



HILDA DOOLITTLE:

DECONSTRUCTED FEMININITIES IN *SEA GARDEN*



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ABSTRACT

Commonly known as H.D., Hilda Doolittle was an American modernist poet. Her style had the traces of modernism not just in terms of form but also in terms of content. Her use of images as an imagist poet makes her a modern “imagiste”. However, her distortion of classical or conventional notions of gender, femininity and sexuality adds another dimension to her being classified as a modern poet. H. D. is actually a modern feminist who strives hard to deconstruct the gendered stereotyping of sexes and reconstructs a new female figure who does not have much physical attraction but has the power to battle with the fierce forces of nature and therefore whose existence is meaningful. Instead of long passages that depended much upon form, H.D. chooses “direct treatment of the thing, whether subjective or objective” and she wants to use “no word that does not contribute to the presentation (Pound 3). Through use of concise images, H.D. well defends her feminist stance. This paper traces H.D.’s modern feminism in her three poems “Sea Rose”, “Sea Poppies” and “Sheltered Garden” from *Sea Garden* in which she beautifies what is not beautiful and disregards things usually accepted as beautiful.

KEYWORDS : Feminism, deconstruction, patriarchy, modernism, patriarchal codes