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FEMINISM, WOMEN AND SCIENCE FICTION OF OCTAVIA BUTLER



Dr. Pravin Sonune

Head, Department of English

R. B. Attal College, Georai, Dist. Beed (MH)

Email: ashutoshsonune@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Science Fiction is a distinguished literary form and not a branch of science. SF has tried to make sense of the rapidity of technological change and the impact which science and technology have made on our society. By imagining other worlds and possible futures, the genre allows us to view our present day situation with greater detachment and perspective. An exploration of the tradition of SF literature by women writers is a kind of tribute to the literate convictions—both writers and readers—that fuel the emerging voices of SF. Despite a long tradition of women's reading and writing in the field of literature in general and science fiction in particular only in the last four decades women writers of SF became fortunate to receive extensive scholarly attention. SF women writers like Octavia Butler and Le Guin, in a pragmatic way, have forged a path for safeguarding the existential interests of humanity in future. Viewed the tradition of SF

from women's point of view one understands that in spite of the rich contribution of women writers, this kind of genre of SF still suffers the malady of phallogocentric subsumption. SF reflected in male tradition explores and exploits science as a mode of power, politics, domination, destruction, and violence. Women, on the contrary, perceive the scientific truth as the means of reconstructing human society in positive terms regarding constructive change, growth and all-round sound development unto this last. The space of dominance and violence of men SF is replaced by women SF writers with space for harmony, co-ordination, and humaneness.

KEYWORDS

Phallogocentric subsumption, symbionts, sexual-textual politics, thought-experimentation, extraterrestrials, human/alien sexual encounters