



Analysing Gender Roles in 18th-century novel *Pamela* by Samuel Richardson and *Evelina* by Frances Burney

Durba Bhattacharya

Student

Amity Institute of English Research and Studies
Amity University, Noida, Uttar Pradesh.

Abstract: This research delves into the realm of 18th-century European literature, focusing on the evolving gender roles depicted in seminal works such as Samuel Richardson's "*Pamela*" and Frances Burney's "*Evelina*". It examines the societal expectations and limitations imposed upon men and women during this era, particularly through the lens of literature. Moreover, it explores the common themes shared between "*Pamela*" and "*Evelina*", emphasizing the characters' struggles against societal norms and their quest for agency and autonomy. The analysis extends beyond these individual works to contextualize them within the broader landscape of 18th-century literature, drawing comparisons with other notable novels such as Charlotte Bronte's "*Jane Eyre*", Charles Dickens' "*A Tale of Two Cities*", and Horace Walpole's "*The Castle of Otranto*". By doing so, it elucidates recurring themes of gender, social class, agency, morality, and social commentary prevalent in the literature of the time. Furthermore, the research contrasts the gender roles depicted in 18th-century literature with contemporary perspectives, tracing the evolution of gender norms through the 19th and 20th centuries, marked by industrialization, feminist movements, and changes in family structures. Despite notable progress towards gender equality, the study acknowledges persisting challenges such as the gender pay gap and underrepresentation in leadership roles.

Index Terms: Gender roles, Gender perspective, Feminism, Patriarchy, Societal norms.

INTRODUCTION 18th Century European Literature - The term "18th Century European Literature" refers to the works of poetry, drama, satire, prose, and fiction produced in Europe during this period, the modern novel emerged as a literary genre in the 18th century. In fact, many of the contenders for the first English book title date from this period. Perhaps the most famous of the novels of this period is Daniel Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe*, published in 1719.

Letter novels, emotional novels, chronicles, gothic novels and debauchery novels are among these. Subgenre of eighteenth-century book. Eighteenth century Europe began with the Age of Enlightenment and gradually turned towards Romanticism. This is the neoclassical age of visual art. European literature during the 18th century, known as the Age of Enlightenment, deals with words such as conflict, reversal of position, political, geographical. research and the difference between the so-called natural state of man and the modern world.

About the author

Frances Burney (born June 13, 1752, King's Lynn), Norfolk, England - died 6, 1840, London) English novelist and letter writer, author of *Evelina*, a landmark in the development of the liturgical novel. *Evelina*, a study of the evolution of the Book of Etiquette. Burney's stories were ultimately inspired by observation and writing practice in society. *Evelina* realized that the author was a critic who could distinguish London speech and accent. She focuses on the development of self-aware children, have poor reasoning ability and social behavior. *Evelina* will approach the end of the story, having overcome the lack of direction in her youth. A work that sets the standards for Jane Austen's novels, speaks of modern culture with respect and dignity, and becomes a process that trusts the eccentric and eccentric character of women. When "*Evelina*" was published anonymously in 1778, London was enthralled. No one thought it was created by 26-year-old introvert Fanny Burney.

Samuel Richardson was born on August 19, 1689. The two most famous books are *Clarissa* (1747-48) and *Pamela* (1740) - Green near London. English writer Samuel Richardson's 1740 epistolary novel *Pamela* expands the possibilities of fiction. The novel is based on the story of a man who marries a maid after trying to woo her. Richardson was already fifty years old when she wrote "Pamela," but little is known about the last fifty years. Many people think that "Pamela" is the first English book. English author Samuel Richardson published his novel "Pamela", also known as "The Gift of Virtue", in 1740. Considered one of the earliest English novels, it represents Richardson's interpretation of marriage as a moral practice. Throughout the novel, "Pamela" writes many letters and diaries to her poor parents, trying to regain her faith in tradition through her desire to come to his office.

Pamela's letters to her family and her diary are related to the events in the novel. Richardson uses Pamela's emotions to convey the theme of ignorance. Richardson emphasizes the idea of pure and innocent childbearing by portraying Pamela as innocent and clumsy, adding to her brief vision.

Gender roles in eighteenth-century novels.

Until the 11th century, women had to do many housework. In addition to running the household, they are also responsible for the rich family's servants. Parents or women are also responsible for raising and educating their children. They are also responsible for preparing and feeding their families. This means women need to know how to use needles, read, write, and use herbs and herbs. Generally speaking, women are oppressed by patriarchy and have few rights. Men are generally responsible for handling all financial affairs of the household and often work to support the family. It is common for men to work outside the home and receive a good education. Whether his wife can work outside the home and whether the children can go to school are just two of the decisions the patriarch makes on behalf of the family.

Since all the property and money in the family belongs to them, women rarely fight or divorce their husbands. Children should listen to the patriarch. The first half of the 18th century was a turbulent time for women's rights. Women can work, but their rights and privileges are less than men. Women were not allowed to vote in the big house, own land during marriage, go to college, receive equal pay for equal work, work more than one job, or report abuse. If a woman is found to be very aggressive or violent, she will be subjected to violence and social violence.

Gender Roles in Samuel Richardson's Novel Pamela - The two main characters in the book are Pamela and Mr. B has a different role. While it's clear they play different (if not adversarial) roles, I think it's unclear what those roles are. Actually Pamela and Mr. B rejects gender roles often associated with men and women, even though it may seem like the opposite. In fact, Pamela plays a traditional male role and Mr. B plays a traditional female role. This is a gender-neutral change.

The main subject of our conversation is Mr. B. But our class discussions made me think more about the connections between them and who is truly responsible. Based on the gender rights and injustices that occurred during the writing of the novel, I think Pamela plays the male role and Bay plays the male role. B was a normal wife. Another thing that comes to mind is how Pamela and

Bay. In this story, Eve succumbs to temptation, or in her case curiosity, resulting in Adam's destruction. This is similar to Mr. B eventually succumbs to the temptation (of his lust) and drags Pamela along with him, destroying her morals and integrity. Given the importance of the book and its moral and religious nature, I believe there is room for further exploration of this example.

Gender Roles in the Novel - *Evelina* by Frances Burney - *Evelina* is the first novel written by Frances Burney. Published in 1778, this book tells the story of a young woman entering aristocratic society in 18th-century London. While the young heroine, *Evelina*, has experienced the violation of these standards, as well as many cultural practices against women in the tenth century, *Bernie* carries her own history. *Evelina* is an example of "the very narrow path that women lead" and is a gregarious person who "uses association with female behavior to create humor." Burney uses *Evelina*'s patriarchal setting as the focus of her rejection of the dominant eighteenth-century ideals that advocated femininity, chastity, and virtue above all else. Establish a good reputation on social media.

Male aggression and submissiveness go hand in hand in the book *Evelina*. Although the reputation of the relationship still remained valid, perhaps the most important thing examined by male hegemony in the 8th century was women's submissiveness. Although *Evelina*'s grandmother, Madame Duval, and Captain Milvin had a history of physical abuse, Bilger's narrative ignores the domestic violence that arose from eighteenth-century relationships between two women stemming from female docility. Of the female character, Duvall said, Burney "overrode the system that made women the targets of [violent] comedy". Because he uses *Bayan*. Milvin represents the emotional pain he is experiencing. Madame Milvin is a true example of eighteenth-century culture and provides a matriarchal image for *Evelina* to follow; Madame Duval, on the other hand, is an anachronistic, arrogant and outspoken woman, which tortures her with cruelty. Duval and Captain Milvin had stated that the men were "capable of harassing women of [Bernie's] race." Bilger filed a lawsuit to have the marriage accepted, but he ignored it. Situations affecting the relationship between leadership and marital violence.

Explaining using the context of other novels of the 18th century

Let's see many examples of this in many novels of this century, for example, Charlotte Bronte's *Jane Eyre* presents two different gender perspectives, for example, it affects the relationship and this is just a difference, not a difference. over obstacles. Social class has a significant impact on how gender is taught. *Blanche Ingram*, the ideal woman of the upper class, is linked to *Jane*, the working woman. Moreover, gender is not an issue that separates women from men, but the difference between two equal people.

In Charles Dickens' *A Tale of Two Towns*, women have difficulty accepting authority and making changes in many aspects of the patriarchal order they live in. The stories of these women deal with themes of virtue, love, family life, haircuts, blood and revenge.

All women's photos are important for this topic.

If we consider the novel "*Clarissa*" by Frances Burney, the hero always wants to play the role of the daughter and follow the influence of the father. Since Ms. Howe has been *Clarissa*'s independent role model; The impact is huge. In the end, *Clarissa*'s submission to the affirmation of gender rights in society and family ultimately leads to her liberation.

In Horace Walpole's novel *The Castle of Otranto*, gender stereotypes are reinforced throughout the book: men face dangers, seek out historical horrors and deal with them fearlessly, while women must remain silent and care for the sick. and be kind to men. Men live and fight, women go. These gender stereotypes define women as influencing, influencing, and supporting patriarchal views of themselves. Walpole's book describes women as having no freedom and accepting the disadvantages of working in a role.

Common Themes Between *Pamela* and *Evelina*

Although these stories exist in different formats and times, they have some common themes:

1..Men's Expectations: Both *Evelina* and *Pamela* conform to gender norms and expectations regarding gender relationships, but in different ways. While Pamela tries to maintain her virtue and reputation in a patriarchal culture, Avelina struggles with the pressure to meet moral expectations.

2. Social Class: Unlike Pamela, who started life as a maid, Evelina's experience as a young woman from the lower economic class is different. While Pamela faces more problems in the relationships within the family she works for, Evelina deals with the conflicts of the aristocratic society.

3.Agency and Autonomy: The two characters show the will to overcome social expectations despite having different backgrounds. As Evelina learns to stand up under pressure, she gains confidence in her ability to handle social situations with patience and dignity. Likewise, Pamela rejects her employer, shows off his office, and eventually buys it on her own.

4.Relationship: Evelina and Pamela discuss their romantic relationship while following the expectations of a relationship. Pamela's relationship with Mr. B demonstrates the power inherent in courtship in the eighteenth century, while Evelina's interactions with Lord Orville demonstrate the complexity of love and relationships.

6.Morality and Virtue: In both books, moral dilemmas that test Evelina and Pamela's honesty and the concepts of virtue and morality are explored. While Pamela struggles to maintain her own morality despite violence and temptation, Evelina must deal with the morality of society.

7.Social Commentary: The two books offer social commentary on 18th-century English society through the experiences of Evelina and Pamela, criticizing its rigid gender norms and hierarchical structure while also emphasizing the strength and initiative of the protagonist.

Comparison of gender roles between the 18th century and today.

Gender roles have changed dramatically since the 18th century. Gender norms were somewhat rigid in the 1700s; men were expected to be enterprising, strong, and powerful, while women were expected to be confined to the home and monitor, monitor, and focus on child care and household chores.

But, as culture progressed in the 19th and 20th centuries, many changes affected the development of gender. Work patterns have changed due to industrialization: women begin to work outside the home, mostly in manufacturing or domestic services, while men begin to leave home to work in offices and workplaces. This begins to cast doubt on the idea that gender roles are relevant to fundraising.

The women's suffrage movement, which supported women's right to vote and greater equality, grew in the 19th and early 20th centuries. The project encourages discussion on women's rights and time spent outside the home. As men went to war abroad, women began to take on male-dominated roles in production and agriculture, which changed gender dynamics.

Feminism and the second women's movement, II. It emerged in the years after World War II; questioned traditional gender roles and promoted equal rights and opportunities for women in politics, business and education. Significant legal changes occurred during this period that gave women greater freedom to control their pregnancy choices and work outside the home. Examples of these developments include anti-discrimination laws and anti-virus laws.

Gender roles changed further in the 1960s and 1970s through the sexual revolution and changes in traditional family structures. As more women enter the workforce, the idea of the male breadwinner model is being challenged by the rise of two-earner families. However, despite this progress, many cases of sexism remain, such as the pay gap, the glass ceiling in the workplace, and low representation in leadership.

Despite these developments, gender roles in relationships and expectations continue. There are still prejudices and stereotypes that affect the opportunities and choices people have based on their gender. Understanding the complexity of gender inequality requires an intersectional perspective that examines how differences such as race, class, and sexuality interact.

In summary, the complex relationship between social, economic and political variables has shaped gender roles since the 18th century. Although progress has been made in challenging traditional views and increasing opportunities for women and vulnerable genders, there is still much work to be done to achieve this gender equality reality.

Conclusion

This research shows that social structure, cultural expectations, and organization interact in complex ways. While men hold positions of authority in public life, politics, and business, women are mostly responsible for household chores, maintaining the home, and working around the house. However, this fierce competition is not impossible, as women often find ways to participate and exert influence in the history of male-dominated spaces such as informal networks or job markets. Additionally, although with little success, the development of thought and wisdom such as the Enlightenment provided a forum for the discussion of women's rights and equality. Gender dynamics in historical contexts are complex; As evidenced by the fact that gender roles in the 18th century were dynamic and deeply permeated yet easily negotiated, and adapted

This paper also concluded that the expectations and attitudes of men and women were determined by cultural norms. Traditionally, men held leadership positions in the public sector, while women were limited to family roles. It's important to remember that there are differences between different rooms and spaces, and people will sometimes question these standards. The overall findings of the study show gender differences in strength over time and their impact on longevity.

References

- [1] Alifatul Qulbi Mu'Arrof "The Struggles Against Patriarchy Described in Mukhtar Mai's In the Name of Honor"
- [2] Mayank Gupta, Jayakrishna S Madabushi, and Nihit Gupta "Critical Overview of Patriarchy, Its Interferences With Psychological Development, and Risks for Mental Health"
- [3] Toni Bowers "Gender Studies and Eighteenth-Century British Literature"
- [4] Nicole Miller "A Study of W A Study of Women through 18th-Century through 18th-Century Literary Literature: as Reflected e: as Reflected by the Works of Jane Austen, Or, a Re-visioning"
- [5] Elissa Gelfand and Margaret Switten "Gender and the Rise of the Novel"
- [6] Charlotte Sussman" History, Gender and Eighteenth-Century Literature.