



Female Characters Represented in Novels of Premchand and W. A. Silva: Comparative Study

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Two noble writers namely Premchand - an Indian writer and his Contemporary W. A. Silva - a Sri Lankan writer yielded their lives to depict the closeness of people with society and to develop a better environment for living beings. Premchand mostly discussed the facts of the underprivileged people and their life stories. A deprived woman played a significant role in his novels. But his contemporary in Sri Lanka W. A. Silva did not pay much attention to the destitute woman in his novels. Premchand was born in a very poor stricken village. So, he experienced the deprived living conditions of the underprivileged. Hinduism, Sathi-poojā, dowry, Unmatching marriages, prevention from education, and prostitution have strongly depressed women. Women lived as a prisoner within the house. In the meantime, W. A. Silva who hailed from a middle-class family did not attempt such characters. This is quite clear because his environment did not depict such a pathetic situation in women & their lives. The very reason for this difference is the Buddhist beliefs among the Sri Lankan society. So, the women in Sri Lanka did not experience such hardships as in India. She enjoyed free education, her character was noble, and lived with dignity even under the man's authority. In view of the above observations, we can come to a conclusion the personal, social, and religious environment and underprivileged existence of Premchand have influenced him to introduce downtrodden women in his novels than W. A. Silva. From all these facts it is evident that in any society, if the woman is educated, liberated from economic worries and she holds the proper position, she will be free from inequitable experiences and the development of the society is inevitable.

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