

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.11265851>

THE CONTRIBUTION OF WOMEN WRITERS IN ENGLISH LITERATURE

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Annotation: *The importance of female writers in English literature is examined in this article. The outcomes of this study will be highly beneficial in determining what is practical and efficient for teaching English literature in the future. The developments pertaining to women's participation in public life would be illustrated through an analysis of the literary works written by women writers worldwide.*

Key words: *comprehensively examined theme English language, literary analysis, the literary market, a variety of literary techniques, female authors, and feminist groups.*

Introduction. Nowadays English language is accepted as a language of communication all over the world and it is being paid great attention to in teaching foreign languages in our country, Uzbekistan. The President of our country Shavkat Mirziyoyev pays closely attention to this sphere, which has an important place in ensuring the future of the country and its development. In May 2021, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev issued a decree mandating the study of foreign languages in schools. Since then, there has been a noticeable rise in the demand for learning English. It's challenging to pinpoint the exact number of women writers from that time due to their vast numbers and varying levels of recognition. While some gained global fame, others are only known within literary circles, and many have been lost to history with no surviving records. The surge of female novelists began in the 18th century, but it wasn't until the mid-19th century that they gained significant presence in the literary world. Elaine Showalter considers the 19th century as the era of female novelists, citing figures like Jane Austen, Charlotte Brontë, and George Eliot as pivotal. Women writers faced formidable obstacles, with limited education and job prospects, leading many to turn to novel writing as a means of escape from patriarchal society. Interestingly, some

women writers paradoxically adopted traditionally masculine genres in their work. For many of them, writing, particularly novels, was the primary means of critiquing social injustices, notably women's oppression. They saw the novel as a potent tool for shedding light on the constraints faced by women in the 19th century. Naturally, they conveyed their messages through various literary devices, such as plot, characterization, and style. The predominantly male-dominated literary sphere saw the emergence of women writers as a threat, as they held most writing-related roles like novelists, editors, and publishers. According to Sandra M. Gilbert and Susan Gubar, men in the late 19th and early 20th centuries viewed women as agents of an unfamiliar world, provoking feelings of anger and distress, while women saw men as defenders of an unjust order. This tension led both male and female writers to depict women's entry into the public sphere as a battle of the sexes, contesting a territory perceived as exclusively male.

Women's literature offers role models and helps individual women shape their identities. However, historically, the portrayal of women in literature has largely been shaped by male writers. These writers have depicted women according to their own desires, fantasies, emotions, and biases, sometimes with admiration and at other times with hostility. Until the 19th century, women faced domination by men in all fields, including literature. The depiction of women in literature was primarily shaped by male writers. However, as time progressed, women began to see improvements in their status, albeit to a limited extent. It's arguable that male writers played a role in paving the way for women to advocate for their rights and strive for equality. Over time, women writers emerged and asserted their rightful place in literature. The examination of literary works by women writers worldwide illustrates the evolving role of women in public life from the 19th to the early 20th century. Initially confined to family duties, women gradually became involved in public activities such as charity work and education during the 19th century. By the 20th century, their interests expanded to include political engagement and the establishment of independent feminist organizations. Despite dominating the Victorian novel market, women writers have often been overlooked in 20th-century criticism, which tends to focus on a select few canonical novelists. However, women made significant contributions across various aspects of Victorian society. For example:

Science: Few women pursued careers in science due to limited access to formal education and restrictions on their participation in public discourse. Mary Somerville stood out as one of the notable exceptions, gaining renown for her contributions to mathematical and physical sciences. She notably authored the first scientific article by a woman for the Royal Society of London.

Religion: The church provided women with opportunities to engage in work outside the home and imbued their writing with a undeniable sense of purpose. Several female writers, including Charlotte Elizabeth, Georgiana Fullerton, Adelaide Procter, and Mary Howitt, tackled religious themes in their novels, with all of them converting to Roman Catholicism.

Education: During the 1860s, women gained the opportunity to sit for examinations administered by the University of London. Additionally, in 1869, the first university college and lectures specifically for women commenced at Cambridge. While these advancements gradually shifted perceptions about women's capabilities, they occurred too late to impact the prominent Victorian writers.

Novels: The rise of women's literature faced significant opposition from male writers who disapproved of women depicting strength in their works. Paradoxically, male writers also criticized women for portraying weakness in their novels. Anti-feminists, such as Charlotte M. Yonge, Eliza Lynn Linton, Mary (Mrs. Humphry) Ward, and Margaret Oliphant, advocated for the traditional view that a woman's place was solely in the home.

The woman in modernism. Modernism addressed issues of class, gender, the pursuit of knowledge, and the prevailing sense of meaninglessness and detachment in society. Emerging as a response to a global mood of depression and uncertainty, it grappled with the shifting nature of human identity, as expressed by Virginia Woolf in 1910. Embracing disruption and defiance, modernism aimed to transcend simplistic viewpoints. Gender concerns, deeply ingrained in society and literature, naturally became a central focus of the movement.

Before the Victorian era, women's roles in art were limited mainly to being the muse or inspiration for male artists, with only a few daring to write themselves. The emergence of Victorian women writers, including Charlotte Brontë and Emily Brontë in fiction, and Elizabeth Barrett Browning in poetry, marked a significant shift. Their works ushered in a new era for women writers, demonstrating a unique ability to convey deep emotions while crafting realistic narratives. Throughout history, numerous British women writers, such as J.K. Rowling, Joan Collins, Jane Austen, Julie Andrews, Collen Hoover and Agatha Christie, have made notable contributions to the field.

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