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Struggle for Survival of Enigmatic Woman 'Mata Hari' in the Novel 'The Spy' by Paulo Coelho

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Abstract

Women's survival in society is the struggle for women's privileges in the social, political and spiritual spheres of life. This paper looks at the life of Mata Hari in relation to the First World War from the perspective of a feminist critic of New Historicism. The novel's protagonist was Mata Hari, experienced injustice and oppression during World War I. This paper focuses on the sacrifice and survival of independent and mysterious women "Mata Hari" in society, as well as their male-dominated behaviour. Paulo Coelho's *The Spy* examines the portrayal of women's oppression in a male-dominated society. The novel tells the story of sexual victims who experience domestic violence, powerlessness, sexual harassment and denigration during war. The novel tells the story of an encounter with Mata Hari, a historical figure famous as a glamorous dancer during the First World War. The woman was accused in Germany and France of being a double agent and was eventually found guilty by French justice and shot dead by the fire brigade. The novel analyzes Mata Hari's strong desire for an independent woman who follows traditional values in a patriarchal society, so her struggle is about survival and punishment.

Keywords: Survival, Enigmatic Women, Independent Women, women's oppression

Introduction

Literature serves as a medium that can help people understand feminist thought and politics written in a variety of styles and forms (Hooks, 2015). Literature has the function of representing fictional or imaginative works (Abrams, 2012). A study on women's struggles titled *Female Struggles Reflected in Cigarette Girl Novels* by Ratih Kumala Mary by M. Susilo was discussed in 2019. "Women's Struggle" "Loneliness" written by Mr. Nata. Wollstone (2004) argued in her book "A Vindication of Women's Rights" that women should be given equal rights and status because they are not just commodities traded in marriage, but an important part of society. Women's struggles are fought as a form of liberation, which as a process involves a continuous critique of existing injustices as social demands develop as social conditions change. In this case, women's emancipation is shaped by the conditions they experience, namely gender and social injustice, which constitute the history or context of economic and cultural inequality in a region.

Regarding women's struggles in patriarchal societies where social or governmental systems are controlled by men, Millet (2016) stated that women find themselves in a situation where they must express their sense of themselves as women in their communities and families, to express one's consciousness as a woman. Demand equal rights for them as men. Resistance is the liberation of women, who express their rights and strive to achieve their goals.

Feminism, therefore, is the awareness that women are in many ways under the domination of men and the adoption of a set of measures to resist this (Bhasin and Khan, 1995). In this context, feminism encompasses resistance, struggle, and liberation. Women's struggles gave rise to various feminist theories, and find these stories in novels, essays, plays and other literary works.

As part of feminism, women's struggle is also seen as a practical action for women to seek equality in life and realize their true female dreams. We find many stories about women's struggles in various novels.

The obstacles women have to overcome in order to gain their rights are often exciting topics of discussion. In the 18th century, women around the world began to demand emancipation. Women are represented in culture as possessing classical and patriarchal values that regulate sexuality, reproduction, and social production, and are expressed through specific cultural metaphors. Women's inferiority becomes apparent through the self-sacrifice and self-annihilation of the image of female purity. Society recognizes the role of women as loyal partners of men and follows the traditional values of the family system. Women are also trained not to challenge discrimination, subordination; exploitation and subjugation at all levels of the system. These norms prevent women from pursuing goals outside of marriage.

This paper analyzes the various challenges faced by women in Society. The main purpose of this study is to explore how the protagonist "Mata Hari" (real name Margaret Gertrude Zeller), in a novel *The Spy* by Paulo Coelho, struggles for survival. Paulo Coelho's life remains a major source of inspiration for his books. He has experienced death, escaped madness, taken drugs, endured torture, tried magic and alchemy, studied philosophy and religion, read voraciously, lost and rediscovered faith, and experienced the pain and joy of love. In searching for his place in the world, he finds answers to the challenges that everyone faces. His latest novel, *Adultery*, became a global bestseller, and his 1988 novel *The Alchemist* has sold more than 65 million copies and been cited by Malala Yousafzai and Pharrell Williams and other people as sources of inspiration. Paulo Coelho has sold more than 200 million books worldwide. His works have been published in 81 languages and he is the most translated living author in the world. He was Born on August 24, 1947 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

He was taught at graduate school and he is the beneficiary of a few global honours, among them the Crystal Award by the World Economic Forum. He is most popular for his original *The Alchemist* (1987, 1994), which has been translated into 80 dialects. He is a lyricist and writer and his most memorable book *Hell Archives*, which neglected to have a significant effect. His most popular works are *Practical Manual of Vampirism* (1986), *The Pilgrimage* (1987), and *The Alchemist* (1994). The overall top of the line creator, Paulo Coelho, gets back with another new titled *The Spy*.

In this novel, Coelho takes its pursuers on an excursion through mid-twentieth century Europe, with another person at the centre of attention. At the point when Mata Hari showed up in Paris she was penniless. Before long she was feted as the most exquisite lady in the city. An artist who stunned and charmed crowds; a compatriot and prostitute who beguiled the time is most extravagant and most influential men. However, as distrustfulness consumed a country at war, Mata Hari's way of life brought her under doubt. Until, in 1917 she was captured in her lodging on the Champions Elysees and blamed for undercover work. Composed as a progression of letters, *The Spy* recounts the extraordinary story of a lady who thought for even a moment to break the shows of her time, and followed through on the cost.

Coelho figures out how to take you on a journey, through the eyes of Mata Hari featuring how men are seen by women considering the male idiosyncrasies. A portion of the male idiosyncrasies that unwittingly bother the damnation out of women incorporate men and their need to make sense of everything; and their need to continuously offer their viewpoints on the condition of the economy. By composing

according to the viewpoint of a Mata Hari, Coelho likewise features how man centric social orders were (nevertheless are) the point at which it came to what callings women were qualified for take up and how they were seen in the public eye. Coelho likewise figures out how to carry similar feeling of marvel with his writing in *The Spy*. He's capacity to expound on a particular story yet make it engaging even in the exact moment subtleties.

This story is told from two distinct first-individual perspectives. Around three-fourths of the novel is told by Mata Hari to Clunet, her lawyer, as a letter form. The excess quarter of the novel is told by Clunet, in a letter kept in touch with Mata Hari. Mata Hari recounts her biography and makes sense of the conditions that have carried her to be being investigated as a spy. Despite the fact that she is mad in view of the manner in which she has been dealt with, she actually has trust that she will be excused. In his letter, Clunet makes sense of the motivations behind why he accepts Mata Hari's preliminary turned out badly. He is angry and in disbelief since she is by and large treacherously killed.

In a progression of letters, composed from jail just before her demise, Mata Hari ponders the decisions she has made to constantly seek after her own reality — from her young life in a little Dutch town, to miserable years as the spouse of a heavy drinker negotiator in Java, to her determined and self-designed ascent to superstar in Paris and across Europe as an extraordinary artist and friend to the most influential men of the time. However there was little proof to implicate her, Mata Hari couldn't get away from mistreatment and indictment by French military knowledge, and at the novel's end, Coelho re-makes a last letter, composed by Mata Hari's lawyer, Edward Clunet, that offers a charming perspective on Europe at war and the deadly cost of doubt.

Mata Hari faces life in attempting to accomplish the opportunity and her own brain to assume the liability of her own resisting world. She guesses what can befall her in sham preliminary which was conflicting with her by the head of counter espionage Chief Ladoux. She articulates-

"Sadly, I have no other person in whom to trust. We as a whole realize I will not be killed as a result of this moronic charge of reconnaissance, but since I chose to be who I generally envisioned. Furthermore, the cost of a fantasy is in every case high (73)."

The existence of Mata Hari can be partitioned in various stages which are brimming with battle of a capricious lady who dreams a free and free life all through the book.

An aggressive woman like Mata Hari begins her journey towards independency at the beginning phase of her life by changing her genuine name Margaretha Zelle to Mata Hari. The name Margaretha Zelle was given by her family-a conventional name given to the majority of the Dutch young girls around then. In any case, she was not content with that name as it was the name of a regarded entertainer. Mata Hari says "Margaretha Zelle-was my name, and I despised it. Incalculable young ladies had given the name Margaretha due to a popular and very much regarded entertainer (18). She replies "Mata Hari"(44)-a name with the identity of her freedom. This occurrence interestingly acquires certainty her to consume the flavor of opportunity what she dreams that will happen sometime and the second comes to her life ladylike to give her own acknowledgment towards independency.

Mata Hari's new life starts in Paris and to begin her new life as an extraordinary artist. She asserts-After all, Paris was always my preferred destination (41). To her Paris is where she can cause her fantasies to satisfy and this spot is the most liked to her to carry on with an existence of a free bird. She proceeds with dance exhibitions to get herself laid out. Steadily she gets comfortable with the persuasive figures like politicians, army officers, and artists of that time and starts imparting bed to them. She is cognizant about her magnificence and utilizations that as she had no other weapon to use to taste the independency she longs for quite a long time. She currently understands which man needs and uses her physic to get anything that she wants to have in her life to turn into a free bird and this turns into the most examined subject paying little mind to people. As she says-

"For my entire life I've thought and behaved like Mata Hari, the one who has been and consistently will be the interest of men and the jealousy of ladies (57)."

She is exceptionally worry of her own excellence and utilizations it to become popular and realizes it very well that even the ladies that society is profoundly envious of her magnificence. Yet, she had no choice to consume independency delivering her physic and she does it by resisting all the regular accepts accidental that will lead her to incredible danger.

Mata Hari slowly procures all that she needs to have her existence cash, name, popularity, property and so forth yet shockingly she understands that still she isn't completely free and turns into an object in the hand of prevailing male figures of that time. However, she isn't a lady to effortlessly surrender rather she will endeavour to accomplish her independency using any and all means. She attests "Money was not enough. I wanted more (58)!" To seek after that journey of independency a few ladies assist her in her initial days with defeating her striving days that drives her to get popularity in future and she unequivocally recognizes that by saying-"But women are able to understand one another without exchanging a word (68).

The circumstance never continues as before as what we witness and expect to. Time changes as needs be and Mata Hari needs to pay for her fantasy of profanity in the male ruled society and she pays her life for becoming autonomous. She says-

"It's because I dream of being accepted and respected, though I don't owe anything to anyone. Why do I need that? I waste my time on worries, regrets, and darkness-a darkness that only enslaves me, chaining me to a rock where I'm served as food for birds of prey, a rock that I can no longer leave (80)."

Here comes her misery that shows the amount she tries to turn into a free and struggled woman however the general public never permits being so and makes her main an item to be persecuted by them. It is opportunity what she wants to acquire all through her life yet bombs every single time. The society advises her that she isn't anything else than a piece of meat in eating table which one is exceptionally rewarding to check out however will be discarded after the utilization. In any case, she battles against these convictions emphatically to lay out her independency in the general public understanding what will happen to straightaway. She is a genuine battling woman who makes an honest effort to get her opportunity resisting every one of the laid out foundations.

In the World War I, everything changes appropriately yet she proceeds with her excursion in better places of Europe and is some way or another bound to make association with both power France and Germany. In any case, in actuality she was in the side of France to help France as she was allowed to travel even in wartime. Tragically she is blamed for twofold covert operative by France without having adequate demonstrates and the preliminary of Mata Hari proceeds where she completely rehashes-"A prostitute, yes. A spy never (111)!" But no one accepts her as she thinks for even a second to turn into a Independent women to have her existence likewise to her will.

Then the authority never endures that and dishonestly denounces her and precedes with her preliminary to rebuff her of turning into a free bird for the sake of surveillance. In reality she never gets the equity anyplace; even loses her character what her identity is? Mata Hari needs to be aware

"Be who I am? How could I be true to myself if I didn't even know exactly who I was? The dancer who took Europe by storm? The housewife who humiliated herself in the Dutch East Indies? The lover of powerful men? The woman the press called a "vulgar artist," despite, just a short time before, admiring and idolizing her (113)?"

The response is obscure and no one attempts to answer for a prostitute and even denies her acknowledgment as a person rather blames her for denying the general public to be a liberated individual. Thusly her sham preliminary proceeds and she is blamed for undercover work by the court and sentences her passing. Mata Hari's legal lawyer and lover Mr. Clumet in his later says regarding the counter espionage Commander Ladoux "A man like that, dear Mata Hari, is like a bloodied beast who seeks revenge instead of justice (165)." Each work made by the attorney goes to no end, he just observers the joke preliminary of a blameless lady who is blamed for surveillance dishonestly and gets the discipline of death. He knows well Mata Hari's just wrongdoing was being an autonomous woman in a society where this propensity is completely precluded and that is the reason he wishes "Perhaps one day history might also do justice to you, though I doubt it (173)." What Mata Hari dreams is to be a free and Independent woman yet she is unfavourably denied of it pays her life to get it.

In *The Spy*, Coelho addresses the authentic figure of Mata Hari and her excursion in the unfavourable circumstances in the male centric culture. He immovably states that the way for a woman to accomplish freedom and satisfaction in the customary world isn't extremely simple one. By and by, a ladies' craving to accomplish opportunity in a society of traditional man controlled society peculiarity in some cases imperils her life to the passing gamble. What's more, it is forcefully likened to Mata Hari's life battle and her definitive demise. Besides, Mata Hari's battle pursues clearly a lady's decision of independency resisting the biased organizations and convictions of man controlled society carries a risky enduring to her that could in fact grab away her life. Accordingly, clearly Mata Hari gets the discipline because of her powerful urge of being a free lady who battles and resists the conventional worth of the male centric culture in the book. The consequence of this study can be deduced in certain angles. To start with, the sorts of lady's battle tracked down in novel *The Spy* in satisfying the human necessities, to be specific: Struggle for Survival, Struggle to Reach the Dream, Struggle for Love & Relationship, Struggle in Getting A

Good Reputation and Struggle to be Independent Woman. Second, the ways the main character struggles to fulfilling her needs are exchange sex with favors and money, making relations with men from the higher classes and to be a Spy. Third, the reasons why the main character struggle are because of her ambition to become a Free Woman and influenced by author's background.

It was realized that women these days actually struggle in living with life under man centric society framework. Women struggles happen as the impact of orientation imbalance. Men give inconsistent treatment or segregation for women. It happens in light of the fact that there are women separation to gain admittance to similar open doors and medicines as men in their society and family.

The paper was concluded that in *The Spy* there are five orders of human necessities that are attempting to be satisfied by Mata Hari specifically physiological requirements, wellbeing necessities, love and having a place needs, regards needs, and the requirement for self-completion. In satisfying the five progressive systems of human requirements, five sorts of woman's struggle found to be specific struggle for endurance, struggle to arrive at the fantasies, struggle for affection and relationship, struggle in getting a decent standing, and struggle to be a Independent and Survival lady.

Conclusion

Paulo Coelho attempts to bring the novel "The Spy" into a different dimension to reflect on love, freedom and existence. She compares herself to a "sacrificed nightingale." In his writing style he said: "I am the nightingale who gave everything and died." Mata Hari was a free woman in every way, but to others she was a poisonous snake. Therefore, the world must "kill the snake before it becomes too strong and strangles us." We were won over by Mata Hari's candour and boldness in expressing her opinions. She is not afraid to admit that she is a person guided by flattery and money. She admits that because her love equals power, something she has learned from her experiences with the world. In many ways, she became a challenge to a world of hypocrisy with her clear and uncensored ideas. The author describes the story of Mata Hari: a fearless woman who had to pay the price to be free in the land of men. The story is not arranged chronologically; instead, it profiles Mata Hari and describes the most important parts of her life that made her famous and subsequently infamous.

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