

Beyond Gendered Binary: Queer Performativity and the Liminal Space in Rituparno Ghosh's *Chitrangada: The Crowning Wish*

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Abstract :

Patriarchy as an ideology has made gender binary a norm within the heterosexual structure. However, with the proliferation of the discourses on gender, sexuality and identity, there has emerged new ways of looking at gender beyond the heteronormative binaries. Butler's notion of gender as performative, the 'stylized repetition of acts' that must be performed to achieve the gendered identity is crucial in this discourse on the queer people whose identity does not conform to the heterosexual norms. These narratives of parallel sexualities debunk the false notion of compulsory heterosexuality and posit fluid possibilities of alternate gendered identity. To explore the different way in which the queer performativity tries to challenge the heteronormative power structure, this paper aims to seek how through the visual media of films the queer identity could be constructed as something fluid and always in transition. Rituparno Ghosh is a pioneer in bringing out the world of the queers from the closet to the screen, giving them a voice and agency and thereby making them visible. This paper tries to see how the film *Chitrangada: The Crowning Wish* throws light on the marginalisation of the queers by the dominant socio-cultural disciplinary regime, the consequent resistance by the marginalised and how the liminal space occupied by the characters create distinctive spaces for themselves to subvert the gendered paradigm by crossing all boundaries.

Keywords : Gender, queer, performativity, liminal space, heteronormativity