



Off- Gendered Stereotyped Roles- A Study in the Novels of Caroline Criado Perez

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Date of Submission: 05-07-2025

Date of Acceptance: 16-07-2025

Gender Studies has been a classic literary debate and Genre. The various aspects of Masculine, Feminine and Transgender constructs define and play important roles in the literary work and endeavors to bring in the aspects of Archetype and Stereotype. Every culture, both Primitive and Modernis bound by certain traditional and non-traditional roles. These particular roles have been defining and shaping society, nevertheless the approach and attitudes have changed. These gender-based roles are getting reversed with many aspects coming into the archetypal ones rather than the stereotypical.

Traditional societies have adopted a more modern approach while the modern ones have held the baton of enlightenment. My research objectives for this paper are:

1. Gender as represented in the novels of Caroline Criado Perez.
2. The role of Men in the society of the current times.
3. Supportivism in the Gendered constructs.

The roles of binary and non-binaries have become an even more big aspect worth explicating. Gender is defined as a literary term and a culminating experience of the writer, character, scene and setting. Certain gender specific roles are openly attributed and given importance. A critic Lewis (2021) in his book Psychological Science claims that children's texts use this gendered language very strongly in their works. There are clearly marked distinctions between sex and gender. Sex refers to the biological aspects whereas gender, to the accepted norms and values of the individual. Gender is more defined by social norms and conventions.

Masculinity Studies is the most recent theoretical debate in Literature. It is modelled on the theories of the Hegemonic, Toxic and Alternative Masculinities. The Hegemonic Theory is the base theory which consists of the idea that man is basically a superior figure and carries the dominant nature representing the power structures. Dominance

and physical strength can be attributed to his personality.

Toxic Masculinity has mostly a negative and aggressive connotation to the Masculine side of man's personality. The most commonly faced problems could be violence, misogyny. Along with this, there could be non-interaction with women in order to suppress them and hurt their egos. Women are essentially seen as objects and not an individual. This is a very extreme kind of situation where there wouldn't be healthy social interaction but, a repressive kind.

Alternative Masculinity has a challenge for the usual gender norms that are set by society. The adjusting side of men is generally the concern. The aspect of paternal instincts could include nurturing, cooperation and an archetypal type of character setting and confirmation. It is of an inclusive type. It seeks to establish and form normative gender identities and a progressive one.

Over the years, Masculinity Studies have gained prominence and its subject matter is concerned with the inversion of the larger gender roles. Mostly seen and viewed as a repressive role player, the present connotation of the generation of male writers sail in with the sympathy of femininity. Masculine identity can get contested at times due to the undue pressures of life and situation. Stability becomes a main factor in sustaining relationships. Plurality of the evolved masculinities coexist as there are varied degrees of emotional bonding and feeling. The feeling of gaining hegemony and power is the defining factor in the male bond. Antonio Gramsci, a theorist of Cultural Hegemony, is a proponent of the theory of Hegemonic Masculinity. The Male Theory of Masculinity is quite difficult to explain unlike the theorized concept of Feminism.

Some signifiers and behaviour traits of men are perceived as fixed and floating signifiers are unfixed ones. The perceived ones are that of dominance, power-bearers, ambitious and bread winners, while the floating signifiers are men's ability to show weakness in the form of emotion



or approach. Being a bit aggressive and at the same time mild and comforting in two adverse situations.

The most recent developments in Masculinity Theory are the concepts of Hybrid Masculinities and Inclusive Masculinity Theory. Hybrid Masculinities Theory is the theory that specifies the aspect of selective retention and performances based on the idea of subordination and submission of either the Feminine forces or Masculine ones. The Inclusive Masculinity Theory understands the changing relationships of man with the society and other beings. It reiterates the concept of Homophobia, which is the fear that guides one against interacting with the gay community.

Caroline Criado Perez breaks off all gendered stereotypes especially in male roles and is the progenitor among modern day women novelists. She had interacted with many peer groups, and come to the understanding that this world does not only belong to any one particular gender but to everyone alike. There is a gender data gap and a balancing act is necessary for rectifying it. Gender data act has to also be justified and instead of promoting one gender and discriminating against the other, it is necessary to bridge this gap.

There is nevertheless, a commonly held belief that men are the least discriminated lot. This myth or belief system has to be dispelled. Myths were busted and the male domination has become the accepted norm in many generations. There were instances when women would cut sorry figures during the election process. In order to gain votes, they would be appealing to the public and express their desperation.

Her first novel *Invisible Women: Data Bias in a World Designed for Men* explores the concept of men examining the world from their own perspective and describing it at their own end. As Simone De Beauvoir had described it as “absolute truth”, men’s appeal is really challenging and the final word. This is referred to as the gender data gap by the writer Caroline Criado Perez. The capacity of defaultedness is the bone of contention. She especially justifies the stand that there is no enmity between the male and female, but it has been made to appear like that this is the same conditioning carried on for many ages. This gender data gap is responsible for unparalleled and unequal work without any perfection for numbers. New skill up gradation in terms of work and gender coordination needs to be done and perfected. The level of safety for women according to the writer is never comparatively one of concern. The policies pertaining to the women folk could be a separate entity in itself. One of her major concerns is that

society should stop exploring separate avenues for women. The gaps have to be addressed and closed in order to bring about a consistency.

Criado’s second novel “Do it like a Woman” is also a myth buster on the ideal of womanhood. The most common aspects of power and privilege are being contested upon in a manner that allows for its equal distribution. This is not specific of the aspect of gender domination. Her subject and themes are variegated in theme and narrative. For her character selection and choice, challenging roles and destinations are chosen. Some of the characters are a female fighter plane pilot, climate change activist, a Chile based politician, Russian anti-Putin agitators and a very daring Iran based journalist. She reiterates the idea of equal opportunity and status for the people alike. The idea of a much gendered specific information of women is the root cause of discrimination and secondary positioning. A biased kind of data is a fulfilling precondition to the aspect of human biases. Men are becoming very supportive of the women forces at work in the Medical field too. The Testing procedure is now being done on women too in order to make it more viable and trustworthy. This will ensure gender neutrality.

She goes one step ahead and claims that this same gender bias exists in AI (Artificial Intelligence) based societies and changing this very mindset of the pre-programmed generative machines could be of great support and debunking the myths is a new kind of experience. The Social Support theory or Supportivism is a theory that examines the role of social connection and the ability of the individual to generate wellness and at the same time cope up with the ills of society. The strong basis of all these things is the idea of the Emotional Quotient (EQ) or appeal. A study that was being conducted by researcher Tara M Chaplin reveals that women outwardly express emotions when it comes to emotional situations but men are more actionable of anger and situation.

The view of Psycho-social theorists is that children learn cognitive learning and socialization better than their adult counterparts. Gender conditioning roles begin in childhood itself. The Supportivist theory has its bases in conventional support of any kind. It refers to the larger context of offering support – emotional or physical support. This is a theory that has its origins and belief systems in Constructivism. One’s attitudes determine one’s outcomes.

In Conclusion, the Dual Process Model of Psychology emphasizes the idea that human processing is more effective in the subject matter of



persuasion. It also depends a lot on the individual's attitudinal change and behavior. In order to promote this, supportive messages and contexts are essential. Lazarus, a critic of Cognitive Psychology has mentioned that the emotional appeal connected to a particular event was not so fulfilling, rather the way in which it is perceived. It could be ingrained in the form of goal relevance and congruence. Cathexis or the simple concentration of one's whole energy on a unicellular thing or person is unhealthy and an unnerving experience.

In all, the ever growing concepts of learning and approach should be constant in literary process. The neutralizing of gender is a constantly driven goal that should nurture the entire process of living and being.

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