

Reconceptualising the Sexuality of Disabled, Queer Women: A Critical Analysis of Shonali Bose's *Margarita with a Straw*

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Abstract

The representation of disability, gender and sexuality in popular culture and media discourses is often unfair as it deliberately or not, tries to celebrate the 'norm' – the non-disabled, the man and the heterosexual. While in the unconscious endeavour to eulogise 'the self', it tramples down 'the other', denying a space for expression. As the typical gender norms and stigma towards disability have been deeply ingrained in the psyche of the society, it requires one to challenge the existing norms and come out of the shell in order to form an identity of one's own and to explore it. The paper titled "Reconceptualising the Sexuality of Disabled, Queer Women: A Critical Analysis of Shonali Bose's *Margarita with a Straw*" is a thematic study of how a disabled person turns her agony of scepticism into self-discovery and acceptance, critiqued in connection with the concepts of gender, sexuality and the body. The paper attempts to give theoretical insights into the ways in which the protagonist in the Bollywood film *Margarita with a Straw* (2014) undergoes the process of realising, accepting, and exploring her sexual orientation, using tools from disability studies and queer theory.

Keywords : Gender, Queer, Disability, Sexuality, Identity