

Feminist Critical Discourse Analysis of *Big Little Lies*: A Study of Abuse, Resilience and Female Solidarity

Khadija Khalid¹ and Shabbir Ahmad¹

¹Department of English, University of Sahiwal, Pakistan.

ARTICLE INFO

ARTICLE HISTORY

Received: June 08, 2024

Accepted: August 20, 2024

Published: August 22, 2024

KEYWORDS

Feminist Critical Discourse Analysis (FCDA); Abuse; Resilience; Agency; Women solidarity

ABSTRACT

This study explores how the women in Liane Moriarty's novel *Big Little Lies* challenge the famous stereotypes created by patriarchal gender discourse about female gender using Feminist Critical Discourse Analysis (FCDA) as a theoretical guide. They are shown as successful breadwinners as well as responsible mothers and wives. The women characters face gender and class-based challenges courageously, thus demystifying the false discursive social constructions about women. Navigation of the intersecting identities of the female characters showcases the resilience, agency and solidarity among women, and moreover, it challenges the stereotypical notions of femininity, womanhood and motherhood. This study also uncovers the ways in which the novel *Big Little Lies* reflects and shapes social and cultural attitudes toward gender, class, power and motherhood. It signifies that Liane Moriarty advocates women's voice against discursively constructed, unjust domestic and social perspectives. This study paves the way for further research in gender studies in combination with resilience and female solidarity in such novels.

Corresponding Author: Shabbir Ahmad (Email: shabbirahmad@uosahiwal.edu.pk)

INTRODUCTION

This study involves the detailed examination of Liane Moriarty's Novel *Big Little Lies* (2014) in order to analyze patriarchal constraints, gender power dynamics, domestic abuse, traditional gender roles and wrong societal expectations from women through Feminist Critical Discourse Analysis (FCDA). The aim of Feminist Critical Discourse Studies is to show the complex ways in which gendered assumptions and hegemonic power relations are discursively produced (Lazar, 2007, p.142). Gender roles and stereotypes contribute to limiting the roles available to women, making it difficult to enter leading roles (Tabassum & Nayak, 2021). Hence, there is a need for discourse studies to challenge socially constructed wrong presumptions about women in societies worldwide. Thus, the task of an analyst, in this context, is to bring into the limelight all those constraints, pressures, and discriminations that limit the active participation of women in all fields of life.

Liane Moriarty is an Australian author whose novel *The Husband's Secret* (2013) has won worldwide fame. Her novel under analysis in the present study is *Big Little Lies*, published in 2014. It presents the intricacies of gender, class, motherhood, domestic abuse, women's resilience and solidarity through the lives and experiences of the women, namely Madeline, Celeste, Renata and Jane. Analyzing *Big Little Lies* through Feminist Critical Discourse Analysis (FCDA) brings to the fore the societal norms that constrain the autonomy of women and eternalize gender-based violence while highlighting the resilience exhibited by women, exercising agency and solidarity with each other. The present analysis also unveils the resilience exhibited by the female characters in the face of misfortune, adversity, trauma and discrimination. Through the analytical framework of Feminist Critical Discourse Analysis (FCDA), this research work mainly focuses on women's solidarity, resilience, self-ownerships and self-identity against their physical and emotional abuse.

In the novel *Big Little Lies*, Liane Moriarty portrays the characters of Madeline Martha Macken, Celeste Wright and Jane Chapman, who not only deal with emotional abuse but also try their best to be good mothers. Madeline is an energetic, spirited, vibrant woman who has a vivacious personality. She struggles with the issues of identity, motherhood and the challenges of blended families. Celeste Wright is a stunning beautiful woman. She possesses a graceful, sophisticated and elegant demeanor. She is a lawyer but she quits her profession just to raise her twin sons. She looks very satisfied, apparently, but deep down, she is constantly struggling with her abusive, manipulative husband. In *Big Little Lies*, Liane Moriarty portrays the character of Celeste as a woman who not only patiently deals with her narcissistic, controlling, emotionally abusive husband but also makes all possible compromises to maintain her marital status. Perry, who is the husband of Celeste, projects in public that he is a very sweet, kind, loving, caring, broad-minded and cooperative partner but is actually a very toxic partner. He does not want her to do a job as he

wants her to be dependent on her as he has male dominant perspective. There is another female character, Jane Chapman, a courageous woman who is raising her illegitimate son alone. She is constantly struggling with her past trauma, as she was raped at the age of nineteen. Jane is a rape victim who deals with societal judgments and endures all the pains and tensions bravely.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Angelina & Arianto (2022) explore family gender roles through Eagly's social role theory in *Big Little Lies* to see how society creates expectations that men and women should behave. This study has kept its focus on the analysis of all the major characters through character analysis on the basis of social role theory in combination with feminist viewpoints.

Kadir et al., (2022) have done comparative research on the two novels *The Age of Innocence* and *Big Little Lies*. In this research, the analysis has been based on women's language and the impact of social norms on the married lives of the main characters. The theory of Women's Language by Lakoff has been used as a theoretical guide.

Muhammed et al. (2023), in *A Critical Pragmatic Study of Aggression in Moriarty's Big Little Lies*, discussed aggression as a negative anti-social issue in familial communication. This study has not only discussed aggression in physical interactions but aggression in behavior and aggression in language too. However, here, the focus is not on gender and discourse

The above works are only a few studies already done on the novel *Big Little Lies*, as it was later adapted for the television series of the same name, and much critical work is done on this TV series (HBO's *Big Little Lies*, 2017-2019). The works mentioned above indicate that in the already done research works on this novel, the lens of Feminist Critical Discourse is missing. This is a noteworthy research gap that is being filled by the current research work.

Statement of Problem and Research Questions

Society demands women to do their supposed domestic roles and be happy in the happiness of their men's will in order to live a happy married life. The women's identity is defined by their husband's status, and they don't have their own self-identity other than being called good mothers and wives. The societal, marital and natural structures of womanhood demand women to be defined by the titles of wives and mothers instead of being self-identified individuals. This research work is meant to find out the answers to the following two questions:

- How emotional and physical abuse of women in *Big Little Lies* can be viewed under the umbrella of Feminist Critical Discourse Analysis?
- How does this novel portray women's resilience, exercising of agency and solidarity in dealing with the challenges created by Patriarchal discourse?

SIGNIFICANCE OF RESEARCH

This Feminist Critical Discourse Analysis research work is significant in demonstrating the understanding of the gender roles, power dynamics, patriarchal constraints and social constructs that lead to the perpetuation of inequality, injustice and discrimination in society. It demonstrates the value of feminist critical discourse analysis as it reveals the ways by which literature reflects and shapes societal and cultural attitudes toward gender and power. It provides deeper insights into the experiences and struggles of women shaped by the double working of gender and class-based pressures. It unveils the experiences of women, specifically in the context of relationships, motherhood and womanhood. It involves the detailed examination of the challenges faced by working women who are not only defined by the titles of good mothers and wives but also by the titles of well-defined individuals. It offers a critique of societal expectations, norms and traditions by challenging traditional gender roles, stereotypes and power dynamics. It emphasizes the importance of resilience, agency, autonomy, female solidarity and women empowerment that promotes the message of hope, support and empathy among women.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

In this study, textual analysis is carried out through the lens of Feminist Critical Discourse Analysis (FCDA). The primary source of data in this research study is taken from Liane Moriarty's novel *Big Little Lies*. The design of this research is a descriptive qualitative design. Data used in this research are sections of the novel that elaborate on the resilience, agency, and solidarity among women in facing domestic abuse and gender and class-based challenges because of the working of patriarchal discourse. The method used in this study is an in-depth analysis of the female characters (Madeline, Celeste, Jane, Renata and Bonnie) and their life struggles, sufferings and experiences in the novel *Big Little Lies*. This study is interpretative because it interprets the experiences and struggles of the female characters.

This study is carried out under the umbrella of Feminist Critical Discourse Analysis. Lazar (2007) has mainly discussed details of Feminist Critical Discourse Analysis. He declares the use of Gender as an ideological structure as the main thing to be analyzed in the work Feminist Critical Discourse Analysis.

Ideologies are representations of practices formed from particular perspectives in the interest of maintaining unequal power relations and dominance. From a feminist perspective, the prevailing conception of gender is understood as an ideological structure based on a hierarchical relation of domination and subordination, respectively. (Lazar, 2007, p.146).

This researcher uses FCDA to analyze the notions of domestic abuse, gender and class-based challenges, monolithic or dynamic concepts of motherhood, and women's resilience, agency and solidarity against oppressive circumstances.

Resilience is defined as "the ability to bounce back from adversity, frustration, and misfortune" (Ledesma, 2014, p.1) and "a stable trajectory of healthy functioning after a highly adverse event" (Bonanno, 2004; Bonanno et al., 2011). Thus, resilience is the capacity to navigate, manage, negotiate and resist the intersecting forces of gender, class, and society to maintain well-being in the face of misfortune, oppression, marginalization, trauma and adversity.

Women solidarity is a form of organizing that envisages a shared responsibility for the lives of others, working with care and intimacy (Segal, 2017: pp. 228), which implies that Female solidarity refers to collective action, cooperation, mutual support and struggle against social injustice, gender inequality, gender-based violence, marginalization and patriarchal oppression.

DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

Discourse is any text, whether written or spoken or a visual description presented within a certain context (Javed, 2023). One famous notion of patriarchal discourse is that women are too weak to deal with many challenges of life. In the workplace, gender roles and stereotypes contribute to limiting the roles available to women (Tabassum & Nayak, 2021). However, a female character, Jane, courageously deals with the challenges in front of her due to her being a female and having low socioeconomic status which impacts her social interactions and acceptance as a respectable human being. Jane is a single mother with one child named Ziggy. Having no partner explains how she needs to be self-reliant to provide for and sustain her family by working with bills and invoices until late at night. (Moriarty & Lee, 2014, pp. 125–126). Jane faces oppression, marginalization and discrimination due to being a female of low socioeconomic status. Jane faces societal judgments and stigmatization due to her identity as a single mother and a survivor of rape. She suffers and faces challenges in order to get respect and acceptance in an affluent community. Her gender shapes Jane's experience with rape, resultant trauma and motherhood challenges. Her belonging to low socioeconomic status affects her access to resources. Due to double working of gender-based discrimination and having low socioeconomic status, she suffers a lot. But she courageously deals with such challenges. Similarly, Celeste is a white woman who has a strong financial background; however, in spite of all these privileges, she still faces abuse and oppression due to patriarchal constraints and male-dominated societal norms. However she also successfully deals with these challenges and finally appears before her readers as a strong person.

Big Little Lies challenges the discursively constructed social idea that motherhood is a homogenous experience by representing the diverse range of female characters that challenge the monolithic representation of motherhood. The novel also exhibits the intersecting identities of the female characters and challenges the monolithic representation of motherhood. Madeline's motherhood is showcased as a fiercely devoted mother who tries her best to balance her motherhood and her career. She is a very passionate and diligent worker who puts all her energies into her work as she is not only defined by the title of good mother but she wants to be known as a self-identified individual. Madeline displays aggressiveness to defend her son no matter who she fights (Moriarty & Lee, 2014, p. 43). Madeline has self-confidence and believes in having self-reliance. It is she who drives the children to school (Moriarty & Lee, 2014, p. 10). As a strong-willed personality, she gets herself involved in various projects that show her ambitious nature, dedication and determination to be a successful businesswoman outside of motherhood. Celeste is a devoted mother who sacrifices her career just to raise her twin sons. Moreover, she tries her best to protect her children from the effects of her abusive marriage. Jane is a young single mother who is very determined to provide her son with the best environment so that he may be successful in life. Jane is a working woman who is also struggling with past trauma. She got raped at the age of nineteen, and her son Ziggy is the product of sexual assault. She does not let her son know about the bitter truth of his existence and struggles hard in order to provide a safe and good life for her son. Renata is a successful working woman who is driven by her ambitious nature. She appears ambitious, self-reliant, independent and dominant. Her ambition gives her little opportunity to be with her own children. She has dominant qualities in conversations with other school mothers (Moriarty & Lee, 2014, pp. 44–45). She feels guilty in her heart for not giving proper time to her daughter, but at the same time, she can't compromise on her work. So, she struggles to maintain a balance between her career and her role as a mother.

Another famous notion of Patriarchal discourse is that men believe that women's emotional and caring traits are not suitable to be in leading positions (Azisah, 2020). The novel *Big Little Lies* reveals the emotional and physical abuse of women under this notion by men. The women experience fear and suffer from pain as a result of this abuse; however, they challenge this abuse and get rid of this abuse by their resilience and then their mutual solidarity. Celeste suffers at the hands of her abusive husband named, Perry. Celeste is a stunning, beautiful woman who possesses a graceful, elegant, sophisticated and poised demeanor. The people around called their family a "perfect marriage" (Moriarty & Lee, 2014, p. 421), in which the wife takes care of the children and the husband works outside. "She loved Perry" (Moriarty & Lee, 2014, p. 142). The following sentence shows that she enjoys being with him despite his frequent abuse: "She would never leave Perry any more than she could leave the boys" (Moriarty & Lee, 2014, p. 144). She is a lawyer but quits her job just because her husband wants her to raise her twin sons. Perry does not let her do the job because he does not want her to be financially independent, as he wants to take control over her by making her realize that he is the one who is the breadwinner of the family. Perry is a charming and successful man who efficiently uses his charm and manipulative tactics to control and gaslight Celeste. He tactfully isolates Celeste from all her friends and makes her realize that she is worthless, and she must be thankful to him that he is still living with her in spite of all her faults and shortcomings. He possesses a narcissistic nature as he internalizes that she is not worthy and capable of doing anything just to be dominant and overshadow her presence. By belittling and gaslighting her, he makes her a person who starts doubting her capabilities and potential. Perry shows to others that he is a very kind, loving, caring, affectionate and devoted husband, but in reality, he is an emotional and physical abuser. The tension-building phase, the explosive incident and the honeymoon phase characterize the cycle of abuse. In the tension-building phase, Celeste experiences the constant feeling of walking on eggshells as she faces manipulation, aggression, controlling behavior and verbal insults. In the explosive incident phase, Celeste suffers from physical abuse. After that, the cycle finally moves forward to the honeymoon phase, where he shows immense love, affection, kindness, apologies and promises of a better future as he changes. By showing apologetic and guilty behavior, he tries his best to make it difficult for Celeste to leave the abusive relationship.

Despite his outward charm, Perry is an emotional and physical abuser. Perry shows himself as a very loving, caring, devoted and affectionate husband and father. But in reality, he possesses an abusive nature. He is a self-centered man who only loves his comfort and satisfaction. No doubt, he is charming and a successful man; he uses his charm and manipulative tactics to gaslight Celeste. Celeste is a stunning beauty and possesses an elegant and sophisticated demeanor. She is a lawyer by profession but she quits her job to raise her twin sons as his husband wants her to be a good mother and wife who obeys the orders of her husband. Actually, Perry is a narcissistic person who wants to control his wife. He humiliates her and abuses her both emotionally and physically just to satisfy his ego. He does not even let her profession just to show dominance. He was a man who just sometimes behaved very badly" (Moriarty & Lee, 2014, p. 250). Celeste does not show the world that she is in an abusive marriage and struggling with emotional and physical strife. She always showcases that she is very happy and living a good married life, but there is this dark side of her married life.

However, the text does not present women as silent absorbers of violence and its unchallenged continuity. Celeste's journey of self-realization is noteworthy as she is living in an abusive relationship. She understands that she is being manipulated by her husband, Perry. Celeste realizes about abusive nature of her married life and decides to get separation from Perry. She shows courage, acknowledges her potential and decides to get out of her toxic marriage to find out her lost self. For her, it was always about deciding to leave, to stay or to go, as though going would be the end of her story (Moriarty & Lee, 2014, p.539). But now, she was suddenly filled with a passionate desire to share everything (Moriarty & Lee, 2014, p.758). She wanted to tell him that she knew all the perfect little lies he'd told himself for all those years and say, "I understand" (Moriarty & Lee, 2014, p.759). Celeste put her mouth closer to the microphone, "This can happen to anyone" (Moriarty & Lee, 2014, p.759). Thus her speaking is not only for herself but for all the women of the world. It is a call for Women's solidarity with each other to combat the challenges of gender-based discrimination and unjust social systems. As Toni Morrison warns her female readers about fatal patriarchal forces (Ahmad et al., 2021, p.53) so does Moriarty here through the voice of Celeste.

Against the discursively constructed famous stereotypical ideas about women being unable to have agency and strength, this novel presents women who exercise agency, show resilience in the face of certain hardships and exhibit solidarity in front of the patriarchal constraints. This is in line with what Aoi Mori argues about the female characters "as subjects that emerge from an oppressed situation and who seek survival" (Mori, 1999, pp. 89). *Big Little Lies* exposes domestic and social abuse of women on the one hand but exhibits strength in female characters on the other hand. The women exercise agency in their own way as they assert themselves, make choices and take control of their lives in difficult circumstances. They make decisions that align with their personal thoughts and points of view as self-identified individuals. Whether it's Madeline making choices, being vocal loudly and clearly without any societal fear and standing up fiercely for herself and her friends or Celeste acknowledging her worth and finding the courage to get herself out of the abusive marriage, or Jane bravely confronting Perry (on the subject of her rape) in front of everyone without any fear of the judgmental society, all these characters demonstrate the power of personal agency.

Jane, who is a single mother, tries her best to rebuild her life. She is constantly haunted by Past trauma as she was raped at the age of nineteen by Perry (Husband of Celeste). Jane is a complex but resilient character. Despite the immense pain she carries, her beauty and gentle demeanor demonstrate strength and resilience in her. She patiently and courageously deals with the judgmental society around her and bravely faces the challenges of being a single mother. She does not mourn at becoming a victim of rape, and she courageously tries her best to heal her past trauma. She even does not let her son Ziggy know that he is a product of rape as she does not want him to know the painful truth. She decides to hide the painful reality of his existence until he is old enough to understand. As a brave young single mother, she always prioritizes the well-being and happiness of his son. Jane's entire focus is to provide a loving and supportive environment to her son, so that he may be able to get a successful and happy life. Her strong willpower demonstrates Madeline's resilience, her determination to overcome hardships and obstacles and her willingness to speak up and take a stand for her loved ones. "I was looking the other way," said Madeline. Her voice was Stronger (Moriarty & Lee, 2014, p.705). Her resistance is showcased by her ability to bounce back from setbacks as she always keeps on moving forward. She bravely faces personal challenges and relationship problems but refuses to let them define her. As she possesses a strong personality and a confident demeanor, she is greatly determined to provide herself and her family with a fulfilling life. As she has a vivacious, energetic and vibrant personality, she is outspoken, reflecting her resilient and brave personality as she is not afraid of standing up for what she believes in. She bravely stands with her friends and speaks about what she thinks is right, even if they are against societal norms or provoke conflict. Renata's resilience is exhibited by her determination, strong willpower, adaptability, assertiveness and ambitiousness. Her resilience is also shown by her ability to evolve and grow, as she is not afraid to embrace change. Her willingness to learn, grow and reinvent her "self" makes her find new ways to overcome obstacles and face challenges. This is what Ullah et al. point out about the dangers of living in a dream world, which can make one alienated from the outside real world (Ullah, et al., 2020), so it is of utmost importance that one must be aware as a woman of the outside factors in the real world. One such dreamy world is the urbanized society where money and beauty are valued more than human feelings and moral values.

Solidarity among the women in *Big Little Lies* shows that despite differences, they support each other and stay united. It has a similarity to the famous Afro-American novelist Morrison's advice to female characters to form mutual bonds to deal with the opposite forces. (Mahmood, M. I., 2020, p.220) In *Big Little Lies*, Bonnie is a friendly and kind woman with other women. To school mothers, she appeared friendly (Moriarty & Lee, 2014, p. 30). Bonnie also brought meals after knowing that Madeline had hurt her own ankle (Moriarty & Lee, 2014, p. 30). It shows that Bonnie is very supportive of other female fellows and expresses strong solidarity with them. These women guide each other on certain occasions. "I'm not really into forgiveness either," said Jane. Madeline: "Never forgive. Never forget. That's my motto (Moriarty & Lee, 2014, p.42). Madeline shows solidarity with other women by advising on dealing with husbands. "it always seemed a safer policy not to let husbands know just how much information their wives shared (Moriarty & Lee, 2014, p. 503). All women characters are found to exhibit solidarity among themselves. Celeste was too nice to let it affect their friendship (Moriarty & Lee, 2014, p.601). Female friendship provides women with dependability, which transcends the interests of self and is an association to help and elevate each other. (Ahmad, D. S. et al., 2020, p.312). This female bonding is a powerful tool against patriarchy, as is indicated by the women's group struggle in "Veiled Courage" (Imran et al., 2020). This solidarity and female friendship is not only limited to normal times but is extended to challenging and brave situations that demand practical support from each other.

Jane got raped by Perry at the age of nineteen, and he is the father of Ziggy. When Jane confronted him that he was the father of her son Ziggy, he got into a state of anger, denial and shock. Perry tries his best to control the situation by being defensive and intimidating Jane. But Jane presents evidence, and everybody gets to know the truth that Perry is the man who raped Jane, and he is the father of Ziggy. Bonnie witnesses that Perry is physically assaulting Celeste, and she instantly pushes Perry with great force and intensity, which leads to his death. Bonnie involuntarily and unconsciously pushes Perry because her past trauma triggers her, as her mother was also a victim of physical and emotional abuse at the hands of Bonnie's father. Thus, gender inequality (Safdar, Hashim, & Alzuhri, 2022) paves the way for rebellion and resistance in females of a patriarchal society. When Bonnie pushes Perry, which leads to the death of Perry, at that moment, Madeline openly speaks up for Bonnie. She pushes Perry just to save Celeste. Madeline stands with Bonnie in spite of the fact that she is married to Nathan (Madeline's ex-husband), and Bonnie protects Celeste without thinking of the consequences. So, it shows support, unity and cooperation in times of need among the female characters. The delineation of such a work by Lianne Moriarty shows she advocates feminist ideals of women's liberation. Thus, it also highlights the need to redefine gender roles against the traditional role models created by patriarchal discourse, just like other redefinitions as redefining of Americanism (Ahmad, D,S, et al., 2020) in the current times.

CONCLUSION

This study has explored the traditional gender roles, patriarchal constraints and societal expectations regarding womanhood and motherhood. The research study depicts motherhood as vulnerable as well as empowering.

Moreover, it involves the investigation of the dire need for support, empathy and collective action among women. Female characters of the novel struggle to keep a balance between motherhood and the complexities of professional and personal ambitions. The female characters are portrayed as brave, courageous, passionate and resilient. They are highly ambitious in their professional lives as well as personal lives in order to be defined as self-identified individuals. Motherhood in the novel is depicted as both vulnerable as well as empowering. The female characters of the novel struggle hard as they face the challenges of maintaining a balance between personal ambitions and parenting responsibilities. It is also showcased that motherhood is a source of vulnerability as female characters face societal scrutiny and judgments. This study has also found out that the intersecting identities of the characters based on gender, class and marital status intersect and interact in order to shape the lives, experiences, struggles and choices of the characters. This research study highlights the autonomy, agency and the impact of power dynamics on familial, professional and personal well-being. Thus, it highlights various kinds of pressures under which the women have to pass through with resilience and finally survive with dignity.

REFERENCES

- Ahmad, S., Almas, N., & Iqbal, M. (2020). Illness, Care, Love and Today's American Family: A Comparative Study of the Novels "Miss Janie's Girls and Sula". *Research Journal of Social Sciences and Economics Review*, 1(4), 307-313.
- Ahmad, S., Mahmood, M. I., & Mobeen, M. (2020). Redefining Americanism and American Literary Tradition: Hospitality, Ethics and A Transcendent Humanism in Cormac McCarthy's Fiction. *Pakistan Social Sciences Review*, 4(1), 849-861.
- Ahmed, S., Mushtaq, M., & Chauhdari, F. (2021). A Study of Alienation in Toni Morrison's Love: Poverty, Patriarchal Institution of Marriage and Female Friendship. *Journal of English Language, Literature and Education*, 2(03), 53-62.
- Angelina, V., & Arianto, T. (2022). Representation of family gender roles in "big little lies" novel by liane moriarty. *JURNAL BASIS*, 9(2), 279-290.
- Azisah, S. (2020). Gender roles Depiction in English textbooks of an Islamic Junior high school in South Sulawesi, Indonesia. *Asian EFL Journal*, 27(33), 95-109.
- Big Little Lies. 2017-2019. "Television Series. Seasons 1-2." USA: HBO
- Bonanno, G. A. (2004). Loss, trauma, and human resilience: have we underestimated the human capacity to thrive after extremely aversive events?. *American psychologist*, 59(1), 20.
- Bonanno, G. A., Westphal, M., & Mancini, A. D. (2011). Resilience to loss and potential trauma. *Annual review of clinical psychology*, 7(1), 511-535.
- Imran, M., Chen, Y., Wei, X. M., & Akhtar, S. (2020). Veiled courage: Inside the women's resistance against violence through their writings. *Asian Journal of Women's Studies*, 26(1), 74-93.
- Javed, M. (2022). Meme as a tool of social and political commentary: discourse analysis of meme in Pakistani social media. *Pakistan Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences Research*, 5(2), 1-11.
- Kadir, R., Sahril, S., & Nurfadhilah, A. S. (2022). COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF GENDER RELATED ISSUES IN THE NOVEL THE AGE OF INNOCENCE BY EDITH WARTHON AND BIG LITTLE LIES BY LIANE MIROARTE. *ELITERATE: Journal of English Linguistics and Literature Studies*, 2(1), 38-47.
- Lazar, M. M. (2007). Feminist critical discourse analysis: Articulating a feminist discourse praxis. *Critical discourse studies*, 4(2), 141-164.
- Ledesma, J. (2014). Conceptual frameworks and research models on resilience in leadership. *Sage open*, 4(3), 2158244014545464. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2158244014545464>
- Mahmood, M. I., Ahmad, S., & Mobeen, M. (2021). City Milieu, Love and Alienated Gender Relations in Toni Morrison's Song of Solomon. *Pakistan Languages and Humanities Review*, 5(2), 220-230.
- Mori, A. (1999). *Toni Morrison and womanist discourse* (Vol. 16). Peter Lang Incorporated, International Academic Publishers.
- Moriarty, L., & Lee, C. (2014). *Big little lies* (p. 512). Penguin Audio.
- Muhammed, W. S. M., Kadhim, H. A. K., & Abdul-Lateef, R. (2023). A Critical Pragmatic Study of Aggression in Moriarty's Big Little Lies. *Journal of College of Languages*, (47).
- Safdar, A., Abbas, S., & ul Zafar, N. (2022). Tracing the Voices of the Oppressed: A Reading of Bapsi Sidhwa's Novel 'The Pakistani Bride'. *Journal of Social Sciences Advancement*, 3(3), 186-192. <https://doi.org/10.52223/JSSA22-030310-46>
- Segal, L. (2017). Gender, power and feminist resistance. In *Bodies, symbols and organizational practice* (pp. 227-244). Routledge.
- Tabassum, N., & Nayak, B. S. (2021). Gender stereotypes and their impact on women's career progressions from a managerial perspective. *IIM Kozhikode Society & Management Review*, 10(2), 192-208. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2277975220975513>
- Ullah, S., Imran, M., Afzaal, M., & Akhtar, A. (2020). The Legacy of Living in a Dream World; A Sense of Alienation and Exile in "Dream china" By Jonathan Locke Hart. *Alqalam*, 25(1), 269-272.