

ABSTRACT

The study explores the underlying patriarchal social structures in Pakistani middle-class society as presented in Shazaf Fatima Haider's novel *How It Happened*. I have identified the farcical presentation of the process of match making for women who have to submit to the demand of society by sacrificing their own desires and wishes. The thesis is a feminist analysis of Haider's *How It Happened*. The research focuses on the customs and rituals that a girl must face during the process of marriage and match making. These traditions and customs are misogynistic and gender biased in their approach. I have applied postmodern and postcolonial feminist theories for the analysis of Haider's novel. Simon De Beauvoir, Elaine Showalter and Spivak are the major theorists. De Beauvoir's idea of other, Showalter's idea of Gynocriticism and Spivak's idea of Subaltern have been applied to the characters of the novel. Shazaf Fatima Haider has presented different stories of marriages in a hilarious manner. Dadi, the matriarch of Bandian, represents the dominance of patriarchal structures which have made women subjugated to the extent that they propagate patriarchal narratives. Colour of the skin, height, physical features, family name and beliefs are more important than the existence of a woman. A woman has to come up to the patriarchal demands in order to marry in middle class Pakistani families. My objective of conducting this research is to unveil the culture, language and social rituals which marginalize women in Pakistani society.