

WIVES IN SEARCH OF INTIMACY: THE SILENT CRISIS OF THE AMERICAN WOMAN IN MODERN SHORT STORY

Mohammad Al-Abdulrazaq

Lecturer of English Language and Literature

Department of English Language and Literature

Al-Balqa' Applied University, Irbid University College, Irbid-Jordan, Mobile

+962785440555

ABSTRACT: *The aim of this article is to examine the sufferings of women triggered by the absence of intimacy in two short stories, Kay Boyle's 'Astronomer's Wife' and Ernest Hemingway's 'Cat in the Rain'. The exploration of the stories show how the authors portray women's fight to express their individuality. The article also reveals how women are pitiable slaves of unemotional and distant relationships. Their essential loneliness and their search for fulfilment are revealed. In an essential struggle, the authors show women meeting challenges, disappointment and disillusionment. Moreover, the article demonstrates how, in order to adapt with these complications, the examined female characters evidently exercise unconscious protective mechanisms to prevent themselves from connecting with their vicious reality and instinctual desires.*

KEY WORDS: Intimacy, Cat in the Rain, Hemingway, Astronomer's wife, Kay Boyle

INTRODUCTION

Research and critical studies about women and masculinity in literature has originated as one of the most developing areas of literary and social investigation. An in-depth examination into the structure of male identity and how masculinity has been constructed would reveal how social conventions, particularly those surrounding issues of gender are vital for the analysis. Male characters in modern fiction can be contextualized within the arguments about masculinity that existed during and prior to the twentieth century. Many commentaries about the proper behaviour of men arose as traditional views which were met with new interpretations of what it meant to be a man.

Women are depicted mostly in conventional ways as waiting to be saved, with a main emphasis on finding true love or sacrificing their personal life to protect the larger community. The gender history of the nineteenth century can be looked at either as a patriarchal system which highlighted power and privilege for men, or as a process of determined but gradual female challenge to their exclusion. The period witnessed a distinctive change in ideas respecting gender relations at the level of social philosophy.

Modern literary constructions of men and masculinity thoroughly depict the suffering of women under terrible inequality and injustice. Some authors in modern fiction dwell on issues of gender. Some of them equate masculinity with naked aggression, and whenever they write about manhood, violence is present. They show that their works seek to reform socially approved codes of the gentry's masculinity by recommending a model of male identity. This

reformation of gender roles necessarily facilitates the need for the development of a new woman who is able to enter into a marriage of equals. It also requires the development of a new man, who is able to respond to women's desire for equality and for mutual respect. Some authors create a world in which the sexes have to co-exist in order to function, and male and female characters serve to facilitate each other's development. Authors, sometimes, reveal how male loss of control is shown as being linked with a man's sense of his own masculinity. In this way the representation of loss of control in imaginative writing exposes and explores some of the fears, ambiguities and hazards of achieving and maintaining masculinity in a patriarchal society.

Before the end of nineteenth century women were shown to lean towards obeying men, because they felt inferior to men and they showed submission for this tradition. They just followed the thought that men were dominant in society. The man had the option as well as the freedom to choose any girl that he wants, however women could only get whichever men wanted them. Therefore, some stories have shown how pitiful women were. They did not have the chance to choose the man they wanted. So they were married to the men they did not like, and they needed to face these men for the rest of their lives. Some authors provide the evidence of how a woman can obey. Women force themselves to remain silent and obedient towards men due to the status quo of men in society.

Women have difficulty not only with men who do not respect them, but also with those who ignore their needs and break their hearts. Men who do not stir passionate feelings greatly contribute to the women's suffering from depression and anxiety. Therefore, relationships that lack intimacy, on the physical and emotional level, slowly wither and soon die; people need intimacy. Relationships would longer survive with simple physical activities, such as holding each other's hands, cuddling, hugs and kisses. These simple actions make man and woman know that they are there for one another, and that they matter to each other. Miller and Lefcour (1982) point out that intimacy refers to great quality interactions and relationships with others, including closeness with spouse, friends, or family members, and that intimacy predicts mental health. For Hu et al. (2004), Laurenceau, Barrett, Pietromonaco (1998) and Timmerman (1991) it involves the experience of closeness, warmth and communicative relationships with others. In a more specific sense, intimacy is "the sharing of one's innermost being, or essence, such as strength and vulnerability, weakness and competence, with another person" (Hu et al., 2004).

This article examines the sufferings of women caused by lack of intimacy in two short stories, Kay Boyle's 'Astronomer's Wife' and Ernest Hemingway's 'Cat in the Rain'. It is shown how the authors of the examined stories portray women's fight to express their individuality. It also shows how they are pitiable slaves of cold and distant relationships. Their essential loneliness and their search for fulfillment are revealed. In an essential struggle, the authors show women meeting challenges, disappointment and disillusionment. Moreover, the article demonstrates how, in order to adapt with these complications, the examined female characters evidently exercise unconscious protective mechanisms to prevent themselves from connecting with their vicious reality and instinctual desires. They are shown to protect themselves from the anxiety of confronting their weaknesses and foibles.

Boyle's 'Astronomer's Wife'

Kay Boyle's 'Astronomer's Wife' is a story that deals with a marital relationship. Mrs. Ames is the central character in the story whose inner world is explored at the very beginning of the

story. Boyle starts her story by giving a pretty clear picture of Mrs. Ames. She is in her prime, a loyal wife, with considerable beauty and good manners. Mrs. Ames has been married for some time; she has no children and she is fighting the dryness of her marriage. First, she seems to be caught in marriage monotony, but after scratching the surface deeper, it is clear that she is crying for attention.

Mrs. Ames is married to a heavy-handed and seemingly offensive astronomer. Boyle's description of Mrs. Ames' miserable marriage and the pleasure she obtains interacting with the plumber instigate readers' thoughts that Mrs. Ames is undergoing an emotional awakening from her depressing marriage. The author efficiently brings about the story's main idea that lack of intimacy between the wife and husband often makes people pursue happiness elsewhere.

Boyle expresses Mrs. Ames' helplessness and emptiness of her marriage life through Mrs. Ames' internal monologue. Mrs. Ames knows that her husband is unemotional and passive to her. This is why she seems starving for words and conversations with other people. She feels helpless in her marriage life, and this leads to her thrilling conversation with the plumber throughout the story. Mrs. Ames finds in the plumber the perfect man who shows respect and admiration to her which her husband does not. Though her husband is an astronomer, an occupation that holds intellect, prestige and admiration in a society, the plumber who is socially inferior easily and successfully touches Mrs. Ames' sensations and fills her emotional emptiness. He is a foil to her husband. He is 'tough' and 'hardy' man. He takes off his hat and looks at her eyes when he speaks to her.

The lack of intimacy shown by Mrs. Ames and her husband leaves them emotionless and neglectful of each other. The astronomer dominates his wife by 'a lifted hand' and sometimes by both raising his voice and silence. This makes her search for kindness from others as she feels bitter loneliness and neglect from her contemptuous partner. Meeting the plumber is the first spark that awakens and triggers her emotions. 'The plumber, who is trying to repair leaking pipes in her house, starts by repairing the leaking pipes in her heart' (Epiphany in Astronomer's Wife, 1).

It is only when Mrs. Ames meets the plumber that she realises her identity, beauty and her youth. Erikson (1959), in his book, *Identity and the Life Cycle*, argues that it is only after a reasonable sense of identity has been established that real intimacy with others can be possible. The youth who is not sure of his or her identity shies away from interpersonal intimacy, and can become, as an adult, isolated or lacking in spontaneity, warmth or the real exchange of fellowship in relationship to others; but the surer the person becomes of him/herself, the more intimacy is sought in the form of friendship, leadership, love and inspiration. The counterpart to intimacy is distantiating, which is the readiness to repudiate those forces and people whose essence seems dangerous to one's own.

Mrs. Ames desperately suffers the wrath, violence and silence of her husband, making her feel even more helpless. Without any emotional interactions, she has given up any hope of escape from misery, as she is nearly numb to the reality of her violent home life. Mrs. Ames is a young woman who is living the life of an old lady. The effect of abuse on women can be devastating psychologically, physically and emotionally. Mrs. Ames' psychological and emotional state, as a result, is described by confusion, frustration, loneliness, and ineffectiveness. Women are usually expected to be more sympathetic and consequently they try to understand the feelings

of others, while men's responses are shown typically to depend deeply on reason. Along with this expectation, women regularly choose to suffer secretly because they are afraid of the consequences that such a revelation could bring upon them and their families.

Lack of intimacy between Mrs. Ames and her husband shows how being a woman living under such conditions is very difficult, frustrating, unjust and oppressive. To abuse his wife, the astronomer exercises different, vicious and damaging behaviours which broaden the gap between him and his wife. Mrs. Ames' husband uses sarcasm to put her down or make her feel bad about herself. What is strange about the behaviour of the astronomer is that he resorts to silence as a means of abuse. Through silence he becomes emotionally distant or emotionally absent most of the time. He does not show her empathy or compassion. Sanderson and Evans (2001) indicate that 'couples construct intimacy in the context of daily temporal interactions'. Through silence he disclaims taking personal responsibility and disengages himself or uses abandonment to punish or frighten his wife.

Although by exercising silence the astronomer manipulates and controls his wife, for some reason, Mrs. Ames favours her husband's typical destructive silence to his actually speaking to her. His silence keeps distance between them and reminds her always of his dominance. The problem with silence is that most people feel the need to fill the void of silence with needless chatting with others. Mrs. Ames, instead of telling the plumber straightforwardly about the leak in the pipes, starts speaking with him about 'their arrival that summer in the little villa'. She supplies the plumber with all the information about the problem that he needs and continues to inspect the pipes together with him as if he needs her help. Silence can be disturbing and can make people feel uncomfortable and alone.

Although the astronomer could be resorting to silence for meditative purposes, he deliberately abuses his wife by subjecting her to his silence. In either circumstance, such silence is not a healthy behaviour or constructive activity because it is practised at the expense of the relationship with his wife. Lack of intimacy and friendly conversations are revealed by the absence of verbal and emotional intimacy. Because people are unable to communicate on levels of extra sensory perception or body language, words are the only tools available to them to communicate as well as resolve their issues. There is little sense in being in a relationship and resorting to silence. Not only does it damage the lifeline of a healthy coupling, it blocks one's expressive needs.

Usually, and almost everywhere, women have to fight actively and constantly against the restrictions exercised on them by patriarchal structures. They have to fight by having to prove their worth. They feel routinely patronised as women, assumed to be less capable than a man and assumed to be weaker. The husband of Mrs. Ames is apparently cold and domineering. This makes her accept that all men are like him, which makes her feel that men are strong, intelligent, and important, whereas women are feeble, incompetent, and irritating. When Mr. Ames says to his wife 'in a ringing tone, 'there's a problem worthy of your mettle!', he affirms his idea that his wife is intellectually unable to understand anything more complex than a blocked drain. This offence undermines Mrs. Ames' already shaky self-confidence, thus reinforcing her dependence on him.

It is evident that Mrs. Ames has a different character and different thoughts about marriage life from her husband. Mrs. Ames suffers loneliness and lack of affection from her husband. She is deprived of meaningful human contact which makes her welcome strangers' courtesies. She

finds herself feeling lonely, craving more affection than she gets. Maybe she wishes her spouse is a bit more demonstrative of his love. Maybe she has tried without success to get him to be more affectionate with her, so she goes on wishing for more affection than she receives. To live a healthy life and to make her mind and body function properly, Mrs. Ames is badly in need for affection just like her need for food and water. The sufferings of Mrs. Ames clearly demonstrate that just as lack of food and water have their damaging effects, so does the lack of affection.

Because of being neglected and emotionally alienated all the time, Mrs. Ames shows submissiveness towards her husband's thoughts about herself and women in general. The story contains many reflections on how, under the influence of her husband, Mrs. Ames views men as superior to women. As readers go through the story, they come to the conclusion that the astronomer is educated while his wife is not. This issue creates a greater distance between the couple, complicating their marital relationship problem. 'That man might be each time the new arching wave, and woman the undertow that sucked him back, were things she had been told by his silence were so' (Boyle, 1988). This clearly reveals the traditional patriarchal superiority of man and the subordination of women in the eyes of the astronomer.

The story shows that the astronomer is not caring about his wife, therefore making her feel alienated. As his job indicates, he works at night and sleeps during the day making it more difficult for the relationship between him and his wife. 'The day would proceed from this, beat by beat, without reflection, like any other day. The astronomer was still asleep, or feigning it, and she, once out of bed, had come into her own possession' (Boyle, 1988). This decreases the possibility of sharing any action or conversation during the day or night which results in dissatisfaction and unhappiness. According to Amato et al (2007), 'increased shared time may be associated with higher marital satisfaction and decreased likelihood of marital conflict'.

It is clearly indicated through the text that the astronomer holds higher status. 'Whereas her husband had always gone up, as the dead go, she knew now that there were others who went down, like the corporeal being of the dead'. This has twofold possible meanings. First, it probably indicates that the astronomer is emotionally dead and cold. Second, because Mrs. Ames' husband is an astronomer, he is busy looking upward to the sky and the stars which represents his intellectual superiority over his wife and the plumber. However, the plumber who is physically and emotionally more attractive to Mrs. Ames, has a job that indicates that he holds an inferior status to Mr Ames: 'her husband was the mind, this other man the meat, of all mankind'. (Boyle, 1988). The astronomer, due to his professional occupation, watches the stars up in the sky, while Mrs. Ames who is starving for affection, looks down 'into the heart of the earth' to watch the plumber whose hair is 'shining like a star'. As can be seen here, the author has used paradoxical imagery to emphasise these contrasts.

Mrs. Ames' repression of her desires and hopes about her cold relationship with her husband are intensified when she is introduced to the plumber. The way she speaks with him reveals her concealment of her unconscious thoughts and repressed desires to establish a friendly relationship with others. Mrs. Ames' repressions leave her hopeless, powerless, and dependent on her husband, without any sign of hope left in her. 'She was a youngish woman, but this she had forgotten. The mystery and silence of her husband's mind lay like a chiding finger on her lips. Her eyes were grey, for the light had been extinguished in them' (Boyle, 1988). Later on in the story, the readers can see that Mrs. Ames is indifferent towards her husband. 'Mrs. Ames

did not turn her head, but led the plumber swiftly down the stairs'. In fact, the astronomer is rude towards his wife.

This repression of Mrs. Ames' desires continues to influence her character and her lifestyle. Her perceptions about men and women are distorted; her repressed dream colours her perception of the world as well. She does not accurately perceive the real meaning of being a woman. She thinks that the proper way to survive in such a world is through submission and accepting her husband's point of view. She learns that men are superior to women. From her point of view, all men are just like her husband.

The effects of long-lasting emotional manipulation can cause severe emotional suffering in the victim and results in striking consequences. People suffering from lack of emotional and physical intimacy, as Mrs. Ames seems to do, are disadvantaged in multiple ways. Certainly, people who feel more deprived of affection are less happy, more alienated, more likely to suffer from depression and stress, and, overall, from bad health. They have less social support and lower relationship approval. They undergo more mood and anxiety disorders. They are more likely to have a condition that weakens their ability to express and interpret emotion. Erikson (1950) indicates that 'avoiding intimacy, fearing commitment and relationships can lead to isolation, loneliness, and sometimes depression'.

Mrs. Ames' development of character and identity is noticed at the end of the story. The reader can easily notice the effect of suffering and repression on the formation of the identity of her character. She is exposed to severe abuse. Through her carefully constructed characterization, Boyle seems to highlight the destructive effect of others on the female characters. She shows in *The Astronomer's Wife* that human nature is susceptible to change under the influence of social circumstances. Kharbutli (2011), in his article 'The woman question in the Secret Agent: Conrad's Humanism', asserts through his discussion that the character of a woman is not genetic but social. Yet he concludes that women, like men, are governed as much by nature as by nurture.

Mrs. Ames' repression of her desires and feelings of love blends with her strong passions. The boundaries between her self-expression and self-repression seem to blur. This is why she frequently conceals her passions towards the plumber. The conflict between her passions and repression results in destabilizing and splitting the self. Self-negation sometimes leads Mrs. Ames to disharmony. Her choice to go down with the plumber is a result of this conflict. Her experience with the plumber results in self-recognition. According to John Kucich (1987), 'passion and repression frequently become interchangeable or reversible signs within a far more complicated conception of human desire that does not respect the "obvious dichotomies –self –expression versus self-suppression; nature versus culture; vitality versus inhibition –that we conventionally assign to them'.

When Mrs. Ames receives respect and kind treatment from the plumber, she starts to have inner strength. In fact, the sensitive plumber feels sympathy for Mrs. Ames. Mrs. Ames becomes more aware of him as a man and recognizes that he is completely different from her husband. When she willfully decides to go down into the drains with the plumber, she releases herself from the oppression that her husband has exercised on her. Hope and meaning have come back into her life. She learns not to consider people just in the way the society values them. She is no longer socially pretentious or self-conscious. She becomes spontaneous.

Mrs. Ames at the end builds social skill and capacity, but she is not controlled by superficial social bureaucracies. She is no longer confined by her own ego as well. She is capable of evaluating her own behaviour and the capacity to change. The self-shaky astronomer's wife now has the will and the strength to go against social pressure. Unlike many current impressions about female individuality, Mrs. Ames at the end of the story is able to express her intelligence, independence and strength. She is able to stand up against her husband's arrogance, speak her mind freely and disregard social status. She attempts only to express her own unique feminine individuality. With her strong passions and kindness, she is feminine and individualistic.

Hemingway's 'Cat in the Rain'

In Hemingway's 'Cat in the Rain' the American wife shares several of Mrs. Ames' sufferings. The American wife, or the American girl as she is referred to in the story, suffers from the emotional coldness of her husband. It is obvious that this causes her the most despair because of the persistent corrosion of intimacy. Reza Hashemi and Ahmadi (2010) maintain that, 'through this story, Hemingway displays his ability to depict women with their problems, and apparently sympathize with them'. Hemingway implies that couples become unemotional towards one another if they stop caring and understanding each other's feelings. Throughout the story readers cannot come see any act of love or a gesture of intimacy between the wife and the husband, no touching, no kissing, and no sharing except a room in a hotel. It is evident that their emotionally warm feelings have been frozen to death.

George's cold relationship with his wife can be recognized from the very beginning of the story. Hemingway's skill as a storyteller is demonstrated by his description of the setting and the people. George and his wife do not regard each other at all, even though they are clearly travelling together. Although they are in the same room, the husband seems never to initiate a conversation. 'The husband went on reading, lying propped up with the two pillows at the foot of the bed'. This dominating silence practiced by the husband reflects a hidden and repressed feeling that the wife is unable to confide which might be due to the American convention of feminism at that time. This refusal of expression of the feelings is soon displayed at the moment when the wife meets the hotel owner. Her struggle to realize the impact of her repressive behaviour underscores the instability of repressive experience.

It is believed that intimacy is expressed in the form of caring and sharing which helps people to overcome the difficulties in life. Moreover, without intimacy it would be difficult to handle the problems that will arise. George in 'Cat in the rain' is a man who ignores his wife's needs and his reply to her wishes is asking her to 'shut up and get something to read,' and he resumes reading again. The wife's repression of her emotions and the cold feelings demonstrated by her husband towards her are echoed in her meeting with the hotel owner and in her insistence to have the cat.

The wife likes the padrone. She likes 'the way he wanted to serve her'. She probably compares her husband's attitude toward her going out in the rain with the padrone's. George only says, 'Don't get wet,'. The maid appears with an umbrella behind the woman at the door and she insists to the wife, 'You must not get wet'. Consequently, the actions and words of the padrone and maid characterize what the wife feels she does not get from George: care, and even love. Due to the intimacy and respect he shows to the wife, the padrone becomes a foil for George. His sympathetic interactions with her impress the wife. Reynolds and Knudson-Martin (2015)

indicate that couples when ‘they respond to each other, they interpret and give meaning to their interactions’.

The cat in the story is a symbol that functions in two ways. It is something that the wife both wishes to have and with which she is associated. The cat’s situation clearly turns the reader’s attention to the American wife’s misery, lack of protection, loneliness, pitifulness, and similarly the unfriendly surroundings. These things encourage readers to sympathise with the wife’s situation rather than with her husband. She is also in a place where she suffers, which clarifies why she might pity the cat. The protection that the cat is seeking under the table fairly represents the largeness of the padrone that makes the wife feel protected. The protection and respect she receives from the padrone make the wife want to be drawn towards him. Her wish to obtain the cat is an outlet for her repressed desires and feelings. In fact, she is sharing her own sensitivity and vulnerability.

Lack of intimacy between George and his wife results in a lack of insight about understanding and processing of feelings. They avoid taking risks to love each other and never learn to develop true intimacy. George would rather threaten their relationship than show empathy to his wife. He fails to learn the all-important skills of obligation towards his wife such as sympathy, understanding intentions and motives, compassion and empathy. True intimacy and a lasting partnership involve the skills of dealing with conflict. Negotiating conflict is necessary for the relationship to continue effectively. George, as presented in the story, evades talking with his wife about her concerns and needs and often discounts the issues in his relationship with her and he pulls away from her. He does not get off his bed to help his wife get the cat. Thus, lack of intimacy makes partners angry and withdrawn. The American wife becomes highly threatened and angry which weakens the relationship

Hemingway’s utilization of creating the hotel owner as a foil character for George gives him the opportunity to present George dramatically and mimetically and allows the reader to recognize George’s faults without directly pointing to them or harshly criticizing him. Hemingway emphasizes and consequently accentuates the disappointment of the American wife. Moreover, Hemingway’s aim was to contrast two different characters and to demonstrate the fact that George is unlike the hotel owner, as he spends all his spare time on reading as an escape from dealing with his wife’s and probably his own problems rather than having to talk about them. George still feels shame about appearing weak and finds it hard to express his vulnerabilities. The comparison can be a representation of a clash between two different attitudes towards women. The conflict is between valuing and respecting women as equal to men versus ignoring and humiliating women for being inferior to men.

For George, it could be that showing intimacy includes an emotional risk or a challenge to his beliefs about masculinity. He probably believes that men should always be in control. George could be impotent, and fear of intimacy and fear of embarrassment keeps him away from his wife. He probably thinks that in opening up to his wife there is the risk of being hurt if he does not react in an acceptable way. Therefore, emotional distance between George and his wife widens and becomes a habit, and relationship breakdown is increasingly expected. ‘The woman's strong child-wish and the man sexual impotence make it relatively taxing to have an emotional relation with one another’ (A Commentary on E. Hemingway's *Cat in The Rain*). George does not want to sacrifice his masculinity and to manage the uncomfortable feelings he has which result in less intimacy and love towards his wife.

CONCLUSION

The examination of repression in female characters is symptomatic of a general scrutiny of gender codes in both stories. Repression in the American wife in 'Cat in the Rain' and Mrs. Ames in 'Astronomer's Wife' shows similar results; they share, in the end, the need for masculine protection. Maria Ioannou (2012) argues that 'energy in women appears as destructive and goodness as broken submissiveness'. This is clearly represented in the characters of Mrs Ames and the American wife whose goodness and self-negation ends in a complete subordination to the patriarchal norms. The authors show that woman's energetic and rebellious spirit against the patriarchal system is the reason for her suffering and misery.

Reviewing the results of the present analysis one can conclude that Boyle's and Hemingway's literary constructions of men and masculinity thoroughly depict the twentieth-century male image. The authors bewail a world in which both men and women fail to co-exist and function properly. Male and female characters cannot help to facilitate each other's development. Male loss of control is shown as being linked with a man's sense of his own masculinity. In this way the representation of loss of control in imaginative writing exposes and explores some of the fears, ambiguities and hazards of achieving and maintaining masculinity in a patriarchal society.

From the ideas aroused in these stories through characters and relationships we can see women being constrained as the inferior sex to men. The outstanding structure of both stories creates the image of women not being as powerful as men. These stories significantly reflect the real world and how in the past women have been seen inferior to men. They demonstrate how individuals' minds have been affected by society to believe this is true and people often fall subject to this evil without a second thought.

Lack of intimacy can be mainly caused by gender and socioeconomic status which are very important aspects that contribute to the widening of the rift between husbands and wives. Women who are disadvantaged by good economic status and conditions are more conscious of inequality than women who are advantaged. Accordingly, women are more conscious of gender inequality than men. This also predicts that women with low education or significant jobs or low income are more conscious of gender inequality. Men have great tendency to view women as helpless and passive. Because of their selfishness and ruthlessness, they do not stop to think how lonely women can be and need them to talk and –listen. Talking and listening are the vital and valuable components of intimacy.

About the author:

Dr. Mohammad Ahmed Taleb Al-Abdulrazaq has a PhD in Victorian Literature from Edith Cowan University, Western Australia. Currently, I am working as a full time lecturer at Al-Balqa' Applied University, Irbid University College in the Department of English Language and Literature. My research interest areas include Victorian novel, Psychoanalysis, theatre of Absurd, Romanticism and Feminism.

REFERENCES

- 'A Commentary On E. Hemingway's A Cat in The Rain'. Essaymonster. Net. 3 Feb. 2017. <http://essaymonster.net/literature/8988-a-commentary-on-e-hemingway-s-a-cat-in-the-rain.html>
- 'Epiphany in Astronomer's Wife, When I consider how my light is spent and Everything That Rises Must."123HelpMe.com. 20 Jan2017 <<http://www.123HelpMe.com/view.asp?id=18721>>.
- Amato, P. R., Booth, A., Johnson, D. R., & Rogers, S. J. (2007). *Alone Together*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
- Boyle, Kay. (1988). "Astronomer's Wife." *Life Being the Best and Other Stories*. New York: New Directions. 27-34. Print.
- Erikson, E. H. (1950). *Childhood and society*. New York: W. W. Norton & Company.
- (1959). *Identity and the Life Cycle*. W. W. Norton Company: New York.
- Hemingway, Ernest. (1987). *The complete short stories of Ernest Hemingway*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.
- Hu Y, Wood JF, Smith V, Westbrook N. (2004). 'Friendships Through IM: Examining the Relationship Between Instant Messaging and Intimacy'. *Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication*, 10(1), 00-00.
- Ioannou, Maria. (2013). '[S]imply because I found her irresistible": Female Erotic Power and Feminism in Great Expectations'. *Dickens Quarterly*. Vol. 29, No. 2, June 2012. Pp. 142-150. Academic OneFile. Web. 27 Sept.
- Kharbutli, Mahmoud. (2011). 'The Woman Question in the Secret Agent: Conrad's Humanism. *Dirasat, Human and Social Sciences*, Vol. 38, No.1, p291
- Kucich, John. (1987). *Repression in Victorian Fiction: Charlotte Brontë, George Eliot, and Charles Dickens*. University of California Press, Berkeley.
- Laurenceau JP, Barrett LF, Pietromonaco PR. (1998). 'Intimacy as an Interpersonal Process: The Importance of Self-disclosure, Partner Disclosure, and Perceived Partner Responsiveness in Interpersonal Exchanges'. *Journal of personality and social psychology*, 74(5), 1238
- Miller RS, Lefcourt HM. (1982). 'The assessment of social intimacy'. *Journal of Personality Assessment*, 46(5), 514-518
- Reynolds, Conroy; Knudson-Martin, Carmen. (2015). 'Gender and the Construction of Intimacy among Committed Couples with Children'. *Family Process (FAM PROCESS)*, Jun2015; 54(2): 293-307. (15p)
- Reza Hashemi, Mohammad, Ahmadi, Hesamoddin Shahriari. (2010). 'A Cross-Cultural Analysis of Hemingway's Cat in The Rain for The Iranian Efl Context'. *Journal of Linguistic Intercultural Education*, Vol. 3, p101-109. 9p.
- Sanderson, C., & Evans, S. (2001). 'Seeing one's Partner Through Intimacy Colored Glasses: An Examination of the Process Underlying the Intimacy-goals Relationship Satisfaction Link. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 27(4), 463-473
- Timmerman GM. (1991). A concept analysis of intimacy. *Issues in Mental Health Nursing*, 12(1), 19-30