

Rosalin Alzaga

Professor

English 101

Feminism in Frankenstein

Introduction:

Feminism is the idea that both men and women should have equal economic, social, and political opportunities and benefits. The term can also describe the various political activities or movements that push to achieve equality of both male and female partners in a relationship. The feminist movements advocate that the roles and responsibilities of a female should be equal to those of a male. They argue that both male and female must trust, respect, listen, and love each while sharing equal responsibilities. Mary Shelley novel Frankenstein was written in a historical period when women heightened their fighting equality in society. Shelley reflects on the topic of feminism by narrating her own life in her novel.

Moreover, her plot uses female characters to strengthen the role of the main male characters. The female characters have a minimum contribution to the plot of this novel. The male characters viewed females as possessions and caretakers for their house and children. Thesis statement: The objectification of female characters in Frankenstein novel is meant to correlate the female characters with the everyday work of women in Mary Shelley's era.

Elizabeth Lavenza is constantly commoditized by Shelley in the novel. Shelley depicts Elizabeth as Victor's object, and this fact is shown by only discussing her while comparing her significance compared to other women. Victor describes Elizabeth as "the beautiful and adored companion of all his occupations and...pleasures" "mine, mine to protect, love, and cherish...since till death, she was to be mine only" (37). In the entire novel, this is the only role of Elizabeth, and the author does not discuss how Elizabeth felt after being forced to marry in a family she did not voluntarily choose.

Caroline Frankenstein sees Elizabeth as "a pretty present for my Victor" (37). This description shows how Caroline directly compares Elizabeth to a male-pleasing object with the value of pleasing a fellow human being. Mary, the author reveals this reification of Elizabeth, who is being forced to please a man without having love feelings towards him. Elizabeth is this turned into a tool for esteeming and revering yes Frankenstein. Despite this objectification, Elizabeth is portrayed as a loving and caring woman towards her husband and other family members. The author passes an indirect message that Elizabeth's love and care enable her commodification and in a significant way, it is her fault. Her failure to defend herself in such a humiliating situation makes Victor and Caroline use her as an object of pleasure continually.

The monster commoditized by the author to show how societal neglect leads to Victor's euphoria and motivation to create a dangerous scientific creature. The monster creature's life is shown to have an urge to get a female object to provide it with pleasure. Victor is given demands by the creature that he "must create a female for me,

with whom I can live in the interchange of those sympathies necessary for my being” (147). The monster creature describes the female being that he needs as “a necessary thing for my being,” which reveals his attitudes as a dominant male figure in the monster society. Shelley deliberately and selectively uses the quoted words to illustrate how the required female monster does **s not matter** as it is only meant to be a mere companion to provide the monster with fun. Shelley also commoditized the female monster as a bribe. The male monster promised Victor to abandon violence only if Victor made him a female creature for fun; a bribe.

Conclusion

The society in Frankenstein shows a hierarchy that outrightly commoditizes the females and character **with no Eurocentric roles but** serves as “others.” The author can show strong feminism in the novel, which also rhymes to the reflections of Mary Shelley’s life. The use of female characters shows a petty belief that males are superior to females and the reduced expectations of females in history. **Mary Shelley was the daughter of a feminist writer that is remembered in history today.** Though Mary had a strong feminist influence, she was raised without a female role model after the death of her mother during Shelley’s birth. Frankenstein lacks the strong female presence Shelley’s mother left in history. It can symbolize resentment Shelley had for her mother’s death and her absence in Shelley’s life.

