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**The Persecution of "Pure Heart" in Thomas Hardy's "Tess of  
the Durberville": A Feminist Approach**

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# ***DEDICATION***

*I would thank Allah , for providing me with patience and will to study  
and reach this level and finish my dissertation .*

*I dedicate my dissertation work to my parents , MASSOUDE  
and NOUDJOD, the most helpful parents ever*

*Thank you so much for your love.*

*Also , I would like to dedicate my dissertation work  
To my beloved sisters and my sugar cubes*

*Wafa , khawla ,Aya ,Zahra*

*To my brothers*

*Yacin ,farouk*

*To my twins Sara and her family*

*To the soul that settled my heart , who has been a great source  
of motivation khalil*

*To my best friends and my special people in my life*

*Zhour ,khadija, kholoud*

*Your friendship made my life a wonderful experience.*

*To all the people who believed in me*

*Thank you and God bless them.*

*ASMA*

# ***DEDICATION***

*I dedicate my dissertation work to all the people who supported me to reach my goal specially, my parents I like to say that if my parents didn't assisted me I will never be the person who I'am today , I want to thank my mother about every thing she do ,for me ,she is really a miracle with her words, soul, and her smile that give me strength, willingness, and hope ,also my father you are my hero because you have been always my rock in my life.*

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*Finally, I want to mention a wonderful girl who is not with me now ,but she will come soon to make my life better, she is my little daughter(                    ),who is part of my self, that gave the willingness to be here ,I'm waiting for you my sweetie.*

*Zhour*

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*We are immensely grateful to our teachers of literature at the Department of English .*

## **Abstract**

This study attempts to analyse the theme of the persecution of the "pure heart" in Thomas Hardy *Tess of D'Urbervilles* : A feminist approach. It elaborates how the writer Thomas Hardy criticized the Victorian society by portraying the forms of persecution of the heroine Tess pure heart as he considered her a victim of her society. The theoretical part is divided into six elements starting from the concept of feminism that included feminism and the past and the present ,also feminist in literature ,and it's characteristics represented in gender norms and equality . In addition to the feminist movement in Victorian society , and how it affects the Victorian society ,and the concept of purity in different cultures. Furthermore, Thomas Hardy life ,also the characters of this novel ,and major themes that treated to the symbolic ways used by Hardy ,and criticism that faced the novel. Moreover, to the practical part in chapter three which is based on four elements represented firstly in how Thomas hardy sees the purity ,and it's proofs in novel *Tess of D'Urbervilles*. In addition, to description of the Tess's character, also the persecution of the secondary characters on Tess's destiny how they affected in her life.

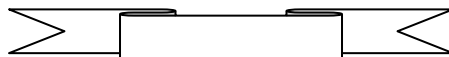
**Keywords:** pure heart ,feminist , purity

TESS OF  
DURBERVILLE

“A strong woman who recklessly throws away her strength, she is worse than a weak woman who has never had any strength to throw away.”

THOMAS HARDY

..



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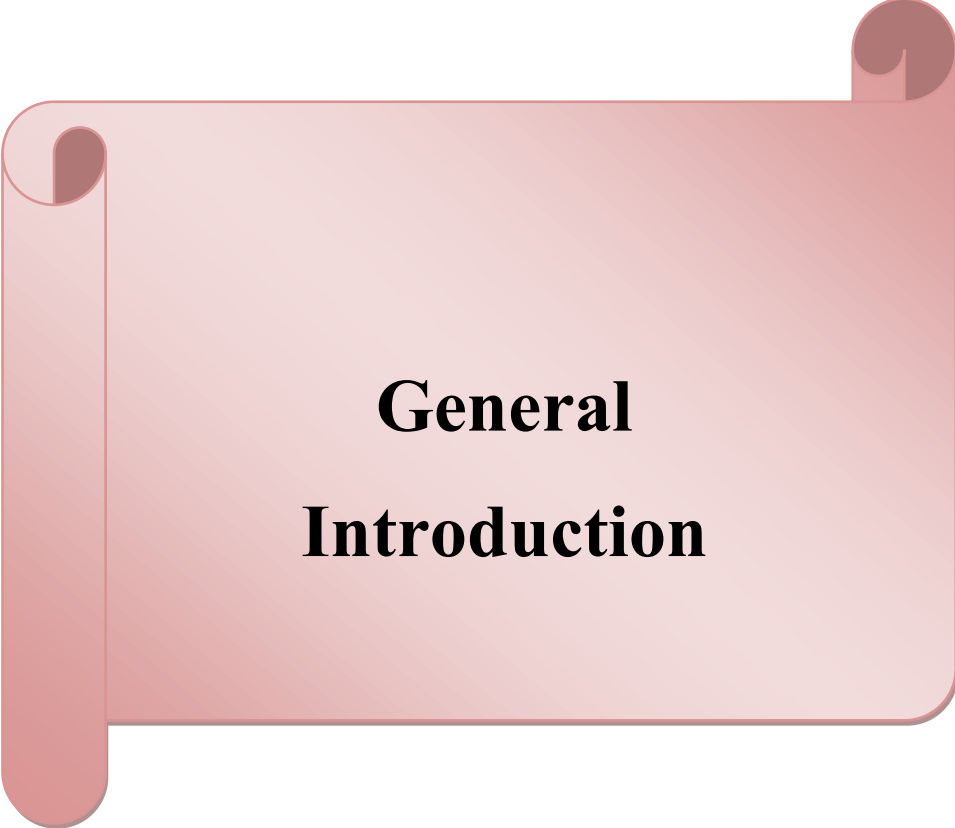
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**General  
Introduction**

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**Significance of the study**

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**Methodology**

**Structure of the Dissertation**

**Conclusion and expected findings**

# **General Introduction**

## **Background of the Study**

This study makes a point where women are dehumanized by making them idealistic and deviant who are binary/opposite of each other. The black and white side of women is considered the target, but the gray side exists in each person and is not recognized by society. Views of Victorian and contemporary women have remained the same, despite the progressive changes all around us.

Therefore, this article will discuss the life factors of women in a patriarchal society. The sources used for this research are Thomas Hardy's book, *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*. In essence, this book tries to see the victim of society as Tess as the protagonist and helps strengthen herself through the actions she takes throughout the book. This research paper is written for better understanding the relationship between the feminism and its influence on Hardy's work, and also analyse the most important points in the novel.

## **Significance of the Study**

This topic is interesting because it focused not only on feminist part but also on humanity, and behavior.

Feminism, from another perspective, is not suffrage, or gender equality. Rather, it is a new thinking for women's freedom and judgment.

## **The Aims of the Study**

The aim of this study is to demonstrate how Thomas Hardy criticized Victorian society with the character of Tess. And how did society consider "Tess". The conflict between society's traditions, values, religion and a writer who his goal is to liberate women and create new thinking.

## **Problematic**

The novel exposes the patriarchal society that oppressed women. Hardy rejected the Victorian society's perception to the woman. Thomas Hardy expressed the feminist ideologies through his rejection of gender norms by the Victorian society

## **Research Questions**

The followings are the research questions on which the work was based:

How can femininity become a crime in Victorian society?

To what extent is timidity an obstacle in female self-defense in Victorian society?

## **Methodology and General Approach**

There are many tools in conducting a literary research various approaches, methods. and theories have been used. This study follows a descriptive analytical method aiming at analysing "the persecution of the "pure heart" in Thomas Hardy *Tess of D'Urbervilles* : feminist approach. This examines the study based on a different way of collecting data which is different from interviews ,surveys, observations ,and so on. In order, to collect the data of this current study, we adopted literary text ,and other tools such as: articles ,books ,document from a trusted websites the practical analysis were obtained from the primary sources the novel of Tess of D'Urbervilles by Thomas Hardy. We focused on a deep study to explore the persecution of the woman in Victorian society through feminist reading

## **Structure of the Dissertation**

This work is divided into three chapters: Two theoretical part and one it is practical. The first chapter will be a general overview about the feminist movement in order to facilitate the comprehension of the subject. Then discusses the historical background of this movement

Afterwards, it shifts from historical background to Perception of feminism today It also sheds light on the feminism and literature and the section of the characteristics of feminism in literature .

Than it shifts to the most important components in this research that's the feminism in Victorian society and is divided into two parts; the Impression of Victorian society on the feminist movement and the Victorian society's perception to the woman .

The end of This Chapter take the concept " *purity*" in different cultures .

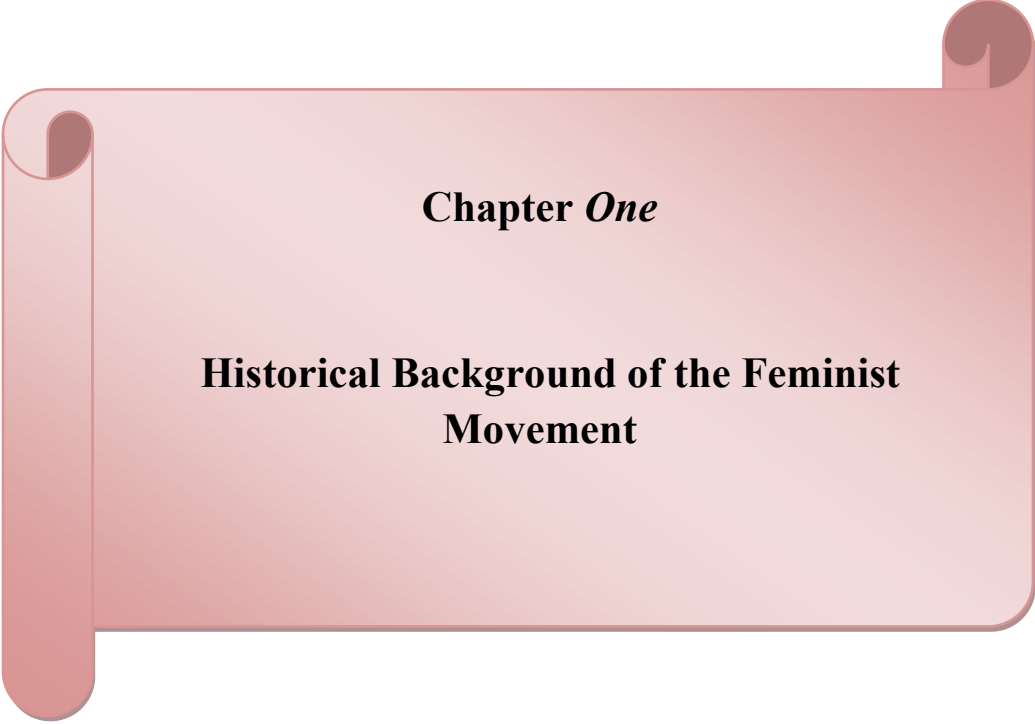
In the second chapter, we will try to present the writer Thomas Hardy as well as the novel *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*. This humble chapter aims at shedding some light on the themes of the novel as they are conceived a very important section to deal with the chosen theory too. This chapter is divided into five main sections. The first will be about the writer ,her personal and professional life, Then, we will see the plot summary of the novel and the characters to better understand the story. Next, we will introduce the dominant themes in the novel. Then deal with the main symbols . The last part is also very important it will be devoted the criticism that have been said about the Novel as well as the writer.

In the third chapter, the current study will seek to analyse Thomas Hardy's views on "Purity" in *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*. This chapter is devoted to a practical analysis of the novel , analysis the character of Tess , than moves to the persecution of the secondary characters on Tess's destiny .The end of The chapter it will present the feminist reading on Hardy's *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*

## **Conclusion and Expected Findings**

To conclude we can say that Thomas Hardy was criticising the Victorian society and considered the sad ending of *Tess* it's the responsibility of that selfish society

Hardy believed that woman is human being ,so she can make mistakes ,and learn.



**Chapter *One***

**Historical Background of the Feminist  
Movement**



## **CONTENT:**

### **1.1 Introduction.**

#### **1.1.1 The Concept of The Feminism**

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### **4 "PURITY" in Different Cultures**

### **5 .Conclusion**

## 1.1 *Introduction*

The first chapter gives a general overview about feminism in order to facilitate the comprehension of the topic. Afterwards, it gives the relationship between the feminist movement and literature, In addition explain the main characteristics .

Furthermore, it sheds light on the Victorian society and how they deal with the feminist movement .Moreover, this chapter reviews the reaction of the Victorian society on the feminism in era women were restricted by many boundaries .

The end of this chapter deals with how Victorian society portoryed woman.

## 1.1The Concept of The Feminism

The term "feminism" comes from the Latin word "femina" meaning "woman" and was originally used to denote issues of equality and the women's rights movement.

The Oxford English Dictionary defines "feminism" as the state of being female or feminine. Webster's Dictionary defines the term "feminism" as the principle that women should have equal political rights with men. TorilMoi explains that "the words 'feminism' or 'feminism' are political designations that indicate support for the goals of the new women's movement that emerged in the late 1960s.

Similarly, Simone de Beauvoir argues that the terms masculine and feminine are used symmetrically in legal documents only for formal reasons.Thus, "feminism" was a social movement that began with the series of resistance movements against the notion of patriarchy, social inequality, and capitalism's role in the oppression of women. It began as a chaotic and incoherent system of opposition to phallocratic thought and practice, but today feminist theory is an established field of critical inquiry and research.

The reach of feminist literary theory encompasses not only a way to reclaim and establish woman's autonomous identity in the social and literary sphere, but also to move alongside the male-centered literary discourse.

Therefore, today we include a broad and diverse spectrum of feminist thinkers who apply poststructuralist, psychoanalytic, Marxist, and postcolonial approaches to the decentralization of male ideology to define, establish, and achieve social justice for women in all walks of life. While maximum feminist theorists at some point of records were women, nowadays human beings of all genders are operating with inside the field. By shifting the focus of social theory away from men's perspectives and experiences, feminist theorists have created more inclusive and innovative social theories than those that claim society is always male.

Part of what makes feminist theory so innovative and comprehensive is that it often examines how systems of power and oppression interact, i.e. it focuses not only on gender power and oppression, but also how this can intersect with systemic racism, a class system that has a hierarchy, gender, nationality and (zero) ability, among others. (Crossman)

### **1.2.1 Definition of Feminism**

The term feminism is derived from the French word "feminism" and according to the Cambridge Online Dictionary, feminism is "the belief that women should have the same rights, power and opportunities as men and be treated equally, or set of activities designed to achieve this status

The word "feminism" itself was used to describe a cultural, political or economic movement of that sought equal rights. However, the terms "feminism" and "feminism" did not become widely used until the 1970s, when they began to be used more frequently in public parlance. The feminist movement was concerned with sociological and political theories concerning issues of gender differences. The movement existed for decades and British women began to fight against them. repression again in the mid-1850s when the first feminists began to fight for their idea of inequality and when the first suffrage movement emerged, since then, women start working.. Over achieved the goal of having the same rights and position in society that men have( Halirova)

The concept of feminism reflects a different history of struggle, and the term has been interpreted in more comprehensive and complex ways as understanding has increased. In general, feminism can be seen as a movement to end gender discrimination, exploitation and oppression and to achieve full gender equality in law and practice.

Feminism and social work ideology have been shown to be closely related in principle, but its application remains questionable. A case is made for the “feminist worldview” of social work to facilitate assessment of the nature of content across curriculum, practice, programmatic and policy development. (Council of Europe)

### **1.2.3 Brief Historical Background**

While the concept of a feminist wave may sound familiar to those swimming in the English-speaking feminist wave, its specific meaning often evaporates from our minds into a vague and dreamlike concept lake. In essence, feminist waves seek to analyze the trajectory of modern feminism by breaking it down into several periods, from the late 19th century with the struggle for women's suffrage, to many coexistence movement today. The concept was popularized by a 1968 New York Times article by Martha Lear, in which she distinguished the feminist movement of her day, the second wave, from the previous generation of activists. Like any question of feminism, the wave metaphor is the subject of many debates and different opinions: How many waves are there about feminism? What car are we riding now? Do we even need this classification? To save you from drowning in a sea of confusion, we send you the salvation of a blog post. This article provides an overview of the duration and distinctive features of each wave of feminism, and then discusses criticisms of the concept's relevance in general. Please note that this line of analysis reflects a Western-centered view of modern feminist movements and is therefore a focus on events in the US and Europe (Krall).

The movement is ideologically diverse and continues to fight on many fronts. The continuity with previous waves of feminism is amazing. A burgeoning feminist campaign targeting a range of social, political and economic inequalities is indicative of the movement's successful development and current depth.

While there are certainly those who advocate a more individualistic, consumerist, or feminist lifestyle, grassroots activists continue to engage in resistance politics. Sometimes activists try to engage with the redesigned state to advance feminist interests, while other times they try to resist and criticize the institutions themselves. Feminists are thus both critics of patriarchal power structures that reinforce gender inequality and sometimes beneficiaries of the decisions of those

in power. The ideological pluralism in the feminist movement largely prevents us from making broad generalizations about feminist achievements; Instead, a more critical and thoughtful analysis of what we might consider third wave gains and losses is required.

A comparative study of third-wave feminism through the prism of a "long wave" spanning a chronological period of more than 20 years offers us the opportunity to assess many theoretical and empirical descriptions of feminist discourses and practices. This approach also sometimes highlights the divide between popular depictions of feminism and popular activism (Evans). AS a result, there are five waves to prove the feminist thought .And there will be an explanation for each wave

## **The first wave**

The first wave of feminism originated in the United States (US) and the United Kingdom (UK), from the mid-19th century. At that time, the main goal of women was to obtain legal rights. The Seneca Falls Convention of 1848 marked the beginning of the first wave of Americans. This was the first women's rights conference in the United States, the participants also included many abolitionists. Initially, equal property rights and the abolition of the husband's property to his wife came first. Towards the end of the 19th century, the focus shifted to demanding women's suffrage, in the hope that suffrage would precede access to other rights. fight for this to parallel universal suffrage. However, the established feminist movement ignored these voices and turned racist arguments into tools for its cause, such as after the 15th Amendment in 1870, (in terms of theory) gave the right to vote to African-American men, sparking outrage from many whites. The First Wave ended around 1920, when certain white women (of a certain age and economic background) won the right to vote in the United States and Great Britain (Krall)

## **The second wave**

The second wave of feminism emerged after World War II and can be described as a women's liberation movement, focused on achieving legal and social equality for women, especially ending segregation. discrimination. This period of is also understood as a continuation of the first wave of feminism, in fact the term "first wave" of was coined after the arrival of the second wave. Since the second wave had slightly different targets, it needed a new term. Second-wave feminists see women's cultural and political inequalities as "inextricably linked with and encouraging women to understand aspects of their personal lives that are deeply politicized identity and reflect sexist power structures". One of the most influential feminists of the early 20th century was Simone de Beauvoir

De Beauvoir distinguishes sexes from gender and suggests that gender is "an aspect of gradual identification. She asserts that gender is the cultural meaning and form of the body, different modes of acculturation of that body.

## **The third wave**

The third wave began in the 1990s, with the Anita Hill case in 1991 being a prominent feature of its boom. Anita Hill, an African-American law professor, testified about being sexually harassed by Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas, marking one of the first public debates about workplace harassment job. In addition, the third wave is characterized by a growing awareness of intersectionality, a term coined by Kimberlé Crenshaw in the 1980s. He recognized the intertwined forms of discrimination between subjectivity and subjectivity. racism, classism, possibilityism, etc., while also criticizing the second wave for primarily representing the needs of white, cis, straight, and middle-class women. Philosopher Judith Butler is also considered a central figure of the third wave, as she fought for gender and gender differences, building support for transgender rights.

Finally, the riot groups appeared, giving birth to punk feminism and countering the previous wave of re-appropriation of femininity. Although there are many opinions that only these first

three waves of feminism exist, meaning that the third is still ongoing, others argue that the third wave has given way to the first wave of feminism. fourth wave in the 2010s (Krall)

## **The Fourth Wave**

The 4th wave of feminism began around 2010 and is challenging to define. Born from the first three waves of feminism, some people say that it is simply an extension of the 3rd wave.

It does share several similarities such as a focus on women's empowerment, intersectional experiences. However it also advocates for trans-inclusivity and body positivity. The biggest difference between the 4th wave and its predecessors is the development of social media and its use in activism. The following slides discuss some of the 4th waves' key issues, events, and concepts (Castanier)

## **The Fifth Wave**

The fifth wave is the most controversial as there is much debate about its existence and its main characteristics. Proponents say this wave emerged around 2015 when fake news, trolls and online harassment were on the rise. This is said to have sparked an awakening to greater organization between feminist groups and action-oriented activism.

The first movement is described as more individualistic and personal, while the fifth wave is more focused on achieving large-scale change(Krall)

### **1.2.4 Perception of feminism today**

During the rise of feminist waves, women were united in solidarity and fractured in ideologies. One of the main problems with the feminist movement today is the negative connotation left behind by the second wave that alienates women and men. The result is a feminism associated with extremism, negating the original intention to promote equality. In this qualitative case study,

Feminist movement, a series of "waves", mainly created by women; However, the majority of women today disagree with the past definition of and are reluctant to associate with the movement because of the negative connotations that the term includes. This is partly due to ongoing conversations around what feminism is, coming from historically underrepresented

women and being shared with men. This context created an atmosphere in which women fighting for equality were misinterpreted and were labeled without the consent of women. The public has created negative stereotypes regarding feminism. Even so, there are some positive examples of feminism in the media. There are many celebrities, from Grammy-winning singer Beyoncé to comedian Andy Samberg — who have identified as feminists.(Kyah)

They set a positive example of what feminism should be like. Currently, in Hollywood, there is a movement called Time's Up, which works to end sexual harassment and inequality in the workplace. This movement was created in response to the women who spoke out in with allegations of sexual abuse against film producer Harvey Weinstein. Tilburg University research confirmed that Six studies have shown that feminist labeling of women elicits negative perceptions because observers inferred that these women had feminist beliefs stronger and therefore less warm (and more competent) than the women who talked only about gender equality.

In different words, the usage of the feminist label serves as an indicator of the strength of feminist beliefs, means that a woman calling herself a feminist would be perceived as less warm. more repressive and competent than a woman who only expressed the same belief in gender equality International Women's Day, Women's Day Celebrated every year on March 8, the first International Women's Day in 1911 brought together more than a million people in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland to celebrate women's suffrage and labor rights. In its early years, the Day became a mechanism of protest against World War I. Most notably in Russia, a large women-led protest broke out demanding "bread and peace! Four days later, the tsar abdicated. Now a national holiday in Russia

### **1.3The Feminist Movement and Literature**

Feminism has had a major impact on the literary side. Literature is the representation of life in written form. Literature and life are closely linked, because the social function of literature affects people .The study result under the title “Fiminism”: “ confirmed that Feminism was born because women are tired of depending on everything. This is traditionally known as women's emancipation, where women demand equal rights in the political, intellectual, cultural and even



literary spheres. The concept of the feminist movement gained proper prominence and prominence in the 1960s.

In the past, feminism was limited to a few female writers, but the number of female writers is increasing and the engraving The depiction of female characters in the world of fiction has attracted much attention in the literature.

Showalter's *Own Literature* was published in 1970. This period mainly explores the relationship between femininity and literature, and the texts are analyzed to understand men's treatment of characters. female animals in society. Showalter proposes three periods in the history of women's literature:

.The Feminine Period (1840-1880), in which female writers imitated male-dominated artistic and aesthetic norms;

. Feminist Period (1880-1920), in which a radical approach was maintained

.And finally Female Stage (from 1920) which mainly focuses on female writing and women's experiences.

### **1.3.1. The Characteristics of Feminism in Literature**

Although the spread of feminism movement, however some female authors expressed their beliefs through a Male pen such as: "George Eliot" to avoid the patriarchy's hands who were against any feminist ideas. Feminism movement influenced many writers who chose to portrayed the oppressed woman, and show her sufferings, violence that they are living in their society.

Feminist literature was seen as any written text that supports woman's beliefs, values, and ideas to gain the equality gender in all fields socially, politically, and economically..etc. ,Feminism movement in literature was characterized by woman's demands such as: the right to educate because it was something forbidden ,for woman at that time, then equal payment in the workplace many women were less paid than men even if there is a same efforts, and reproductive rights which represented in the freedom of individuals to control their decisions regarding, contraception, abortion, sterilization ,and childbirth. Moreover, fighting

against patriarchy beliefs and gender stereotypes, and performative behaviours specially, society construction of women in society. In addition, to put an end to sexual harassment, and assault Woman considered these demands their normal right in life because they represent the society. In fact, literature was a comfortable space ,for women to express themselves through making their voices heard to the world.

### **1.3.2 Gender Norms(stereotypes) by the Society**

Gender it refers to the principles, and system of roles (qualities .performance .identities, expressions) that founded by the community represented in the appearance of people's sex, and their characteristics at birth ,that changed over time ,and it is different from one culture to another .

#### **Gender norms:**

It sees as the social principles, values that control people's behaviour women ,or men. In other words gender norms it is the way that we should be act with. For example:

Women are expected to act in a feminine way and be polite whereas, men should be strong, independent ,and bold.

Especially, woman society set a strict stereotypes on how women should be, feminine ,submissive, and passive also a household supporting to her husband .

Feminist movement came to put an end to this unequal norms ,and unfair stereotypes ,so feminist believed that every woman can do what she want neither society, nor norms control her because she is free to act the way she see it appreciated. Women want to be valued, and have a great standing because they are part of that society.

### **1.3.3 Equality in Feminism movement**

Women were suffering from unequal between gender in all aspects of life ,for example: in work she took payment less than man however ,they do the same efforts in the workplace, also in right to educate women were prevented from educating. because they considered woman 'place is among her husband ,and looking after her children.

In addition, to violence that women faced in their life such as: sexual harassment, assault, and rapping.

Feminist waves seeks to change the situation of women by introducing demands to granted women her value, and her essential role in society, these demands represented in equal pay in workplace, also, her right to educate, and generalizing the concept of reproductive rights that appear in woman's decision like: abortion ,sterilization....etc.

Furthermore, to the important demand is to stop violence against woman ,and treated her with dignity. Feminist movement has played a big role in rising the voices of persecuted women in world, so it permitted the help's hands to women to express their feelings, demands, and their value in society.

#### **1.4 The Feminist Movement in Victorian society**

However Victorian era was known by Queen Victoria reign, but women at that period were less valued than man with no right ,oppressed by their society to stay a housewives even if she is from a royal family ,she has a boundaries, she can't overcome them.

Despite the strict stereotypes set in Victorian society ;however, this did not prevent the first signs of feminist political movement began in this era by 1850s ,this later focused on equality in education, work between man and woman ,and having electoral rights ,like: the right to vote(Oxford Open Leaning)

Women wanted to have a role, and to be appropriated by their society, so when this feminist movement started, it inspired many artists painters were portrayed a oppressed woman in their drawing-board ,and writers described the woman's suffering even normal women were going out ,for demonstrations to demand their rights.

Many people think that with all this development that we live we do not need feminism today ,but we can not deny that there are many oppressed women in the world by their society ,husbands, and family. Woman battled for equality, and against oppression.

Although some battles have been partly won such as: right to vote, and education. However, woman are still struggling by all forms of violence, persecution in their life.

So feminism movement highlighted the struggling of women in Victorian society starting with normal rights such as: right to educate, to make her decisions , and to put an end to the all forms of violence that woman faced in their lives.

Although the Victorian society was conservative, but this did not prevent women through feminist movement to demand their right to divorce from the worst marriage experiences

### **1.4.1 The impression of Victorian Society on Feminist Movement**

Women's movement witnessed a big attack from many people who believed that woman is only a household even Queen Victoria did not support the feminist movement – despite being a powerful monarch in her own right. She called feminism a 'wicked folly,' suggesting that 'God created men and women differently- then let them remain each in their own position.

This movement did not make significant legal gains for women, but things had heated up by the first decades of the 20th century. But we must not forget that stereotypes established in the Victorian era lasted longer than the era itself – and many are still visible within some aspects of modern society.

Victorian people saw the feminist movement as a curse they must get rid of it ,so they started to burn feminist books ,and Prevent any writer to publish his work specially if it was a feminist work. For example: Thomas Hardy in Tess of D'Urbervilles when he published it many people refused because they saw it includes sexual themes and considered Tess a shameless and scandalous character ,and this contrast with the image set by Victorian society to the woman that represented in chastity.

Hardy is not the only writer who defends woman ,but many writers male and female were supporting women's rights through their writings such as: George Eliot(1819/1880) who was a female writer with a male pen because women were forbidden to write at that time, also we have Kate Chopin(1850/1904)in her novel "the awakening" it was a scandal in 1850 because it included sexual themes, in addition ,to the writer Jane Austen (1775/1817) known for her novels "Pride and prejudice" ,and "sense and sensibility" (VictorianeraI)

Although Victorian society didn't support the feminist movement however, this didn't prevent writers to express the woman's suffrage, and demanding of women's rights.

## 1.4.2 Victorian Society's Perception to the Woman

Victorians believed that a woman's proper and only place was to be within a household environment. The women were expected to marry, have children, and keep a nice household. Those were the only acceptable roles for women during that era. Women in the Victorian society had one main role in life, which was to marry and take part in their husbands' interests and business. Before marriage, they would learn housewife skills such as weaving, cooking, washing, and cleaning, unless they were of a wealthy family. If they were wealthy, they did not always learn these tasks because their maids primarily took care of the household chores. Typically, women were also not allowed to be educated or gain knowledge outside of the home because it was a man's world.

Victorian era held specific ideological assumptions regarding the roles and characteristics of women. The ideal Victorian woman was considered to be clean and pure, completely detached from sexual connotations. Their main role consisted of domestic duties that took place within the private space of their household. Women were isolated from the outside world – a world that was socially and politically considered a masculine realm. While men actively participated in the public, women were unable to engage in the outside world because it would taint their feminine virtue. This ideological notion of the Victorian woman is widely portrayed within various Victorian works.

women living very submissive and quiet lives as they were the caretakers and support of their husbands.

In the Victorian Era, there were separate roles for different genders. Men were meant to be put out in public and women were meant to be hidden in their homes taking care of children. To society, women being at home was seen as safe and would prevent anything dangerous from happening to them.

Unfortunately, this was seen as a social norm to Victorian society that still has lingerings today. In the Victorian Era, men and women would each have different responsibilities. For example, men are supposed to be out in the public eye while also bringing food and income to their families. Women on the other hand were believed to be better off staying at home doing housework and looking after children.

Victorian society set up gender norms and stereotypes ,for men and women man should be strong, aggressive ,and dominant whereas woman expected to be submissive, pretty, and passive. Woman in Victorian society was valued by her husband, so marriage was so important ,for woman because they believed married woman has moral ,and she is supporting her husband taking care of her children these are the acceptable roles for women during that era . Women shouldn't interfere in political matters, because they see that is man's world who has the ability in contrast woman is sensitive person, easily influenced, and her place is her home.

Unfortunately, many women were affected by these gender norms because this ideologies made man see that it is easy to treated woman violently.

### **1.4.3 Purity in Different Cultures**

Pure in general means when you are describing thing that is clear not mixed ,or complicated ,for example: this is a pure gold means that is clear with no additions, and impurities. The word pure does not related only with things ,but also it refers to describe people because in the Bible we found pure man portrayed the religious person ethical ,and straight.

In purity culture, gender expectations are based on a strict, stereotype-based binary. Men are expected to be strong, “masculine” leaders of the household, church, and (to a lesser extent) society. Women are expected to support them—to be pretty, “feminine,” sweet, supportive wives and mothers. Moreover , Purity culture is a subculture within Christianity which emphasizes subjective individual "purity," generally associated with female chastity.

Victorian society was known as a conservative people ,so they believed that woman needs a man in her life because she is passive relying always on her Husband when we said chastity in their beliefs ,referred to the virginity ,so Victorian people thought that woman does not have the right to make mistakes, she must be a housewife

### **1.5 Conclusion**

Feminist movement in Victorian society, and how Victorian people considered this movement a nonsense because they see woman as housewife .Hardy used the term pure to indicate Tess ,and he focused on chastity should be measured by mind not by body.

A horizontal red scroll graphic with rounded ends and a slight 3D effect, containing the chapter title.

*Chapter Two*  
*Critical Overview*

## **2 .Introduction**

### **2.1Thomas Hardy**

#### **2.1.1 Thomas Hardy's Life**

### **2 .2 *Tess of Durberville***

#### **2.2.1The Characters**

#### **2.2.2 Major Themes**

#### **2.2.3Symbols**

#### **2.2.4 Plot Summary**

#### **2.2.5 Criticism**

### **2.3 Conclusion**



## ***2. Introduction***

Thomas Hardy One of the most renowned poets and novelists in English literary history ,collects a wide audience from all sides of the world. This popularity was gathered by the production of her first novel *Tess of the Durberilles* .The novel is the most important and popular literary medium in the modern times. The novel examines several themes. It addresses issues of purity , fate , sin and punishment , society and religion . this story was led by the heroine Tess . who lived all the topics in this interesting story .

Thomas Hardy portrayed in his novel 《Tess of D'Urbervilles 》 a big example of the persecution that women suffered it in their life specially in Victorian age ,and he involved his beliefs through describing the character of Tess ,and considered her as a victim of her selfish society. However, Hardy tries to portray his woman as pure and opposed to Victorian principles and rules imposed on women. As Simone de Beauvoir said ,“One is not born woman, but she is made to be a Woman”.

### ***2.1 Thomas Hardy's Life(1840-1928)***

Thomas Hardy was born on 2 June 1840 in a Dorset village in Lower Bockhampton. Thomas and Jemima Hardy did not expect their children to survive to adulthood. Despite being a humble man born in , Nelson's famous chess captain is his ancestor. He spent his childhood years in a secluded cottage on the edge of a moorland. Treated like sick children; he was mostly kept at home but after recovering his health he immediately gained a profound knowledge of the surrounding countryside, observing rural families with songs of them, seasonal superstitions and rituals, as well as Sister Mary's company. She is years younger than her while her brother Henry and her second sister, Katherine, are years younger than her.

Originally a stone mason, his easygoing father earns very little, so his tough mother has to run the whole family. Worshipping church services, Thomas was a member of the Stinsford Church Musicians, also playing at local dances, later recalled in "Under the Greenwood. He did not receive regular schooling until the age of 8, when he entered the newly opened Anglican school in his home village in ,

only to be sent to Dorchester's non-conformist school. Despite his weakness, he was forced to walk 3 miles twice a day .

His religious faith was fiercely attacked with the publication of Darwin's book "On the Origin of Species in " in 1859. So when he returned to Bockhampton to recover from an illness, he gave up his wish to become the minister of the country. At that time, he aspired to become a professional write. Hardy and Emma Gifford married, against the wishes of both sides of the family, in September 1874. At first they moved quite erratically, sometimes living in London, sometimes in Dorset. His profile as a novelist during this period is somewhat mixed. It's not easy for Hardy to establish himself as a member of the professional middle class in a city where his humble origins are well known. He showed his determination to stay by accepting his appointment as a local magistrate, and also designed and built Max Gate, the home just outside Dorchester where he lived until his death.

Emma Hardy died in 1912 at the age of 72. Her sudden departure did not allow Hardy to achieve last-minute marital reconciliation, leaving only bitter comments about him, which he discovered in some diaries she had kept for years.

Although he destroyed them in , he quickly honored Emma and visited St Juliot again. Florence Dugdale assumes the position of director of Max Gate, but fearing the gossip of the locals, she more or less stays at home. Hesitant about the possibility of marrying a man 38, years her senior, she finally agreed but with some conditions.

They married privately in the early morning of February 10, 1914, and immediately ran to Max Gate to avoid reporters and the particularly ominous danger of the civilian reception at Dorchester station. Florence was soon tested by the pressures of the Great War, by her husband's exaltation of the virtues of her first wife in , and by certain negative aspects of undefined The servants found him difficult to please and subsequently magnified his failures to enthusiastic investigators. Hardy, has always been friendly with visitors, can be erratic in private, perhaps because 's illness of hypocrisy coexists with his generally excellent health.

Although he spends most of his day working alone in the office, he still opposes his wife's absence from home even for one night .He literally stops agents all the time, keeping control of most of his work in his hands. Florence took care of 's growing correspondence, typing letters that Hardy had written. She once said, "Thomas is really scared of babies ..." 20 though to birth control campaigner

Marie Stopes, she said "he will welcome a baby when we get married for the first time." first 10 years ago.

## ***2.2 Tess of Duberville***

One of the most common novel in nineteenth century by Thomas Hardy ,it was an exception because his protagonist "Tess" attitude opposed with the Victorian principles, and rules laid on women. Hardy tried to portray Tess as a pure heart though her sins, that he considered them patriarchal forces, and she is only a victim when this novel published in 1891 astonished Victorian readers because it included sexual themes doesn't agreed with Victorian values .

The representation of woman "Tess" by hardy was conflicted with the image of woman set by Victorian society "the angel of the house "contrasted with Tess's character that considered her a fallen woman.

Hardy provoked Victorian norms when he defends Tess, he want to show that Tess remains a child of nature good ,but not too good, since she is a human being ,so she has two sides good and evil in the same time.

Hardy in his novel "Tess of D'urbervilles" is a study of women personal experiences as he portrays his heroine as a innocent,naïve .country girl who is guided by her emotions instead of using her intelligence. The novel of Hardy is a reflection of woman today to have equal rights in all forms of society. However, women as a motherhood ,and chastity, they still in position of victims.(Jetir)

## **2.1The Characters**

The characters in Thomas Hardy 'S novel had a significant impact on the course of the story . Each character has its own personality that distinguishes it and contributed to the events of the novel .

### ***A. Tess of the d'Urbervilles***

The main character of the novel .A beautiful girl from the Durbeyfieldfamily , educated , sensitive and pure . She was out of control of her actions ,

### ***B. Alec D'Urbervilles***

The novel's main antagonist, the handsome liberal son of the wealthy d'Urbervilles-Stokes. He has a flighty and insolent nature, but his infatuation with Tess seems to last longer than his feelings for other girls

### ***C. Angel Clare***

Youngest son of Parson Clare of Minster Reverend James's intelligent and idealistic son Clare. He rejected the profession of his father and brothers to study agriculture and remained sceptical of religion.

### ***D. John D'Urbervilles***

Tess's father, a peddler with a heart condition and an alcoholic. The novel begins with Durbeyfield learning that he is the last descendant of the longstanding D'Urbervilles family.

### ***5. Joan D'Urbervilles***

Tess's mother, a housewife with many children and many responsibilities. She loves to sing and is very superstitious, often referencing her book *Compleat Fortune-Telle*.

## **2.2.2 Major themes**

The themes in "*Tess of the Durbervilles*" are numerous, all fascinating, and better help us to understand *Thomas Hardy's* thought and intentions. A lot of his themes not only concern Thomas but are set to reveal Victorian society through Hardy's novel "TESS".

By analyzing the novel and researching the sources, these issues were concluded:

### **Fate and Chance**

The theme of fate is one of the most important of the *Tess des D'Urbervilles*. Tess was generally a good person and didn't deserve even a tenth of the misfortunes that befell her. It was more fate than her own responsibility: Tess was sent to Trantridge against her will, she didn't want to be with the D'Urbervilles.

Her rape was definitely not her fault. It seemed that the poor woman became the morsel of bad luck. She did nothing wrong to anyone but she continues to suffer for no reason.

This raises the eternal question: why do good people live bad lives and why is the world so full of injustice?

We see Tess asking this question over and over: she asks herself, she asks others and the universe about it – but the woman gets no answer.

We as readers also did not receive an answer, although we felt that fate was not fair to the heroine.

### ***Social Criticism***

Thomas Hardy used *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* as a vessel for his criticisms of English Victorian society of the late 19th century. Also is one of the most important topics that HARDY tried to show in the novel is to criticize Victorian society, where he condemned society's accusation of Tess as an impure woman because she was raped.

As in many of his other works, Thomas Hardy used *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* as a vessel for his criticisms of English Victorian society of the late 19th century.

The novel's largest critique is aimed at the sexual double standard, with all the extremities and misfortunes of Tess's life highlighting the unfairness of her treatment.

Society condemns her as an unclean woman because she was raped, while Angel's premarital affair is barely mentioned. Angel himself rejects Tess largely based on what his community and family would think if they discovered her past. Hardy saw many of the conventions of the Victorian age as oppressive to the individual, and to women in particular, and in Tess's case the arbitrary rules of society literally ruin her life. Even the title of the novel challenges convention. Because it was traditional at the time to see Tess as an "impure woman," the title's addendum "A Pure Woman Faithfully Presented" immediately reveals the author as his protagonist's defender against condemnation. By delving so deeply into Tess's sympathetic interior life and the intricate history of her misfortunes, Hardy makes society's disapproval of her seem that much more unjust.

There is also a satirical thread running through the novel's social commentary. The emphasis on ancient names is played to absurdity with John Durbeyfield's sudden pretensions upon learning of his ancestry, and the newly rich Stoke family adding "d'Urbervilles" to their name just to seem more magnificent.

## ***Women and Femininity***

Hardy ponders a lot about the concept of femininity. Tess is a woman and it is her status as a woman that causes many events to happen to her. Hardy observes different acceptable roles for women in society, but Tess often plays the passive victim to her fate

In Thomas Hardy's novel *TESS* knows that she is a woman full of femininity , and notices that society does not classify her as acceptable . Thomas relates that female characters are mostly pure , but when Tess is defined as a human being with her flaws and virtues , and that she is a symbol of fertility and full of femininity , society should not strip her of all these qualities only because the power of men over women in that period is justified

## ***Religion***

Thomas Hardy struggled with his own religious beliefs, and that struggle is evident in his work. He idealized paganism in the past but also adhered to his family's Christianity. Thomas Hardy considered *TESS* a sort of English Nature goddess , And considered her end like Jesus end , bearing the consequence of Alec sin . When the police finally come to arrest her for murder, she is lying asleep at Stonehenge like a sacrifice on an altar. Stonehenge was thought at Hardy's time to be a heathen temple.

## **Men Dominating Women**

One of the novel's recurring themes is how men can dominate women, exercising power over them, above all because of their masculinity. Sometimes this command is intentional, despite his full knowledge of his exploitative behavior, such as when Alec realizes that he was terrible at seducing Tess for his own momentary pleasure. . Alec's abuse, the most unpleasant event Tess experiences in the novel, is clearly the most egregious example of male domination over women. But there are

### ***2.2.3 Symbols***

Thomas Hardy's novel give many symbols that have great meanings . Hardy tried to show these symbols in the events of the novel and through things and characters .

### ***Prince the Horse***

Prince is the horse of the Durbeyfield family and their main source of support. When Tess accidentally causes his death, she feels so guilty that she has to go to work for the d'Urbervilles, where the action of the story begins. The prince serves as a symbol of the d'Urbervilles family, in that he has a noble name but must do manual labor to survive. His death is also a symbol of the natural versus modern theme, as the Prince of the country horse is gored to death by a modern mail van. His death by stabbing and his blood spilling on Tess's white dress also foreshadowed Alec's murder.

### ***Seal and Spoon***

The Urberville crest and seal and spoon are the only things the Durbeyfields have left in their noble legacy. The smallness and uselessness of the objects are symbolic of the fact that the name D'Urbervilles no longer has any connotation of real wealth or influence.

Tess angrily claims that they are in fact the cause of her unhappiness by proving her kinship to the wealthy D'Urbervilles. They are also associated with the ancient tombs of the Urberville knights, which again appear monumental but were actually worthless in , containing nothing but corpses.

### ***Brazil***

Brazil is a fantasy land alien and alien to 19th-century English characters, and Angel sees it as a wild place to hone his farming skills. Once there, however, he fell ill and weakened, and all his farming efforts failed. Angel's experience in Brazil is symbolic of his relationship with Tess; he is romanticized and idealized, but then harsh realities appear and destroy his imagination.

### ***The D'Urbervilles Coach***

The chariot is a symbol of foreshadowing and a subject of fate that embraces all characters in the novel. Tess couldn't escape the cruel things that happened to her, no matter how "pure" she kept in her heart. The trainer also symbolizes the ancient idea of punishing one's ancestors .

## 2.2.4 Plot Summary

Poor peddler John Durbeyfield was shocked to learn that he was descended from a long aristocratic family, the d'Urbervilles. Meanwhile, Tess, her eldest daughter, joins the other girls in the village in the May Day dance, where Tess exchanges glances with a young man.

Mr. Durbeyfield and his wife decided to send Tess to the Manor D'Urbervilles, where they hoped that Mrs. d'Urbervilles would enrich Tess. In fact, Madame d'Urbervilles had no connection to Tess: her husband, merchant Simon Stokes, only changed his name to d'Urbervilles after his retirement. But Tess didn't know this, and when the lustful Alec d'Urbervilles, Mrs. D'Urberville's son, gave Tess a job tending poultry at the d'Urbervilles estate, Tess had no choice but to accept. , because she blames herself for an accident involving the family horse, her only income,

At Talbothays, Tess lived a time of contentment and happiness. She befriends three of her fellow milkmaids - Izz, Retty, and Marian - and meets a man named Angel Clare, who turns out to be the man at the May Day dance at the beginning of the novel. . Tess and Angel gradually fall in love. They grew closer during Tess's stay in Talbothays, and she eventually accepted his proposal. However, she is still tormented by her conscience and thinks she should tell Angel about her past. She wrote him a letter of confession and tucked it under her door, but she ducked into the rug and Angel never saw her. After their marriage, Angel and Tess both confess their recklessness: Angel tells Tess about his affair with an elderly woman in London, and Tess tells Angel about her history with Alec. Tess forgives Angel, but Angel cannot forgive Tess. He gives her some money and gets on a ship to Brazil, where he thinks he can set up a farm. He tells Tess that he will try to come to terms with her past but warns her not to try to join him until he comes to find her.

Tess struggled. She struggles to find work and is forced to work on a nasty and unsuccessful farm. She tries to visit Angel's family but overhears her brothers discussing Angel's bad marriage so she leaves. She heard a wandering preacher speaking and was shocked to discover it was Alec d'Urberville, who had been converted to Christianity by Angel's father, Reverend Clare. Alec and Tess were both moved by their meeting, and Alec begged Tess to never tempt him again. Soon, however, he begs Tess to marry him again, after he turns his back on his religious path.



### 2.2.5 Criticism

The novel criticizes the strict ethics of the time, especially the contemporary Christian insistence on equating virginity with chastity. A beautiful, well-behaved girl despite her rustic upbringing, Tess was only sixteen years old when she was groomed and fed by a man of the world's upper class, a crime that The social norms of the time held her accountable for the rest of her life. Cursed forever, despite her innocence and the imbalance of power between the girl and her rapist, Tess devoted her life to atonement for the incident.

Tess of d'Urbervilles has been a huge hit, only to be marred by controversy over her outspoken treatment of sex and her pessimistic outlook on life. After more than a year, more than twenty thousand copies of the book have been sold.

Undoubtedly, sales were skyrocketed by those curious to know what the controversy was. Several foreign language editions have also been printed. Despite the resounding success, critical reviews were mixed, with comments ranging from the warmest praise to the deepest contempt. The Athenaeum and the London Times highly rated the novel, but for different reasons. An Athenaeum reviewer not only found the novel "beyond Mr. Hardy's earlier work", but also praised the creation of novelist Tess, "a relatable and lovable creature". . However, the same reviewer regretted Hardy's "overuse of scientific and ecclesiastical terms".

A Times reviewer was moved by the story and praised Hardy's effective critique of Victorian moral standards .On the negative side, one reviewer from the Saturday Review, while identifying Tess as the most authentic character in the novel, found the other characters to be "apathetic" or "eccentric".

Most feminist critics would agree that women are the central figures in Hardy's works. Pamela Jekelwrites, "Hardy focuses primarily on the feminine" , and Rosalind Miles also observes that women form Hardy's "starting point" that they are "the summit of his highest endeavour, his initial inspiration and his ultimate goal" . Thomas Hardy's *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* is a study of the development of woman character in self.

He opposes what he considers Hardy's undue preoccupation with descriptions of Tess's attractive physical features and considers the story unlikely. The reviewer admitted that even with a bad story, good technique could save the novel, but "Hardy, admittedly, tells an unpleasant story in a very unpleasant way".

However, the public's affection was so much that those who did not like the novel felt outnumbered.

In Longman's Magazine, Andrew Lang found Tess's characters "unreasonable", the story "unbelievable", and Hardy's clumsy use of "psychological terms", but accepted the truth. that "From all sides - not only from the essays of critics, but from the oral opinions of the most diverse readers - it is known that Tess is a masterpiece.

Early critics attacked Hardy for the novel's subtitle, "A Pure Woman", arguing that Tess could not be considered pure. They also denounced his outspoken depiction - at the time - of sex, his criticism of organized religion and his grim pessimism.

Some of the critics even blame the author for unnecessary punishment of his innocent character and being a sadistic sexual pervert

Thomas Hinde"one of " the Angry young men " writers , the ways that TESS's fate mirrors the destruction of the agricultural class in England.also, he analyzd the plot of the novel as succession of accidents and coincidences. And the Tess's tragic fate not justified .

"Robert Louis Stevenson" in a letter sent to his friend , he complained that Thomas Hardy's novel in not true , and not even honest , and classify the characters of his novel "phases in the sociology of fiction."

According to Elaine Showalter in Gender and Cultural Anarchy at Fin de, the cultural environment in England at the time was one where prudence and intolerance, and "family values were common. Also , " Florence Emily " that Thomas Hardy's stupidity to choose topic as the story of *Tess* ( farmer who was raped and the tragic fate of the heroine of the novel ) , she justified her opinion that the young readers can not deal with it .

In generally , critics agreed their evaluation of Hardy as a " pessimistic " writer , because of the tragic end of the novel .

Reading public is generally excited by reviews that attacked books for their supposed immorality. Hardy is commenting the attack on Tess in The Quarterly Review as 'just what the Q. might have been expected to say': that is 'a mere manufacture, to suit the prejudices of its fossilized subscribers and keep the review alive upon their money.'

Thomas Hardy, though hurt by what he regarded as ‘misrepresentations’ of Tess of the d’Urbervilles by reviewers in the Saturday Review, The Spectator and the New Review, benefited from it by increased sales because of the attention drawn to his questionable ethics.

Hardy’s letters are reporting on ‘the unexpected success of my new novel’ or ‘Mudie keeps ordering more and more-and others “paripassu.”’ In 1907, aged 67 and exhausted by the quest to gain universal appreciation, Hardy found solace in grim humour when reacting to the critics

### 2.3. *Conclusion*

Hardy treated an important themes such as :religion hypocrisy when they blamed Tess about her illegitimate child ,and did not looking ,for Alec because he was from a royal family ,and because he is a man, also the fate and chance them that related to Tess through the suffering she lived. In addition ,to social criticism Hardy was criticising the gender norms of the Victorian society. Moreover, femininity of Tess, and how it affected her.

Symbols were dominated in Tess's novel such as :Brazil. The horse "prince"... etc .Hardy faced many critics who were criticizing the subtitle "pure woman" that considered ,for them impure, and scandal because of her sins, also some attached the sexual themes that looked not appropriate ,for young readers.



***CHAPTER THREE***  
***A Feminist Reading of Purity in  
Tess of Durbervilles***

### **3. Introduction**

#### **3.1. Thomas Hardy's views on "PURITY" in Tess of D'Urbervilles**

##### **3.1.1 The Character of TESS**

#### **2. The persecution of the secondary characters on Tess's destiny**

##### **2.1 TESS's parents**

##### **2.2 ALEC**

##### **2.3 ANGEL**

##### **2.4 Society**

#### **3. Textual evidence of purity in novel in TESS OF D'UBERVILLE**

#### **3.4 Feminist reading on Hardy's Tess of the D'Urbervilles**

##### **3.4.1. The Maiden (phase the first)**

##### **3.4.2. The Maiden No more (phase the second)**

##### **3.4.3. The Rally (phase the third)**

##### **3.4.4. The Consequence (phase the fourth)**

##### **3.4.5. The woman pays (phase the fifth)**

##### **3.4.6. The convert (phase the sixth)**

##### **3.4.7. The Fulfilment (phase the seventh)**

### 3.Introduction

Thomas Hardy sheds light on word purity in the novel from the beginning of the novel ( title) to the end , so , we should looked at HARDY's view of this word .

The heroine of the novel was exposed to big pressure , according to Thomas Hardy , and this pressure resulted in a tragic fate

In the practical part of the research , we dealt with the textual evidence of the novel to search for the meaning of the purity , which Thomas hardy care about it .

#### 3.1 Thomas Hardy's views on "Purity" in *Tess of DUBERVILLE*

Thomas Hardy created through his novel "Tess of Duberville" a sensation among writers , critics and readers , they are surprised about how Thomas hardy described the heroine of the story as respectful and pure despite her actions . But Thomas Hardy have another opinion that purity is not measured by the body and sexual orientation .

*SARKAS) mentioned that "Tess is morally and spiritually pure, according to us. The term "pure" can be used unconditionally to describe the soul, and it has a spiritual connotation. The body is not what matters; it is the soul that is crucial. Purity should not be interpreted in a restricted manner. Tess has a great Responsibility, and she regularly considers her choices. In The Chase, her inner voice warns her about the hazards of relocating to a new family. His final capitulation to Alec is beyond his comprehension. The sorrow of her family eroded all of her determination and energy, and she was not her actual self."*

Thomas Hardy *also* sheds light on Thomas Hardy always favoured the visual part of things; he is able to deal with the colour in the very distinctive manner. His precise 'colour management' is detectable from the very beginning, where the red ribbon accompanying Tess's hairstyle catches the eyes of every reader, focusing on it or not.

We could easily deduce that, as the red colour resembles the blood in general, Tess is predestined to the ultimate downfall. This cheerful moment of the dancing in the fields, situated

by Hardy into the fertile valley, predetermined the final miserable scene of Tess being put into the gaol and waiting till the morning, when the act of the capital punishment will be completed.

As I showed later, the contours of the novel are primarily based on this red colour, which is persistently disturbing the heroine. Tess resembles merely the 'white slave,' who is devastated by the bondage of the persistent servitude to the 'red slave trader.

Tess is generally regarded as Hardy's tragic masterpiece and his most ambitious novel. The reader recognises that this is not 'a simple seduction story'; he regards Tess as a simple but passionate girl, not as the sexless woman anxious of her chastity. She is a naive dairymaid working in an environment of agricultural richness and peace, because in these plain things she finds a satisfying rhythm of life. At the end of the novel, Angel is left hand in hand with Tess's younger sister, 'a spiritualized image of Tess'. He is evidently not determined to be defeated by fate, even though Tess is hanged, the black flag is raised and Hardy is commenting: "Justice was done, and the President of the Immortals, in Aeschylean phrase, had ended his sport with Tess." Tess, a victim of Alec's maltreatment, is a pure, but not a perfect woman. With "once victim, always victim" Hardy echoes Richardson's Clarissa, as the most significant creative influence on Tess. (Bachelor )

### 3.1.1 *The Character of TESS :*

#### *Tess: ANALYSIS*

Thomas Hardy described the character of Tess in the novel , he began with her beauty , then her personality and her social situation .

*"TESS IS 'a fine and handsome girl'; she has large innocent eyes and a mobile peony mouth . This 'pouted-up' deep red mouth has hardly as yet settled into its definite shape"*

(NOVEL TESS OF THE DURBERVILLES)

Tess is a distinctively important character in the Hardy's novels because she is unique enough to change the perceptions of the society. She is always in search of her identity. She was always torn between two worlds of her innocent youth and incipient womanhood.

Hardy being the supporter of women and equality in the society, he portrays his women to replace the patriarchal ideologies existing in the Victorian era. Hardy, through all the events and characters presented in a way, tries to offer a vivid portrayal of women at the Victorian era in which women were attempting to redefine their place in society, trying to leave the domestic sphere to work and the realm of man.

Women were fighting for equality in the Victorian era and Hardy was supporting this movement. Hardy's portrayal has tried to create a difference in the lives of women. (Hngu Patan)

Tess is the archetypal anti-heroine. That is to say, it does not win major battles and influence political decisions; instead, she lives in her own little world and tries to cope with the fate that life has thrown at her. By the end of the novel, she is a complete character, but the scale of her influence in her own Wessex world is really small.

However, Tess has heroic qualities that make her worthy of our admiration. These qualities are most evident in the following scenes: as she baptizes her infant sons, Sorrow; as she endured the torture of Alec's transgression and Angel's abandonment; and when she finally and couldn't give herself up from Alec's influence. So Tess is a heroine, but on a normal everyday scale.

Tess is one of Hardy's friendliest protagonists. She is as lovable as a literary character found in all English literature. The reader understands his situation and his acceptance of the seemingly inevitable things that happen to him. Not once throughout the novel does Tess exhibit any characteristics other than Hardy's depiction of her as a good person.

As a result, at the end of the novel, we wish for a happy ending for Tess and Angel, but we know that not every story ends on the high

### **3.2 Textual Evidence of Purity in Novel *Tess of Durberville***

The word "pure" used by Thomas Hardy under the title of the novel "Tess of D'Urbervilles" to describe his protagonist Tess.

Hardy provided the subtitle with "pure woman" faithfully presented by him, which he deeply refused the conventional Victorian heroine, which was from the Victorian's perception should be unadventurous, acts in predictable way this standard was interesting to the reading public however, this did not agree with Thomas Hardy case in Tess of d'Urbervilles because readers were shocked by his new revolution how he depicted Tess's suffering through her unfortunate life.

Social values were deeply engraved, so any thing doesn't concur with them aggravated the reading community.



Tess in Angel's eyes is "icon of purity" because he is not aware of her real sexuality ,she is sexless in his thought. He chooses the Christianity day ,for their wedding because he thought he will marry the Devine imagine of Tess not a "flesh and blood body". Hardy want to show us that the life's destiny of "pure woman", he believed that the society is the guilty of Tess's fate

Which led to provoke not only the critics, but also, the reading public's conscience.

Hardy declared that the purest girl on planet earth is sexual as well as moral, this what Angel was not able to understand.

Hardy depicted Angel's obsession with purity, this affected deeply in Tess's destiny.

The internal conflict of Angel between the Devine image of Tess ,and her sexual reality.

Hardy defines "pure" that you should be pure minded, good hearted whereas Angel and society claiming that pure associated with woman's chastity.

When Hardy described Tess as "pure woman" he was really trusting himself because he put under his readers proofs to convince them, these proofs represented in novel's textual evidence such as:"However, Tess became humanely beneficent towards the small ones, and help them as much as possible"(the Maiden.31.). Here we can understand what Hardy said about pure should be good hearted, so she helped other.

*"Alec looked at Tess as he spoke in a way that made her blush a little ,and so my pretty girl ,you've come on a friendly visited to us as relation?"(the Maiden.31.)*

*N" I supposed I have ,flattered Tess, looking uncomfortable again"*

*"She gave him a brief particular ?and responding to further inquiries told him that she was intending to go back by the same carrier who had brought her"(the Maiden.35.)*

This confirms that from her way of talking to Alec she is respectful, timid ,and chaste because she did not give Alec a chance by discussing or, smiling what make us understand that unfortunately, she would not like what happened to her.

*"Fear that what you think of me may not last. 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 despise me ,so that it may never be known to me that you despised me."(fulfilment.382.)*

We noticed that she was feeling guilty because she couldn't tell Angel the truth face to face ,and she was afraid if he know ,he will abandoned her, she can't imagine her life without him

"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!".(fulfillment.388.)

Unfortunately, through her hard moments, she couldn't believe that she has this happiness ,she told Angel that she can't live to see him despises her.

### ***3.3The persecution of the secondary characters on TESS's destiny***

Tess's suffering started from her poor family situation ,also her parents are ill- organised ,her father is not well disciplined, he doesn't match his capacity to work with the occasion required to work ,he is not responsible, also he us a drunk person ,her parents never interested in Tess's choices, or desires.

Tess's life changed when he father John Durbeyfield knows that he has ancestors from a royal family D'Urbervilles by the priest.

John Durbeyfield becoming obsessed with the idea of his decent family, he asked Tess to go to work in their house of their ancestors as he thought, he wishes that Tess will make a successful marriage.

The important thing to her parents is to be member of the Durberville family no matter what happens, but they weren't aware of what will their daughter live in that house .

We can say that the oppression of Tess's parents specially her father destroyed her life because she was too naive ,pure, and passive her parents didn't give their attention to Tess, so they are responsible for Tess's fate.

#### **3.3.1 Alec D'Urbervilles**

Hardy tells us that no good will come after this meeting, because when Tess meets Alec first time, he was looking at her with lust eyes, she was avoiding his eyes, and resisting them.

He shows unpleasant reckless ,and by side of his character, when he convinces her to travel with him in his dog-cart ,she couldn't say no because she needed work to help her family then he rapped her ,and make her pregnant without any mercy.

Alec exploited Tess's weakness ,though she didn't give him any chance, but his strong instinct made him don't think about the consequences of his horrible actions.

### **3.3.2 Angel Clare**

From the his first meeting with Tess they liked each other ,but she was annoyed by him because he didn't ask her in May flower festival to dance with him.

Hardy portrayed Angel that he is a man with conscience not like Alec, though his strong love to Tess. However, Angel could not forgive Tess about her past with Alec ,he oppressed her when he concentrates on chastity of body, not on her pure soul, he liked her because he see her as "icon of purity " ,he didn't give her a chance to explain her excuses, he decided to leave her. Though ,she told him several times that she can't imagine that he will despise her ,she prefers to die, or buried.

Angel ,for Tess was not only her love, but also ,he was presenting safety ,and containment to her, she wished that he forgive her ,and live with each other ,but Angel was like other people ,he considered her as a betrayal woman ,and scandalous

She forgives him about his past with woman of London, but he didn't.

We see that Tess is a victim of her sex (gender).

### **3.3.3 Society**

Firstly, Hardy was criticising the Victorian society through his novel "Tess of d'Urbervilles" ,Male society saw Tess's life is a scandal, and shameless because she was pregnant without marriage, and has illegitimate child which opposed with the Victorian principles.

Tess suffered a lot from the society's eyes that considered her a fallen woman,people were not ask about the causes that made Tess in this position, but they concentrated on blaming her,Tess is a victim of her society regarding that she comes from a poor family,maybe if she comes from a royal family her fate will change.

The role of church, and religion that plays to oppressed Tess's situation, why they didn't help her when she was living a hard times alone?.According to "Serena Jones" mentioned that"“On the negative side, however, feminists recognize that harms done to women by oppression are real

and can be emotionally and physically damaging. This damage can affect one's ability to analyze the oppression from which one suffers"9(BACHELOR) .We can say that society was a double shooter to Tess because she escaped after the incident of rape ,afraid from people's eyes that is full of shame to her.

In fact, what happened to Tess was expected because she was living in a male society who expected woman to be chaste ,no matter what happened to her. Novel of "Tess of d'Urbervilles" by Thomas Hardy

### **3.4 Feminist Reading on Hardy's Tess of the D'Urbervilles**

Women become an essential characters in the most of novels in the late of eighteenth century, and nineteenth it was a trend to make the protagonist a woman. Hardy followed this trend to support the women's right, and he wanted to show how patriarchal forces exploit Tess Durbeyfield ,though she is pure.

Hardy portrayed Tess as a victim of a selfish society, also he preferred to show us the persecution that Tess faced after the ancient of rape, and escaping from the illegitimate child scandal. Hardy has tried to change the society's perception on Tess ,and instead of blaming her ,they can listen to her excuses maybe they will understand her attitude.

Hardy seeks to replace the patriarchal values set by Victorian society, also he wishes to create the difference in life of women not staying at the stereotypes norms.

Hardy presented Tess as a timid personality, and confused in her feelings, and her self-defense because she is afraid to tell Alec that she did not like him ,that fear leads her to live a hard circumstances and bad moments in her life. Moreover, Hardy saw that it was unfair to make marriage the only solution, for woman ,he invited us to see that woman is human being even if she makes mistakes.(JETIR..).Tess through her sufferings made us think of the feminist's perception amongst our reading to this novel "Tess of d'Urbervilles "

We found in many position in Tess's life that inviting the feminist such as: when Tess was oppressed by her parents to work in D'Urbervilles family, and when she resisting Alec' eyes to her ,just to help her poor family ,also she was subjugated by patriarchal society who considered her as a fallen woman, who see that virginity is the chastity, for women.

In addition, to the society who see Tess as a scandalous woman because she had illegitimate child ,they blamed Tess instead of Alec who was the sinner person ,but they considered him a man ,and because she is a poor girl this made the persecution of Tess raised ,also Tess explored the hypocrisy of religion when her innocent child is refused, for Christian burial, and condemned her to hell ,so she baptized her daughter, and this show her courage challenging to Christian codes, and her maternal love to protect her child.

*"If providence would not ratify such an act of approximate she,for one ,did not value the kind of heaven lost by by irregularity "( Tess.p.131)*

She was optimistic though the hard moments she lived, she was rapped by Alec ,losing her child, criticized by society, but she didn't lose hope, till she leaves her country side Marlot.

Moreover, Angel who was loving her ,seeing her as a pure woman that associated with virginity ,but he didn't love her soul, and pure heart that's why when she confessed to him about sexual assault by Alec unfortunately, he despised her alone.

Although she forgave him about his past with woman of London ,this shows the patriarchal forces on Tess.

Tess :*in the name of love ,forgive me..I have forgiven you, for the same"*

Angel Clare:*"forgiven do not apply to the case you were one person ,now you are another"*

Tess: *"I thought, that you loved me, my very self"*

Angel Clare:*"the woman I have been loving is not you....another woman in your shape"(Tess.p.228 to 229 )*

Tess saw in Angel safety ,and love, but he let her down.

Hardy describes these moments in Tess's life as if the end of Tess because she returned to murdered Alec.

Angel ,and Alec were the responsables of Tess's end

*"Now he has come between us ,and now he can never do it any more"*

These words told by Tess to Angel when she killed Alec ,and come back to Angel .

The title of fifth phase "the woman pays"

Is indication of hypocrisy, and double standards of society ,which justify man's sexual luxury, but blaming the woman, for the same reason.

*"The president of immorals had done justice, and had ended his sport with her"*

(Tess.p.390)

Hardy exposed the patriarchal gender, who permit the sexual sins ,for men ,but punished women ,Tess destroyed by this patriarchal forces.

Tess was upset about happened to her, and her daughter when she was baptizing her alone

Tess identified Alec as a monster in her life ,and she feel that is betrayed by all people in her isolation.

Hardy claimed that women can't express themselves because they are always scared of people's reactions, also Tess is not only a story of daily milk maid from youth to maternity, but it how this woman fighting to work ,and get a better life condition, however, she faced evil which formed in humans.

Hardy shows in this novel to what extent women are subjugated by Victorian society.

He sympathy with his heroine Tess from the beginning of novel when he put a subtitle "pure woman" ,also chastity ,for women in Victorian society was very important because it shows woman's value when Tess lost her virginity ,she received ill-treatment from all people.

Patriarchal society justify the sexual deviance ,for men ,just because he is a man.

After dealing with feminist reading of Tess's novel and extract the forms of oppression on Tess.

Tess is a depiction of female character in a male society, and how she deals with patriarchal forces set by society ,people in Tess's life made her criminal though she was naïve ,pure, but they obliged her to write her end by her self.

Tess suffered from all people in her life regarding her parents, who were seeking ,for fortune to Alec who was authorized by society to make any sexual assault, that interpret why Alec exploited Tess's weakness to rape her.

In addition, to Angel who despised Tess just because she was assaulted by Alec, she has no sins.

Furthermore, society that represented in people's eyes on Tess as a scandal ,and the hypocrisy of religion who refused to bury her daughter in christian burial considering her illegitimate child.

Hardy was criticising the patriarchal norms ,that made less valuable than man in right ,or duties ,he wanted ,also to present chastity that should be related to the soul not to woman's body.

(Writingbros.)

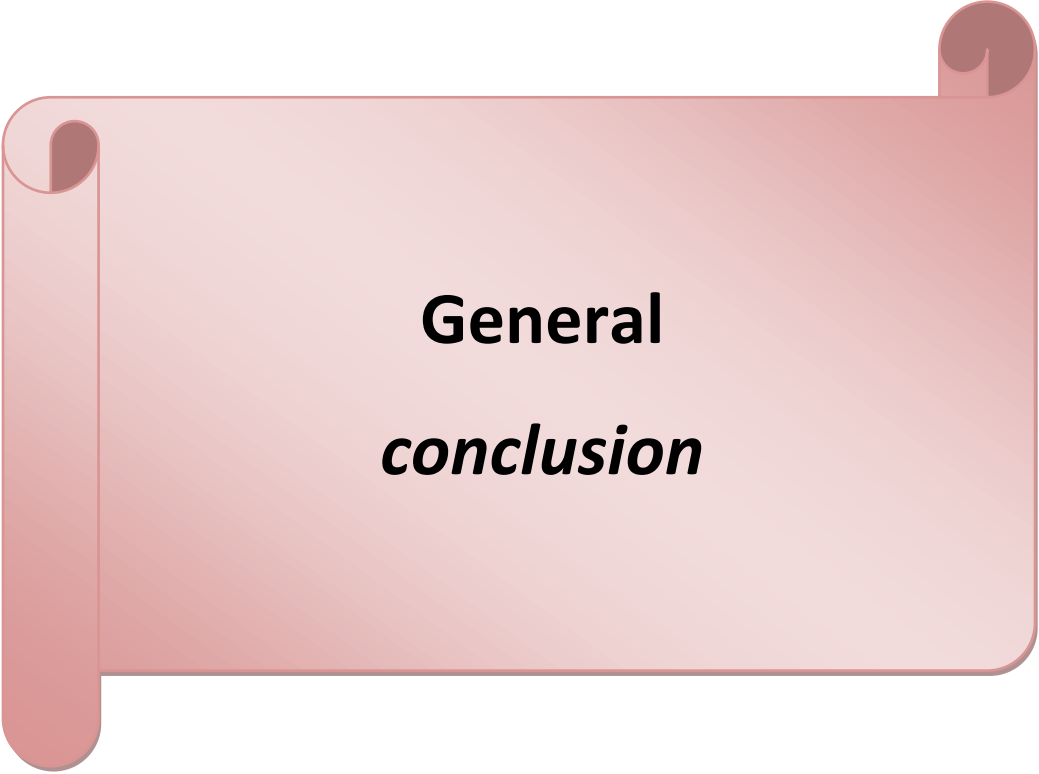
(Novel of Tess of D'Urbervilles by Thomas Hardy)

### ***3.5 conclusion***

To conclude, we can say that Thomas Hardy viewed the purity should be related with Tess because he considered her as a pure woman.

Hardy sympathy with his protagonist Tess from the first subtitle that he put under the title Tess of D'Urbervilles "pure woman" because he sees her a naive, simple, and good hearted ,so he focused on how she kept her internal child thought the cruelty that she saw because she was helping people.

Hardy wanted us to realize that the causes of Tess's death were firstly her parents who didn't care about her only seeking for richness by using her as a tool, also Alec who rapped her though she didn't love him with no mercy he made her become pregnant ,and take responsibility of illegitimate child even Angel who was loving her ,he didn't forgive her about her past ,he despised her alone.



**General**  
***conclusion***



## *General conclusion*

As a result of the appearance of the feminist movement in 1848 which was demanding the women's rights.

People classified into supporters, and opponents ,so Victorian society was against the feminist movement because of their strict stereotypes set ,for women they saw feminist as a curse should get rid of it ,and it encourages women to rebel against their husbands, and women should be a household ,supportive to their husbands.

Many writers inspired by this movement, Thomas Hardy one of them , who was known by female protagonists in his novels ,and supporter to this movement.

Tess of D'Urbervilles was an example of supporting woman.

Thomas Hardy was a novelist ,famous by his courage in his attitude, and themes that he tackled in his writing, he was criticising the Victorian principles ,and norms in Tess of d'Urbervilles he depicted his heroine as a "pure woman "though she did many sins.

Public readers were astonished by his dareness and the sexual themes that was treated in the story and they considered that pure associated with chastity ,and Tess is impure because she is a scandalous in Victorian society.

Hardy portrayed Tess as a victim of Victorian society, she suffered from all people in her life starting by her parents who were looking only ,for richness to Alec who was exploiting Tess's weakness ,and rapped her ,till she becomes pregnant, even Angel who was her first love unfortunately, he let her down when he knew her past with Alec ,also society who considered her a shameless.

Hardy highlighted the important themes like: the hypocrisy of religion (church), and fate which is related to Tess. In addition, to social criticism through blaming the society on Tess's destiny.

Furthermore, woman ,and femininity ,how can femininity becomes an obstacle in self-defense like what happened to Tess when Alec rapped her.

In order to get a deep meaning Hardy used symbols such as: the horse "prince" is a Durbeyfield family horse, Tess caused his death by accident, and she felt guilty ,also symbol of sea ,and spoon it related to the fact that the name of D'Urbervilles no longer has any connotation of wealth ,but they are the causes of Tess's unhappiness.

Furthermore ,the symbol of Brazil that Angel imagined in Brazil ,but he faced a harsh reality .In addition, to the D'Urbervilles coach which is symbolized fate ,Tess could not escape from hard moments she lived.

Thomas Hardy in Tess of D'Urbervilles witnessed many attacks who were criticising him on Tess's life , and how he considered her as a "pure woman" however, she made many mistakes, and other critics blamed him on sexual themes that classified not appropriate ,for young readers.

In addition ,to some readers considered Hardy as a pessimistic writer, he put tragic end to Tess.

Tess of D'Urbervilles is a reflection to woman's today Hardy wanted to change the patriarchal forces that control woman's life ,and make a different perception on woman instead of that strict stereotypes ,also he wished us to see woman's chastity in her good heart, and pure soul not in her body.

Hardy maintained that woman has many things to do,so don't make marriage the only career ,for her woman are a human being, it's normal to made mistakes

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مما خص الدراسة

تحاول هذه الدراسة تحليل موضوع "اضطهاد" القلب النقي "في كتاب توماس هاردي تيس من دوربرفيل: النهج النسوي. يشرح كيف انتقد الكاتب توماس هاردي المجتمع الفيكتوري من خلال تصوير أشكال اضطهاد قلب بطلة "تيس" النقي لأنه اعتبرها ضحية مجتمعا. ينقسم الجزء النظري إلى ستة عناصر تبدأ من مفهوم النسوية التي تضمنت النسوية والماضي والحاضر ، وكذلك الحركة النسوية في الأدب ، وخصائصها المتمثلة في معايير النوع الاجتماعي ، والمساواة. بالإضافة إلى الحركة النسوية في المجتمع الفيكتوري ، وكيف تؤثر على المجتمع الفيكتوري ، ومفهوم النقاء في الثقافات المختلفة.

علاوة على ذلك ، فإن حياة توماس هاردي ، وكذلك شخصيات هذه الرواية ، والموضوعات الرئيسية التي تعاملت مع الطرق الرمزية التي استخدمها هاردي ، والنقد الذي واجه الرواية. علاوة على ذلك ، إلى الجزء العملي في الفصل الثالث والذي يقوم على أربعة عناصر ممثلة أولاً في كيفية رؤية توماس هاردي للنقاء ، وهي البراهين في رواية تيس دابرفيلد بالإضافة إلى وصف شخص تيس ، وكذلك اضطهاد الشخصيات الثانوية في مصير تيس وكيف أثروا على حياتها (مفهوم "النقاء" في قراءة توماس هاردي تيساند النسوية في روايته تيس أوف دوربرفيل

كلمات مفتاحية: النقاء . النسوية. الحركة النسوية