of affinity with sociological criticism, and it deals with issues such as cannibalism in culture, women's social role, and women's education and clothing.

Examining the text of the novel "on foot" shows the fact that the author has well respected the biological, linguistic and psychological subtleties of the Iranian woman in the treatment of Anis and other female characters in the framework of the culture that governs this society. In this way, in drawing women's biological issues such as pregnancy along with its signs and symptoms, childbirth and breastfeeding, and some implicit references to the functions of women's bodies - as the biological features that have the highest frequency in the text - the author has had special insight and precision. As far as it can be claimed, the author's ability and mastery in paying attention to this level of women's issues is considered one of the important advantages of this novel, and without a doubt, if the author was not a woman, this detailed treatment would not have been possible.

In the field of linguistic, literary and technical issues, the pedestrian novel reflects some characteristics of female language and narrative, such as short sentences, cut sentences, detailing, etc., from the point of view of a special feature in the narrative that originates from the combination of the third person and first person perspectives. is, has found a special distinction. The distinction is the result of using emotional sentences that are very similar to the speech style of Iranian women, and therefore it can be said that the mentioned method has a native and Iranian flavor as the main stylistic feature of this work.

At the psychological level, the author's precision in describing details related to the psyche of Iranian women in the fields of women's interaction with each other as well as their interaction with men is considered one of the strengths of the novel "on foot". The same situation is also evident in the psychological characteristics of Iranian women in the field of feelings related to motherhood and behavior with children.

On the other hand, the issue of misogynist culture and the historical oppression of men against women in the form of this culture is the main issue that this novel tries to criticize, and to achieve this goal, the author has narrated the tragic story of a woman who suffered the injustices and slanders of male culture. , has caused her displacement and darkness, and no matter how much this woman tries to free herself from the control of this oppressive culture, she is victimized in a different way at every moment.

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