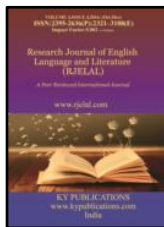




The power of a Vill(Will)ager: A Study of The Pursuit of A Woman Villager In Willa Cather's *O'Pioneers*

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ABSTRACT

The research article focus on the pursuit of a woman whose sacrifice of her contentment for the sake of land. The will of a woman can enterprise the earth especially, the searches of the protagonist of the novel highlight the strong nature of an immigrant woman who represents the responsibilities of a native people who forget the land for the sake of modern comforts.

The will of a rural woman

The difference of rural and urban living is always a debatable and incomparable topic. The facilities and the opportunities are more in urban areas and the same is impossible and sometimes hard earning task of many in rural dwelling. In most of the Asian rural communities, people strive very hard to educate and nurture the lives of themselves and their children. Each and every inevitable thing too becomes the lifetime dream of them as depicted in Steinberg's *The Pearl*. The life seems to be the achievement of the fundamental living things of these individuals. Sacrifice is the living concept of all these rural communities and they fail to get their dreamt things. Moreover when it is for the rural woman the fulfilling of dreams and aspirations are removed even before it sprouts. The rural living encompasses the endurance of dream, memory, and nostalgic moments which rarely retard the success as American dream refer. The survival living shows the undiscovered self and the world in the maximum. The villagers' world is entirely different from the urban people. The present study takes up the concepts of the living of women villagers whose sacrifices are unheard and their success has never reached the heights of the world.

In the delineation of women, Willa Cather always stands as the well-known writer of the soul. The novels of Willa Cather present the villagers who are always the beacon lights of their environment. The unknown voices are heard through the survival struggles of characters who sacrifice their living for making their own enterprises. Especially Alexandria in *O'Pioneers!* proves to be the best of its kind and brings forth the visions and strategies of a typical villager. When the villager migrates there arise the conflicts of inner and outer self. The answers for their inner and outer search highlight the will power of them which is necessary for every individual to make a refined expression of self and life. The distance between the targets and the outcomes are the proofs of these rural struggles with which one can see the constant efforts of inner urge. This is ultimately proved by the struggles of Alexandria and her constant efforts of living. In *O' Pioneers!* Cather tries to reveal the entangled paths of a cluster of people as they struggle to establish a home in their wilderness. The entire novel is a supreme reflection of the landscape and the villagers who made its plots. The will of a character, John Bergson who is supposed to be the beginner of the search of life in the landscape who thought who can easily tame the

land but realized that he cannot but the lineage constantly is crept over by his daughter, Alexandria Bergson.

O'Pioneers! Represents the voice of the soil where it enhances the lives of ordinary people and places with more clarity. The story talks about the life of Alexandria who is striving hard to search the dream of her father and her own community. The failure of her father as a farmer let her indulge in the household works than great tasks of achievements. The death of her father and his will made her pursue the will of her father. Her constant efforts of conquering land lead her strive in the barren land where as most of her neighbours receded from the land and the country in search of their modern aspiration instead hard toiling in the land. She ploughs the land with the will of a female despite the drastic comments from the neighbours. The nature sometimes proves to be tender in the case of hard workers because in the consequent years she has experienced the combination of prosperity and draught. The childhood tenderness and the will power cherish her culture of cultivation and despite the opposition of her brothers; Alexandria buys as much land as possible. After ten years her land, Divide, is the most flourishing and successful of all in the neighbouring areas. Her power of will empowers her with the successful accomplishment of her dream task among the most intelligent native people of the land. Though she is an immigrant, when all the natives lost their hope in the land, it is Alexandria who made the dream of her father possible with the pursuit of taming the barren land to a flourishing farm. Though she has sacrificed her youth and happiness, she has regained the spirit of farmers through her will power.

Alexandria stands for the quote 'The history of every country begins in the heart of a --- a woman'(OP 44).

Reference

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