



Woman in Culture and Arts

Declining Patriarchy and the Rise of Femininity; Discourse Analysis of the Leila's Brothers Movie

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Article Info	ABSTRACT
<p>Article type: Research Article</p> <p>Article history: Received: 11 April 2024 Received in revised form: 6 July 2024 Accepted: 29 July 2024 Published online: 1 October 2024</p> <p>Keywords: <i>Femininity, Film, Leila's Brothers, Pedam Discourse Analysis, Patriarchy.</i></p>	<p>Introduction Patriarchy refers to the dominance of men over the family, serving as the central authority within economic, cultural, and social dimensions. Women's roles in maintaining, reproducing, and changing the patriarchal system have long been debated. Changes in societal power structures have increased the participation and influence of women in various sectors. This shift has provided women with increased opportunities for education, employment, and leadership roles, thereby challenging traditional gender norms. Consequently, the significance of gender diversity and inclusion in decision-making processes has increased, thereby facilitating women's empowerment. Cinema has the potential to significantly enhance the status and conditions of women by illustrating their capabilities and serving as suitable role models. Saeed Roustayi's "Leila's Brothers" is a film that addresses women's issues, eliciting a plethora of criticisms and discussions. "Leila's Brothers" represents a feminine rebellion against patriarchal authority. Leila, the protagonist, embodies a woman who must contend with the challenge of articulating her shrewd insights and logical perspectives. The film examines the role of women's resistance and patriarchy by depicting a feminine uprising and the transformation of traditional power structures.</p> <p>Methodology The critical discourse analysis method is employed to analyze the film "Leila's Brothers" in this study. This approach investigates the relationships between language and power, ideology, dominance, and inequality, as well as the contextual knowledge of the actors, and ideological processes within discourse. Moreover, it investigates both linguistic and non-linguistic elements. The film "Leila's Brothers" represents a discursive shift from patriarchy to a feminine movement. Critical discourse analysis is the most appropriate method for analyzing this film, as the language and ideology, which were initially founded on patriarchy, are challenged by feminine language. Hassan Bashir (2021) has proposed a method for Fairclough's critical discourse analysis that encompasses five dimensions: Text Level: A detailed analysis of the selected text. Depth Level: Analysis of sentences and concepts that are similar and synonymous. Deep Level: Analysis of the relationships between sentences and concepts. Deeper Level: The identification of fundamental signifiers and the interpretation of intertextual relationships. Deepest Level: of interdiscursive semantic processing and expansion of metatextual meanings.</p> <p>This approach progressively broadens the scope of meaning and explores a deeper level of understanding. The initial discovery and classification of dialogues, scenarios, and linguistic elements pertinent to the subject matter occurred in this investigation. Then, the concepts of patriarchal discourse and feminine awareness were internally structured, and indications associated with them were identified. Finally, the concepts were broadened to encompass a wider range of social and cultural contexts, and the fundamental signifiers of the research were linked to the hegemonic discourse of society, thereby exposing the concealed discourse of the film.</p> <p>Results In the film "Leila's Brothers," patriarchy is portrayed as the central authority that has the ability to establish and modify regulations. This patriarchy is best exemplified by Leila's father, who is authoritarian within the family but submissive when interacting with affluent</p>

individuals. This father is willing to spend his assets in order to be recognized as the head of the family, despite the fact that he endures humiliation and bribes to attain traditional social status. Leila's family is a prime example of a patriarchal family in which patriarchy is institutionalized. The mother is submissive and precludes any disobedience toward the father. Leila is cognizant of her mother's affection for her father and her mother's disregard for her.

Each of the family's men is affected by patriarchy in their own unique manner; Parviz is the most reliant on his father and exhibits minimal agency. Farhad is emotional and regards his father as sacrosanct. Alireza, an additional sibling, is capable of engaging in dialogue with his brothers and influencing them. He is cognizant of the deficiencies of patriarchy; however, he prefers to negotiate with it rather than confront it directly, as he harbors empathy for the father.

Leila plays a substantial role in the film's portrayal of the decline of patriarchy. She is cognizant of her parents' moral decline and continually exposes their deficiencies. She has attained financial independence and refuses to submit to traditional patriarchal dominance. Leila aspires to liberate her brothers from the confines of patriarchal tradition and to welcome them into the realm of independence and autonomy. She has been subjected to the pressure of her parents, who do not regard having a daughter as an honor, as well as unpaid domestic labor. Leila, in contrast to Parviz and Farhad, who are submissive to the patriarch, and Manouchehr and Alireza, who have a propensity to flee, is determined to remain and reconstruct the home.

Leila's act of slapping her father's face is a symbolic rejection of traditional and patriarchal values. She even assists those in her vicinity in their maturation; Alireza, who initially harbors apprehensions regarding confronting his employer, ultimately refuses to submit and damages a glass door by hurling a chair. The film's conclusion is replete with symbolism; the father, who has reconciled himself to his loss of patriarchal status, dies. In the house of the deceased patriarchy, the birthday celebration of a young girl, who is filled with both dubious and new futures, is taking place simultaneously. Leila's smile signifies the triumph of feminine activism over the autocratic power of patriarchy. The film's overall structure emphasizes the waning influence of patriarchy and the increasing awareness of women, suggesting a transition from a traditional to a modern society. Leila establishes a new and promising trajectory for her family by resisting tradition and exerting herself.

Conclusion

The film "Leila's Brothers" addresses the issues of gender inequality and patriarchy by emphasizing Leila, an autonomous and employed woman. The film concentrates on the male family members. Despite her bravery and resilience, Leila is not taken seriously by her siblings and is excluded from male-dominated activities as a result of Manouchehr's disdainful attitude. In a patriarchal society, women's agency is frequently disregarded, and their identity is determined in relation to men. The mother's dignity is only realized when her spouse assumes the role of the family's leader. Alireza is unable to break free from patriarchal practices, despite acknowledging Leila's correctness.

In the film, the father's death is a representation of the breakdown of authority structures. Young girls dance and celebrate in the patriarch's home after his death, symbolizing the end of tyranny and a transition to justice and equality. Leila consistently asserts her rights, and her reticence is indicative of her despair regarding patriarchal discourse. Socio-cultural norms are consistently resisted by women, who are constantly investigating methods to combat them. Women, who are at the forefront of the movement for change, are fighting against patriarchy and acknowledging its deception. Men are intellectually aligned with women's call for change, but they vacillate to act because of the advantages they derive from tradition. Consequently, a dual situation arises. Men are supportive of women's aspirations for metamorphosis; however, they are hesitant due to the loss of their privileged status. The film concludes with the joyful performance of young girls, which represents the triumph over patriarchy and the hope for the future.

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