

Deconstruction Of “The Woman” In Rupi Kaur’s Poetry: A Feminist Critical Discourse Analysis

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Abstract

The study investigates the feminist representation in the poetry of an Indo-Canadian poet, Rupi Kaur, who started off with a new genre of poetry and eventually published two poetry volumes. The poetess mainly writes to protest and challenge the social issues related to women. The study is going to examine some particular aspects of Kaur’s poetry to highlight how language and linguistic choices help to depict the hidden truths of society about womanhood. The major themes of her poetry are analyzed from the perspective of Feminist Critical Discourse Analysis. The research methodology focuses on the interpretation of the selected poems from her collections. This study observes the phenomena how Rupi Kaur connects with women from around the globe through the common motifs of her Instapoetry. She adds a unique touch to her poetry through her illustrations, which also speak for the content of the poem they’re connected to. In a brief and concise manner, Kaur aims to take apart the phenomena of societal constructs about women behaviors and gendered power. She achieves this through various linguistic elements and takes every woman reading her poetry on a journey to self-acceptance and emancipation.

1. Introduction

The purpose of feminist movement actually is to help provide equal rights to everyone and to create and nourish a free society that would benefit everyone equally Meriluoto (2019).

People have different opinions and sentiments towards the word ‘Feminism’. Some are in favor, some oppose it however, some people think it is a word used for ‘equality’, some consider it a curse word, whereas others are of the view that the term should not be used. A lot of people view the feminist movement and feminists as despising and degrading men.

Feminist writers, both in prose and poetry, have written a lot about the daily struggles of women for equal rights and how they have contributed to the betterment of society. We live in a patriarchal

society where men are considered to be more privileged than women because of certain predefined gender roles. According to these gender roles, women are viewed as fragile and sentimental individuals whereas men are considered strong and powerful entities, who are there to protect women. Due to this belief, women also become victims to objectification. This is where the feminist writers come in with the aim to eliminate patriarchy and try to break the stereotype by raising their voices for gender equality through their writings. Despite this, Offen (1988) thinks that women are still fighting to have the same individual rights as human beings.

In literary writing, a new kind of poetry has emerged in the twenty first century, which is concise, to the point, and often comes along with illustrations and drawings. This is posted on Instagram and is termed as “Instapoetry”. Literary critics rejected this form of poetry initially as it doesn’t follow the traditional path of poetry writing, however, it has become immensely popular among social media users as in this way it has reached to people who would not normally pick up poetry books to read. Rupi Kaur is a distinguished name in the creation of Instagram poetry. She is an author who has received international fame through this social media platform, and eventually the opportunity to bring her online poetry to life by publishing a poetry volume. She is known to have a fresh and provocative voice of feminism and is now recognized as the author of two best-seller volumes of poetry, “Milk and Honey” (2015) and “The Sun and her Flowers” (2017). The books are divided into four and five chapters respectively and discuss the challenges encountered by women through topics that are relatable to women across the globe. Rupi Kaur challenges the patriarchal society both from public and personal front. As much as she defies the societal constructs about women, she also fights for women rights within the South Asian community which she belongs to.

1.1 Problem Statement

This research is designed to examine the overall themes of feminism in Rupi Kaur’s poems in her books and to understand how she has achieved to portray women as independent beings having their own voices and strength to rise from any catastrophe. The study looks at feminism from a different perspective i.e. a modern genre of poetry.

1.2 Research Objectives

The present study has following objectives:

- To analyze and understand how Rupi Kaur represented the problems of women and raised her voice for feminism in her poetry collections.
- To highlight how Rupi Kaur emancipates women by challenging gendered social order as shown in her Instapoetry poetry.

1.3 Research Questions

Based on the problem statement, the current study intends to answer the following questions:

1. How specific linguistic practices have Rupi Kaur employed in her poems to portray the objectification and oppression of women?

2. How does Rupri Kaur depict feminism and women empowerment and in what ways does she encourage deconstruction of stereotypical gender expectations?

2. Literature Review

2.1 Feminism

The term 'feminism' has been defined in numerous ways in the recent past. To really understand the essence of the term and what it stands for, one also needs to learn about the various changes that the status of women has gone through in history and how critique on feminism has developed throughout the process. A debate about having a widespread and fixed description of feminism or just referring to different 'feminisms' is also ongoing. Nevertheless, one common aspect in all definitions of feminism is the basic requirement to improve the lesser social status of women as compared to men.

Freedman (2002) proposes that equal worth, social movements, privilege and intersecting hierarchies are the four most essential elements to be included in the definition of feminism in this era. She defines feminism as:

Feminism is a belief that women and men are inherently of equal worth. Because most societies privilege men as a group, social movements are necessary to achieve equality between women and men, with the understanding that gender always intersects with other social hierarchies.”(p.7)

Feminism has developed through an extensive history of actions and movements throughout the world. Feminism has gone through three 'waves' in the West, in which the feminists have attempted to fight for women emancipation through different activities. According to Cova (2012), the first wave of feminism occurred at the end of 19th century and it was primarily focused upon acquiring basic human rights for women like the right to get education, to work and to vote.

The second wave of feminism was more progressive than the first one and attended to the topics that were considered taboos in the first one, such as women's sexuality and the right of birth control and abortion. As Drucker (2018) puts it, second wave feminism was largely critiqued for not being widespread and just focusing on the experiences of an average white middle-class woman.

As third wave feminism intended to rectify the critique on second wave, therefore, it didn't just focus on gender issues, but also encompassed matters related to ethnicity, religion, identity and social class. In this way, modern feminism has come a long way since the first wave and aims to encounter powerful entities and challenge traditional and stereotypical gender roles.

2.2 Feminism in Literature

Although the definition of feminist and a feminist kept on changing with time, however, feminism in English writings can be originally traced back to 16th century. Feminist writers need to have complete knowledge of cultural and social contexts to really understand women's status in a particular time period. Kristeva (n.d.) notes that the author doesn't need to be a female to be a feminist as this kind of writing goes beyond gender differences. However, it is observed that quite

often, feminist writing is grounded in personal experience with the goal to relieve oppressed women and achieve equal position and rights for them in society. So, it is likely to say that women writing about themselves with their personal experiences would produce more genuine results.

In raising awareness about feminism, writing has played a very significant role. Books have a huge impact on the audience in terms of encouraging or discouraging revolution or change, as authors have a limited power to control the way in which people view reality. As Kostic (2005) points out, those who wanted to change the status of women and bring them equal rights, knew from the beginning that they can do so by writing about the lives of women. Women writers have been struggling for a long time to make themselves heard, and finally their efforts have eased the path for the future female writers.

2.3 Poetry

Poetry is a form of literary writing that has a rhyme and rhythm along with other poetic devices such as imagery, metaphors and similes. However, a text can still fall under the category of poetry if it doesn't have these elements. In Ribeiro's (2007) view, the intention behind a text is what really counts for it to be considered as a poem. This intention can be relational such that the poet aims to relate a text to a particular category of poetry without defining how both works are similar or it can be intrinsic where the poet attempts to create a resemblance between poetry and his text by using features which are intrinsic to traditional poetry. That is to say that if poems from different cultures, contexts and eras are to be compared, they might not have many common features, but in Ribeiro's (2007) opinion, any text that has the intension to fulfil the elements of poetry is actually poetry even if it doesn't bear any resemblance to conventional poetry.

2.4 Instapoetry

In an age where world is being revolutionized because of technology, poetry is also bound to change its form. In the recent past, influencers and bloggers have taken over social media platforms such as Instagram. Instagram is a renowned social media platform where people not only interact with friends and family but also get to be a part of their favorite celebrities and content creators. The platform is used to post photos, follow and comment on each other's day-to-day shared activities. Rupi Kaur has over one million followers on Instagram and is known as one of the most renowned poets on Instagram throughout the world. She has used her poetry to engage with the modern audience in a modern way – through Instagram. Her poetry is accessible to anyone and everyone without having to buy the whole collection. According to Leduc (2019):

Instapoetry consists of brief and digestible verses and the authors have to be careful of their words and language as well as the overall appearance of their public accounts. In short, as much as Instapoetry is about the written language, it is also about the visual images that are posted alongside. (p.97)

Instapoetry is a modern form of poetry in which the reader can also act as a critic by posting their comments under the poem or photo. Although they may lack the literary knowledge to critically analyze poetry, Instagram users still comment and interact with the authors about the poetry that

was shared. In other words, these comments can create a similar ambience as a live poetry reading session. Encouraged by Rupi Kaur's work, Instagram users have had a chance to indulge in various conversations about feminism, racism, sexuality, and immigrant issues. As Leduc (2019) puts it, although these issues were previously conversed over by poets, but until the advent of Instapoetry, they were not accessible to the masses for discussion. In this way, Instapoetry has also helped to make more and more people aware about certain unspoken topics.

2.5 Rupi Kaur

Rupi Kaur is an Indo-Canadian poet who was born in Punjab, India and later moved to Canada at the age of four. She had an interest in drawing very early on in her life which later played a very important role in her poetry as she is famous for drawing her own layouts for her poems comprising of illustrations and visuals. Rupi Kaur became famous initially in 2015 when she shared photos of a university project on Instagram and other social media platforms, which grabbed many people's attention.

Some of Kaur's poetic themes are commonly found in this genre, such as poems on love, loss, rejection and sex, but she is also famous for her writings about femininity, oppressed women, racism, abuse, and healing. She is seen to be angry at the ill-treatment of women in society as well as encouraging women to be their own persons, in her writings. She has also faced massive criticism for her work as it appears to be challenging males and those in power. As far as the stylistic features of Rupi Kaur's poems are concerned, that is what makes them unique in nature. She does not employ capital letters, commas or full stops, which gives her poems a different outlook. Kaur has not named her poems, and her visual art relevant to the poem is another significant aspect of her poetry.

2.6 Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework chosen for this research is Feminist Critical Discourse Analysis . FCDA discusses the themes related to gender discourse and power, and lays focus on how "power relations are discursively produced, sustained, negotiated and challenged in different contexts and communities." (Lazar, 2007, p.142). According to Lazar (2007), FCDA is also concerned with racial differences, sexual orientation, gender roles or class issues. This theoretical framework allows the researcher to analyze how the powerful societal structures deal with women rights and how women challenge these gender expectations. FCDA considers it very significant to understand the manifestation of gendered power in discourse through linguistic analysis, as "language and discourse are regarded as constitutive of experience and not simply representative of it"(HesseBiber, 2014, p.44). As Lazar (2005, p.10) states, "The task of feminist critical discourse analysis is to examine how power and dominance are discursively produced and/or resisted in a variety of ways through textual representations of gendered social practices."This is why the researcher deems FCDA to be the appropriate theoretical framework to uncover the hidden practices of society in which men dominate women and are considered powerful and superior beings.

3. Research Methodology

This research aims to analyze and investigate the position of women, gender roles and stereotypes of the society with the help of Feminist Critical Discourse Analysis as depicted in the Instapoetry of Rupri Kaur. The samples of the study are “Milk and Honey” and “The Sun and her Flowers” penned down by Rupri Kaur. The study also examines the specific features and language of Kaur’s poems employed to portray feminism and women empowerment. The researcher has used Feminist Critical Discourse Analytical approach as proposed by Lazar (2007). Poetic devices along with words, phrases and illustrations from selected poems are identified and marked. The researcher has further interpreted them with regard to language, stylistic features, identity formation and feminism with the use of above-mentioned theoretical framework.

3.1 Sampling

The sampling universe of this research comprises of the two volumes of poetry by Rupri Kaur, titled “Milk and Honey” and “The Sun and Her Flowers”. The first collection consists of four sections whereas the second collection comprises of five parts.

The sampling unit comprises of a few poems taken from both books and is conceptual in nature. A conceptual sampling unit makes it possible to analyse and examine stylistic features, words and phrases of a given text. Considering the scope, the researcher has purposively selected the combined sample size of 12 poems from both collections “Milk and Honey” and “The Sun and her Flowers.” These poems are particularly chosen because the themes of feminism and women empowerment as manifested in these.

3.1.1.1 Sampling and Themes

The samples have been chosen based on the following themes:

- Representation of women in society
- Stereotyped gender roles
- Deconstruction of stereotypical female expectations
- Emphasis on women empowerment

3.2 Delimitations

The research is limited to 12 poems from both poetry collections. As per the scope of the study, the research could not encompass all of the poems for analysis.

4. Data Analysis

Rupri Kaur’s poetry is unique and deals with contemporary society, deals with women almost all over the world. The study looks into some of the poems from her poetry volumes “Milk and Honey” and “The Sun and her Flowers”. She seems to write about her personal experiences as well and tries to raise her voice for the causes the women of previous generations were not able to do so. She questions social constructs about women’s individuality, their bodies and voices.

Her first poetry collection “Milk and Honey” is divided into four sections: hurting, loving, breaking and healing. The title refers to her childhood memory of her parents taking care of her when she was sick and giving her milk and honey to heal. These words became a symbol of healing for her, which she aspired to do through her poetry.

Moreover, to move away from traditional poetry, Rupi Kaur has not given titles to her poems. However, in some of the poems, the last line is italicized presumably to emphasize the message of the poem. She uses a minimalistic, raw tone and vocabulary throughout her poems so that they could be easily understandable for anyone and everyone. It’s evident from her poems that she has deep roots in her Sikh community and feels proud to be a part of it. She explains in an interview that by not using any capital letters and punctuation marks in her poems, she is following the same pattern as Punjabi language:

“. . . i enjoy how simple that is. how symmetrical and how absolutely straightforward. also feel there is a level of equality this visuality brings to the work: a visual representation of what i want to see more of within the world: equalness” (as quoted in Prabhakar).

when my mother opens her mouth
to have a conversation at dinner
my father shoves the word hush
between her lips and tells her to
never speak with her mouth full
this is how the women in my family
learned to live with their mouths closed

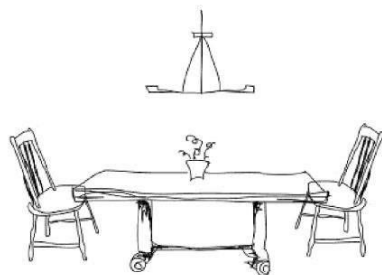
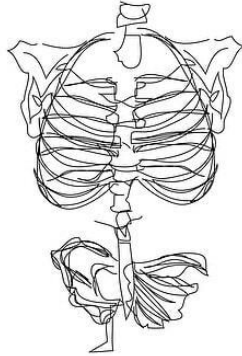


Figure 1: Rupi Kaur, Milk and Honey (2015)

This poem is an apt representation of how women are silenced by male members of the family as they are told to not have any opinion of their own. The visual image makes it clear to the readers that these kinds of things not only happen in society but also take place in the settings of our homes and communities.

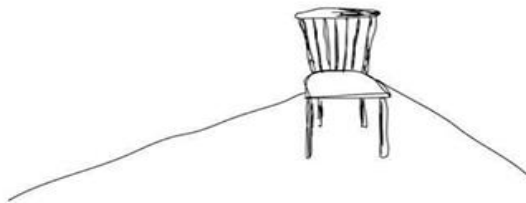
emptying out of my mothers belly was
my first act of disappearance
learning to shrink for a family who
likes their daughters invisible
was the second
the art of being empty is simple
believe them when they say
you are nothing
repeat it to yourself
like a wish
i am nothing
i am nothing
i am nothing so often
the only reason you
know you're still alive is
from the heaving
of your chest



the art of being empty - rupi kaur

Figure 2: Rupi Kaur, Milk and Honey (2015)

Figure 2 also highlights how women are suppressed from the moment they come out of their mothers' bellies. Throughout their lives, people make them feel invisible and eventually they fear that they are empty. She uses an anaphora "i am nothing" to stress on the impact that society has on how women's personalities are shaped. She further continues to say that women in many cultures still deny their existence, but it is not a deliberate choice. They are made to do so by force of the social constructs.



trying to convince myself
i am allowed
to take up space
is like writing with
my left hand
when i was born
to use my right

- the idea of shrinking is hereditary

Figure 3: Rupi Kaur, Milk and honey (2015)

In this poem, Rupi Kaur has employed a simile to compare the women taking space in society to raise their voices to writing with left hand, which can be interpreted in both literal and hidden meaning of the word. It also depicts that society has shaped women's minds in such a way that even when doing something right like standing up for themselves feels like a wrong thing to them. Kaur's second collection has been divided into five sections which are: wilting, falling, rooting, rising, and blooming. The names of these chapters are used as a metaphor to represent the life cycle of a sunflower, as suggested by the title. When the readers try to find deeper meaning and analyzes the sections, it becomes clear that each section portrays different stages of women's lives similar to the rebirth of flowers. The five stages of life are also summarized by Rupi Kaur in the last poem of the second section "Falling":

*this is the recipe of life
said my mother
as she held me in her arms as i wept
think of those flowers you plant
in the garden each year
they will teach you
that people too
must wilt
fall
root
rise
in order to bloom*

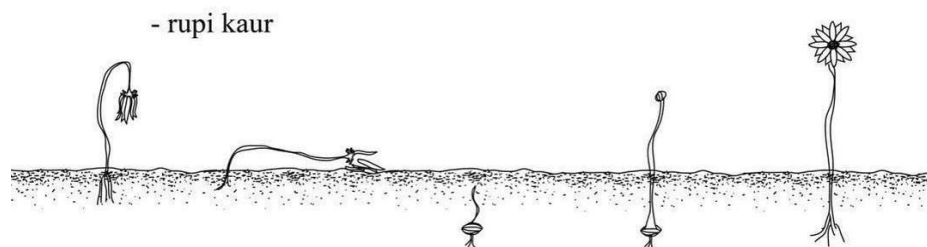


Figure 4: Rupi Kaur, The Sun and her flowers (2017)

In this poem, the speaker is being comforted by her mother who is of the view that just like flowers, people also have to go through various difficult stages to bloom eventually. Her mother calls this "the recipe of life" from which it's obvious that just like a recipe, certain stages have to be experienced by women to finally rise above the ashes themselves. Along with the actual verses, the illustrations in Kaur's poems are equally significant to comprehend her poetry completely. For instance, in this poem, the drawings portray the life cycle of a flower which helps the readers to visualize how the speaker is using it as a metaphor for women's experiences and feelings that they have to go through before blooming like flowers. Since these illustrations are drawn by Rupi Kaur

herself, they definitely are serving a purpose in her poetry and add to the context and meaning of the poems.

Throughout her poems, it seems as though Rupi Kaur is either sharing her personal experiences with the readers or advising women about different matters. She speaks to her audience in a clear, more accessible manner which is why her poems are relatable for a lot of women all around the world. When she says: “you break women in like shoes” (Kaur, 28), she is representing the feelings of all those women who are being broken like shoes by someone. It can definitely be assumed that men are being spoken to here, but what’s noticeable is that men are not directly addressed. Writing about it is chosen as a deliberate approach which on some level shows that women are not strong enough to mess with the social constructs and even while raising their voices, they have to choose rather quiet approaches.

On another occasion, Rupi Kaur writes:

i wonder if i am
beautiful enough for you
or if i am beautiful at all
i change what i am wearing
five times before i see you
wondering which pair of jeans
will make
my body more tempting to undress

Figure 5: Rupi Kaur, The Sun and her flowers (2017)

This reveals yet another aspect of society and men making women feel insecure for even the way they look. In this particular section of the book, Kaur is referring to women being emotionally abused so much so that they are looking for the approval of men who control them and make them lose their self-confidence.

what draws you to her
tell me what you like
so i can practice

- rupi kaur



Figure 6: Rupi Kaur, The Sun and her flowers (2017)

Lack of women's confidence can also be observed in this poem where the speaker is feeling insecure of other women. The drawing reveals that she wants to put down her sadness and put on a smile to please a man or society. It's not the other woman's beauty or physical appearance that makes her doubt herself, but she wants to attain a certain level of self-acceptance inner peace to feel complete.

The first section "wilting" contains more poems focused on topics like rejection, being cheated on and losing someone, rather than physical abuse. However, this psychological aspect of abuse is highlighting the fact that abuse is not just classified as something physical.

In the second section "falling", Rupi Kaur yet again talks about the violence on women in a simplistic yet aching tone:

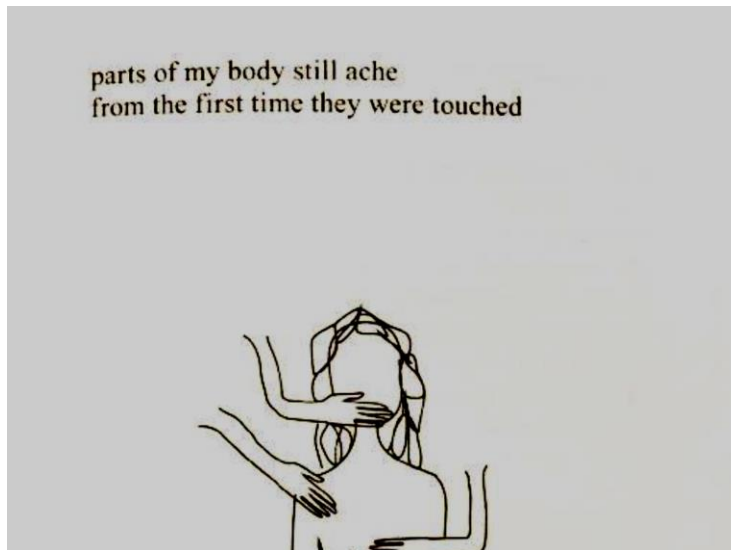


Figure 7: Rupri Kaur, The Sun and her flowers (2017)

The interpretation of this two-verse poem can either be in terms of rape or violence. The drawing again plays a very important part to convey the full meaning of the poem i.e. the constant ache of the victim. It also displays how a girl is taught to be silent about these issues because in the society we live in, it's always the girl's reputation at stake. Also, there is no concept of "consent" when it comes to touching a woman not even in the legitimate relationship. This poem is also directing towards the issue of nonconsensual touch, the pain of which is forever.

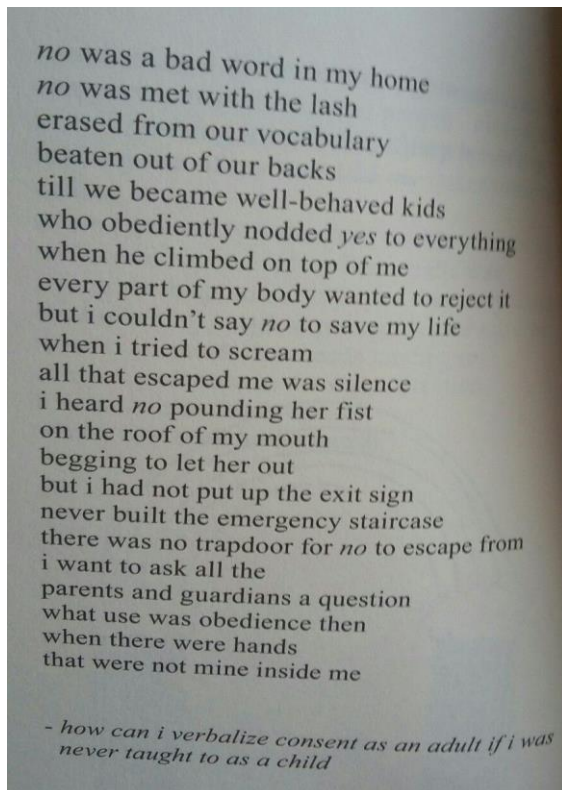


Figure 8: Rupri Kaur, The Sun and her Flowers (2017)

This poem highlights how women are raised to be silent and submissive. The elders always taught them to say “yes to everything” which is why even when they should’ve raised their voice, that built in fear didn’t let them.

Kaur has summarized the development process that women go through in a single-line: “you do not just wake up and become the butterfly” (Kaur, 87). While it’s hard for the speaker to go through suffering and pain, she finds comfort in relating her experiences to others. By the end of this section of the book, the author again chooses to spread positivity through a poem “community” which tells the readers that letting others help you and share your burden is okay.

The third section “Rooting” is a realization for every woman that she has what it takes to stand up after falling, and that she possesses the roots and strength required for liberation from the stereotypes of this society. In this section, the speaker goes over the issues related to women of color, including herself. This involves topics like the position of women throughout time and cultures, immigration, and feeling displaced. According to Rupri Kaur, this is a very important stage to understand one’s identity as learning about the history can make one well-equipped to enter the next two stages of growth.

Furthermore, Kaur also touches the topic of abortion and “female feticide” in this section. She beautifully depicts that no matter what century we live in, a woman is not considered equal ever since her birth. In the following poem, she presents the horrifying truth about forced abortions and murders of female children:


<p>1790 he takes the newborn girl from his wife carries her to the neighbouring room cradles her head with his left hand and gently snaps her neck with his right</p> <p>1890 <i>a wet towel to wrap her in grains of rice and sand in the nose</i> a mother shares the trick with her daughter-in-law <i>i had to do it she says as did my mother and her mother before her</i></p> <p>1990 a newspaper article reads <i>a hundred baby girls were found buried behind a doctor's house in a neighbouring village</i> the wife wonders if that's where he took her she imagines her daughter becoming the soil fertilising the roots that feed this country</p> <p>1998 oceans away in a toronto basement a doctor performs an illegal abortion on an indian woman who already has a daughter <i>one is burden enough she says</i></p>	<p>2006 <i>it's easier than you think my aunties tell my mother they know a family who've done it three times they know a clinic. they could get mumma the number. the doctor even prescribes pills that guarantee a boy. they worked for the woman down the street they say now she has three sons</i></p> <p>2012 twelve hospitals in the toronto area refuse to reveal a baby's gender to expecting families until the thirtieth week of pregnancy all twelve hospitals are located in areas with high south asian immigrant populations</p> <p><i>- female infanticide female feticide</i></p> 
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Figure 9: Rupi Kaur, The Sun and her Flowers (2017)

The speaker is still hopeful about the fact that after surviving in a world like this, where women are not given their due rights from birth, it is possible that women grow up to be strong, independent individuals having a voice of their own. This is the stage where they learn that the society or men related to them are not in charge of their lives, but women themselves are. From here onwards, they are bound to “rise” and “bloom”. In the next two sections of the book, “rising” and “blooming”, Rupi Kaur focuses on themes of self-love, self-acceptance and equality.

**it is a blessing
to be the color of earth
do you know how often
flowers confuse me for home**

- rupi kaur



Figure 10: Rupi Kaur, The Sun and her flowers (2017)

The color of earth is being used as a metaphor for dark colored women and the illustration portrays a very important message. Kaur targets the idea of a woman's body being smooth and hairless at all times, and equates it with flowers growing on a body. She is trying to convey the fact that even in today's world, due to the influence of advertisements and marketing tactics, women are made to feel embarrassed of their body hair.

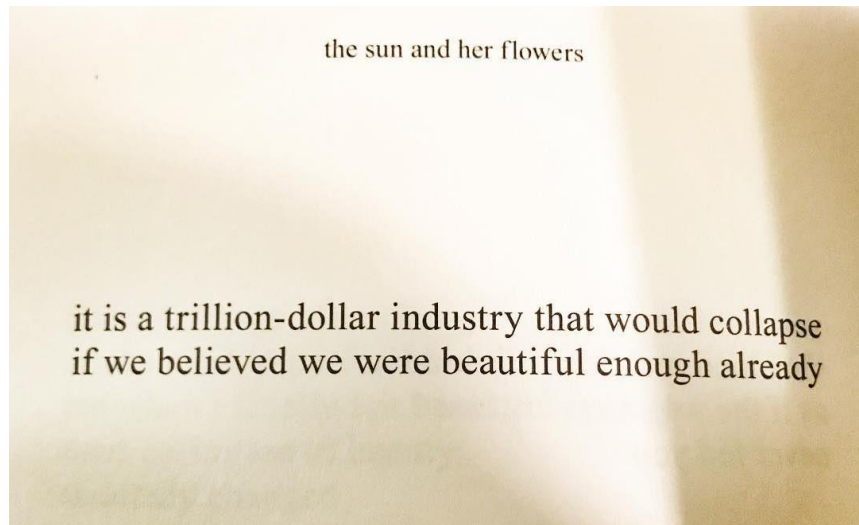


Figure 11: Rupi Kaur, The Sun and her Flowers (2017)

Here, Rupi Kaur is criticizing the concept of capitalism with respect to the pressure of looking a certain way. Social media bloggers and influencers also play their part along with advertisements and electronic media in making it clear to the audience that they need to constantly improve the way they look with the help of new beauty products. Women become a victim to low self-esteem and believe that they are not beautiful in eyes of the society. The poem subtly refers to women with the use of the adjective 'beautiful' rather than a gender neutral adjective or an adjective used for a man such as 'handsome'.

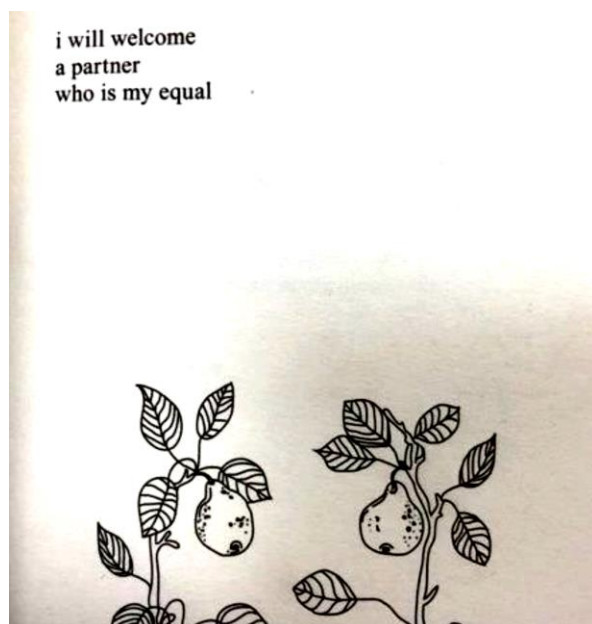


Figure 12: Rupi Kaur, The Sun and her flowers (2017)

The speaker clearly states her perspective on a relationship that even there, she has started looking for equality. She is portraying the image of a woman who has risen from the ashes, is on the path to freedom and knows that she will not accept anything less than what she deserves. Although Rupi Kaur is a twenty first century writer, she is trying to tell the world that women are still fighting for their due share of happiness and equality in the world. She has also used “you” in her poems to make it easier for the audience to listen to her voice and know that they are not alone in this. In the final section “blooming”, Rupi Kaur illustrates the image of a woman who is emancipated and confident, who breaks the stereotypes of society and doesn’t care about the set standards of society. She states that blooming is achieved by letting go of the past, accepting and standing up for yourself.

5. Conclusion

Having analyzed the data from FCDA perspective, the study reveals that Rupi Kaur’s poetry collections depict a woman’s journey from subordination to liberation. Her poems greatly contribute to constructing a powerful and independent image of women in society. Her poetry deconstructs the pre-set societal notions and practices about gender inequality and women’s position in society.

Rupi Kaur’s poetry covers topics such as gender inequality, women subordination, male dominance, oppression of minorities, self-acceptance, and finally, independence. She concludes her poetry volumes with optimistic messages of being confident and independent, even in the face of oppression. She speaks of universal issues, therefore, women can easily relate to her poetry. Her short and simple verses make it possible for women all over the world to find motivation to challenge societal notions. Through her poetry, she raises a very strong voice for the equality of women in this patriarchal society.

Kaur has used various subtle and non-subtle linguistic elements in these poems to depict the true picture of gender difference in society and women empowerment. She is straightforward and blunt in her writings as she challenges the hegemonic power structures. She uses pronouns like she and her to make the readers understand that the poems are directed to women. She also creates an author-reader relationship by using the inclusive ‘we’. Other than that, the use of metaphors, similes and her lexical choices also play an important role in representing the themes of feminism. The author’s personally drawn illustrations also make up for a lot of missing words and phrases in her poems. She tries to convey metaphorical and hidden meanings through her drawings, which help the reader fully understand the text. The author, hence, concludes that Rupi Kaur’s poetry deals with the idea of deconstructing oppressive attitude towards women and gender roles, and leads women towards emancipation and empowerment. Future research can focus on various other themes found in Kaur’s poetry such as immigration and racism. Researchers can also analyze the phenomena of Instapoetry in depth by examining the author’s interaction with her audience.

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