



The Question of Womanhood: An Analysis of Leena Yadav's *Parched*

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Abstract

My paper is based on the postcolonial perspectives of feminism in the movie "Parched" (2016) which is directed by Leena Yadav which basically intends to analyze the status of rural women in third world countries. Leena Yadav projected the adversities faced by the rural women which I encashed and analysed with the subaltern theory. Women in the hierarchical power structure of the patriarchal society are tagged as low category therefore I wanted to project women as subalterns. As Gayatri Chakroborty Spivak in her work "Can the Subaltern Speak?" mentioned that the subalterns cannot speak but this movie by Leena Yadav, according to me, intends to give voice to the desires for four "subaltern protagonists". Those protagonists are "doubly marginalised" because of their spatial location and also because of their gender. My paper categorises three subheadings which talk of womanhood in the movie "Parched" from the perspective of gender oppression through false male ego and domination and subjugation of women, the intense bond of sisterhood and women empowerment.

Keywords: Postcolonial Feminism, Rural Women, Subaltern, Gender Oppression, Sisterhood, Women Empowerment

