

Gender, Desire, and Identity: A Feminist Post-structuralist Discourse Analysis of Kavery Nambisan's *A Town Like Ours*

Jennifer. L

*Assistant Professor, Dept of English,
St. Joseph's College of Arts and Science for Women
(jenni.lourdu@gmail.com)*

Abstract

This paper presents a feminist post-structuralist discourse analysis (FPDA) of Kavery Nambisan's *A Town Like Ours* based on the methodology of Judith Baxter, a British Socio-linguist. Kavery Nambisan is a prominent South Indian writer and a surgeon known for the themes of gender roles and identity construction. The discourse structures of the novel exhibit the dominant perspectives of masculinity and femininity. The FPDA framework highlights the variances, complexities, ambiguities, opportunities, and power play of Nambisan's characterisation in the novel. The conflicts of opinion demonstrate the gender-stereotyped attitudes and discursive negotiations. The diversity of masculine and feminine observations explore the appalling inequities and opposing opinions. Rajakumari, the narrator of the novel represents the dreadful doom of the village Pingakshipura whereas the past experiences of the couples — Kripa-Manohar and Saroja-Sampathu have a deep impact on their present lives. The FPDA approach proclaims that the ambitions, wishes, and desires of both genders are violable precepts at times and each character justifies the efforts to construct a distinctive identity. The context of this approach reinforces how gender differences, uncontrollable desires, and identity construction are interdependent factors. It combines the resilient theme of feminism and the post-structural eccentricity.

Keywords: Body, conflict, differences, doom, masculine, feminine