

ANALYZING THE CONCEPT OF “WINNING BY LOSING” IN RELATION TO “JANE EYRE” BY CHARLOTTE BRONTE AND “HARVEST” BY MANJULA PADMANABHAN

AGSM. Samarasinghe¹, RMLC. Kumari², AAI. Maduwanthi³, AF Abdul Halik⁴

“The female” is always viewed and depicted as an inferior object and a voiceless weak being who should constantly be kept under the rigid gaze of the superior patriarchal male as the society believes that she lacks the ability to take important decisions by her own. Many literary works illustrate how females are kept in vulnerable positions in the society and how they struggle very hard to find their liberation whereas the males are in their quests to save the world and the day. This inequality and the discrimination become increased if the female characters are from the societies which are not “White”. Hence, she gets marginalized twice for being female as well as for not being “White”. In some of such instances, where the female is not given any power or authority to fight against patriarchy, she becomes rebellious and realizes her victory in her own way by destroying herself which terminates the ultimate satisfaction of the male, that is making the female suffer. Manjula Padmanabhan’s *Harvest* (1997) and Charlotte Bronte’s *Jane Eyre* (1847) are two widely appreciated literary works which discuss the dehumanization, neo-colonization and female experience as well as self-awareness respectively. Apart from these perspectives, the aforementioned literary works are viewed very little under the theories attached to gender studies. Thus, this study fills that unaddressed void by analyzing how “Jaya” of “*Harvest*” and “the unspoken mad woman in the attic” of “*Jane Eyre*” represent these double marginalized, unspoken voiceless females who kill themselves in order to achieve the apex of their life. The desk research approach is applied in this research as the methodology. “Winning by losing” is the concept which is employed in this study. In conclusion the suicidal act of both the female characters illustrates the victory and freedom they achieve at the end by gaining the power and authority to end their lives as they want which make them win even by losing.

Keywords: Female, Freedom, Marginalized, Voiceless, Winning by Losing

¹ *English Language Teaching Unit, University College of Anuradhapura, University of Vocational Technology. subodhanisamarasinghe@gmail.com*

² *Department of English Language Teaching, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka.*

³ *Department of English Language Teaching, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka.*

⁴ *Al Hilal Central College, Mutur.*