

ABSTRACT

This dissertation explores the way David Herbert Lawrence tries to respond the important questions posed by modernist writers about the problems of identity, selfhood, individualism and society, feminist experience of body and soul and new ways of connecting to other beings. For Lawrence sex is an experience reducing multiplicity into singularity of self, thus giving solution to modernist dispersion and chaos.

This research investigates Lawrence's novel idea of sex as metaphysics and attempts to establish that the novelist uses the sexual act as spiritual experience. It reveals how a being undergoes becoming, to develop a greater and deeper understanding of human self. It also explores that for Lawrence sex is not just a mechanical and physical action rather it is a tissue of thoughts, fantasies and emotions. His characters emerge as particularized with histories and an emotional surround rather than just a typical sexual history.

This study explores how Lawrence tries to highlight male, female experience of sex, not in a mechanical rather spiritual way. Lawrence was labeled as sexist, critics and feminist writers disliked his male sexuality but this research explores that being a male, how does he discover female sexuality and answers the questions put by feminist writers like Jean Rhys and Virginia Woolf who raised questions like; what does it mean to be a woman and what does it mean to be an individual self. Lawrence solved this modernist problem by answering all these queries.

His ideas on desire, love and sexual experience and how they help in shaping the individual personality make up the core of this study. His novels particularly; Sons and Lovers, Women in Love, The Trespasser, Lady Chatterley's Lover, and The Rainbow are analyzed with an emphasis on characters. Apart from these there are passing references to r novels as well. The characters are discussed with a view to find the traces of the process which helps their being in becoming what they are. The characters will be discussed with a distinction of sex and gender, with an emphasis on female character. The study focuses on the process of how his female characters becoming individuals, taking their own initiative and on how they influence and help their male counterparts.

The method of investigation surrounds close textual reading and analysis, historicist criticism and psychoanalytic studies of Lawrence have also been consulted in this regard.