

Pregnancy and Women's Subjectivity Represented in Ali's Brick Lane, Cusk's Arlington Park, and McGregor's If Nobody Speaks of Remarkable Things

Authors : Nurul Imansari

Abstract : The study object in this research is 'pregnancy and women's subjectivity represented in Ali's Brick Lane, Cusk's Arlington Park, and McGregor's If Nobody Speaks of Remarkable Things'. Pregnancy is invested with both figurative and literal significance in the novels. Being a symbol of domesticity of the woman in the novels, pregnancy conveys the relationship of the women due to their role as a mother and wife in a family and their subjectivity as a woman. The aim of this study is to examine to what extent pregnancy affects the subjectivity of woman in Ali's 'Brick Lane', Cusk's 'Arlington Park', and McGregor's 'If Nobody Speaks of Remarkable Things'. It also discusses on how pregnancy can be seen as a symbolic sense and the things that symbolise it. The study uses theoretical ideas of female subjectivity proposed by Julia Kristeva. She stated that in patriarchal culture, the meaning of a woman is always being reduced to the function of reproduction. She has emphasized a new discourse about pregnancy that recognizes the importance of maternal function in the development of subjectivity and in culture. The result shows that the three novels represent pregnancy as something which can affect women's subjectivity but the way in representing the pregnancy are different from each other. Kristeva's idea about pregnancy and women's subjectivity can be applied in both Cusk's Arlington Park, and McGregor's If Nobody Speaks of Remarkable Things as the characters in the texts come from the same background as her. However, it can hardly be applied to Ali's Brick Lane because this idea can justify the women to choose their own way and South Asian culture still bound to the strong patriarchal system.

Keywords : culture, pregnancy, subjectivity, women

Conference Title : ICELL 2016 : International Conference on English Language and Linguistics

Conference Location : Bali, Indonesia

Conference Dates : October 13-14, 2016