

PATRIARCHY AND GENDER ROLE: A CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF WOMEN SUBJUGATION IN *A JURY OF HER PEER* BY SUSAN GLASPELL

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**Abstract**

This study analyzes feminism, gender roles, and women's oppression in *A Jury of Her Peers* by Susan Glaspell through the feminist theory of Simone de Beauvoir presented in *The Second Sex*. The research explores how patriarchal society constructs women as inferior and confines them to domestic roles. Using qualitative research methods, textual analysis, close reading, and feminist literary criticism, the study examines themes of gender inequality, patriarchy, loneliness, domestic confinement, and female resistance. The analysis reveals that male characters underestimate women's intelligence and dismiss their concerns as trivial, while female characters use emotional understanding and observation to uncover the truth behind Mr. Wright's murder. Minnie Wright's life reflects the emotional and psychological suffering caused by patriarchal oppression, symbolized through the dead bird and broken birdcage. The study further highlights female solidarity between Mrs. Hale and Mrs. Peters as a form of resistance against male domination. The research concludes that Glaspell challenges traditional gender roles and emphasizes women's intelligence, emotional strength, and struggle for equality and freedom.

**1.1. Background of the study**

Raina, J. A. (2017) said that the word feminism is used for the first time with regards to the movements of women. The word feminism has been defined differently by different scholars. It is a range of political, social and cultural movement started for the advocacy of women rights in every field. Feminism wants the women to have the same access to resources as men and independence of women. This movement is against the notion that, men are inferior and women are superior but only aims to achieve equality between men and women. The theory of feminism aimed to understand the nature of gender inequality by examining women social role and experiences. The movement aimed to protect the rights of women snatched by patriarchal society.

The characters in "a jury of her peers" are defined by their gender roles. The story Represent the difference between the gender roles of men and women in society. The short is also criticism on traditional gender roles by showing that women can do better than the men. The men in the short story occupy authoritative position in the society like Mr. Henderson and Mr. Peter uphold the law. While the women characters in the story are only responsible for domestic activities, home making, child bearing and caretaking. Men in the story continuously consider women as inferior less intelligent and rational. Minnie foster role as a women is how clean her kitchen is, Martha hale is all the time concerned about her kitchen and Mrs. Peters is living a life of loneliness because of the death of her two years old child. Besides the views

of the society that women are less intelligent and rationale than men who cannot hold important position other than the household's activities, it's the two women who find the clues of Mr. Wright death by using their intellect.

Beauvoir (1949)' says that since the creation of universe, it is man who define what women is and what will their role and has always been regarded as other, by using the biological difference between men and women for justification. The male in the society creates the standards while the female is always measured against such standards and determines every aspect of their lives. Throughout the history men has always given privilege and women has been given a second place.

### 1.2. Statement of the problem:

Feminism is the advocacy of women rights in every field of life which are violated in patriarchal society and to dismantle the idea of socially defined gender role. It's a wide range of political movement, ideologies and social movement that share common goal to establish social equality of sexes. The researcher analyze feminism in a "Jury of Her Peers" by Susan Glaspell that how the women is suppressed in the story. The researcher use Simon de Beauvoir principles of second sex to analyze the representation of women in the short story.

### 1.3. Research Questions

1. How the characters in "A Jury of Her peers" are defined by socially constructed gender roles?
2. How the female characters challenges traditional gender roles in "A Jury of Her Peers"

### 1.4. Research Objectives

To analyze the socially constructed gender roles of characters in "A Jury of Her Peers."

To examine those female characters who challenges traditional gender roles in "A Jury of Her Peers."

### 1.5. Significance of the Research

The purpose and aim of the study is to explore the suppression, subjugation and strict societal expectations from women in the society. The present study analyzes the strict gender role in "A Jury of Her Peers" by Susan Glaspell. It also creates awareness about the women rights and their values.

The research is also a good contribution to the knowledge regarding feminism and it is also an asset for the library and enlightens the future generation doing their research on feminism.

### Literature review

Literary criticism by feminists became a significant theory that sought to establish women's presence in literature and question the patriarchal ideology. Feminist critics examine the marginalization, silencing and oppression of women in literary texts. They also investigate the ways women resist traditional gender roles imposed by society. A Jury of Her Peers by Susan Glaspell is one of the most famous feminist short stories as it brings out the theme of oppression of women, domestic confinement and resistance in a patriarchal society. In this story, the point is to reveal the lack of sensitivity and responsiveness of institutions to women's feelings, experiences and intelligence, which are predominantly male.

In The Second Sex, Simone de Beauvoir claims that society constructs women's identity based on cultural expectations and gender roles. According to Beauvoir, women are always regarded as the lesser being or "Other" in the eyes of men who serve as the mainstay and benchmark of the society. She feels that the patriarchal culture restricts women's liberty and compels them to stay at home, be a mother and be an obedient daughter. In A Jury of Her Peers, Minnie Wright is victim to these patriarchal expectations, as her identity is fully determined by her husband and the society. The quiet and solitude of her is a vivid representation of the pain that women experience when dominated by men.

Feminist criticism is the analysis of the impact of patriarchy on women and the denial of their equal opportunities, according to Tyson (2006). Feminist critics argue that literature tends to reinforce a male perspective and the stereotypical image of women. Tyson also believes that women are often depicted as weak, emotional and dependent, while men are shown as rational and authoritative. The patriarchal notions are apparent in Glaspell's story in which the male characters brush aside women's issues. With the saying, "Women are used to worrying over

trifles”, men belittle women's intelligence and their emotional understanding.

In the classic feminist book *The Madwoman in the Attic*, Gilbert and Gubar (1979) explore the manner in which women in literature have been silenced and psychologically imprisoned by patriarchy. They say that when women get angry and frustrated, this is often suppressed because the society expects women to be passive and obedient. This concept can be related to the character of Minnie Wright in *A Jury of Her Peers*. Minnie goes on to resent her unhappy marriage due to her feelings of being isolated and emotionally hurt. By killing her husband, she is protesting against the control of fathers and the imprisonment in the home.

Showalter (1977) argued that women's writing is a means to the knowledge of female experiences and identity. She highlights the fact that women writers are able to showcase the emotional, psychological and social realities of women's lives which are not portrayed in male-centered literature. In *A Jury of Her Peers*, Susan Glaspell exposes the unspoken emotional anguish of women and the way domestic life can become an oppressive environment. It places women experiences on its pedestal and illustrates that insight and emotional intelligence in female are valuable knowledge.

An analysis of domestic space is another important part of feminist criticism. The home has traditionally been a domain of women, and men are predominately in the public sphere. In her book *The Feminine Mystique* (1963), Friedan describes how women's life is restricted to domestic sphere causes frustration, loneliness and loss of identity. Women's wants and personality must be suppressed for marriage and family. The home isolation of Minnie Wright is an illustration of this because Minnie's whole life is spent in the house as her husband controls her. Her emotional state and lack of identity is represented by the kitchen and sewing materials and the dead bird symbol.

In the book *Sexual Politics*, Millett (1970) asserts that patriarchy is a power relationship that is experienced when men dominate women socially, psychologically and economically. Patriarchal culture makes it "normal" for men to have power and for women to submit to men. In *A Jury of Her Peers*, all the male characters have authority

including sheriff, county attorney and investigator. They have the legal system under their control and feel that they are superior intellectually to women. But Glaspell challenges this male misconception by demonstrating that women can come to a more complete understanding of the truth behind Minnie Wright's suffering.

Another key theme explored by feminist scholars is that of female solidarity. Hooks (2000) proposes that women can confront patriarchy by knowing and acting together. Female solidarity is important for women to identify with the oppressive experience of others, and it is important to support women to challenge male domination. Minnie Wright is one who Mrs. Hale and Mrs. Peters feel sympathy for after discovering the death of the bird and her loneliness. The concealment of the evidence is a form of solidarity between women against an unfair patriarchal legal system.

According to Moi (1985), Beauvoir's feminism teaches women to turn away from the social roles allotted to them and to define themselves as autonomous persons. Women have to challenge the norms of the culture which make them feel weak and dependent. This is seen in Glaspell's story as Mrs. Hale and Mrs. Peters go beyond the traditional definition of the roles of a woman and become active interpreters of truth and justice. Despite everyone's belief that they should be "housewives," they manage to crack the case by using observation and emotional intelligence.

Critics have also been interested in the symbolism employed in *A Jury of Her Peers*. The dead bird symbolizes Minnie Wright's lost freedom, happiness, and independence. Minnie Foster was a happy child before she got married and became quiet and hurt after she was wed. The bird's broken neck represents Minnie's own emotional suffocation in the face of patriarchy. Likewise, the broken birdcage represents Minnie's stifled life in marriage and home. These symbols are used to attack the institution of patriarchy and to point out the psychological impact of women's oppression.

Haradhan, M. (2022) explain that feminism is a mass movement started by women of all groups to eradicate all forms of women oppressions by men that are prevailing in a patriarchal society. It always fights against all types of oppression on women. It is

a procedure that struggle to understand gender role and advocate for women interest in social organization. Globally women are suppressed and deprived from their legal rights because of their gender roles. All the types of feminism basic slogan is a creation of a just society, the protection of women, liberty, women access to every sphere and gender neutral society.

Rohmawati, Y. & Pandin, M. G. R. (2021) urged that many women have been able to break boundaries imposed on them by society and participate in the public sphere. It is a form of self-existence as proposed by Simon de Beauvoir on existentialist feminism. Gender issues have become a discourse that happened at this time and centuries ago. Gender issues have become a serious problem that occurs because patriarchal culture is still rooted in the social system of society. The patriarchal social position considers women as a figure called the other by Simon de Beauvoir. In existentialist feminism the Beauvoir said that women must show themselves or exist as human beings.

Jiang, Q. (2021) in her articles examined the important points of Simon de Beauvoir philosophy of feminism and acknowledge that, her views have still universal importance. She is considered the founder of second waves of feminism by some peoples. However there are some critiques of her views. The researcher analyzes Beauvoir concept of women as other in three dimensions. First generally explains her notion of 'situation', second, how women subjectivity is shaped under their situations and third analyze the paradox in her theory.

Sultana, A. (2011) state that patriarchy is a great force behind women subjugation and subordination. Patriarchy creates great obstacles in the progress of women. It describes the natural superiority of men over women and it is one of the tools used by men to justify women subjugation. Women can compete men in every field of life, but they are not allowed to do so because of the reason that the structure of society will be reversed. Hence, it is an immediate threat to the empowering of women.

Iftikhar, F. (2020) in her research article entitled as "Marginalization, Silence and Suffering in A Jury of Her Peers: A Feminist Perspective" portrays the Mrs. Wright as a victim of marginalization. Mrs.

Wright tries to rise voice against domestic and social injustices but the prejudiced men refused to heard her voice and she is only limited to her home and kitchen. The researcher finds out the means by which she is marginalized and suffered silently.

Azizah, S. N. (2024) in her research analyze the gender roles in "A Jury of Her Peers" and present a comprehensive view of women perception in the story. The research reveals that the authors use different symbols to portray the representation of women, whose rights are ignored by patriarchal setup of society. The researcher find out that women tries to cross the barriers that limits their roles and provides a perceptions of the women dynamic roles in society.

## **Research Methodology**

### **3.1 Research Paradigm**

The present study is of a qualitative type because it is dealing with the interpretation and analysis of literary text instead of numerical data or statistical measurements. The qualitative research is used to gain insight into human experiences, emotions, social structures and cultural values that are reflected in literature. Since the study aims to analyze feminism, gender roles, women's oppression, and patriarchal ideology in Susan Glaspell's A Jury of Her Peers, qualitative research is the most suitable paradigm for this research. The interpretivist research paradigm is used in the study. Interpretivism assumes that reality is socially and culturally created and that meanings are interpreted, not measured. In the process of understanding the story, the researcher decodes the behaviors, speaking, symbols and experiences of the female characters, so as to interpret the role of gender in patriarchy and the repression of women in the story. The interpretivist methodology allows the researcher to uncover the meanings, feelings and social situations that are present within the text. The major analytical approach which has been used in this study is feminist literary criticism. Feminist criticism investigates how women are represented in literature, the inequality between the sexes, the concept of patriarchy, and the ways that women resist. The feminist theory of Simone de Beauvoir (*The Second Sex*) is especially utilized in the study. The selected text will be analyzed using

Beauvoir's ideas of "woman as the other", social construction of gender, oppression of women and patriarchal domination.

### 3.2 Research Design

This study was descriptive and analytical in nature. Descriptive research design is adopted to explain how the feminism, gender roles, patriarchy and suppression of women is portrayed in the selected literary work. The analytical research design is used to interpret the selected passages of the story using feminist theory. The major theme of the study is to investigate the social construction of women in the patriarchal culture and the violation of the traditional gender roles by female characters. The main methods of analysis are the textual analysis and close reading. Qualitative research technique that involves analyzing literary texts in depth and detail to uncover themes, symbols, ideologies, and social meanings. The researcher uses textual analysis to examine the dialogues and characterization in *A Jury of Her Peers*, symbolism, and narrative techniques to understand the representation of women and patriarchy. Other methods that are important in this study is close reading. Close reading requires detailed and careful scrutiny of passages, words, symbols and expressions within the text. The researcher uses close reading and analysis to examine the role of language, imagery, and symbols in the creation of feminist meanings in the story. Symbols like the dead bird, broken birdcage, kitchen, and sewing materials, for instance, are analyzed carefully to reveal Minnie Wright's emotional anguish and oppression. A thematic method of analysis is another approach used in the study. Issues of gender roles, women's marginalization, domestic confinement, loneliness, patriarchy, silence and resistance are identified and interpreted using feminist theory. These themes are related to Beauvoir's ideas about women as "the Other" and the creation of femininity in society. The research uses a feminist critical manner in the interpretation of the text. Feminist criticism is useful for the researcher to look at how women's freedom and identity is constricted in a patriarchal ideology. The study explores the male characters' undervaluing of women in the story, and the female

characters' counter-movement against the patriarchy through intelligence, solidarity and emotionality.

### 3.3 Data Collection

The study starts with primary and secondary sources of data collection.

#### Primary Data

The main source of information is the short story *A Jury of Her Peers* by Susan Glaspell (1917). The researcher identifies key quotations, dialogues, symbols and events from the text that relate directly to a consideration of feminism, gender roles, the oppression of women, patriarchy and resistance by women. The selected textual passages are used as the basis for analysis in this research.

#### Secondary Data

The secondary data sources are books, research articles, journals, literary criticism, scholarly essays, and online academic sources on the themes of feminism, feminist literary criticism, patriarchy, gender studies and feminist theory of Simone de Beauvoir. The researcher refers to previous studies and critical works, in order to clarify and support the theory and analysis of the study. Secondary sources of importance are the feminist theories espoused by Simone de Beauvoir, feminist criticism by scholars like Elaine Showalter, Kate Millett, Lois Tyson, bell hooks and other feminist theorists and critics who comment on patriarchy, women's oppression and gender inequality. Such scholarly sources allow the researcher to interpret the text in a feminist way.

### 3.4 Data Analysis

Qualitative textual analysis is used in the analysis of the data collected, which implements feminist literary theory. researcher discusses portions of *A Jury of Her Peers* in detail and explains them within the theoretical framework of Simone de Beauvoir in *The Second Sex*. Data analysis is a process of several steps. The first step of this step is to carefully read the short story several times to find out the important feminist themes of the story, such as patriarchy, gender discrimination, domestic oppression, female silence, loneliness and resistance. Second, suitable extracts and conversations from the text are extracted. Third, the

passages are analyzed in the light of Beauvoir's feminist ideas, such as the notion that women are socially constructed as inferior and treated as "the Other" by a male culture. Literary elements of symbolism, characterization, setting, and dialogue are also analyzed. The dead bird and broken birdcage are broken down as emblems of Minnie Wright's loss of freedom and emotional distress. The home background in the kitchen is interpreted as the symbol of women's confinement in traditional gender roles. The characters of Mrs. Hale, Mrs. Peters and Minnie Wright are analyzed to see how women are oppressed and then rise up against patriarchal rule. The researcher makes a comparison of the attitudes of the male and female characters of the story. The male characters' dismissive attitude towards women is seen as a sign of a patriarchal ideology, and the empathy and solidarity among the female characters are understood as a type of feminist resistance. Logical reasoning, interpretation, and critical discussion are used throughout the analysis. The study is qualitative in nature so no statistical formula, numerical data and quantitative method have been used. All the results are derived from text analysis and feminist theory.

### 3.5 Theoretical Framework

In the present study, feminist literary theory specifically the existentialist feminist framework of Simone de Beauvoir as presented in *The Second Sex* is used. The theory of Beauvoir clarifies that the society socially constructs women as lesser beings and restrict their freedom through the norms and roles of the society. Beauvoir believes that women are not a weaker, subordinate gender, but one that has been made so by society. In her well-known phrase "One is not born, but rather becomes, a woman", she emphasized that femininity is a matter of social construction, where cultural expectations play a key role. She also explains that men are the norm and "Self," and women are "the Other". This theory has a great relevance to *A Jury of Her Peers* because women are socially outcasts and is confined to domestic roles. The theory aids the researcher in examining the role of patriarchal ideology for women characters, and how they defy the

traditional role of women by intelligence, solidarity and understanding of their emotions.

### Analysis and Discussion

This chapter is about the analysis of feminism and gender roles in "A Jury of Her Peers" by Susan Glaspell. The researcher uses Simon De Beauvoir "The Second Sex" as a theoretical framework.

"Women are worrying over trifles."

Men and women are assigned different roles on the basis of biological differences. According to which women are considered inferior, less intelligent and fragile. The women in the "Jury of Her Peers" are living an oppressed and subjugated life they are only bound to domestic life. These gender roles restrict women to live their life independently. Mr. Henderson, the young country attorney, Mr. Hale and Mr. Peter are involved in investigation to find out the evidence of Mr. Wright death and his wife are taken into custody because she was accused of her husband death while, the two women, Mrs. Peter and Mrs. Hale, are dismissed as trivial. The sheriff considers that women are worrying over trifles and they are unable to find the clues. While the society and men suppressed women throughout the story but the women have unexpected power within the domestic sphere because; the male characters continuously neglect the importance of women in activities outside the home. Beauvoir says that;

"We can now understand why, from ancient Greece to today, there are so many features in the indictment against women; her Conditions has remained the same throughout the superficial change and this condition defines what is called the women 'character'"

In this line Beauvoir summarizes the harsh judgment regarding the general features of personality attributed to women. She acknowledges that society considers women as non-serious and focusing on unimportant details but these traits are only attributed to women because of their inferior position in a society. This condition has remained the same throughout the history and has shaped women to possess these traits.

"But would the women know the clue if they did come upon it?"

Men are unaware of the real power of women in the story and view them as unserious. During investigation when men are about to leave the kitchen and go upstairs the country attorney asks Mrs. Peters to look for the clues that would help them. In response, Mr. Hale doubts women intelligence and ability and tells that; if women come across evidence, they would be able to recognize or understand the evidence. But at the end men fail to recognize the evidence and the women go ahead of societal expectations and find the clues and evidences of Mr. Wright's death. Simone de Beauvoir in her book "the second Sex" says that; "One is not born, but rather becomes, woman."

Beauvoir believes that womanhood is not defined by biology, religion or psychology but rather, femininity is a construction of civilization and society. Women learn their role from society and men. Woman is not born secondary, other, inferior and weak but all the forces in the external world make her so.

"But of course you were awful busy, Mrs. Hale your house and your children."

Minnie Wright and Martha Hale are continuously defined as house keepers. The responsibility of house, kitchen work, child caring are only linked to women and they accept the treatment they received from the men. The story setup is patriarchal which is controlled by men only and mock women for their weaknesses. This social setup limited the women from the activities outside of their houses and gives superiority to men. Mrs. Hale was all the time busy in her house. Now, she regrets for not seeing Minnie Foster in twenty years, for she has no children and no company because her husband is working all the day and she was living a life of loneliness. As Simone De Beauvoir says that; "The advantage which men enjoys and which manifests itself from Childhood onward is that this vacation as a human being is no was Contradict his destiny as a male."

Here, she explains the differences between men and women existence in a society. In society the men are meant to be independent and superior while on the other hand women are meant to be remains within a certain limited spheres. So, a woman means being obedient to men and make it more difficult for women to be independent and pursue freedom.

"I wonder how it would seem," ..... "Never to have had any children around?"

Her eyes made a slow sweep of the kitchen, as if seeing what that kitchen meant through all the years "no Wright would not like the bird," She said after that—"a thing that sang. She used to sing. He killed that too." Her voice tightened.

The two women, Mrs. Hale and Mrs. Peters, used their intellect and share experiences as a women solve the case, in which the men are still searching the whole house for evidence. Mrs. Peters found a bird cage in the house of Minnie Foster during investigations, having no birds. Martha Hale tells her she loves birds and singing. But when they found a sparrow which is squeezed at its neck and Minnie Foster still keep it in a beautiful box. They realized the feeling of a woman, who has no children and all the day she is working in a house. She loves to sing and have birds but her cruel husband did not allow her for singing and killed the birds. Therefore, they think that she herself would have killed her husband because of her subjugated and loneliness life she is living in the confined area of house in order to get freedom from her husband and live a life according to her choice.

### Conclusion

A Jury of Her Peers by Susan Glaspell is one of the most remarkable feminist short stories that critically explore how oppressed, marginalized and suppressed women are in a patriarchal society. The story emphasizes the limitation of women due to their socially constructed gender roles, and the lack of freedom, individuality and independence. Glaspell shows the brutal side of women's lives in early 20th century America, where women were responsible to be a loyal wife, caregiver and housekeeper. The story is most definitely a critic to the patriarchal system that limits women to domestic space and views them as intellectually and socially lesser than men.

The study's results show that genders in the story are socially constructed and not natural. The society assigns different roles and responsibility to men and women. Men have public and authoritative roles like sheriff, attorney, investigator and women have private and domestic roles like in the kitchen, sewing, child care and housekeeping. Advances in

these characteristics are attributed to women and characterized as irrational, emotional, and incomprehensible to men throughout the story. It is men who accuse women of being emotional, irrational, and unable to grasp serious matters throughout the narrative. The women are constantly ridiculed and their worries are ignored. The line of “women are used to worrying over trifles” only exemplifies their lack of trust in women's intelligence and capabilities and reveals the patriarchy in their minds. Glaspell questions this premise by demonstrating that the male characters, who have a greater amount of authority and education, are unable to solve the mystery, even after spending time with each person, while the female characters are able to discover the truth by observing, understanding without words, and by sharing female experiences.

The research also shows that the patriarchy oppresses women in the story and causes them to suffer emotionally, psychologically and socially. Minnie Wright, the Minnie Foster of the past, represents women stuck in repressive marriages and expectations. Minnie Foster is happy, energetic, and a singer before her marriage to John Wright, but after her husband marries her she becomes silent and isolated and emotionally depressed. Her husband's domineering behavior robs her of liberty, personality and joy. The dead bird represents Minnie Wright's voice (that she can no longer use), individuality (that she has crushed), and emotional suffocation (which has occurred). The bird's neck is broken, so is Minnie's spirit and freedom in the hands of patriarchy.

The research demonstrates that in the narrative marriage becomes a structure of oppression instead of freedom. Minnie Wright is denied emotional support, social interaction and personal happiness. She has to stay within the walls of her house and live as if society and her husband expect her to. After time, she is sent to kill her husband due to the loneliness and emotional neglect she has suffered. Murder is an uncalled for act, but Glaspell shows how for Minnie Wright, her action was one of years of emotional abuse, silence and oppression. The story reveals the harmful repercussions of male supremacy and subordination of women in marriage through the character of Minnie Wright.

The analysis also highlights the need for the solidarity of women in fighting patriarchy. As Mrs. Hale and Mrs. Peters slowly realize what Minnie Wright is experiencing, they have also faced the difficulties of being female in a male dominated society. They are able to understand people's emotions and common experiences, which helps them to see the signs that men miss. The female investigators not only have the skills to process the physical evidence, they also know the emotional and psychological aspects of the crime. They have concealed the lifeless bird to represent female solidarity and defiance to the impartial, but inexperienced male law system. Glaspell indicates that women can help and strengthen each other by sharing experiences and understanding.

The study demonstrates that women are not weak, irrational, helpless creatures by nature, but they become subservient by social conditioning. This concept is similar to that of French feminist Simone de Beauvoir, who stated in *The Second Sex* that “One is not born, but rather becomes, a woman.” Beauvoir states that society is responsible for creating the identity of women, based on cultural norms and expectations and rules of patriarchy. Women are trained for their roles in the domestic sphere and for their obedience, men are educated for their freedom, authority and independence. A Jury of Her Peers reveals how women's lives are dominated by a patriarchal society and how their opportunities are restricted as a result; it also illustrates the intelligence, rationality and strength of women. The other key result of the study is that women's domestic expertise and emotional intelligence is a type of knowledge that is valuable. Male characters are oblivious to the kitchen and household matters as they think that it is unimportant. But *The Truth* is concealed in the household. Mrs. Hale and Mrs. Peters think that the unfinished stitching, the broken jars, the birdcage and the dead bird are significant clues because they grasp the emotional significance of these items. Glaspell thus brings into question the commonly held view that women's work and experiences are insignificant. The story is proof that the women's voice and experience is equally important and valuable.

The study also finds that Glaspell includes women as being able to fight against the traditional gender roles and the authority of a man. As with most stories, there is some expectation that women stay silent and passive, but the female characters in the story do not. Mrs. Hale and Mrs. Peters actively work towards solving the murder case, and Minnie Wright rebels against the oppression she suffers, symbolically. They defy the stereotype of passive, weak and intellectually deficient women. The story thus functions as a strong critique on the inequalities and injustices of the male-dominated society. The study emphasizes that the oppression of women does not only occur during the era depicted in the story, but continues to be present in many societies today. In the modern times, women are still discriminated, given unequal opportunities, stereotyped, subjected to domestic violence and restricted in society. The people have preconceived notions about women and refuse to give them equal rights to social, political and professional participation. The story of Glaspell is still relevant today because it is about awareness and the rights of women, equality, freedom and their identity. The story elicits the society to understand that women are not objects or even second class persons but complete human beings.

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