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## OPPRESSION OF WOMEN IN WENDY COPE'S *HE TELLS HER*

HINDUJA. V

M Phil Scholar, PSGR Krishnammal College for Women

Men and women are equal but manmade choice brought inequality. Women are traditionally considered subservient and are controlled by men. Even women of higher social classes have been enslaved by men. Women were often told what to do, what to wear, and how to act. They were treated feeble and fragile people and given little respect. Even today in some parts of the world women could not own property or inherit land. They even need husbands' permission to work; they are merely treated as a property. Division between the genders has become relationship of dominance and oppression. Under the terms of culture and norms women were oppressed. Feminists of modern era are bold enough to point out pointless chauvinistic attitude of men. Writers like Maya Angelou, Susan Howe, Katha Pollitt and Wendy Cope likewise turned their pen as weapons to prick the meaningless male ascendancy.

Wendy Cope is one of the most acclaimed living poets was born in Kent on 21 July 1945. Cope seizes a noteworthy talent for paradox and for using humor to address grave topics. She employs traditional rhyme form in her poetry. In terms of content and style she is easily accessible to readers, that is the reason why she has become so popular. Her principal subject is relationship. Her poetry collections include *Making Coco* for Kingsley Amis (1986), *Family Values*(2011) and likewise. Wendy Cope is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and she was the listeners choice in a BBC Radio 4 poll to succeed Ted Hughes as Poet Laureate. Cope was awarded the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in the 2010 Birthday Honors. Currently she lives in Winchester.

*He Tells Her* is extract from *Difference of Opinion* which appeared in *Poetry Magazine* in 2006. The poem has complicated ideas and emotions in few lines. This poem perfectly expounds mansplaining, phenomenon of a man unnecessarily explaining something to a woman about which she is already well-informed. The word "mansplaining" was coined in 2008 by an anonyms person in comment on the social network Live Journal. Wendy cope nails mansplaining before Twitter is even invented. In the poem a man mansplains that the Earth is flat. "He tells her that the Earth is flat-/ He knows the fact, and that is that" (1-2). He argues his wrong opinion and stands on his ground to prove him right. When the woman tries to prove him wrong by uttering the fact, he denies accepting the truth.

In altercation fierce and long  
She tries her best to prove him wrong.  
But he has learnt to argue well.(3-5)

The man in the poem disagrees with the woman. Though she speaks the fact, he does not want to agree with her. Here the woman is denied of her speaking rights. He hears her voice as yell; he does not want to hear her. She cannot win him as he stands on his ground. The only reason he disagrees with her is, she is a woman. He very well knows the fact that the Earth is round but he does not want to admit it. Psychologically he tries to with stand this masculine power.

He calls her argument unsound  
And often asks her not to yell.  
She cannot win. He stands his ground. (6-8)

Modern writer Ella Linero in her poem points out the expatiations of the society from women. She writes, "Moves, graceful, gentle, elegant, and FEMININE/ As society tells her, she is a woman, and that is her role (8-9)". Society wants women to take up the role of woman, this norm is the main reason behind oppression. Sexist should readily ignore stereotypes and get into the real world. Just because traditions since old times tells men are more superior doesn't mean modern world need to keep going like that. No religion or god treat women low. Prophet Muhammad quotes "Observe your duty to Allah in respect to the women, and treat them well." Rig Veda says, "The wife and the husband, being the equal halves of one substance, are equal in every respect, therefore, both should join and take equal parts in all works, religion and secular."

Women are naturally born as good negotiators. They are gifted with attentive listening abilities and better communication skills which help women, solve a lot of nagging activities in society. They are good at understanding any kind of situation easily and can come out with a brilliant solution in no time. Women prove worthy of respect time and time again, engaging in unselfish acts. As daughters, mothers, mates, leaders, warriors, business women and co- regents; women contribute immeasurable positive influence to the lives of people around them. In the words of Swami Vivekananda "Countries and Nations which do not respect women have never become great nor will ever be in future." Sexist should be taught to treat women equally; it is the only better way for the progress of humanity.

Gender equality is the foremost and primary trait of human right. The position of women declined in mid times but modern men have started treating women equally. According to The Global Gap Report of 2017 the world will attain universal gender parity in few years. Iceland takes top spot, closing more than 87% of its overall gender gap, followed by Norway closing more than 83% of its overall gender gap. Terminating gender gap and gender oppression is an effective tool for reducing poverty and advancing development. The world focuses on an integrated gender mainstreaming approach, which attempts to "form alliance and common platforms that bring together the power of faith and gender- equality aspirations to advance human rights".

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