



Patriarchal Culture and Equality in Leone Ross' This One Sky Day: A Feminist Liberalism

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ABSTRACT

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Liberal feminism is a form of feminist theory that has been instrumental in fueling it. Women's rights movements and the significant legal, educational, and policy initiatives that have increased women's rights in diverse contexts grounded in the political traditions of liberalism. Mary Wollstonecraft passionately argued that women are not inherently inferior to men but lack equal opportunities for education and societal participation (Wollstonecraft, 1792). This One Sky Day by Leone Ross delves into gender equality by presenting empowered female characters, challenging patriarchal norms, exploring gender fluidity, and emphasizing the importance of intersectionality and community. The novel's magical realism adds a unique dimension to these themes, making them poignant and imaginative. The results of this study found the existence of patriarchy and social equality in society, explored through the lives of various characters, revealing the complex dynamics and expectations of the society they face. One significant depiction of patriarchy is seen in the character of Anise Latibeau de arre, a healer who faces the trauma of repeated death.

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1. Introduction

Women's issues first began to be addressed in the world when the State commissioned a report on the status of women to a group of feminist researchers and activists. The heterogeneity of the Indian experience reveals that multiple patriarchies are contributing to the existence of numerous feminists. Patriarchy "according to Sylvia Walby, is "a system of social structure and policies in which men dominate, oppress and exploit women, and "World society is oppressively patriarchal". Numerically, women constitute half of the human race, but in general, women occupy a secondary place in relation to men on the basis of class, status, and political power, three recognized dimensions of inequality. A peek into the history will reveal that women have always been subordinated to men. Struggle over women's issues in Nigeria has divided women more than united them. This is the case because the questions of what issue to struggle over and what methods to adopt in such a struggle have always been sources of contention between the different groups of women. Religious, ethnic, regional, and class identities have influenced the degree of support an issue would receive among Nigerian women. To examine these politics of difference in the women's struggle in Nigeria, we shall look at the issue of the Shariah, the current Constitutional Reform Conference, and the response of Nigerian women to such important events in Nigeria's political future. (Adamu, 2006)

The theory of feminist liberalism provided by Mary Wollstonecraft, known as rejecting the prevailing view of women as inherently inferior to men, will be used by the researcher in this study. Wollstonecraft passionately argued that women are not intrinsically inferior to men but lack equal

opportunities for education and societal participation (Wollstonecraft, 1792). That focuses on achieving gender equality through the principles of liberalism, which emphasize individual rights, autonomy, and equal opportunities for all members of society. According to Wollstonecraft, true progress and societal improvement could only be achieved through the education and empowerment of women. She advocated for equal access to education, arguing that women should be afforded the same educational opportunities as men to develop their intellect and contribute meaningfully to society (Wollstonecraft, 1792).

The novel *This One Sky Day* by Leone Ross tells about the magic that exists on an island, and every inhabitant is born with a "cors," a specific magical ability. Anise has healing hands, and Xavier can taste food with a touch. Those who know can learn to walk across the water between islands, the soles of their feet feeling the rotation of underwater flora and fauna to support their weight. This novel introduces readers to the Popisho archipelago, a series of fictional islands that form a nation with magical qualities and concerns about the real world. Researcher weaves social critique into the story. Her Popisho is also a place of political corruption and regressive attitudes, highlighted in one spectacularly odd scene where the women of the island suffer collectively. As a result, and out of what he sees as a combination of patriarchal pride and a misplaced sense of his heroism ('My woman gets sad when she gets pregnant and loses babies. So we won't have sex. And he sees that as heroic!' she says in describing the situation), her husband Tan-Tan is unfaithful, the discovery of which is the threshold she must cross to begin her hero's journey. The day starts with Xavier being tasked with preparing a wedding banquet for the daughter of an influential man. His special ability is seasoning food with just the palm of his hand. But Xavier also has the title of macaenus, a coveted and specially appointed position where he prepares a once-in-a-lifetime meal for everyone when they need it most. He is also haunted by his wife, who died at sea, and stalks the islands while her body slowly disintegrates. This is just the beginning of a fantastical journey filled with the wondrous pleasures of dreams and the intensity of nightmares. At one point in the novel, there is a magical explosion that affects all the women on the island, and their suffering is so shocking.

This research aims to identify and delve into gender equality by presenting empowered female characters and challenging patriarchal norms. For this reason, the researcher chooses to analyze it using Wollstonecraft's theory of feminist liberalism, which focuses on gender equality. According to Mary Wollstonecraft, In her seminal work "A Vindication of the Rights of Women," Wollstonecraft passionately argued that women are not inherently inferior to men but rather lack equal opportunities for education and societal participation (Wollstonecraft, 1792), which is considered to be the beginning of the liberal feminist movement. She believed that women's intellectual potential was stifled by the prevailing norms of her time, which relegated them to domestic roles devoid of agency and scholarly pursuits. She shows the logic that women become independent and morally strong like men. If different education systems are applied to men and women, then this is not only unfair but also counterproductive, and the nation will become "artificial and weak in character". She compares women who marry rich men who are professional and entrepreneurial and have no incentive to work outside the home to the "feathered race," namely birds in cages that do nothing but a feather. (Wollstonecraft, 1792).

After reading and reviewing several reviews and related research, the researcher found reviews and previous research relevant to this research. Researchers use reviews and related research as racing or related studies.

The first review of the analysis of liberal feminist characters often serves as embodiments of progressive ideals, challenging traditional gender norms and advocating for equality. One such example can be found in Margaret Atwood's seminal dystopian novel, "The Handmaid's Tale." Margaret Atwood foregrounds matters of names and naming, making them central hermeneutical concerns. Using generic names drawn from the Bible, names drawn from advertising, and symbolic given names, Atwood creates archetypal overtones for her story. Names and naming point to themes of the victimization of the weak by the powerful and the objectification of women. The protagonist, Offred, embodies liberal feminist principles through her defiance against the oppressive patriarchal society of Gilead. Atwood presents Offred as a symbol of resilience and resistance, showcasing her struggle for autonomy and reproductive rights in a culture that seeks to control and subjugate women (Atwood, 1985).

The second review of liberal feminism in literature can be seen in Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's novel "Half of a Yellow Sun." Through characters like Olanna and Kainene, Adichie explores themes of education and career in Nigeria during the Biafran War. This paper aims to examine how masculinity is represented and resisted in Ngozi Adichie's Half of a Yellow Sun. In a patriarchal society, male dominance is more or less a law, while resistance by females becomes a duty. The female gender has been variously constructed and derogatorily represented in male writings, and Adichie, in her novel Half of a Yellow Sun, makes bold to challenge this status quo. She creates female characters who are the embodiment of beauty, intelligence, industry, and courage. On the contrary, the male characters and their roles in the novel cast aspersion on patriarchy. These characters navigate societal expectations and strive for self-determination, embodying liberal feminist ideals of empowerment and choice in the face of social and political upheaval (Adichie, 2006).

Based on those above aspects, researchers are engaged in an analysis of the novel This One Sky Day by Leone Ross. The first reason is the intriguing characters. Second, there is debate and power between the characters, which presents gender equality, which has not been discussed much in the novel. Consequently, the author requires further research to gain a deeper understanding of gender equality in the novel.

2. Theoretical Framework

This researcher describes the idea employed in this chapter: how social norms limit women's roles in society in Leone Ross's novel This One Sky Day. Mary Wollstonecraft (1759-1797) voiced ideas that later became the basis of liberal feminism.

In this research, the researcher explores the critical liberal feminist framework representing gender inequality. Liberal feminism assesses that women must be given the same educational opportunities as men to develop their intelligence and make meaningful contributions to society. Liberal feminism seeks to foster a culture that values gender equality and rejects sexism. Liberal feminists aim to create a fairer society in which individuals of all genders have equal rights, opportunities, and freedoms.

3. Method

The Various methods are used to collect information for research from the novel This One Sky Day by Leone Ross, which is divided into two categories: primary data and secondary data. The primary data is the content of the entire novel, such as dialogue, words, conflict, phrases, etc. The secondary data is the research used in a book, thesis about feminist theory, journal, or any online source related to the research problems, as well as other related studies.

Data collection techniques were used in this research novel, This One Sky Day, by Leone Ross. The researcher first read the novel and collected data by underlining dialogue related to the research. Then, the researcher sequentially read again and took notes regarding feminist theory. After collecting data, researchers needed to recheck and collect evidence from the novel and any online sources to support this research.

As discussed earlier, the researcher analyze the feminist liberal among women on Popisho Island. The researcher analyzes the problems using descriptive analysis to explain and analyze the data, which aligns with the literature application. The researcher uses liberal feminist theory to examine the feminism, liberalism, and patriarchy of the novel This One Sky Day by Leone Ross.

4. Result and Discussion

The researcher employed Leone Ross's novel This One Sky Day, which explores themes of interconnectedness, power, and patriarchy in a fictional Caribbean archipelago. The novel explores how individuals and institutions wield power over others, whether through magical abilities, social, or economic exploitation, through the characters' journeys.

The novel This One Sky Day by Leone Ross tells about the magic on an island, and every inhabitant is born with a 'cors,' a specific magical ability. Anise has healing hands, and Xavier can taste food with a touch. This novel introduces the Popisho archipelago, a series of fictional islands

that form a nation that has magical qualities and concerns about the real world. The researcher weaves social critique into the story. As a result, out of what he sees as a combination of patriarchal pride and a misplaced sense of heroism. Her husband Tan-Tan is unfaithful, the discovery of which is the threshold she must cross to begin her hero's journey. The day starts with Xavier being tasked with preparing a wedding banquet for the daughter of an influential man. His unique ability is seasoning food with just the palm of his hand.

The overview of the research contains the researcher's analysis of various deprivation of rights against women and how women improve gender equality in the novel *This One Sky Day* by Leone Ross. Researchers provide a theoretical analysis of the data provided. The two problems that are the researcher's focus will be handled using the theory of Liberal Feminism by Mary Wollstonecraft. The researcher analyzes various forms of deprivation of rights against women and how women uphold gender equality in Leone Ross's novel *This One Sky Day*. The analysis is based on Mary Wollstonecraft's liberal feminist theory. This theory supports individual women's rights, equal rights, and knowledge necessary to realize gender equality.

4.1. Presenting the Results

The research findings of the analysis of the novel *This One Sky Day* using Feminist Liberalism theory are as follows:

A. Culture patriarchal in the novel *This One Sky Day* by Leone Ross

Patriarchy is a system of society or government in which men hold power and women are largely excluded from it. The essence of Caribbean culture is its vast tradition and unique spirit. So poetically depicted and used to perfection to develop and communicate poignant themes. The role of the Obeah women, the complications of belonging to an island community, homophobia, discrimination and violence against the rightful owners of the land, sexual objectification and abuse, patriarchy, lack of opportunities, mistreatment of all kinds, and racism. But there is also love and a firm belief in the power of truth; there is the joy of womanhood, the pleasure of sex and food. Nothing is idyllic, and nothing is all doom. A society is patriarchal to the degree that it promotes male privilege by being male-dominated, male-identified, and male-centered. It is also organized around an obsession with control and involves as one of its fundamental the oppression of women. No two patriarchal societies will look the same as cultures and norms are shaped by different factors, such as geography, language, and religion, because the demands and strides made by feminist movements all over the world are not identical.

Liberal Feminism by Mary Wollstonecraft, Wollstonecraft's Liberal Feminism provides a lens through which the analysis of *This One Sky Day* can be deepened. Critical aspects of Wollstonecraft's theory relevant to the novel include:

Individualism and Autonomy, The novel presents male characters who occupy significant positions of power and authority. This reflects broader societal norms where men are often considered default leaders and decision-makers. Within the family structure, men are depicted as the heads of households, holding sway over family decisions and the direction of their lives. This control extends to the expectations placed on other family members, particularly women and children. Liberal feminism, also called mainstream feminism, is the main branch of feminism. It is defined by its focus on achieving gender equality through political and legal reform within the framework of liberal democracy and informed by a human rights perspective. In Leone Ross's novel *This One Sky Day* (also known as "Popisho" in some regions), the culture depicted is richly infused with patriarchal elements, mirroring many aspects of traditional societies where male dominance is prevalent in various spheres of life. The novel, set in a magical realist world, uses its unique setting and characters to explore and critique these gender dynamics. Here are some key points about the patriarchal culture in the novel:

Male Dominance and Authority, the novel presents male characters who occupy significant positions of power and authority. This reflects broader societal norms where men are often considered default leaders and decision-makers. Within the family structure, men are depicted as the heads of households, holding sway over family decisions and the direction of their lives. This control extends to the expectations placed on other family members, particularly women and children.

How man found it hard to show sorry because their testicles got in the way. (Ross, 21:110), Most of all, his father said, the boy needs to be useful. You know how these blasted people are, Teacher—looking hard at the Obeah woman in attendance. If they don't think you have use, life is hell (Ross, 2021:113).

This dialogue illustrates how, as a male character in a position of authority, he feels that the responsibility and ability to make decisions lies entirely with him. The first dialogue also depicts how a man finds it hard to show mistakes or apologize. This reflects a patriarchal dynamic in which women's voices are often ignored or considered less important than men's voices, which serve as the primary authority in important decisions.

Marginalization of Women's Voices, Women in the novel frequently find their voices and opinions marginalized. They are often expected to adhere to the roles and behaviors prescribed by a male-dominated society. Female characters are usually confined to traditional roles that limit their agency and influence. These roles reinforce the idea that women's primary responsibilities lie in supporting roles rather than leading. The following is an example of dialogue from the novel *This One Sky Day*, which illustrates the marginalization of women's voices.

Bonamie: "Somebody tells me that blasted whorehouse giving free service to married man today, can you imagine? As long as they leave their ring at the front door!" (Ross, 2021:72).

The dialogue says that the cursed brothel provides free services to married men. This sentence constitutes the marginalization of women because it can result in ongoing injustice, discrimination, and inequality in terms of rights, opportunities, and access.

Control of Women's Bodies and Sexuality, The novel addresses how women's bodies and sexuality are subject to societal control and expectations. Women are judged and regulated based on how they conform to or deviate from these norms. There is a recurring theme of women's bodies being objectified and controlled, whether through societal expectations or interpersonal relationships. This highlights the pervasive nature of patriarchal control over women's physical and sexual autonomy.

Bonamie didn't say the word mule, which is a colloquialism for a barren woman. Mule, a short jook of a word. (Ross, 2021:30). A woman who must watch themselves, sake pretty frock, and wedding party cloud judgment. (Ross, 21:44). From the data, it is known that Anise and most of the women on Popisho Island accept the fact that they experience inequality and injustice throughout Popisho, as in the quote, "woman who has to watch herself, sake pretty frock and wedding party cloud judgment" where women are required to have their strength in facing sexism, patriarchy, and male privilege.

Critique and Subversion, Despite the pervasive patriarchy, the novel features strong female characters who resist and challenge these norms. Their struggles and resilience serve as a critique of the patriarchal structures they navigate. The complex relationships between characters provide a nuanced exploration of how patriarchy affects both men and women, revealing how power dynamics play out in intimate and communal settings. The following dialogue example shows how criticism is directed at women in the novel *This One Sky Day*.

They were laughing, except for Bonamie, pouting because of the men in the crowd: You too skinny, gods, how you look so mawga? Anise prodded her shoulder and reminded her about the boys back in Pretty Town who often strained to see her long waist and slender feet. Bonamie looked relieved. (Ross, 2021:73). These data show that Anise and most of the women on Popisho Island received criticism from those closest to them.

Cultural and Societal Reflection, the novel depicts the constraints and challenges imposed by patriarchy and celebrates the resilience and agency of those who resist it. It is set in a fictional archipelago called Popisho, heavily influenced by Jamaican and Francophone Caribbean cultures. The islands themselves are magical, and their inhabitants, people, plants, animals, and even the dead express this magic in the most bizarre ways. While magic is critical to the story, the book is about overcoming personal and societal issues. However, despite being within a system designed to suppress certain voices, this novel also offers a picture of empowerment and resistance. This shows that change is still possible even in a system that suppresses certain voices. In other words, while it depicts the constraints and challenges faced by patriarchy, the novel also celebrates the resilience and agency of

those who resist it. Thus, *This One Sky Day* is not only a fantasy story but also a work that critically examines patriarchal culture and how the system affects individuals and communities.

B. Gender equality in the novel *This One Sky Day* by Leone Ross

Gender equality is a concept that refers to fair and equal treatment of individuals, regardless of their sex or gender. This means recognizing equal rights, opportunities, and protection for all people without discrimination based on sex. Gender equality aims to create a society where gender differences do not become an obstacle for individuals to achieve their full potential and contribute equally in various aspects of life, including education, work, politics, and social life. It involves changes in norms, culture, policies, and practices that ensure equal rights and opportunities for all individuals, regardless of gender. Gender equality is crucial for building a just and inclusive society. It's about ensuring that everyone, regardless of their gender, has the same opportunities, rights, and protections.

This One Sky Day, Leone Ross explores themes of gender equality through its richly crafted characters and the fictional world of Popisho. *This One Sky Day* presents an engaging narrative by combining the theme of gender equality in the context of a fantasy world. In many novels that explore social issues, gender equality is often an important aspect. The characters in this novel may provide an example of how gender equality is reflected in their actions and interactions with each other. This may include depictions of female and male characters as having equal opportunities for power, authority, or achievement. In addition, the response of society in the story to gender issues may also be an important part of the narrative. How society in this novel responds to gender roles, stereotypes, or even inequality that may exist. Here are some critical aspects of how the novel addresses gender equality:

Complex Female Characters, the characters, too, all felt immediate and complex. The story centers around a single day in the lives of the Popisho community, focusing primarily on Xavier and Anise. It is an exploration of how they, both in their separate ways, are dealing with trauma and attempting to reconcile it with their present-day lives and contexts. Even though we focus on the relationship of these two central protagonists, other characters have stayed. The young Romanza Intisiar, an outcast of the society but more in tune with his surroundings, felt particularly well drawn. *This One Sky Day* depicted complex and diverse female characters that defy simple categorization. These women are shown with depth, embodying strength and vulnerability, challenging traditional gender norms often seen in literature. For example, the character of Xavier's mother, Anise, is depicted as both nurturing and resilient, embodying the paradox of motherhood and womanhood.

"Anise waved back. The old lady was tremendously houseproud, regularly cleaning with rags or sweeping, but that didn't change the overgrown madness of her passionflower vines, heavy and ripe for hummingbirds and bees, or the state of her snaggle-toothed porch steps. She'd offered Tan-Tan's help more than once, but the old lady merely shook her head and pressed sorrel tea and slivers of goat's cheese into her hands. I don't get any children, she said. And a woman with no children learns to accept many things. Anise could almost see the pain between them, like a corporeal thing, making the hot air shiver." (Ross, 2021:29)

The data describes the real life of Popisho Island women, starting with their struggles and efforts to fight against all injustices in society.

Intersectionality, In Leone Ross' novel *This One Sky Day*, intersectionality is seen through the characterization and interactions between characters that show how different social identities influence their life experiences. For example, female characters experience discrimination not only based on gender but also on other factors such as social status and race. Through characters such as Xavier and Anise, it is shown how these multiple identities influence and shape their experiences in a patriarchal and hierarchical society.

Every female here has suffered the same fate, and each call seemed to represent two others. (Ross, 21:230)

The data shows how women on Popisho Island experience discrimination or do not receive equal rights from within society.

Community and Solidarity, The sense of community in Popisho underscores the importance of solidarity in achieving gender equality. Characters support each other in their struggles against oppression, illustrating the collective effort required to create an equitable society. The novel underscores the significance of community and solidarity in the fight for gender equality. Showing characters who support and uplift one another emphasizes the collective power needed to overcome systemic oppression and achieve lasting change.

You have to fight these fools, the jackass-kicker said before she strode away (Ross, 21:80).

Christopher 'Pony' Brady was a counselor for the second district of Dukuyaie and was well known for his campaigns to protect young women from the sins of men. He'd once set his henchmen on a couple found kissing on the steps of Pastor Latibeaudearre's church. Said she looked too young for such slackness. They broke the boy's back, and nobody complained when it came out later that the girl was a youthful-looking twenty-four years old and the boy's family too poor to raise a fuss. (Ross, 2021:35). The data shows several dialogues between characters in the novel that support women and lift each other up, to fight oppression and gender equality.

4.2. Create a Discussion

After analyzing this novel, researchers discovered that it delves into gender equality by presenting empowered female characters and complex female characters and emphasizing the importance of intersectionality and community. The novel's magical realism adds a unique dimension to these themes, making them both poignant and imaginative. Several conversations and statements are taken as evidence from this research.

Through Mary Wollstonecraft's theory, the issue of feminist liberalism in this novel is complex but can be understood easily. Through this novel, readers can learn more about feminist liberalism and gender equality in literary works. Although not many have discussed the novel *This One Sky Day* in total, researchers found gender equality in the novel. So, the dialogue in this study is a form of description of the novel *This One Sky Day* by Leone Ross, which uses the theory of feminist liberalism by Mary Wollstonecraft. In addition, researchers found a description or discussion that further strengthened the research through the *Houman Sadri* journal (June 14, 2021). Thus, this novel tells about patriarchy and gender equality related to real life in society in the novel and literary works that have similarities and differences.

5. Conclusion

There are several conclusions from the novel entitled *This One Sky Day* (2021), that is, explore gender equality by presenting empowered female characters. The novel's magical realism adds a unique dimension to these themes, making them poignant and imaginative. For all the joyful and big-heartedness of *This One Sky Day*, it's also a novel of subtle seriousness, asking how we can come to terms with profound loss and grief. The two lovers at its center, widowed chef Xavier and the unhappy childless Anise show the importance of letting renewal and possibility into one's life, and the islanders show the value of holding on to traditions rooted in nature. Through the story *This One Sky Day*, the researcher hopes to give readers a little idea of how gender equality, patriarchy, and women's rights exist in society, which is the basis for researching this novel. Readers can also recognize liberal feminism through its dynamic stories and depictions of island culture and the personal stories of its residents, which are full of humor and sadness. Researchers also describe how to explore the interconnectedness of their lives and communities on one island. The deprivation of women's rights is also partly defined by researchers in the analysis of the novel *This One Sky Day* and emphasizes the importance of individual rights, equality, and education in achieving gender equality. The researcher concludes that by showing his characters' struggle and resistance to these norms, he reveals inherent inequalities and calls for a more just social order. Readers further understand the deprivation of women's rights and the difficulty of achieving education for women through Anise in the novel *This One Sky Day*.

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