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**“The Representation of Woman in Thomas
Hardy’s Novel “Tess of the d’Urbervilles” in The
Victorian Society”**

*An Extended Essay Submitted in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirement for a
Master’s Degree in Literature and Civilisation*

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Dedication

I am truly indebted to my parents for their help, support and encouragement from the day I was born to the end of my life.

I dedicate this dissertation to all my family from the young ones to the eldest ones.

I dedicate this work to my close friends: ZEGRER Noor, BENTABET Mohamed,

AZZOUZI Tarek, SEDDIK Imene and to the most amazing woman I know BENKRADDA Fatima Zohra.

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Abstract

The aim of this study is to examine Thomas Hardy's representation of woman in the Victorian society in his selected novel *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*. In the majority of Victorian novels, certain norms were imposed on women to be inferior to men. However, when a woman does not follow the Victorian conventions, she would be judged according to these strict laws. Thomas Hardy created a female character as the main character of his novel *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*. According to his male feminist and ecofeminist perspective, we discovered that Tess is seem to be a pure and innocent girl, but she committed a sinful act and she was named as a fallen woman. Hardy represented her as a victim of bad social norms. Clearly that Thomas Hardy's representation of Tess as a woman in the Victorian community based on his real world, which made himself as a male feminist and an ecofeminist writer in his treatment of woman's conditions. Hardy's work revealed his deep sympathy for women and their struggle both inside and outside the home. A well-known fact, that the English society was patriarchal and obliged women to stick to domesticity, they were expected to be pure in order not to be hate by society. By focusing on a feminist approach to Hardy's female character, we found out that as a writer, Hardy followed his feminist position towards women since he sympathizes the unfortunate situation of women.

Key words: The Victorian Era, Patriarchy, The New Woman, Sexual Politics, Male Feminist, Eco-Feminism.

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General Introduction

Literature is a body of written works that deals with those imaginative works of poetry and prose according to the style of authors and their visions. Literature constantly evolves new movements to speak out the concerns of different groups of people and historical periods. The period of the Victorian era (1835-1901) was characterized by strict social, political and sexual conservatism. The Victorian novelists including the Brontë sisters, Charles Dickens, Alfred Lord Tennyson and Thomas Hardy were considered to be as social reformers.

Thomas Hardy (1840-1928) is one of the most prominent writers in the history of English literature. Hardy lived in a society known by its rigid laws and harsh treatment of women. Throughout his writing career, he has given much attention to the relations between human and nature, men and women. Thomas Hardy, one of the best writers in the Victorian era, was always attached to the rural regions of western England. Hardy was clearly concerned with the community and in certain social issues; he is called the social novelist for he is considered to be one of the social reformers during the nineteenth century when tackling certain social issues in the British society.

The nineteenth century witnessed radical development in theories of the study of literature, such as psychoanalysis, Marxist, Feminism and eco-Feminism. “Hardy’s texts were at the Centre of these theoretical movements, including one that came to prominence in the 1980s, feminism” (Geoffrey, 145). Many critics dealt with different issues, Hardy’s depiction of the Victorian society, the different social classes and the conditions under which Victorians lived and the problems that undergone by them.

Ecofeminism is originated from Feminism which considers that there is a strong link between nature and woman. The patriarchal society's destruction of the nature and the oppression of women which makes both of nature and women as victims. In the field of literary criticism, Ecofeminist approach has been applied to explore the deep relationship between nature, woman and man in literary works. Ecofeminists believe that there is a connection between a woman and nature. Woman is deemed to be more sensitive than man to see herself as part of nature. However, women in the patriarchal society have shared the same pathetic fate with nature in human civilization. Therefore, ecofeminists hope to arouse people’s ecological consciousness as

well as awareness of gender equality, longing for a tolerant society in which harmony maintains between nature, women and men.

The purpose of Hardy's novel as a Male Feminist and Ecofeminist is not making a revolution as a writer but he was displaying that there is something wrong with the society and the social conventions are harsh and unfair especially to women. Hardy's vision makes us as readers see nature and women together and behold nature as a landscape for women's emotions and also changing their fate.

In our research, we will focus on Thomas Hardy's novel "Tess of the d'Urbervilles" published in 1891. In the Westminster Review, this novel is considered to be a masterpiece and a classic one. In this novel, Hardy depicts the patriarchal society of the Victorian era, where men set the moral codes and social norms and women are obliged to follow those rules. Thus, women challenge the strict British society norms of the patriarchal British society. The Victorian society had been under severe traditional rules and social standards. Thereby, women were forced to follow those very severe conventions, which were established by men and are imposed on community. Thus, any woman in society did not follow these rules and customs society rejects her or she receives a death penalty as a punishment.

My main motivation in this topic when conducting this research paper is that I was intrigued by the subject of Feminism and its impact on modern society as it was mentioned in my dissertation male dominance took a huge part in making this movement happens because as it was from the beginning of time women were considered the weak sex and throughout time this idea was acceptable which made it all the easier for society to judge them as inferior to men. The main purpose of Thomas Hardy's novel, a feminist himself was to show that the mistreating of woman in his novel that is "Tess of the d'Urbervilles" and blame the society for that, also, he shows his support for women and demand for society to change the social norms of patriarchal community.

As history has marked always that women are capable of extraordinary things even if they are mistreated or misunderstood, they have shown us many times over their capability to chase their dreams and reach their goals with such an exceptional strength as mothers, sisters, leaders wives and more and for that they should be acknowledged and recognized for their contribution to the human race

This research paper is based on how he depicts Tess as a woman in the Victorian patriarchal community in the nineteenth century. Patriarchy is defined as “a society is ruled or controlled by men” (Longman Dictionary, 650). The novel aims at determining to exhibit to which extent Thomas Hardy depicted Tess as a woman based on his feminist and ecofeminist point of view on the Victorian values of the British society during that period. Thomas Hardy depicts the double standard morality that existed in the British community.

The novel is full of themes, the most dominant themes are patriarchy, double standard morality, sexuality and male domination over woman. Mainly our concern in this paper is to depict Tess as a woman based on Thomas Hardy Feminism and Ecofeminism on the novel “Tess of the d’Urbervilles”. The present research work attempts to answer the following research questions:

- 1- How was the Victorian society structured? And what were the social norms that the Victorian community stood on?
- 2- How did Feminism play a significant part in the perception of what a woman is compared to the Victorian woman?
- 3- How did Thomas Hardy as a Male Feminist and an Eco feminist depict “Tess” as a woman in the Victorian community?

After examining the sources that are used to build this work we could formulate the following hypotheses:

- 1- Society was divided into different classes (the upper class, the middle class, the lower class also known as the working class)
- 2- Feminism is a range of political and ideological movement that promoted the issues of the equality of sexes, which was lacking for women from the Victorian era mentioned by Thomas Hardy.
- 3- Thomas Hardy as a Male Feminist and Ecofeminist, depicted Tess as the true definition of purity and innocence, which turned into a victim seeking for revenge

which led her to be a murderer by mentioning the several causes that led to this tragedy.

In this paper, in order to understand and analyze Thomas Hardy's the Male Feminist and the Ecofeminist perspective in depicting Tess as a woman in the Victorian community. When intending to do so we made our research paper to be divided into three chapters. The first chapter will be about "the historical glance of the Victorian society" for we consider it is vital before tackling the novel and Thomas Hardy's work to indulge in the historical and even the social context of the British society and its values in the nineteenth century during the reign of the queen Victoria. Thus, in this chapter we will present given points and ideas in relation to the industrial revolution and its impact on the British society in the nineteenth century. Also, we will refer to the male status in the Victorian society. The following section of this chapter will be about the image of the Victorian woman as "an Ideal Woman" from the viewpoint of the British Victorian society. For the last section, it will be about woman and the social conditions in the same community.

The second chapter will be entitled as "The Theoretical Overview of Key Concepts in Feminism", We urged to deal with four main key concepts in Feminism. These key concepts are: The New Woman, Sexual Politics, Male Feminism and Eco-Feminism. All these four concepts are part of Feminism. Our methodology in our work is to base our work on these concepts in order to have a global understanding of the authors' stand and perspective by means of which at a later stage of this paper we will shed light on these concepts when analyzing the novel in the third chapter in relation to the author's vision.

The final third chapter is devoted to detectability of the concepts of Feminism and the depiction of Tess as a woman in the Victorian society by Thomas Hardy as a Male Feminist and Ecofeminist based on the novel "Tess of the d'Urbervilles". This chapter has other three sections entitled as "Tess "the fallen woman", "Tess as "a pure woman", "Tess as "a victim", and "Tess as "a woman in power"". We have made these sections to show the dissimilar status change that Thomas Hardy attributed to the female protagonist of the novel Tess throughout the course of the novel from being the fragile, victim and scared "Tess" to The Fearless "Tess" in power.

Chapter one: A Historical Glance of the Victorian Society.

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Introduction

Before examining a literary work, it is important to set an investigation on the period of the nineteenth century and the society in which the author lived on. This first chapter sheds the light on a historical glance of the Victorian society during the nineteenth century in the British society and how the industrial revolution had an impact on the British society's traditions and laws in order to comprehend the author's depiction of the Victorian era. Then in this chapter we take a look at the male status in the Victorian era. We will also focus on the image of the Victorian woman as "the ideal woman" and woman as "victim" under Victorian social conditions

1.1 The Industrial Revolution and its Impact on Victorian Society

The Industrial Revolution as a term was coined by the French economic historian Arnold Toynbee for describing Britain's economic development. The Industrial Revolution was dominated by industry and machines factories, its was based on using iron, steel, energy, steam engine, electricity and petroleum. There was a development in agriculture that shifted Britain by means of the economic power to a greater state, there was growth of cities and development of working- class movements. However, the Industrial Revolution has affected mainly the countryside, a large number of women. Men and children have moved from the rural regions to the cities to find better chances of getting a job. The structure of British society has changed by the impact and the consequence of the Industrial Revolution.

The industrial revolution, that occurred from the eighteenth to nineteenth centuries, was a period during that predominantly agricultural, rural societies in Europe and America became industrial and urban. Before the industrial Revolution, that began in Great Britain within the late 1700s, producing was usually done in people's homes, exploitation hand tools or basic machines. Manufacture marked a shift to powered, special-purpose machinery, factories and production. The iron and textile industries, in conjunction with the event of the external-combustion engine, central roles in the age, that additionally saw improved systems of transportation, communication and banking. While manufacture caused an increased volume associating degreed form of

factory-made product and an improved the conditions of living. It additionally resulted in usually grim and employment and living conditions for the poor.¹

It is considered that “The concept of an industrial revolution denotes an economic transition in which the means of production become increasingly specialized, mechanized, and organized. This process uses technology, in some association with science, to create large increases in the productive capacity of an economy, which in turn eventually transforms society as a whole” (NPG)² The idea of an historic period denotes an economic transition during which the means that of production become more and more specialized, mechanized, and organized. This method uses technology, in some association with science, to form massive will increase in the productive capacity of an economy, which successively eventually transforms society as a whole.

Hobsbawm E.J, in his book, the age of revolution in 1962, he defined the industrial revolution that happened in the early 18th century by saying “The industrial revolution is defined as the most fundamental transformation and change, which happened in the early 18th century, in the history of the human life”. (14). The British society has witnessed huge changes during the industrial revolution, also this period is considered as a period of development, prosperity and peace in many fields such as economics, living standards and literature.

The industrial revolution changed British society in many ways, mainly, increased the population, changed the lifestyle of the majority of people and affected the governments rules that were put on the society. Since the industrial revolution has changed the state of the Victorian society and economy, there was huge results of the industrial revolution that was affected the society and created two main classes, especially in terms of money.

However, according to Sally Mitchel 1996, she stated that “the outcome of the industrial revolution in Victorian society was the resultant of the distinguishable social classes. first, the bourgeoisie class which was the richest and dominant one, but on one hand, the middle and the

¹ <https://www.history.com/topics/industrial-revolution> , The industrial revolution, History. 2009,12:30
retrieved April 17 2018,17:00

² Thomson Gale, “Industrial Revolution. “Encyclopedia of Science, Technology, and Ethics
//<https://www.encyclopedia.com/science/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/industrial-revolution-1>
12 May. 2017 ,15:25

working class were undergoing social issues” (48). This means that the industrial revolution created a bridge between the rich and the poor which was a negative factor led to the poverty and inequality in the social life such as child labor, every child must work for the desperate need for the money while factories owners were satisfied, because they can pay children less and control them easily at the same time and make them work for a straight sixteen hours each day. Alongside poverty, there was prostitution and disease.

There were about 8,000 and 80,000 prostitutes in London during the Victorian age. It is generally considered that the majority of those women found themselves in prostitution because of economic necessity. Prostitutes were known as “fallen women”, However, prostitution was legal and even encouraged in many circles, as a result of it had been believed that men needed an outlet for the sexual desires that they were forced to repress in their daily lives. It additionally allowed many women opportunities to earn wages that they may have not earned otherwise. In the nineteenth century England, the populations in many cities began to increase drastically. However, with this drastic increase there were results like poor environmental and living conditions, terrible hygiene from the homeless and prostitutes on the street, and very poor sanitation. Through these results were many outbreaks of the many completely different diseases that effected the lives of thousands of people. Many types diseases were spreading during the Victorian era such as scarlet fever, typhoid, tuberculosis and chicken pox.

The Victorian society was divided and structured into three main classes. First, upper class which consisted of the aristocrats, nobles, dukes and wealthy families, people in this class were living in a better condition. Second, The Upper Class was represented by inheritance a Royal Class, they gathered so much money for generations to live a luxurious life through by establishing many industries. Third, there were also the middle-class people whom managed to support their lives because of the industrial revolution in which brought some changes and opened doors for these people of the middle class to have jobs opportunities. Fourth, the working class which is considered to be the lowest class. this class was mixed between skilled and unskilled workers, most of them were living in a misery and pathetic condition due to of lack of money which pushed them to make children work with very low wages. Children were obligatory for them to work especially if their father passed away; they must take the responsibility to provide for the family in order to survive these worst conditions.

The industrial revolution played a major role in effecting the society and the social norms and made the community stick to a strict principle that were the pillars the Victorian society. The norms of the Victorian society were based on religion and industrialization. Those rules or norms such as men were influenced by religion, economy and domesticity. The main objectives of men are to provide the family with food and shelter and to protect them from any harm. Moreover, men were considered superior to the women, mentally and physically. women were the homemakers, they obey their husbands and serve their needs at any time without questions or rejection. On one hand, women were called “angels of the house” they take care of the children and keep the house proper and clean. In the other hand, they had no right to vote or claim their rights by court or own business.

1.2 The Male Status in the Victorian Society

During the Victorian era, the English society was based on a system that is divided into three main classes which allowed for men to have total privileges in the community. Male’s status was high in comparison with women. Men were considered to be the providers, protectors and heroes. They had more rights than women and also, they were known for making the best or right decisions, rational solutions in tough situations. Therefore, they were considered as heads and superiors in the family, no one in the family doubts of man’s visions. Thus, men must dress properly like a gentleman with coat and watch carrying with them.

The ideal male status was to have a good financial status, with the characteristics like honor, loyalty faithful. the male expects the female to have some domestique duties, like cooking, raise the kids and clean the house also to have pure spirit. Man does not allow his woman to work outside the house, since in most cases he gets paid more than women even if he had the worst job, he supplies the woman with comfort by showing respect and getting respect from others especially from his colleagues as he work hard. Women dreamed to marry this kind of males.

Superiority and success were main objectives of man in the Victorian society and he was reinforced by the idea of getting married because it meant to him be fully masculine. Women cannot divorce men according to man’s status in the Victorian society but man can beat his wife with no consequences or divorce a woman if she cannot meet his expectations and satisfy

his needs .Male status allows men to be sexually promiscuous .The Victorian men thought that sex reduces stress that is why they go to brothels also their status condones them to get involve in prostitution just to have a healthy mind and productive and prostitution of women was a method to make money for women.

The Victorian era gave the male status importance in society, any family has high expectations for someone to be their provider and protector, in this case, it is the male. The male is the father, the husband, the brother toward his wife and his children. The industrial revolution and the politics gave the male all the advantages and made him a higher case valued through his important role in patriarchal society in which made man have all kind of rights such as using force to discipline his family, full control of the wife's personal property and money, absolute authority over the house and the children. "The man's power is active, progressive, defensive. He is eminently the doer, the creator, the discoverer, the defender. His intellect is for speculation, and invention; his energy for adventure, for war, and for conquest" (NPG)³ John Ruskin's words show that the male has the strength and the capacity to manage in playing different roles in life, also, he describes his capability in running every difficult aspect of life.

There were only males in the army and navy, in shipbuilding, construction, printing, railways and only male scientists, engineers, priests, city financiers and Members of Parliament. Moreover, since man possessed a high rank in society, it condoned him to do whatever he desired to such gambling, drinking, prostitution just for entertainment and socially it is acceptable for man to have affaires. As for education, science, philosophy was included in his status. Male status means to have the responsibility to fight and sacrifice for the country, to show bravery as a "brave knight" in front the people, also, taking into consideration to be great in mind and body. The Victorian society was based on male culture in which men allowed to control positions of workforce, government and noble places. The upper-class men, it was acceptable to have mistress and to be strict with their wives at the same time.

³ John Ruskin, Queen's Gardens (1865), Sesame and Lilies, 1865, part II. <http://www.philaletheians.co.uk/study-notes/down-to-earth/ruskin%27s-sesame-and-lilies> Retrieved on April 2018 at 15.45.

Males were treated based on their class position, if men from an upper-class, they treat them respectfully, if they are from lower class it would be the opposite. Thus, in clothing males were dressed up according to their status, if they were from an upper-class their clothes were elegant, they wear coats, trousers and accessories. But if they were from the lower class it would be the opposite like cotton suits and used clothes. In religion, male had most important roles such as priests and clergies. Religion was very important part of people's lives. It was dominating and impacting every aspect of life and culture in the Victorian era. Man was the preacher in the church, which makes him invincible comparing him to ministers and he was well educated. The church did not allow the lower class to enter the church but welcomed the upper class.

During the Victorian period, people in England were very religious. There have been many that regularly visited the church or visited chapel on Sunday. The Victorians happiness to the different strata of the society read the Bible very often. People were not only terribly spiritual also were fearing god. The eighteenth century evangelical revival had a major impact on morality, particularly among the working classes, and this spread to different sections of society during the first nineteenth century, partly through the influence of William Wilberforce. Evangelical Christianity continued to gain ground within the Anglican Church as well as in non-conformist denominations. By the time Victoria came to the throne in 1837 there was a trend towards religious respectability, though it is difficult to assess accurately the extent of church attending. The industrial plenty were not well supported for by the Church of England, and although the non-conformist churches had more impact in urban areas they were still dominated by the middle classes and many people remained out of reach.

1.3 The Image of the Victorian Woman as “The Ideal Woman”

In the Victorian era, Britain as a patriarchal society and separated spheres, women's place was at the home in which they were in the private away from the public sphere permanently. Men were in the public sphere that deals with politics and social business.

This era was called “the domestique age” which centers on womanhood, motherhood and mutual respect between the spouses. The Victorian woman was pictured as a weak creature as Helena Wojtczak described the position of woman in the nineteenth century, she says “The position of a woman has always been fragile, not because of the supposed delicacy and fragility of the woman herself, but because of the social norms which accompanied the state of being a woman. In the Victorian period, woman was perceived as controlled by their sexuality and reproductive organs, which prevented them from getting equal treatment. According to men, they were biologically inferior, and because of that, they had to be scrutinized and watched over” (NPG) ⁴. Wojtczak believes that the status of woman is basically related to the biological aspect and the social norms of the Victorian era which makes woman considered to be more fragile and inferior to man.

In the Victorian period, the ideal woman was characterized on purity, pious and chastity. Since men are considered to be leaders in the Victorian society in which they set some rules on women and how to become an ideal woman. “The ideal woman” as a concept sounds to be great but in reality, it is just to limit and prevent a woman from her desires and her imagination on how to live, it is like a mental prison as property of man and a tool of for their own satisfaction and abused.

The ideal woman is supposed to listen to her husband, raise the children without any compliant. Marriage and motherhood were considered to be two main aspects of the Victorian woman’s life as Lynn Abrams stated that “[f]or a woman not to become a mother meant she was liable to be labeled inadequate, a failure or in some way abnormal. Motherhood was expected of a married woman and the childless single woman was a figure to be pitied” (NPG) ⁵

⁴ Helena Wojtczak, *British Women's Emancipation since the Renaissance*, 2009 Web. <http://www.historyofwomen.org> Retrieved on. 28 April 2018 at 00:00.

⁵Abrams, Lynn. *Ideals of Womanhood in Victorian Britain*.” BBC History. (2001) web, <http://behindyellowwallpaperessays.tumblr.com/> . Retrieved on March 2018 at 11:56.

Women did raise the children but their husbands were taking the important decisions for them, taking care of the household was a suitable job for women, men cannot do that because they see it as it is beneath their status. According to Helena wojtzack “Women were brought up with notions of purity, piety, modesty and submissiveness; such behavior was impressed on them from the earliest stages of their life”⁴. Thus, education for women made them accurate to be such a good wife and after the education, women were expected to stay at home and make it comfortable for their husbands, who were meant to provide for women.

Men see woman’s body as an object to fulfil their desire, which is an acceptable point of view to by the Victorian society. A good wife was a virgin until her wedding night and was forever faithful to her husband. The husband was allowed to have multiple sexual intercourse and affaires but for a woman it was a bad idea and the system did not allow that kind of acts.

The ideal woman in the Victorian period was pictured as a property or a slave. However, Gilbert and Gubar 1979, gave a detailed description on how the ideal should be and they said “The Angel in the House” is the popular Victorian image of the ideal woman, she is the woman who should have the characteristics of an angel such as charming, graceful, gentle, self-sacrificing and pure. Her specific qualities of “unselfish grace, gentleness, simplicity, and nobility reveal that she is not only a pattern Victorian lady but almost literally an angel on earth” (60). As an angel, woman’s duty is to create a peaceful world for the man and make her home as refugee so her husband can escape from the harsh and cold outside world that he deals with daily as Showalter puts it “a perfect lady, an angel in the house, contentedly submissive to men, but strong in her inner purity and religiosity, queen in her own realm of the House” (NPG)⁶ The ideal woman must have the perfect qualities as a wife to maintain her house and give the children the best childhood and keep her husband satisfied.

⁶ Elain Showalter,1977 *"Angels in the House": Female Images in Victorian Children's Fantasy*.
<https://www.questia.com/library/journal/1P3-3676719771/angels-in-the-house-female-images-in-victorian>. retrieved

March 20 at 15:45.

1.4 Woman as Victim of Social Conditions

During the reign of queen Victoria, Britain was undergoing the industrial revolution and women were going through some difficulties as well. Women's dress in this period was acceptable which depends on their social status. Women from a higher class wore "reserved" dresses, elegant clothes with gloves and hats. They enjoyed their lives in luxury like having jewelry but women from low class, they worked in factories seven days in a week with at least ten hours a day with a low wage, also they had to work other jobs to support themselves. Their dresses were handmade and are noticeable, almost torn with revealing legs and ankles.

Prostitution was the aspect for women at that period because lower class women were in this type of road just feed their own family. Most of prostitutes were teenagers whom had a lack of education and bad financial situation. Women were not allowed to vote, to sue, to own and to be protected by the law against violence and abuse towards them, all that kind mistreating condoned them o live in bad conditions.

The marriage was defined as a contract that it can be called 'a prison contract' in which a woman cannot divorce her husband or claim her own earnings if she had a job until the husband agrees too, at this point women were considered that they have zero hope to get what they want or deserve.

The divorce is considered to be a taboo in the Victorian era, a divorced woman was seen as a guilty one, and the custody of the children was given to the husband directly because society saw women inferior to men. This made of men to be more abusive and women to be more victims, all that by the laws of the Victorian society and religion. Christianity, was the major religious belief in the Victorian era. It played a major role in society especially between the upper class and the lower class.

Women believed that they belonged to the private sphere with traditional norms like marrying, playing some instruments and painting. A woman as a mistress is a new in that period, a mistress woman was attracted to the rich men, with no complaining or she has the audacity to expose the rich man but still it was a taboo in the society. Thus, there was group women called "the debutant girls" who were very rich from a wealthy family, they went to a party or to a ball so they can find a rich suitable husband from the same level or financial status. These young girls

must appear fragile, pure, clean and grown like a woman should be. Women of the Victorian era were mostly living in worst condition under a system that gave male status all kind of privileges to dominate woman in every aspect of her life. This era is well known to be most bad period of all time especially on social principles that left women suffer under men's law. This era is deemed to be "it's a man's world".

Furthermore, the industrial revolution played a major part on women's lives and their circumstances that they had to adapt with, this industrial revolution separated men and women into two spheres; the private sphere for women and the public sphere for men. It was a negative factor for women for it made them degraded to men by the laws, traditions and social norms of the Victorian era.

Conclusion:

This chapter was about a full description of the Victorian era, how the industrial revolution affected the British society and male status during this period. It was also mentioned and explained the major factors that describes this era. It was a great change especially during the industrial revolution and its impact on society. However, there were some strict laws that were imposed on people to be followed. This chapter also mentioned the high expectations of an ideal Victorian woman and also the struggle as well as the conditions or the circumstances in which women lived with, followed by the injustice that they faced daily.

Chapter 02: The Theoretical Overview of Key Concepts in Feminism

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Introduction:

It is necessary to clarify some key concepts that are related to our work and the approach that is followed to explore and investigate our research which is Feminism. The concepts of the New Woman and Sexual Politics are both important to keep going further in this research relying on our method in this chapter.

2.1. The New Woman:

The concept of “the New Woman” emerged in the late nineteenth century. It refers to the fact that “a woman who is considered to be different from previous generations; especially one who challenges or rejects the traditional roles of wife, mother, or homemaker, and advocates independence for women and equality with men” (NPG)⁷. The term “New Woman” was coined by the writer and public speaker Sarah Grain 1894. It became a popular in newspaper and novels, that is related to the patriarchal society of the Victorian era. Since women were economically and politically subordinate to men. Many Victorian feminists like Elizabeth Tonna, Charlotte Brontë and George Eliot urged women to get proper education and profession in order to make themselves financially stable and to be more active in public sphere. Women decided to challenge men to have more freedom and roles in every field that allowed them to practice their life duties like human being with no hostility or harassment seeking the equality.

According to Richard and Willis 2001, The New Woman was by turns: “a mannish amazon and a Womanly woman; she was oversexed, undersexed, or same sex identified; she was anti-maternal, or a racial super mother; she was male-identified, or manhating and/or man-eating or self-appointed savior of benighted masculinity; she was anti-domestic or she sought to make domestic values prevail; she was radical, socialist or revolutionary, or she was reactionary and conservative; she was the agent of social and/or racial regeneration, or symptom and agent of decline⁸ Richardson and Willis explained that in their book of the new woman in fiction and

⁷Oxford Living Dictionaries, https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/us/new_woman, October 2008

Retrieved May 04, 2018 23:16.

⁸ Richardson, Angelique, Chris Willis, *The New Woman in Fiction and Fact Fin-de-Siècle Feminisms*. 22.09.2002, <http://www.victorianweb.org> retrieved March 20 2018 at 19:25.

fact fin-de- siècle feminisms 2001, woman was degraded, abused and also, she was a slave to the social norms and men but she dared the society rules and rose against men to seek justice.

Winona Branch Sawyer, 1895 addresses that “the New Woman is not young nor old, she may be married, divorced or single but she is an independent in every choice she makes in her life”. Henrik Ibsen in his notes for *A Doll's House* 1898 he asserted, "A woman cannot be herself in contemporary society, it is an exclusively male society with laws drafted by men, and with counsel and judges who judge feminine conduct from the male point of view". (71) He shows support for the freedom of woman and expressed in his plays. He explained how a woman treated under male rules and how male saw woman as a weak creature in which her feminine deprived from many roles and privileges in a patriarchal society.

Mary Wollstonecraft, wrote *Vindication of the Rights of Woman*" (1792) to demand women's rights and also showed how the industrial revolution played a major cause to make women subordinate to men. However, she urged for women 's education and employment and healthcare. Furthermore, Mary Wollstonecraft wanted many demands for social changes not only political and social ones but to give a woman her true identity, a role in every field by using her passion, morality and femininity. Moreover, the New Woman started to become as member of society, she was depicted to exercise her domestique duties in private spheres in literature. As Sally Ledger wrote: “the New Woman was a very fin-de-siècle phenomenon. Contemporary with the new socialism, the new imperialism, the new fiction and the new journalism, she was a part of cultural novelties which manifested itself in the 1880s and 1890s” (ledger,1)

The New Woman fiction appeared in the 1880s and 1890s as a central character, especially in novels that deals with the position of women in marriage and in society. The New Woman novels represented female heroines who fought against the patriarchal Victorian society laws as ‘Angel of the house ‘and challenged the morality of Victorian male.

Barbara Caine has stated that:

In the novels, innocent and ignorant women faced the terrible suffering which came from venereal disease and which was a result both of their own sexual

ignorance and of the past sexual excesses of their husbands. Constant ill health for themselves and the even great horror of giving birth to children with congenital syphilis served for them, as for many others in the course of the 1890s, to show why existing marriage was impossible and why masculine sexual privilege and female sexual ignorance had to stop (136).

Barbara criticized the Victorian marriage which is a trap to get raped based on the double standard of sexual morality. In the nineteenth century, women started to reject the Victorian conventions and customs of society without fearing the consequences of their behavior. There was a new woman movement that showed how women could fight against the inequality of the sexes and the suppression of women in the society and also how women were manipulated under male dominance and prejudice. Furthermore, the New Woman movement shed the light on how a woman is seen at her home by her husband, she was a slave because she was fully obedient to her husband especially when it comes to her sexuality, it was degraded.

Now, the New Woman movement accomplished the main goal which is the total freedom of woman from all male's rules and the laws of society that were imposed on women. The new woman fiction emerged out of Victorian feminist rebellion and managed to create debates on such issues as women's education, women's suffrage and sexuality. The new woman fiction contributed in major changes in women's lives. The male writers who dealt with the new woman theme were George Meredith, Grant Allen and Thomas Hardy. This concept of New Woman will be related in the chapter three and it will be illustrated in the novel of Thomas Hardy "Tess of d'Urbervilles" and how Hardy's main character "Tess" became a new woman in the Victorian patriarchal society.

2.2 Sexual Politics

The idea or theory of sexual politics was first examined and formulated in Kate Millet's book, *Sexual Politics*, which was published in 1970. It is a classic feminist text and is also said to be "the first book of academic feminist literary criticism." Millet argued that "sex has been frequently neglected in the political sphere and goes on to discuss the role that patriarchy plays in

sexual relations, looking especially at the works of D. H. Lawrence, Sigmund Freud, Henry Miller, and Norman Mailer.” (NPG)⁹

The term sexual politics means “The gender-based motivations and behavioral tactics present in the interactions between men and women, especially as involving manipulation and rivalry for power.” (NPG)¹⁰. The sexual politics as a concept was coined by Kate Millet in 1970 based on her PhD dissertation in which deals with feminism and describes how patriarchy played major role in degrading women. Sexual politics is second wave of feminism in 1970, it was also controversial. The goal of Kate Millet in her sexual politics work is to show that woman was inferior to man based on rules and social norms that were formed by man and how they were manipulative and undermined women’s power and roles in society, also how men treated their women in marriage and family and sexual relations structure.

Moreover, Kate Millet described that men used their physical strength as power to make women subordinate to their needs and desires. Male with a physical power and strength in traditions of the society is considered to be the dominant, while the female is considered to be weak, less strength and power since the sexes lived under a male dominated society. According to Kate Millet 1970 in her work, sexual politics “sex roles create a patriarchal character that becomes a habit of mind and a way of life “(63), in this passage, Kate describes how patriarchal norms became a type or style of living under the amount of power that the sexes possess which resulting that men dominate women in an extreme way.

Since the beginning of human civilization, women were and still considered subordinate and oppressed by men. They are the weaker sex based on their physical features. The patriarchy gave men all the privileges instead of to give both sexes the same privileges to create equality but also

⁹ Kate Millet, Sexual Politics // [http://genderlitutopiadystopia.wikia.com/wiki/Utopia - Definition](http://genderlitutopiadystopia.wikia.com/wiki/Utopia_-_Definition) 15 June 2012, 10:00

Retrieved 28 April 2018 21:15

¹⁰ Kate Millet, Sexual Politics // <https://www.definitions.net/definition/sexual%20politics> October 20, 2016, 11:00

Retrieved April 29, 2018, 21 :30

created a hegemony that misrepresented women and gave men such an ultimate power to control women both physically and mentally.

Most of writers portrayed women in their works as dominated characters biased on their social status in real life. For example, D.H. Lawrence who depicted all his females characters as a weak sex in patriarchy society especially in his novel *Lady Chatterley's Lover* where he shows male supremacy imposed on female. However, he was criticized in extreme way by writers like Simone de Beauvoir and Kate Millet. Patrick McHugh, a teacher of Drake University, in his essay "Metaphysics and Sexual Politics in Lawrence's Novels" he writes, "For Beauvoir, then, Lawrence exemplifies patriarchal thought and practice in his claim! that! masculinity is by its nature active, creative, intellectual, and hence primary, while femininity its nature is complementarily passive, earthy, emotional, and hence decidedly secondary" (NPG)¹¹. This shows that Lawrence objection for women to live equally as men.

Then Beauvoir cited in her book, *The Second Sex* as an attack on Lawrence's work she writes "She is therefore neither diversion nor prey she is not an object confronting a subject, but a pole necessary for the existence of the pole of opposite sex" (89) Beauvoir criticized Lawrence for seeing marriage as a physical problem. Moreover, the male was made alone in God's image, he ruled religion, marriage and politics in which Millet called it "patriarchy" also Millet mentioned that the economics of sexual politics where females have worked for no money or less money, under which they were kept under male's power.

Sexual politics is about sexuality, and also the relative importance of gender for men and girls. Patriarchal ideology reaffirms male control of sexual and different relationships alongside male dominance in social and economic establishments. Social science and theory need to pay way more attention to the role of gender in each the general public and personal spheres. Patriarchal establishments and ideologies probably were created to allow men control over women's fertility.

¹¹ Patrick McHugh, 1993. *Metaphysics and Sexual Politics in Lawrence's Novels*. 20.02 1993 <http://www.freepatentsonline.com/article/College-Literature/14443899.html>. Retrieved April 20 2018 at 13:10.

This key concept will be examined and analyzed deeply to have a better understanding in the chapter three in which gone to be practical. Taking into consideration that Thomas Hardy novel “Tess of the d’Urbervilles” is a perfect illustration about sexual politics in the Victorian.

2.3 Male Feminism

Feminism as a theory and philosophy deals with the oppression inequality towards women. Its main goal is to end oppression of women and attain social equality. The politics of patriarchy have suppressed women’s identity and dominated their personality to the benefit of men. It is a must for men to be feminists. If feminism’s major goal is to liberate women, men should be part of the movement.

In the 19th century, there was also an awareness of women's struggle¹² to the extent men have taken part in significant cultural and political responses to feminism within each "wave" of the movement. This includes seeking establishing equal opportunities for women in a range of social relations, generally done through a "strategic leveraging" of male privilege. Feminist men have also argued alongside writers like bell hooks that men's liberation from the socio-cultural constraints of sexism and gender roles is a necessary part of feminist activism and scholarship.

It is important that men should be feminists and be a part of the feminism movement to share the struggle of women and to show how to liberate women from the cruel of the norms society that were applied on them and also, for men to feel the responsibility of the oppression that was imposed on woman since men were who created such patriarchal system based on cruel rules and norms. However, it is hard that men in a patriarchal society with ultimate power cannot be removed from their privileges in relation to women. Paul smith, who wrote the book “Men in Feminism” suggested that men should be in feminism but closely. He challenges men to take feminism into consideration by making a change not only on how men are related to men but to men to women as well by supporting women to end the patriarchy.

Sexism negatively impacted men by forcing them into a hyper-masculinity that engages bad

¹² Messner, Michael 1997, Politics of masculinities: men in movements.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Men_and_feminism

May 15 ,2007, 16:30

retrieved on May 02, 2018, 22:00

behavior and limits their emotional expression as full people in general. However, regardless of this bad behavior and limitation of emotional expression and different secondary effects of discrimination, men still like patriarchy “the social organization of sexism” whether or not they prefer to fight discrimination in others or themselves. Women and feminists especially, face the damaging primary effects of sexism and therefore the wrath of patriarchal society whenever they resist their defeated social role and often even after they do not.

A Male Feminist ought to be aware of the damage that was caused on women’s identity and defend their image in the society by exposing the cruel world they were living it and the bad circumstances that they were dealing with through daily life. A Male Feminist should believe in ideas of feminism and also that both sexes are equal and make some changing about the inequalities and discrimination that are in the patriarchal society. , many women believe that men do not help them to change their situation and they do not understand the bad condition that they live on. That is why men should be supportive to women in extreme way

This concept of Male Feminism will be examined in the chapter three so we can have better understanding and why Thomas Hardy is considered to be a Male Feminist. Thomas Hardy’s feminism is revealed in his writing and he also portrays the worst conditions that women lived in society by criticizing the patriarchal Victorian laws.

2.4 The Eco-Feminism

Eco-Feminism as a concept combines feminism and ecology. It relates between the dominance over women with the dominance over nature. Ecology is a study that deals with the environment and the living things. “Eco-feminism is a movements and philosophies that link feminism with ecology. This movement seeks to eradicate all forms of social injustice, not just injustice against women and the environment” (NPG)¹³. The Eco-feminism refers to the subject of oppression, the domination and exploitation by patriarchal society that stands on men values imposed on women, children and the poor and also the domination of animals, lands and water.

¹³ Kathryn miles, ecological feminism, // <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Ecofeminism> , November 22, 2013 May 08 ,2018.

As a movement, it represents the female sex values and nature. Several feminists make the distinction that it is not because women are female or "feminine" that they relate to nature, but because of their similar states of oppression by the same male-dominant forces. The marginalization is evident in the gendered language used to describe nature and the animalized language used to describe women. Some discourses link women specifically to the environment because of their traditional social role as a nurturer and caregiver. Eco-Feminism was tackled in the 1970s to raise consciousness of relationship between woman and nature.

The term "Eco-Feminism" was coined by the French writer Françoise D'Eaubonne in 1974 who asked women to take matters that concerned the ecological revolution to save the world. This ecological revolution that deals with the relationship between men and woman and between humans and nature. During the 1980s cultural feminists in the United States injected new life into Eco-feminism by arguing that both women and nature could be liberated together. The Eco-feminism perspective is about to improve the human nature in different ways and also to analyse the problems of patriarchy by giving solutions to improve women conditions and liberate them. Most Eco-feminist ethics are based on rights, love, and trust. The relationship between male and female as human being also, about partnership as equal in social and political norms.

By the late 1980s, Eco-feminism was developed and turned into two waves or branches, the radical Eco-feminism and the cultural Eco-feminism. The radical Eco-feminism means "contend that the dominant patriarchal society equates nature and women in order to degrade both. To that end, radical Eco-feminism builds on the assertion of early Eco-feminists that one must study patriarchal domination with an eye toward ending the associations between women and nature. Of particular interest to those theorists like Françoise D'Eaubonne, Gaard and Lori Greun, is the way in which both women and nature have been associated with negative or commodifiable attributes while men have been seen as capable of establishing order. That division of characteristics encourages the exploitation of women and nature for cheap labor and resources. This means women and nature were always related to each other and men have negative image about women and nature as resources to take advantage on the world with the help of the patriarchy laws. Cultural Eco-feminism, supports the relationship between women and nature. It

gives a positive image about woman as part of nature and as food provider and a family nurturer which allows women to have more than one role in the community.

Cultural Eco-feminism is based on religious aspect as a method for asking forgiveness by worshipping god and nature. However, many women around the world still pessimistic about the movement of the Eco-feminism to develop because of the male laws and the strict religious norms that are imposed on their sexuality and social position. The main goal of the Eco-Feminism is to fight systems of oppression and domination in less violent ways.

Woman always has been a subject to write about it from an Eco-feminist perspective. Many Eco-feminist's critics believe that woman is a symbol of nature and novelists show that in writing by depicting them as dominated creatures as well as for nature. From an Eco-feminist vision, Hardy's tragic fiction of "Tess of the d'Urbervilles" will reveal the difference of mentality of rural and urban lifestyle of people, and the unfair of Victorian society's sexual norms. Hardy's depiction of the results of patriarchal society is perfect in his novel. An Eco-feminist perspective will cite the damage of oppressive attitudes and behaviors toward woman and nature in details in chapter three. We will analyze the novel of Thomas Hardy "Tess of the d'Urbervilles" from an Eco-feminist point of view deeply so we can show how Hardy portrays his main character "Tess" as woman linked with nature destruction. The Eco-feminism has always believed that the root of oppression of woman and nature was the patriarchal society. Many critics have claimed that Hardy had a strong connection to nature as an important character. This Eco-feminism approach will be more practical in the chapter three to examine the novel "Tess of the d'Urbervilles" in order to get a better understanding of the concept of Eco-feminism.

Conclusion

The New Woman, Sexual Politics, Male Feminism and Eco-Feminism are important in feminism. Thus, we consider that it is necessary to tackle such concepts in our research not only for a better understanding of Feminism but also to show in our research, which is based on the novel "Tess of the d'Urbervilles" by Thomas Hardy, how women were represented in the Victorian era. We were able to analyze and discover how the feminist vision played huge parts in the writer's vision on women being oppressed in the Victorian Patriarchal society.

Chapter three: Thomas Hardy the Male Feminist and Eco-Feminist depicting “Tess” as a Woman in the Victorian Community.

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Introduction:

In the Victorian era, woman's position was undermined by the Patriarchal norms. Woman was considered to be inferior to man who made her not qualified to have all the privileges that man had. The community did not give her the freedom she deserves or the role as human being to contribute in society. Thomas Hardy wrote a novel entitled "Tess of the d'Urbervilles" in 1891 to depict a woman's life and the unfair patriarchal rules that were set to deprive woman from all rights as a human and member of the Victorian society. Hardy represented Tess as a woman fighting against the community just to achieve her happiness through tough circumstances. Hardy describes Tess as a pure woman but her purity has made her a victim in the Victorian society. However, Tess has rejected to be a victim and rebelled against the social norms and she did the unexpected things to find the right path to happiness and providing for her family, but society had no mercy on her and described her as a fallen woman. Furthermore, in this chapter we will examine all of this alongside basing our work on certain key concepts from the previous chapter.

3.1 Thomas Hardy the Eco-feminist

Since we explained the Eco-Feminism, we tend to shed the light on Thomas Hardy representation of woman in the Victorian era and how Ecofeminism is exhibited in Hardy's tragic fiction novel "Tess of the d'Urbervilles". It is interesting to see the social rules of the Victorian era played major role to Hardy's ecofeminism.

Thomas Hardy main concern was about oppression of women and nature which comes at the core of Ecofeminism. He portrays a world of male domination society, resulted many problems and injustice. England's economy underwent a lot of changes because of the industrial revolution these changes affected many historians and theorists for which Ecofeminism was created as a theory based on feminist's beliefs mostly dealt with women position and nature.

Since women and nature have common aspects such as oppression and domination of patriarchy. Ecofeminism as a literary criticism that supports works that deal with and analyze many types of oppression that is imposed on the individual.

“Tess of the d’Urbervilles” is one of the greatest novels of his works in which Hardy created a tragic character “Tess” who is a woman an ordinary one lived in the countryside and fate represented lot English women in lower class of the society. Hardy’s Eco-feminist writing style aims at criticizing the values of patriarchal system during the Victorian era and showing that woman and nature are related but the most perfect example of work is “Tess of the D’Urbervilles” as a life experience especially the main character of the novel Tess in which he makes humanity and nature related and close by making his sympathy appears to link between woman and nature to the readers’ mind.

Hardy’s tragic fiction exposes the woman’s status in a male dominated world and the experience that woman had been through in a patriarchal society which many Ecofeminism’s theorist supported Hardy bravery for the work of “Tess of the d’Urbervilles” and also many critics showed credit for Hardy’s imagination on nature and connection with woman. Furthermore, in a perspective of an Eco-feminist of the tragic fiction of Thomas Hardy “Tess of the d’Urbervilles”, the main female character “Tess Durbeyfield” is victimized and oppressed by men also; eventually she tries to free herself from the oppression of patriarchal dominance in the Victorian era.

Eco-feminist believes that women are related to nature more than man. In the novel, fog creates an obscure image related to darkness when Tess was seduced by Alec in the chaste woods “...till a faint luminous fog, which has hung in the hollows all evening, became general and enveloped them. It seemed to hold the moonlight in suspension, rendering it more pervasive than in clear air ...in this growing fog you might wander for hours among these trees...owing to this fog, which so disguises everything...darkness and silence ruled everywhere around.” (Hardy 61-65). In the forest, Tess and Alec are surrounded by fog and darkness and Tess did not notice that he seducing her. Hardy described the misty place to show the helplessness of Tess and that it may be a vision or a message on a future with obstacles in her life.

Furthermore, Hardy describes the sun as it is a hope; warmth and it bring brightness to human beings in the novel, “Tess’s hopes mingled with the sunshine in an ideal photosphere which

surrounded her as she bounded along against the soft south wind. She heard a pleasant voice in every breeze and in every bird's, note seemed to lurk a joy ... the sun was overlooking the world below, feeling that everywhere and everything was full of fun" (Hardy 16,93), in here, Tess has been raped in which cannot be forgiven by the society. However, the warm and the sun it's just to express sympathy for her from Hardy.

Hardy did not stop describing Tess as a flower the one which represents beauty and innocence and describes her lips to a rose called peony which represents heaven and purity. The death of Tess according to an Eco-feminist reader is because of the destruction of nature since she is a part from it in order to escape it, she must also fight against male dominance. Moreover, in the case of rape of Tess and becomes pregnant as a young lady, this situation shows the ugly side the patriarchy especially when the rapist walked free and moved on with his life and darkness fulfilled Tess with confusion in her life.

The confusion made her walk after dark with shame of being pregnant in illegal and unfair way led her to judging herself. "Walking among the sleeping birds in the hedge, watching the skipping rabbits on a moonlit warren, or standing under a pheasant-laden bough, she looked upon herself as a figure of Guilt intruding into the haunts of Innocence" (Hardy, 19,103) Hardy describes Tess's thoughts and nature that's surround her. Hardy clarifies that Tess broke the rules of society. There is the case of the death of a horse while it was speeding and got killed in accident and it means nature is killed by patriarchy. Hardy lived in a world which is similar to Tess's world, despising the patriarchy system and the damage that was done to women and nature especially for just entertainment of the noble family. Another evidence about the cruel patriarchy society of the Victorian era, that when Tess married Angel, later on he did not accept her past and left her in shock and in severe depression in which led her to receive a death penalty. This means angel is the perfect picture the hypocrisy and religious ideologies of patriarchal.

Thomas Hardy shocked the Victorian readers with his masterpiece novel "Tess of the d'Urbervilles" by criticizing the norms and the ideologies that patriarchal society was built on such the oppression by male domination and the destruction of nature. In Hardy's novel "Tess of

the d'Urbervilles" presents a tragic experience of Tess and her struggle she faced to have her rights and freedom yet, it ends with a failure. Tess suffered a lot and failed to deal with her bad circumstances. The author wants to criticize the concept of morality and the social traditions. In the Eco-feminist's point of view, women's struggling is related to the nature and its destruction and Tess is a victim of the social norms, patriarchy and the industrial revolution.

3.2. Tess "the fallen woman":

The Victorian era is known to be oppressive concerning the moral values, domesticity, sexuality and femininity. Women were expected to be chaste, silent, obedient and the angel of the house. The kind of women who rejected those values were called 'fallen women'.

The term "Fallen Women" which was used by Victorian people referring to prostitutes also who experienced sexual violence and rape. A woman who is discovered that she has committed an adultery regardless if she has done it by her willing or not, she is judged and reckoned to be prostitute by her society without considering the reasons that led her to commit such an adultery but she was possibly wronged forced or seduced by a bad man.

In Thomas Hardy's classic novel "Tess of the d'Urbervilles", Hardy presents the main character Tess as a pure woman but also as a fallen woman. Hardy depicts Tess as a fallen woman to show the hypocrisy of sexual double standard and the cruelty of the convention of society. Tess is a victim of Victorian patriarchal society and the inequality of male dominance which shows Hardy's sympathy for Tess, who is a symbol of pure woman crushed by social standards. When Hardy wrote the novel "Tess of the d'Urbervilles" he wrote a subtitle "a pure woman" by means of which he meant that the Victorian society had a double standard about sex between men and woman. Tess is a victim of the laws of double standard because she is pure and innocent.

Alec is the villain who seduced and raped her and made her the fallen woman and society did not accept fallen women or sinners. Angel also was cruel in different ways because he believed in double standard and this why he rejected Tess after they got married. According to Hardy, Tess's purity comes from her innocence and ignorance for not having an idea about the world she is

dealing as a young girl. Also, Hardy makes it clear that Tess should not be judged by her fall only but by her own intentions, her nature and the circumstances that she was dealing with.

Hardy challenged the norms of the Victorian age to defend the rights of women and his sympathy for them was a strong proof of being a feminist writer. Tess as a helpless woman in a bad situation, started to live with Alec as mistress in order to provide for her family. When Angel was gone, he decided to get back; Tess tries to reunite with him by killing Alec, having the idea that Angel will love her again. Morris stated that Tess “surpasses the conventional woman in looks, intelligence and charm. But because she is working-class and can be labeled as promiscuous, she pays with her life for breaking the law” (Morris 128). This shows that she broke the social laws because of her passion for love for which she committed a crime. Tess is blamed for being innocent, gentle, submissive and patient; she is an ideal woman in hypocritical society.

Alec blames her beauty for tempting him" you have been the means—the innocent means—of my backsliding... Your temptress, Tess; you dear damned witch of Babylon—I could not resist you as soon as I met you again!” (Hardy. 14:349). At one hand, Alec confessing to her about her innocence. In the other hand he is blaming her for being irresistible to her beauty.

Furthermore, Angel describes Tess based on a sexual and animalistic instincts, Hardy said “[Angel] saw the red interior of her mouth as if it had been a snake's. She had stretched one arm so high above her coiled-up cable of hair that he could see its satin delicacy above the sunburn; her face was flushed with sleep, and her eyelids hung heavy over their pupils. The brim-fullness of her nature breathed from her”. (Hardy.15: 198). This description is as symbol of representation of a fallen woman since the red color is symbol of a sexual act. Hardy represents Tess as Eve and Angel as Adam in his description when Tess meets Angel also mentioning the red color as a symbol of sexual act. Hardy said:

Tess's excitable heart beat against Angel's by way of reply; and there they stood upon the red-brick floor of the entry, the sun slanting in by the window upon his back, as he held her tightly to his breast; upon her inclining face, upon the blue veins of her temple, upon her naked arm, and her neck, and into the depths of her hair. Having been lying down in her clothes she was warm as a sunned cat ... she

regarded him as Eve at her second waking might have regarded Adam. (Hardy. 59:199).

Hardy gave a biblical image about Tess as Eve linking her to the fall of mankind representing Tess as a dangerous woman. Furthermore, Angel confesses to Tess that he had adultery with a different woman, Tess forgave him but when Tess told him about her past, he did not accept that. She became no longer as a pure, chaste, innocent and angel of the house in his eyes. She decides to throw herself in the river but Angel prevent her “I don't wish to add murder to my other follies.” (Hardy. 59:261) clearly Angel feels as a victim so he stops from killing herself. Tess is the reason for her miserable life also the Victorian society laws that they put her under bad circumstances.

. Tess was executed for murdering Alec, it ends up with hanging her as a punishment to the death. “Tess's story is tragic, not only because she is victimized by the society that judges her both in the moral and the legal sense, but also because she pays with her life for responding to that victimization with violence” (Morris 139) "Hardy made the execution a part of his novel in order to lodge an outraged protest against the treatment of women—especially poor, fallen women" (Morris 140). Hardy put the hanging act in the novel to show the cruelty of society laws especially against poor innocent women. However, Tess as pure, innocent and chaste woman. Society mistreated her based on the laws of man as superior to woman she was victimized despite the fact that she was the ideal woman who is dead in the fate of the fallen woman.

3.3 Tess as “a pure woman”

In 1891 Thomas Hardy shocked the Victorian readers and society by publishing the novel “Tess of d’Urbervilles”. The novel is a masterpiece, that has dealt with sexual themes and depiction about the negative aspects of Victorian society rules especially the rules that are against woman. The last years of the nineteenth century were the Victorian period. Victorian morality imposed rigid norms on women, which demanded women to be pure.

The novel "Tess of the d'Urbervilles" was originally subtitled "A Pure Woman Faithfully Presented". However, the subtitle was very attractive to the public but it was later deleted. It depicted Hardy's view on the women roles during the late nineteenth century in the society. The subtitle was forced to be deleted because woman such as Tess cannot be considered "pure". According to the Victorian church, people who had intercourse before marriage would not be called "pure", They were rather considered as "fallen".

"Tess of the d'Urbervilles" switches the character into a "the New Woman" who is a brave and courageous female. While the Victorian society considered her shameless. Hardy depicts her as a pure and innocent victim of cruel selfish society. It is impossible to dislike Tess because she possesses a strong feminine beauty that attracts many men. In the novel, Hardy describes her beauty by mixing it with her innocence; "Phases of her childhood lurked in her aspect still. As she walked along to-day, for all her bouncing handsome womanliness, you could sometimes see her twelfth year in her cheeks, or her ninth sparkle from her eyes; and even her fifth would flit over the curves of her mouth now and then" (Hardy,16:9). She always attracts who passes by and keeps them wondering if they gone meet her again, "would wonder if they would ever see her again" (Hardy ,16:10) that shows the unique beauty that she has. Moreover, Angel when he first saw Tess he said "What a fresh and virginal daughter of Nature she is!" (Hardy. 16:151). Hardy also shows her personality when a friend of her jokes on her drunken father "Look here; I won't walk another inch with you, if you say any jokes about him!" (Hardy, 17:9) Tess refuses to make some jokes on her family in which that she does love her father.

After the death accident of the horse Tess goes to the neighbors d'Urberville family, to get a job but she is stressful by Alec manners which she turns down the offer that is given her by Alec. As her family pressing her to accept it, she replies "It is for you to decide. I killed the old horse, and I suppose I ought to do something to get ye a new one" (Hardy, 41:2) this shows the feeling of guilt she has to accept it to satisfy her family also shows her responsible and disappointment toward her family and worry how provides for them. Angel has given her an amount money to support herself and she gives half of it to them "a slight return for the trouble and humiliation, she had brought upon them in years past" (Hardy, 41:255). In here, all she tried to do is to make up her family because she did bad things toward them upon the previous years.

Later, Angel sends her again money and she send it to her family in order to fix the roof. Alec offers her a proposition that if she can go live with him as mistress and he will support her family financially especially her widowed mother. Although she rejected his offer at first but she could not resist the later so she went to live with him in order to provide for her family with food and money. Even she felt ashamed for doing the worst things, she asked Angel to help her family if bad things happened to her “Angel, if anything happens to me, will you watch over ‘Liza-Lu for my sake? . . . She is so good and simple and pure. O, Angel—I wish you would marry her if you lose me, as you will do shortly. O, if you would!” (Hardy, 55:386). This demonstrates how she is a pure woman for carrying for her family. Tess continues to show her pure heart when her child about to die, she cries and saying: “O merciful God, have pity; have pity upon my poor baby! . . . Heap as much anger as you want to upon me, and welcome; but pity the child!” (Hardy, 55: 92). She is asking god to punish her instead her baby, that shows how her deep love she has for her child and how she is pure.

Furthermore, when Tess wakes up in the morning she notices that the birds are bleeding, again she feels sorrow for them creatures the narrator reports: “Poor darlings—to suppose myself the most miserable being on earth in the sight o’ such misery as yours! . . . And not a twinge of bodily pain about me! I be not mangled, and I be not bleeding, and I have two hands to feed and clothe me” (Hardy,55: 274) despite the fact that, Tess is hurt and abandoned by men, she feels bad fort the birds and she compares the bird’s pain to her which suffered more than she did. Another aspect revealing that Tess is a pure woman, when she goes to find a job far from her husband’s family in order to keep her husband ‘s reputation good and people started doubting about her marriage with Angel she defends her husband by saying “Wives are unhappy sometimes; from no fault of their husbands—from their own.” (Hardy, 55:278).

This shows the royalty of Tess, also she does not to give her husband a bad name. In addition, Alec finds Tess and tries to convince to go back to him and reminds her Angel neglected her, she replied back “Don’t speak against him—he is absent! . . . Treat him honorably—he has never wronged you! O leaves his wife before any scandal spreads that may do harm to his honest name!” (Hardy, 55:317). That is such an honorable and a pure attitude from Tess toward her husband. Tess is a simple, innocent and beautiful woman, living in a society with

a cruel mentality and social norms. She lost her chastity then her purity; she lost her soul and body. She is a symbol of pure love, she loved unconditionally, and she has warm feelings for everyone. She did not try to deceive anyone, she sacrificed herself for Angel, her family, and all this proves the purity of Tess.

She was seduced by Alec and raped her, Angel abandoned her after he found that she lost her virginity to another man before him, her family rejected her when she had an illegitimate child then the child died but all that did not stop her for being a pure innocent woman even when she was manipulated by men.

Thomas Hardy's novel "Tess of the d'Urbervilles" is a perfect example about sexual politics. Hardy gave a perfect illustration about sexual politics in the Victorian era and how men used the amount of power to control women physically and mentally and how women were wrong treated under men's laws in society in which women were like slaves.

Men are so manipulative toward women just to fulfill their satisfaction. Hardy's main character Tess was a slave to the Victorian laws, she was manipulated by Alec to whom she surrendered to his desire without knowing his scheme and that he had bad intentions toward her, she fell under the spell of his sweet words.

The patriarchy pushed Tess to accept her faith and place in society. Tess was beautiful, gentle, pure and honest. Yet she suffered until she died, the only mistake that led her to such a bad ending of her life, she is a beautiful woman born in the Victorian era which was a male dominant era. The circumstances pushed Tess to work in a wealthy family against her will. Then she met Alec who was a true spirit of patriarchy.

He started harassing her daily and using the horse accident in which she killed a horse by accident as a weakness to get closer to Tess. Alec started to feed her strawberries and give her compliments about how her mouth is beautiful which resulted in kissing her. Alec was so manipulative with an animal instinct, he wanted her so bad and with force against her will. Hardy showed how men set the norms and how women are obedient to those patriarchal rules.

Since Tess only cares about her family, Alec took that weakness as an advantage to abuse her by buying a horse to her family and toys for her little brothers but he raped her when he took her to the forest named the chaste while she was sleeping and accused her for seducing him by her beauty then asked her to marry him.

Once again this shows the wrong doing of woman by society because after that society did not care about Alec's deed and blamed Tess. Furthermore, Angel as man fell in love with Tess when he first saw her he said "What a fresh and virginal daughter of nature that milkmaid is!" (Hardy, 33:96). He adored her with no knowing her past. later on, he cheated on her but Tess forgave him but when she told him about her past, he did not accept that and left her and end up by sentencing by death. This shows that the court played the role of man and this was the cultural ideology of the Victorian era.

Thomas Hardy illustrated sexual politics in his novel "Tess of the d'Urbervilles" to show the amount of power that man possessed in the Victorian period and how that power allowed man to manipulate woman based on a patriarchal society norm. The amount of power a man possesses in the Victorian community, especially Alec and Angel destroyed Tess purity and her innocence, did not affect Tess's personality and her pure heart and accepting her fate. The reason of canceling Hardy's original subtitle, "A Pure Woman Faithfully Presented" it was the actions that Tess made in the novel cannot be recognized as "pure", but she was considered as "fallen".

3.4 Tess as "a victim"

Living In a patriarchal society where man establishes the norms and woman do as she is told. Society will always treat a woman negatively and unequally. Tess in Hardy's novel "Tess of the d'Urbervilles" is one of the women that have been victimized through her entire life. Tess as member of her society, she accepts and follows the social norms that are set by her society.

Thomas Hardy's "Tess of the d'Urbervilles" (1891) has many themes such as gender inequality, female oppression and patriarchy social norms. Hardy's perspective as a feminist shows us the female character experience and the courage that she has through her daily life in a

patriarchal society based on hard and unfair rules that one must obey too. Hardy also shows sympathy and how it is unfair for a woman to receive such as cruelty in hypocritical Victorian society.

He shows the purity and chastity of Tess in his novel but the conditions that she has been through led her to lose the purity and chastity. Moreover, Tess was depicted as a conservative and powerful woman but she was a victim of her own provocative beauty and seduction as well according to feminist perspective of Hardy. In addition, Hardy gave the best example for writing his novel "Tess of the d'Urbervilles" to represent woman and to show the position that she had in the Victorian society. Thomas, JE 1983, said that "Tess was written in an era where other exploration of the experience of female characters involved a confrontation of sexual and marital relationships which had long lain on the unspoken and unspeakable periphery of fiction issues such as rape often provoked outrage and disgust in the critics" (NPG)¹⁴.

The rape act left some readers wondering if Tess was raped or seduced by Alec who led her to feel ashamed and guilty also felt that she was a victim and Alec took advantage of her weakness. Recognizing Acquaintance Rape in Potentially Consensual Situations: A Re-Examination of Thomas Hardy's Tess of the D'Urbervilles Hardy's by Cairney. K 1994 said that "'Tess of the D'Urbervilles' fundamentally qualifies as feminist literature in that it manages to disrupt the social systems that perpetuate the subordination of women. Hardy delivers this simply by giving an accurate account of the true sequence of things". Hardy challenged the social norms of the Victorian era and rejected how those norms were affected to female status through his main character Tess as he depicted her as a brave heroine also Hardy male perspective did not prevent him to show support to woman" (NPG)¹⁵

¹⁴ Thomas, JE 1983, *Thomas Hardy and Women* Victorian Studies Academic Search Premier, EBSCO. London. UK Web 2010.12.15

http://www.academia.edu/12287409/Is_Hardy_s_Tess_Of_The_D_Urbervilles_a_feminist_text_Compare_and_contrast_to_Polanski_s_version retrieved 17 April 2018 at 22:00.

¹⁵ Cairney, Karen 1994, *A Re-Examination of Thomas Hardy's Tess of the D'Urbervilles*.

http://www.academia.edu/12287409/Is_Hardy_s_Tess_Of_The_D_Urbervilles_a_feminist_text_Compare_and_contrast_to_Polanski_s_version_and_other_versions//. Retrieved on 05, May2018 at 14:23.

There are circumstances that affected Tess in a worst way. First, being a woman in man's world or society. Second, being a poor woman from a poor family. Third, the role of the church and it mistreating Tess and women. Hardy's novel "Tess of the d'Urbervilles" is an example to illustrate how Tess is a victim in the Victorian society and being a woman in a society that condones man to control everything, especially woman it is not easy during the Victorian era. Tess is a victim of her sex, oppressed by men. The first man that she had the chance to get to know him was Alec, who is obsessed with her. Secondly, she meets Angel who is a son of a priest and who supposed to be a good man for her. The author describes her as a fine, beautiful girl with large innocent eyes. This description shows that she is a special girl with hopefully a good future. She is a respectable young woman from the country side that follows the traditions of the society. When she first meets Alec, he offers her strawberries and she refused but he insisted and open her mouth and she ate the strawberries. This shows her situation in society does not allow her to rejects the offer, she is forced to do what Alec told her to do. Also, it makes us discover what kind man that Alec is, he does not take no for an answer.

In the case of raping Tess, she was raped in the wood called the chaste by Alec who was perusing her in the darkness while rabbits and birds were taking a nap when she fainted because if birds were not sleeping she might wakes up but her fate was to be seduced and eventually raped and that shows she was a victim of her sex by an oppressive and manipulative man. When she meets Angel, she was wondering where she saw him before, then she remembered it was in the may dance party. Furthermore, he gets to know her later and starts to call her names like Artemis and Demeter. That shows that she is more than an object to him when called her by Greek goddess names without knowing her past. Later on, they get married but before the wedding he confessed to her that he had an affair with a woman but when she confessed to him with her past, he did not accept that and left her by her own.

This shows that, a woman can forgive a man but man cannot do that and this shows Tess is a victim of her sex. In addition, Alec did not stop from hunting her and trying to convince her to live with him but eventually she surrenders to his wish. Living with Alec ended up by killing him

and she got hanged for the crime she committed. Once again, she is a victim under men's oppressive norms which led her to be hanged.

Tess cannot be blamed for being born in a poor family but she is a victim of her drunken father and her ancestor for being rich once upon a time. However, it would have been different story if had been born in a wealthy family and since she is the eldest one in her family, her situation is more complicated. She worked hard to support her family, her mother played major role to oppress her to get marry a gentleman from d'Urbervilles family. The mother saw a chance for marrying her daughter and started to impose Tess to marry man from a wealthy family. Tess mother pushed her to marry a rich man without warning her about the wealthy gentleman that he might deceive her.

“Why didn't you tell me there was danger in menfolk'? Why didn't you warn me? (Hardy. 56,111). However, things did not work out for her and blamed her mother because she warn her about men's hypocrisy. Moreover, she married Angel but she wanted to tell him about her past but her mother told to not tell him. This shows how Tess was oppressed by her mother in order to make Tess happy and rich so she can help her mother financially. When it comes to church, which is supposed to help people whom in need but in the case of Tess, the church does the opposite of helping her. Subbamma said that “The woman has been relegated to the second place, oppressed by society and religion and dominated by man.” (65). Tess was unmarried with illegal child, she visits the church asking for help and forgiveness but the church did not accept that especially when Tess wanted to baptize her child also when child died she wanted to bury him in the church but her father refused that, This a clear oppression toward Tess. Tess helped her father to many times, in difficult situation. As it says in the bible:” thy shall honour thy father and thy mother”. (Bible. Exodus 20:12) All the things she did for her family, all her scarification of her body and soul and the oppression that she was faced by the church, it seems to be harsh for and resulted a death penalty for her.

Tess is also a victim of the capitalist laws. First of all, she is the victim of the over-rigid marriage law of that time as well because of the religious ethics. Those individuals in a Victorian era were not free from the impact of social conventions and customary. During the Victorian era,

wedding was regarded as the gift of God to those virtuous individuals. Neither Christianity nor the law allowed divorce.

Tess is a woman in the Victorian society where rules were established by men. She tried to do the right things but it turns against her and the choice she makes put her in bad circumstances. Hardy linked the victimization of Tess with society, launching a direct criticism of the morality, religion and the law of the Victorian society. In the man-dominated society, woman has to suffer the injustices of man-made law, which man and woman are not equally treated in terms of morality.

3.5 Tess as “a woman in power”

Since the Victorian era is based on male domination over females, women did not have the choice to reject it but they embraced it because the Victorian society made women inferior to men. Thomas Hardy’s main character Tess was the perfect example of the struggle under men authority and domination.

However, Tess challenged the Victorian community rules and showed strength and power against the patriarchal norms which made her suffer just to find happiness and be helpful to her family. Tess ‘s family were living under bad conditions since they were financially poor. Tess dared the society to help her father and her mother in every possible way. She sacrificed her body and her soul to reach her goal but fate had different plan for her journey. Tess as a character is the true New Woman in the Victorian era in which Hardy shows how Tess suffers under the unfair rules of the society, with all the mistreating and manipulations and oppression that she was faced by men that they were a part from her life. Thomas Hardy’s heroine give a clear idea that man has power than woman in his novel and it is clear that Tess has less power.

That powerlessness has made her strong but its causes many problems and it causes to lose her life. Tess was a victim in the patriarchal society during the Victorian era. The struggle was real for her in order to feel the happiness; she was facing many obstacles and hardship through her life. Tess is the New Woman in the Victorian society. She fights for her own love and also against the customs and social norms the Victorian society. Furthermore, Tess represented a New

Woman, she leaves her husband Clare to be with Alec, later on she meets Clare but she could not leave her love Alec because she had adultery before marriage.

When Clare came back and found her, he noticed the purity of her soul and how she was beautiful. “Her great natural beauty was, if not heightened, rendered more obvious by her attire.” (Hardy. 29:365) her beauty was ageless also her pure heart according to Clare. Tess wanted to escape from Clare in order to get marry to Alec and becomes Mrs. D’Urbervilles. “She had not come forward, remaining still in the opening of the doorway.” (Hardy. 29:365) she did not come close to Clare and reminded him that is too late. However, “her voice sounding hard through the room, her eyes shine unnaturally. (Hardy. 29:365) this may show that she still has feelings for Clare.

Then she started to scream “I hate him now, because he told me a lie – that you would not come again; and you have come!” (Hardy. 29:366) she feels sad that Clare told her he would not come back looking for her and she is trying to push Clare away because she loves and hate Alec which means she dared the customs and manners of society and showed she is not a submissive and law abiding. Moreover, she shouts at Alec’s face when Clare left her again. “You had used your cruel persuasion upon me ... I have lost him now – again because of you! – you have torn my life all in pieces ... made me be what I prayed you in pity not to make me be again! ... My own true husband will never – O God – I can’t bear this! I cannot!” (Hardy. 29:368) that shows the character as New Woman, she has the audacity to express her anger in front of her husband because the one she truly loved is gone. At a later stage of the course of Tess change is the point when she kills Alec so she can go to be with Clare. Her deed of killing was a shocking action and no one expected that a woman could do a such a thing like that as killing her spouse. She made an end to her relationship with her husband in brutal way in order to run with her true love Alec also to end the suppression of Clare in a patriarchal society. The pure and true love of Tess rebelled against the social norms and rules which she broke the traditions of the society just to be with the one she loves mostly.

Her love to Clare made her go beyond the boundaries the patriarchal society rules. She says, “I never loved him at all, Angel, as I loved you ... Angel will you forgive my sin against you, now I

have killed him?” (Hardy. 60:372) murdering is a felony but her purpose made her do it. She says, “O yes! I could walk forever and ever with your arm round me.” (Hardy. 60:373). despite the fact that she is in a deep rough situation, her deep love for Clare made her go crazy She says again, “I feel strong enough to walk any distance.” (Hardy. 60:374) that again a character of a New Woman because later she goes in a journey for a self-discovery searching her own happiness. Than when Tess became free from the customs of marriage and the conventions of the society after killing Alec she does not feel anymore. She starts to feel the joy of the present and anticipating for a good future with courage, she says, “I am not going to think outside of now. Why should we? Who knows who to-morrow has in store?” (Hardy. 60:376) “I do not wish to outlive your present feeling for me. I would rather not. I would rather be dead and buried when the time comes for you to desire me, so that it may never be known to me that you despised me.” (Hardy. 60:377)

Tess with a conservative attitude started to free her mind and her soul during a bad situation that she has been through then she asked Clare “If anything happens to me; will you watch over Liza-Lu for my sake? ... She is so good and simple and pure.” (Hardy. 60:380) her love for Clare was so pure and dignified that she allowed to Clare to another woman after her death, this idea shows Tess as conservative woman with an open mind. Furthermore, when she was arrested she said to Clare “Angel – I am almost glad – yes, glad! This happiness could not have lasted – it was too much – I have had enough; and now I shall not live for you to despise me.” (Hardy. 60:382). Tess was not afraid of death while she only lived a true love story for short period with Clare, then she says quietly “I am ready.” (Hardy. 60:382) she is ready for her fate and she had the responsibility for what is about to happen to her with no regrets or fear that she is sentenced to death, she is totally a New Woman. Tess shows the courage clearly to everyone after a long period of struggling for her own freedom, for her own true love but she was sentenced with death for murdering Alec, but if Clare did not stick to the old customs of the patriarchal society things would have been changed and Tess would not suffer and get a death penalty.

We can notice from Thomas Hardy’s main character “Tess” that she was a conservative woman but the circumstances that she went through transformed her into a New Woman. Hardy illustrates the power of Tess that she has even in her difficult times, those obstacles shaped her

personality and character to become a strong woman powerful woman and a New Woman since it is the Victorian era which is based on man's rules and domination over woman. Hardy's character Tess challenged those rules even she was aware of the consequence of breaking them.

Conclusion:

Thomas Hardy has given a clear understanding about how woman was treated during the Victorian era. The novel "Tess of the d'Urbervilles" is the perfect representation of woman by the main character who is Tess. Tess is a symbol of a rural girl who is the victim of social prejudice and male dominance. Tess was trapped in tragic of a brutal injustice of marriage and sexuality. However, it did not make her weak, she became a New Woman, a strong one for a while but after that her struggle did not fade away. This study is concluded that Tess is like any other woman from the Victorian cruel society, submissive to man's desire and manipulation, Tess is an object for man's satisfaction. As bishop quoted "the whole art of life consists in giving up our existence in order to exist" (bishop. 171). Thomas Hardy criticized the patriarchal society of the Victorian community and showed how woman was enslaved by the norms of her society and religion. All the scarification that were made by Tess in order to provide for her family but the fate played a major role in her life as a pure and innocent woman and changed into a "fallen woman".

General Conclusion:

The Victorian era (1837-1901) has witnessed such dividing gender roles in British society. There was a huge differentiation between men and women. In fact, women were considered to stay at home and take care of their children; however, men were regarded as the laws of conventional society. Thomas Hardy is a Victorian Male Feminist and Ecofeminist novelist who wrote about women and defended them. His main objective was to reveal the problems of women since they were oppressed by the conventional laws. In his novel "Tess of the d'Urbervilles", Hardy shocked the readers mainly the Victorian ones. We have seen that women were oppressed by male dominated society like the experience of Tess. They were considered to be slaves and they were stripped from all their rights.

In "Tess of the d'Urbervilles", Thomas Hardy as Male Feminist and an Ecofeminist presents Tess's tragic life and her fight for her own freedom and happiness. However, it ends with a huge failure through the process of pursuing her own value. Tess has faced many obstacles and she fails to deal with them properly. The Victorian era is known for prudish attitudes towards sexuality, the double standard of morality and the position of woman as an inferior to man. The Victorians regarded male sexuality as a higher case value than woman; it was unacceptable for a woman to have adultery but acceptable for men.

Thomas Hardy as a Male Feminist and an Eco -feminist novelist, showed interest on such issues the double standard of morality, marriage, sexual relations which are detected in his novel "Tess of the d'Urbervilles". Hardy seems to sympathize with his female character Tess and speak about her as an independent individual that was the center of our focus in this research to show how Hardy's depicted Tess in the Victorian community with harsh social norms that she was following and her fate played major role in her struggle and eventually her death. Victorian critics regarded Tess as a voluptuous woman and therefore immoral, which explains why she was called as a fallen woman after being raped by Alec.

Moreover, Thomas Hardy has shown that marriage is harsh on/for women, it is the box in which women were being inhumane, and marriage as one of the most damaging institution in the Victorian society. In marriage woman considered to be a property, it means that her income passed under the law to her husband without her consent also means that her personal property

such as money, investments and personal belongings such as jewelry, passed directly into the husband 's control.

From an Ecofeminist's view, woman's suffering and oppression, is connected to the destruction of nature. Tess is the victim of the social injustice and oppression while nature is the victim of the industrial revolution. Hardy's Feminist and Ecofeminist vision and attitude played an important role in helping us to depict and explore Tess as a woman connected to nature in the Victorian community. He expressed his sympathy for Tess in particular and women in the Victorian time in general. He considers that women should share the same rights and status as men, not being manipulated by male. However, this idea is rejected by society at that time but Hardy hoped that women's status and living conditions can be improved someday and they will find their own happy life. Tess without doubt was considered as Hardy's hope and dream a pure and innocent girl and a victim woman at a later stage of her life as of the Victorian society which was based double standard of morality.

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