

# The Absence Presence Of Asexual Aesthetics In Sayaka Murata's *Convenience Store Woman*

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**Abstracts :**

Asexuality : an underrepresented phenomenon in literature, finds presence in Sayaka Murata's *Convenience Store Woman* and confronts the textual politics of presenting a state of absence. With the responsibility of forming impressions about an unexplored terrain by creating an aesthetics of its own, the author rewrites desire, strewing it away from gender and sexuality. Challenging the rhetorics of traditional heterosexual love stories, the revolutionary novella provides an insider's view to the workings of an asexual psyche and problematises patriarchal gaze, paving way to conceptualise what can be identified as the rarely represented asexual gaze. It follows the gaze's gender and sexuality neutral lens that utopianises efficiency and belongingness within a functional society and delineates the predicaments of an otherwise compulsorily sexual society. Asexuality offers us the advantage of a distance from which consideration of gender and sexuality issues gain a refreshingly new perspective that feminism has been unable to provide. By creating a protagonist who is initially identified as quirky, the author enables empathetical resonance in making her the victim of an unrelenting society and voices a plea for a more inclusive one. This paper is a working analysis of the novella to understand how asexual representation contributes towards challenging norms and nominates the asexuality reference point as a hitherto overlooked, much relevant pedestal to critique hegemonic power structures, that Gender Studies by large aims to do so.

**Keywords :** Asexuality, gender, desire, gaze, compulsory sexuality, Japanese literature