

Women in Oil Narratives: An Ecofeminist Critique of Nawal El-Saadawi's *Love in the Kingdom of Oil*

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Abstract

The representation of oil in popular culture through art, literature, film and music has opened up new dialogues in social, cultural, economic and environmental dimensions where studies are made to understand the oil embedded current life and the consequences of future because of diminishing oil resources. In literature, petrofiction opens up a new field of study where oil becomes the center around which the narratives are weaved into a complex socio-cultural web. This paper aims to study the exploitation of oil and women in the hands of patriarchal power structures in an unnamed oil kingdom as represented by Nawal El-Saadawi in her book, *Love in the Kingdom of Oil*. The study propagates the gendering of oil to show the exploitation, the aftermath and highlights the interconnection between women and nature by employing the ecofeminism model expounded by Karen Warren. Thus, this research asserts the importance of addressing the issues of gender disparity in the environmental realms of petrofiction to identify the disaster and arrive at a solution to avoid a major societal collapse.

Keywords: Oil, Petrofiction, Ecofeminism, Peak Oil, Environment, Exploitation, Patriarchy