

Tribhuvan University

Rupturing the Gender Boundary in John Osborne's *Look Back in Anger*

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by

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Declaration

I hereby declare that the thesis

Rupturing the Patriarchal Boundary John Osborne's *Look Back in Anger*
submitted to the Department of English Faculty of Humanities and Social Science
at Ratna Rajyalaxmi Campus for the award of Master of Arts in English is the result of my
own independent work and except to extent assistance from others in the design and
conception is the thesis is duly acknowledged.

All sources used for the thesis have been fully and properly cited.

It contains no material which led to a substantial extent has been

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made in the thesis.

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Letter of Approval

This thesis titled “Rupturing the Gender Boundary in John Osborne's *Look Back in Anger*” has been submitted by Prakash Bikram Thapa to the Department of English, Ratna Rajyalaxmi Campus, Exhibition Road, Kathmandu, Nepal. The undersigned members of the Research Committee have approved this thesis:

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Abstract

The research work studies an independent female self against patriarchal society in John Osborne's *Look Back in Anger*. The study discusses women's experience in patriarchal society as being dominated, suppressed and exploited. The play portrays a rebellious woman self who ignores patriarchal notion that confines a woman. Her voice is for independent woman identity in society therefore, she, with rebellious self and confidence, fights against society with her uncompromising, revolting and rebellious assertion. Her struggle against existing norms and values leads her toward physical and spiritual freedom. A woman character in patriarchal society cannot be free therefore; Alison struggles against patriarchal discourse which inferiorizes women individuality.

Alison cannot convince her thought with Jimmy, therefore, she chooses her individual life rather than surrendering her freedom. Along with her individual notion, she fights against patriarchal power. The patriarchal social structure creates subordinate role for women but, Alison does not compromise with repressing power of patriarchy. By knowing her role and individuality in the society, she quests female self and independent freedom. In course of searching her freedom, she is able to create her individual world.

Table of Content

	Page No.
Declaration	II
Letter of Approval	III
Acknowledgements	IV
Abstract	V
Women's Insight in <i>Look Back in Anger</i>	1
Dissent Voice against Patriarchy	11
Alison's Longingness of Individuality	24

Women's Insight in *Look Back in Anger*

Regarding the concepts about gender and sex sound similar but both of them are different. Simply, sex is a natural concept which cannot be changed or determined by human being. Generally, it shows physical difference between male and female. Ann Oakley defines the terms, "Sex the two divisions of human beings respectively designated as male or female. Gender 'any of two or more subclasses that are partly arbitrary, but also partly based on distinguishable characteristics such as sex as masculine, feminine.'" (1). This definition clearly shows two different concept of sex and gender, sex is natural and universal whereas gender is construction and relative term which can be defined differently. The society constructs knowledge and discourse as to gender.

Gender is basically defined on the basis of dichotomy between men and women where men are figured as strong, aggressive, rational and independent and women as weak, passive, emotional and dependent. In different society, it may be different to some extent. However, gender is socially created ideology which shows difference between male and female in terms of their social roles and position. In this respect, gender is not natural as sex is. As Kate Millet notes, "The relations between men and women have always been a matter of politics or manipulation of power" (23). As Millet discusses the relations between men and women have always been a matter of politics or manipulation of power and the position of women is the result of such as symmetrical power relations. Of all the forms of violence, male violence against women in personal relationships is most overtly condoned and accepted because of the acceptance of this dominant-submissive relationship as normal.

Gender is social construct idea whereas sex is natural or biological. Regarding, gender and sex, feminists claim that gender is a social ideology in which patriarchal

society creates discourses and truths about men and women. The biological difference between man and woman is natural but the gender idea is social construct therefore, women dissatisfy with gender difference based on social construction. Patriarchal society creates discourse for dominating women that projects men are superior and women are inferior. By these ideas the society treats to both male and female. Simone de Beauvoir says as, "One is not born but rather becomes a female" (310). Women came to realize this in authenticity of the life they lead. They struggled immensely to create this space. Their quest is for self-knowledge and self-realization which can in turn lead to the relationships based on mutual respect and understanding. In such a way they established unanimous rules and regulations in every aspect of humanity. Such masculine value system always taught female to believe that they are less valuable physically, mentally and spiritually inferior and unequal to men.

Patriarchy always promotes discriminating gender role which marks man as superior and women as inferior. Women are supposed to have been innately inferior to men. So in this sense, patriarchy has created the notion of biological essentialism where the notion of inborn inferiority of women is promoted because it is based on biological differences between the sexes that are considered part of our unchanging essence as men and women. Similarly, patriarchy has set the discriminating notion of gender roles that are internalized as a natural concept although it is a social programming role as masculine and feminine.

In patriarchal social system, for the justification and maintenance of male monopoly of positions of economic, political, and social power, women are made powerless by denying them the educational and occupational means of acquiring economic, political and social power. Therefore, women have occupied the inferior position for a long time. As the women are undermined under the patriarchal

restrictions for centuries then they identify themselves as recovered patriarchal women in the sense that they have internalized the norms and values of patriarchy which can be called as culture that privileges man by promoting traditional gender roles.

The gender roles have been used very successfully to justify inequalities where women are excluded from equal access to leadership and decision making position (in the family as well as in politics, academic, and the corporate world). In nutshell, Lois Tyson argues, "Patriarchy continually exerts forces that undermine women's self-confidence and assertiveness, then points to the absence of these qualities as proof the women are naturally, and therefore correctly, self-effacing and submissive"(87). In this way, women have been victim in patriarchy by male ideology which ultimately causes them to suffer from repression, suppression and mental torture. Sheila Ruth notes:

Masculine is not only the cause of misinterpretations of women's nature, it is also the reflection, the expression of an almost universal abhorrence for women themselves and for a whole set of characteristics historically ascribed to women in western culture: sensitivity, acquiescence, compassion, compromise aesthetic sensibility. These qualities, though officially regarded with respect are actually considered appropriate only in women. (10)

Masculine value system considers women as passive, submissive, inferior and brainwashed creatures. Such distorted images about women are deeply embedded in the society, as a result, women have to face many inequalities and gender discrimination throughout the history. In this sense patriarchal ideology is biased

masculine value system which is one-sided and creates false assumptions about women's nature.

While talking about this issue, one of the famous critics Sedgwick views that gender is a kind of detailed discourse which defines male and female identities hierarchically. As he notes:

Gender is the far more elaborated, more fully and rigidly dichotomized social production and reproduction of male and female identities and behaviors- of female and male person - in a cultural system for which "male - female" functions as a primary and perhaps model affecting the structure and meaning of man other whose apparent connection to chromosomal sex may often be exiguous or non-existent. (273)

Here, Sedgwick asserts gender as a kind of 'social production' which functions on the basis of dichotomy between masculine and feminine gender roles in a particular society. Similarly, gender is defined in relation to sex and sexuality.

Look Back in Anger as a play by John Osborne centers on a major woman character Alison Porter. Alison Porter, a woman belonged to a rich British class, marries with a working class man, Jimmy. Alison Porter is an ambitious woman with the desire to live personal and individual life, even after her marriage. She compares this burning desire to the empty actions and attitudes of others. The female protagonist, Alison challenges male centric norms and values. In order to seek her defined world, she fights against rooted values. This modern society redefines women's' roles; therefore, Alison represents voices of modern women. The society creates myth and discourse for gender presentation in society.

The play contextually regards Victorian era when class conflict between higher class and lower class was on the basis of socio-economic factor. Higher class

was aristocratic one which was in declined phase due to the emerging new social middle class along with industrial revolution in Europe. Tyrrell, Alexander asserts his thought, “ It formed only one class was really divided into several each distinguished from the other by wage rates, social security, regularity of earnings climate of industrial relations, status in the local community, prospects of future advancement, and sophistication of political attitudes” (102). Class consciousness refers to knowledge of society, world and life pattern as of contemporary society. In this way, class position also decides human consciousness when the society projects some learning and experience within every class. The play *Looks back in Anger* projects a sense of class and consciousness.

Alison belongs a high class of the time therefore; she desires to live life different to the life of her husband Jimmy. Jimmy belongs a working class man and his social learning is result of his relation with his wife, as he restricts his wife beyond domestic world whereas Alison wants freedom and individuality therefore, both of them inflict each other Leonard Reissman, “woven through much of the material on social class is the implication that different levels of aspiration are held by individuals in different social classes” (233). His assertion about material possession also makes difference in social consciousness and knowledge.

Alison is from an educated and rich British class who seeks her personal life. Due to falling love with a working class man Jimmy, she has to get marry to him. But Alison and Jimmy do not have harmonious and compatible relation. Jimmy’s way of thinking is different from Alison who wants to maintain life standard however Jimmy does not like her way of living. Having awareness with modern life, she emphasizes personal norms and values but Jimmy thinks her as his asset. He wants to have his control over her life.

Alison, being a rich class woman, is conscious of lifestyle and pattern. Her concept and thinking is related to higher class. Having value of life and freedom, she does not support her husband's decision. Alison wants to have materialistic life as far as possible. Alison does have own perspective regarding life. However, having pressure of her husband and the society, she does not compromise and sacrifice her personal and individual life and its value. Jimmy interferes her life however; she does not upset at her decision and thought.

Gadpaille, Michelle interprets this drama as reflection of popular culture in England. The drama shows cultural revolution where minorities raised voice and protested against mainstream culture, as he asserts:

Osborne's drama initiated the cultural moment of the Angry Young Man. Precisely which young men were angry at this time and why are questions that lead back to this concept of the Cultural Revolution. Understanding Osborne's Jimmy Porter, the original Angry Young Man can take the researcher away from literary culture and deep into British popular culture. Not only will this journey provide insight into the causes of the phenomenon, but it might even provide a way to make the whole question interesting to contemporary teenagers who are studying *Look Back in Anger* in school. (1)

Gadpaille discusses Cultural Revolution triggered to social change and other cultural transformation. It is reflected in his play that cultural transformation caused some kind of social anarchy and disorder.

Bosede F. Afolayan interprets this drama as an outcome of modern tragedy of human beings. Due to the suffering of modern society all of them frustrated by situation:

Anger is expressed both in their ideology and practice of playwriting and this confers on their works the term, drama of anger. This term is revealed in their intense concern and disenchantment with society. It informs their consciousness, conditions their creative impulse, a thematic preoccupation in the plays and is demonstrated in the speeches of the protagonist. The paper is however more interested in demonstrating that the portrait of “anger” in the art of Osborne. (123)

As he writes about the play is contemporary influence of modern society when the society brought frustration and depression. The trend of modernity caused individuality and alienation.

Falak Naz another critic discusses on identity crisis of modern human beings after the society changed into individualism:

Identity crisis means a feeling of unhappiness and confusion caused by not being sure about what type of person you really are or what the true purpose of your life is. In Medical dictionary the definition of identity crises is a personal psychological conflict especially in adolescence that involves confusion about one's social role and often a sense of loss of continuity to one's personality. (20)

Naz interprets the play using psychological insight which defines identity crisis in the play. According to him, he shows psychological aspect of the society.

Ben Neutze takes this drama as a domestic one in which he opens idea of different classes and their societal etiquette. This idea can be reflection of society:

John Osborne’s domestic drama *Look Back in Anger* in British theatre, until that point, had been mostly concerned with the upper-middle classes, and audiences had never seen the working class symbol which

stood centre stage: an ironing board. Not only did the play take place in what was a starkly realistic, run-down, one-room flat, Osborne tackled the British post-war class system from the perspective of an educated young man, unable to raise above his working class origins. (17)

He digs out social morality of the contemporary society and class struggle. It is social phenomena that bring out class conflict and social difference.

William S. Kowinski, globalizes the local issues and shows identity of human beings as he finds it:

The production of *Look Back in Anger* currently at Ferndale Repertory Theatre faithfully follows the setting of the original production. There is the usual American problem of not immediately recognizing this world and so some of the funniest lines can slip by. If the play is no longer shocking, it is still strange. Jimmy's baiting of Alison, her apparent passivity, and the provocative relationship of Cliff and Alison all contribute to the first act tension. (12)

William uses global perspective and generalizes it as global contemporary problem of society. As narrative of this drama, the society has been divided due to having personal problem and individual society.

Having several studies upon the play *Look Back in Anger*, this research has made a new perspective which explores a woman's struggle for seeking individual identity. Unlike submissive woman, the protagonist of the play, Alison seeks her own and individual life.

The present research puts forward radical feminism in John Osborne's drama *Look Back in Anger*. The play will be studied and discussed from radical feminism or third wave feminism perspective which argues upon women's freedom in the world.

The third wave feminists reinforce their idea against existing patriarchal hegemony and created discourse. The notion of myth making discourse, patriarchy unnecessarily interferes to female's personal, social and cultural life. As a result women are compelled to assimilate unfair treatment but radical feminists reveal patriarchal myth making discourse of society which does not let women free in this world. By raising strong voice of women right, freedom, individuality and independence, radical feminists oppose age long domination of patriarchal society.

Basically, feminist movement started back early nineteenth century, third wave feminists appeared in twentieth century. Simone de Beauvoir's *The Second Sex*, Kate Millet's *Sexual Politics* and other radical feminists commonly believe in women's individual freedom and identity. Beauvoir writes; "Patriarchal society for purposes of self – justification; through the myths, this society imposed its laws and custom upon individual also in a picturesque, effective manner; it is under a mythical form that the group - imperative is indoctrinated into each conscience" (1999). Under patriarchal regime, women are forced to accept the laws and customs that always make them inferior in various ways.

Patriarchal ideology creates discourse that advocates the supreme power of male; and it seems to be natural because of its long time used. Such power controls over women within four wall of the kitchen, giving the role of child care taker and providing works which do not have any surplus. When patriarchy creates stereotypical images about girls and women, then it serves a powerful function in our society; and when such patriarchal norms and values are long time used, then those exaggerated ideas of inferiority and weakness of women are internalized by the women and ultimately, they feel themselves powerless and inferior.

This concept of gender makes discrimination between man and woman.

Women are treated as an 'object' which has no identity of its' own but on contrary, men are considered as 'subject', the 'self', the social agent that may bring about intended changes in the community. Women are always defined as subordinate being to man. As Simon de Beauvoir notes:

The woman has been assigned the role of parasite: all parasites are necessarily exploiters; she needs the male to acquire human dignity, to eat, to feel pleasure, to procreate; she uses the service of sex to ensure her benefits; and since she is trapped in this function, she is entirely an instrument of exploitation. As for falsehoods, except in the case of prostitution, there is no fair arrangement between her and her protector.

Man even requires her to playact. (740)

Beauvoir further insists that since the human civilization, women are nicely treated as the subordinate to men. Women are taken as 'parasite', which is dependent on others even for its survival. Thus women are objectified and colonized by men in order to exploit and dominate them. They are suppressed, slaved and chained within the social, cultural and patriarchal norms.

Hence, women are defined in relation to male standards and needs. They are evaluated in terms of masculine value system and their identity is constructed in relation to men. The prejudiced ideology is created by the male in order to maintain their supremacy, which is internalized in such a way that it seems to be permanent in society. Beauvoir has beautifully described this process of internalizing the male supremacy in the lines below.

She has been taught to accept masculine authority. So she gives up criticizing, investigating and judging for her and leaves all this to the

superior cost. Therefore the masculine seems to her a transcendent reality, an absolute. 'Men make the god, says Frazer, 'women worship them'. Men cannot kneel with complete conviction before the idols they have made; but when women encounter these mighty statues along the roads, they think they are not making with hands, and obediently bow down. (611)

Beauvoir further assumes that the prejudiced ideology is constructed in such a way that women feel it as immutable and immanent ideas and so they internalize and follow it without any reaction. They neither criticize it nor evaluate it critically; rather they accept it silently as truth. If they reject such one sided assumption of male ideology then they are either punished or forced to follow it. Jasmine, under patriarchal society loses her-self identity due to the patriarchal social norms and values.

Dissent Voice against Patriarchy

The play *Look Back in Anger* introduces a revolutionary woman character in patriarchal rooted society in which women's predicament and position is bounded. However the play demonstrates strength of women with reasonable and energetic spirit having strong physical, intellectual and spiritual power. The play introduces a woman character Alison Porter who is reflection of modern woman and represents dynamic, powerful and rebellious character against traditional norms and values. This play advocates the woman's position, their own insight, innate power and self-motivation.

The play *Look Back in Anger* sketches a dynamic woman character. Alison Porter is a woman from middle class. With strong self-determination and self-motivation she changes herself and becomes powerful leading character. Her nature

is quite distinct from traditional types of women. Due to her open mentality, innate power and self-confidence, she is able to move herself and society. In her life, she dares to face any kind of challenges, hardship, hindrances and difficulties but she never compromises repressive power of patriarchy. Her strong will power, patience, sincerity and daring nature, she is able to create her independence identity. Alison Porter is much more conscious about her self-identity. She views that one is shaped by her faith and love for action or vibrancy. She is independent thinker and wants to have own life freedom.

Feminism was coined in the literary theory at the beginning of twentieth century. The main aim of feminist theory is to seek the conditions that play vital role to shape the lives of women and it also explores the cultural understanding to be a woman. Feminism counters the inequality between sexes which favors male gender. It was raised mainly to upgrade or to uplift the voice of women in larger literary framework, and is now interrelated with social, political, legal, economic and cultural framework and equality.

Feminism advocates the women rights for the equality of the sexes, their emancipation and identity. It questions long standing dominant male heliocentric ideologies, patriarchal attitudes and male interpretations in literature. It is concerned with the marginalization of all women who examined the experience of women from all races and classes. Patriarchal social systems have ignored the power, capacity and ability of women and are marginalized and have created the female figure according to their needs. M.H. Abrams in his *Glossary of Literary Terms* mentions some issues indicating in feminism which is briefly mentioned below:

Western society is passively patriarchal, male centered and control and conducted so as to subordinate women to men all cultural domains:

familial, religious, political, economic, social, legal and artistic. What is feminine and what is masculine are merely the cultural constructs generated by the omnipresent patriarchal biases of our civilization. (89)

Women have been treated as inferior since a long as male has believed themselves as superior. Thus, to pinpoint the history of feminism is a complex task. If a broad concept of feminism includes women acting, speaking, and writing on women's issue and rights, then we can see that these concerns go back as far as recorded history. The patriarchal society required women to be objects. They were treated as animal without any human consideration and supposed to be private property. They were bought and sold as commodity. *The Women's Movement Today* says, "The concept of "patriarchy" denotes this general system where social practices, institution and cultural images organize the power that men exert over women" (239). Women have been always defined with reference to man and not him with reference to her.

Look Back in Anger a play by John Osborne presents woman protagonist Alison Porter. Alison Porter, from British class, marries with a working class man, Jimmy. Alison Porter is a woman who wants to have personal and individual life. The following conversation shows Alison's dissent against her husband, as they discuss:

Alison: I do not think I will be able to. Perhaps Jimmy would like to go
(to Jimmy) would you like to?

Jimmy: And have my enjoyment ruined by the Sunday night jobs in the front row? No, thank you. Did you read Priestley's piece this week? Why on earth I ask I do not know. I know damned paper every week? Nobody reads it except me. Nobody can be bothered. No one can raise themselves out of their delicious sloth. (8)

Male controlled power over all aspects of the society: politics, society, property, capital, culture, literature, myth, religion, language and so on and defines the things as their will. Patriarchy is male made norms to subordinate female for their comfort. 'Patriarchy' according to *Glossary of Literary Terms*, "that is male centered and controlled and is organized and conducted in such a way as to subordinate women to men in all cultural domains: familial, religious, political, economic, social and legal"(89). In these different domains of society apply patriarchal practices.

Due to falling love with a working class man Jimmy, she has to get marry to him. However, Alison and Jimmy relation is not compatible because of their perspective towards society and world. Jimmy's way of thinking is different from Alison that he wants to maintain life norms whereas Jimmy does not like her way of living. Having awareness with modern life, she emphasizes personal norms and values but Jimmy thinks her as his asset. He wants to have control over her life. Alison disagrees with Jimmy's advices:

Alison: God help me, if he does not stop, I will go out of my mind in a minute.

Jimmy: Why do not you? That would be something, anyway, but I have not told you what it means yet, have I? I do not have to tell her she knows. In fact, if my pronunciation is at fault, she will probably wait for a suitably public moment to correct it. Here it is. (17)

This dialogue between Alison and Jimmy show conflict between them. Both of them have different value of life which shows disparity between them though they are husband and wife. In fact, Alison tries to maintain individuality and her personal life where as Jimmy imposes own thought and ruling power.

In patriarchal culture, there is not only male dominance over female but female are taught to perceive their own subordination in the name of socializing themselves. As a result women also desire male child and feel pride for being the mother of male child. They feel humiliation for being a woman. Female power, capability, their toil, contribution are always been minimized and are oppressed and they have little opportunity for individuality.

Female are restricted to talk. They shouldn't be spoken too much, if they do, they are noted as characterless. Their talking, walking, wearing, laughing and other activities are measured by patriarchal norms. In every sphere of life male have displayed their satisfaction in feeling that they are lords and try to prove women are secondary creature created to serve men. Female were supposed to be good daughters, wives and mothers moving only from the protection of their father's roof to the protection of their husband and sons. They were expected to comply with the male members of the family, faithful with their husband, home, children and other family members.

Radical feminists such as Adrienne Rich are concerned with creating a new social order, separate from that of men. So a radical feminist considers sex and motherhood as forced slavery. In opposition to liberal, radical feminism holds the view that society must be restructured in order to dissolve the patriarchy. Rather than limiting themselves with the issues of equal opportunities and the liberal society, they demand the revolution by overthrowing the male-centered norms, values and the systems. For them oppression against women had been practiced throughout the "civilized" human history by patriarchal structure. And the way to free women of different races, ethnicities, cultures and classes is to subvert and disrupt such patriarchal establishment. The radical feminists demand all women to wage a war

against men, patriarchy and the gender system. For them, the rigid social roles are to be rejected and the women should appear different from the men. Their individual feelings, experiences and relationships are to be highlighted by excluding males. It encourages some degree of separatism from men because it recommends putting women first making them a primary concern.

Alison is from an educated and British class who seeks her personal life. Her husband Jimmy has congested mentality who does not want his wife free and independent. Even his social and educational background is unable to understand his wife's desire, wants. He belongs to lower class that's why he is ignorant and illiterate. Due to which he believes in traditional and unchanged social norms and values. The influence of patriarchy in Jimmy could be seen in this conversation between Alison and Jimmy:

Jimmy: I'm not talking about Webster, stupid. He is all right though, in his way. He is the only one of your friends who is worth tuppence, anyway, I'm surprised you get on with him.

Alison: So is he, I think.

Jimmy: He is not only got guts, but sensitivity as well. That's about the rarest combination I can think of. None of your other friends has got either.

Alison: Jimmy please- don't go on. (13)

Jimmy criticizes her role in society is like revolutionary woman but he does not like as such position. Therefore he points out Emily Bronte who is revolutionary woman writer. For this reason they discuss about her company with male characters.

Wollstonecraft advocated educational and social equalities for women. For her, mind does not know the sex but women have been limited within the domesticity

and are considered to be docile and emotional by patriarchy. She regrets and attacks the sentimental novels of her time, "Another instance of that feminine weakness of character often produced by a confined education, and is a romantic thrust of the mind, which has been very popularly termed sentimental"(398). Women were imprisoned by denying any opportunities to study the proper books; rather they were given the sentimental novels to shape the mind of the women.

Most feminists believe discrimination against women still exist worldwide and there is no single way to women liberation as they are interiorized socially, mentally, politically, economically, culturally, racially and so on. As the term feminism covers a broader scope, it has been defined, analyzed, reviewed, criticized, redefined, deconstructed or in other words it has been pulled and stretched from so many directions for so long. Some feminist theories question basic assumption about gender, gender difference and sexuality including the category of women itself as a holistic concept and some question the male/female dichotomy offering instead a multiplicity of genders. Still other feminist theories take for granted the concept of woman and provide specific analyses and critiques of gender inequality and most feminist and social movements promote women's rights, interests and issues.

Alison is an educated woman, is smart, conscious and aware woman as she acts in society. As her caring in educated class, she has learnt woman as an individual character but she does not experience it in her husband house. Having value of life and freedom, she does not support her husband's decision. Alison wants to have materialistic life as far as possible. Alison does have own perspective regarding life. However, having pressure of her husband and the society, she does not compromise and sacrifice her personal and individual life and its value. Jimmy

interferes her life however; she does not upset at her decision and thought. As it is explained here:

I keep looking back as far as I remember, and I cannot think what it was to feel young, really young. Jimmy said the same thing to me the other day. I pretended not to be listening because I knew that would hurt him, I suppose. And of course- he got savage, like tonight. But I knew just what he meant. I suppose it would have been so easy to say, 'yes, darling, I know just what you mean. I know what your are feeling. (24)

It is her challenge and foresight to patriarchal society that she does not feel secure. As she mentions that her husband uses derogatory words for addressing her but she does not like as his showy love and caring. She would like to be called her name. She does not want to link her name with anyone. Alison is fearless and confident female character, she presents herself as self-made woman. Unlike traditional female qualities, she is bold and strong in both physically and mentally.

Traditionally gender roles advocate women as inferior creature and it has been internalized patriarchal programming. Jeffery Overall tells how hard it was for females to write.

She must have shut herself up in a room in the country to write and been torn by bitterness and scruples. Perhaps, though her husband was kindest and their married life perfect, the society did not approved her writings. She was strange to their principles and norms. She could not freely tell what she was doing in fear of being discarded by her own society. (819)

The extract above highlights how women had always faced social and economic obstacles to their literacy ambition. Rejecting a feminist consciousness, society hopes to achieve a balance but there was direct imbalance between a Male “Self Realization” and Female “Self-annihilate.” The ultimate belief was that if women achieved social and economic equality, they could freely develop their artistic talents.

Virginia Woolf advocates for the equality of the women with men in the society asserting the existing socio-cultural values as sexually discriminatory. By challenging the prevalent norms and showing the alternative ways for the women's possibility of creativity, Woolf argues:

They come to set their thoughts on paper--that is that they had no tradition behind them or one so short and partial that it was of little help. For we think back through our mothers if we are women. It is useless to go to the great men writers for help, however much one may go to them for pleasure. (824)

With her radical feminist thought, Woolf awakens the female writers to be self-reliant and self-dependent. She is clear in her remark that if women writers knock the doors of male writers for help, male writers instead of helping them, limit them within male ideology for the perpetuation of male supremacy in literary activities. Debunking such tradition in literature, Woolf makes an announcement for the women writers to find their own literary space to liberate themselves as independent beings in the arena of literary endeavors. Hence Woolf wants to reconfigure the systems and values that were unanimously drawn and free from the perspectives of male.

Alison wants to share her problems and her aims of life. For this reason, she invites her friend who is also daring woman. Both of them drink together in order to

share their feeling and experiences. Regarding this, the following conversation clarifies:

Alison: Drink? He is not an alcoholic, if that is what you mean. He will have the rest of the street banging on the door next.

Helena: It is almost as if he wanted to kill hatred in someone's eyes before. It is slightly horrifying. Horrifying and oddly exiting. He had his own jazz band one. That was when he was still a student, before I knew him. I rather think he would like to start another, and give up the stall altogether. (39)

The above mentioned conversation between Helena another female character like Alison disagree with patriarchal norms and values which made them victims of domination . Both of them drink and discuss about social and cultural discourses which cause them burden and problem. Due to preconception of the society, they are not free from chain of domination and segregation. It is social belief that has been rooted in society. As their rooted belief the patriarchal society treat them. The society does not consider women's problem, personal beliefs and social identity. As a result, women are not free from exploitation. Both Jimmy and Cliff do not understand women's problems therefore Helena and Alison reveal their dissatisfaction between them.

The patriarchal society considers such women's bold step of decision as the matter of humiliation and shame. Traditionally, it is believed that women should not involve in politics and other social activities as a result, women should have to accept domestic confinement. Being critical towards patriarchal ideology, Alison does not accept the cultural images of women as incompetent, petty, irresponsible and weak. She rejects the attitudes that regard traditionally masculine characteristics of

aggression, power and competition as good and desirable; and traditionally feminine characteristics of compassion, tenderness and compromise as weak and ridiculous. Rather she affirms her capacities to be strong, capable, intelligent, successful and ethical human being. Alison does not want to remain as submissive and weak woman as traditional gender role defined women. Rather she intends to be free from such oppressive mentality that always undermines women as the muted world. It is Traditional ideas about gender role which define male are strong and female are weak. It has structured the ideas and it is believed as true and real thing in the society.

Women are represented as emotional and very weak character. Such stereotypical presentation has created suffocated situation. Women have narrow world because they have been programmed into this patriarchal social structure. Thus, the traditional gender role is a patriarchal programming where the inferiority of woman is constructed in terms of man's standard. Though, in the extract above, Wollstonecraft argues that sex is a social construction, given by society to men and women to play different roles. It is not an inborn quality. She tries to portray the state of female in the then society, similarly she brings into fore the idea of sex as a social construction. She further remarks:

Make everyone aware that the gender biasness is not natural; rather it is a construct of patriarchal society. With her essay, she is mainly concerned with gaining women rights, such as education, so that they could be fit companions for men. She exposes numerous injustices imposed upon women by the patriarchal society, such as the denial of the right to vote, to hold office, to own property, or to perform any but the lowest jobs of convenient domestic slavers and alluring mistress” denying them any economic independence and encouraging them to be

docile and attentive to their looks. Mary believed in sexual freedom, open marriage, and birth control. (394)

Wollstonecraft powerfully argued for the establishment of legal, political and social equality between men and women as men and women are morally and intellectually equal. But, the injustice is that women have traditionally relegated to secondary, subordinate place in society. Many time and again strongly demands to abandon the idea of essential sexual difference and to provide women with equal educational opportunities that will allow them to think and act as full moral beings. Superiority of male position is definition of male ideology. It always shows female as weaker and meek. Similarly, patriarchy has objectified women like and objects of sexual and sexist oppression and dominance on the part of the males in the society.

Alison is bold, educated and very daunting women, she always thinks about society. She is free from male domination and domestic world. She talks about working class people with Mr. Thornton. She wants to establish her own social position being from married life and four walls. As she intends her assumption and belief:

Even from other young women, like Alison, she receives her due of respect and admiration,. In Jimmy, as one would expect, she arouses all the rabble-rousing instincts of his spirit. And she is not accustomed to having to defend herself against catcalls. However, her sense of modestly exalted responsibility enables her to behave with an impressive show of strength and dignity, although the strain of this is beginning to tell on her a little. She is carrying a large salad colander. (37)

Alison is really educated woman; she knows the social exploitation and gender difference. She does not want to be freed herself but she wants to empower women as well as other marginalized groups. She has company with conscious, positioned and educated man and women of the society. She is deserved with them because she is educated. Unlike the traditional roles of women, she is free from those social boundaries. She opposes that social imposition whereas she strengthens her inner power. She wants to get own private life. She has got social position therefore she easily converses with men who have renowned social position. In another sense, women are programmed to fail in order to prove that they are biologically ill-suited and less logical than males. It means patriarchy creates the failure that it then uses to justify its assumptions about women.

Alison loves freedom and she does not want to be guided from any social norms and values. She wants to live freely. She is always guided from own self desires and motive. Women are restricted from going outside and overnight party. But she does not care what does society say but she only cares about herself. She likes to have modern lifestyle and fascinated from free society. She always suggests her friend to be a modern.

It reinforces about the patriarchal social structure that creates a kind of ban where women are confined within an unnecessary restriction of patriarchal values. For traditional society, woman's footstep outside the house is taken as the matter of great shame. In traditional society, women are not allowed to go wherever they want to go and whatever they want to do because the society is based on patriarchal norms and values where women are only limited within a narrow domestic confinement; and their feelings, desires and interests are suppressed and subjugated

by the hands of men. Even if a woman dares to overcome from such confinement, then her activities are taken as shameful and humiliating matters in the society.

But on the contrary, Alison alters all these patriarchal norms and values through her strong revolutionary activities. In the play, she dares to escape from the domestic confinement in order to challenge the traditional system as well as to prove her as a strong and dynamic figure. Even she has economic freedom because she is not depended upon anyone. She herself manages family problems instead of asking with anyone. Economy is one of determining force which makes slave to women. They are not allowed to have job then they can't earn money, they should depend upon their parents or husband or any family member. It plays the main role into women domination.

Alison's Longing for Individuality

Alison has free existence because she can talk openly with people. Therefore, she is able female character who is free from any kind of societal bonds, obstacles. It is possible that she is bold, fearless and daunting female characters. Whatever society imposes her she dissents with such views. It also can be taken as a great challenge for the traditional society. She rejects establishing ideas and professes to personal freedom and choices. Similarly it is imposed upon people because they should follow same religion in the society. But she keeps different opinion. She cares about her freedom of choice. Alison always deconstructs the patriarchal ideology:

Alison: Hugh fairly reveled in the role of the barbarian invader. Sometimes I thought he might even dress the part you know, furs, spiked helmet, sword. He even got a fiver out of old man wail once. People would have signed almost anything to get rid of us. He told

him that we were about to be turned out of our flat for not paying the rent. At least it was true. (43)

To make aware and conscious about the rights and freedom of women, as well as the suppressive and oppressive patriarchal system, Alison spoils her feelings with Helena. It is her excessive feeling and emotion against patriarchal society. So in order to rule over women and establish their monopoly in the society, patriarchy denies the leading position of women in the society. In the play also, in order to keep his superiority in the society hesitate to accept that all her practice. Her resisting behaviors and aggressiveness indicates her refusal to stick on traditional gender roles, which become her great challenge against patriarchal ideology.

Besides her revolutionary attitudes and challenge spirit against traditional society, Alison is a conscious about the position and equal status of women in the society. For it, she emphasizes on women's independent identity and their equal social status in the society in relation to men. For it, she encourages women to live the dignity of life. Alison articulates the freedom of life and the dignity of life over here. As she is more conscious about her standing position in the society and her separate identity, she struggles and bears lots of hardships and difficulties in her life time.

This research has found subversion of female representation in John Osborne's *Look Back in Anger*. It has portrayed female characters that are conscious about their role and right in the society. The female characters do not accept male projection or representation in the society. Her husband Jimmy is They discard and dismantle social barriers and boundaries. It shows the redrawing redefinition and reinterpretation of female issues into new outlook in the society. Osborn has presented new female values which empower women rights in the society. It reveals

some patriarchal norms and values which has been weakened female position in the society. In this regard, the patriarchy has constructed the hierarchy between men and women where women are considered as silent victims of masculine authority in the name of sex, gender, race and class.

Jimmy is an innocent male character, does believe in patriarchal society. Because of his social practice and learning he exercises patriarchal notion. His social consciousness and upbringing is patriarchal social structure. As Jimmy treats her according to patriarchal norms and values, he exercises male power and supremacy. In contrary, Alison belongs to an aristocratic family where she exercised a different social learning. Moreover, Alison also personally rebellious character and her voice is for freedom.

In the play, Alison is revolutionist and disagrees with established norms and values of society. She possesses the strong female spirit who undercuts all the traditional and conventional ideas and beliefs. Similarly, she resists on traditional system of marriage where she believes marriage is optional but not compulsion. In such a way, she refuses to stick to traditional definition of feminine gender roles where women are considered as meek, docile, emotional and illiterate creatures. She stands against all sorts of social and cultural boundaries which are imposed upon women to remain inside the male constructed myth.

The play *Looks Back in Anger* projects a rebellious female character, Alison. A typical woman character from higher class does not surrender against patriarchal ethos. Her upbringing in higher class practices her to exercise freedom and individuality. Her family culture and learning confide her to live in freedom. But she does not get freedom in Jimmy's house who imposed patriarchal discourse. Jimmy exercises age long practiced patriarchal social structure; therefore, Alison does not

accept the rooted patriarchy. As being a female character, she explicitly speaks against patriarchy. Due to her unyielding nature against injustice and exploitation, she does not surrender in front of Jimmy.

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