Negative Masculinity and Female Victimization in Murdoch’s *The Unicorn*, Lessing’s *The Grass is Singing* and Salih’s *Season of Migration to The North*

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26 December, 2012
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Abstract

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This thesis studies the negative masculine characteristics in a selection of three novels, Iris Murdoch’s *The Unicorn* (1963), Doris Lessing’s *The Grass is Singing* (1950), and Tayeb Salih’s *Season of Migration to the North* (1966). The thesis examines the bad consequences of negative masculinity against men and women as well. So, the thesis mainly focuses on masculine violence, oppression, dominance, selfishness and aggression as negative traits of male figures besides the physical construction of men’s bodies in case of misusing them against the weaker sex, women. These behavioral and bodily constructions of masculinity are discussed under the patronage of patriarchy.

The importance of studying the negative masculinity is to focus on its bad and disastrous effects on the female figures and on the whole society in these novels. This relation between negative masculine behavior and women’s suffering and committing crimes against the masculine figures and against women themselves too assures that the negativity of men is infectious in spite of the different geographical, social, cultural, and religious backgrounds of both men and women. Thus, the negative characteristics of masculinity are responsible for women’s suffering, crimes, men’s misery and death.