

# "She looked to be in such total possession of her life" A Feminist Study of John Irving's "The World According to Garp"

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## Abstract

*John Irving's novels involve a combination of feelings, political concerns, and characters, mingles with a powerful descriptive details that make his writings fascinating and comprehensible. His most successful novel, "The World According to Garp", deals with the subject of feminism. There is a wide selection of female characters, who symbolize various feminist views. The themes that Irving expresses in his works are women's abuse, sexual problems, gender issues and relationships, family and social circumstances, tragedy, death, the absurdity of good intentions, etc. But the very important subject is men's violence against women, as in "The World According to Garp", which portrays a wounded woman violated by men's violence. The purpose of the current document is to address and examine Irving's perceptions of the female characteristics as represented in "The World According to Garp's". Irving addresses several positive and feminism-friendly topics, and it seems like he continues to highlight the need for women's movements with equality. "The World According to Garp", (1987) discusses other facets of feminism, including the depiction of women as victims, and males as rapists, as well as, the sexual violence against women, that stems from the patriarchal society, which makes rape common, and something that women have to deal with in their community. The text provides a brief overview and analysis of both the issue of women's struggle to gain their rights, besides, to discuss radical movements and the significant activities relevant. Concrete descriptions of feminist attitudes in the book are explored in the practical part, then use the interpretation of feminist values. Feminist behavioral dimensions, sexual violence, and representation of women in western culture are discussed as important to this paper's theoretical section.*

**Keywords:** feminist issues, Garp, John Irving, "The World According to Gap", women's movement, feminism.

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## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 introductory Reading of Feminism Philosophy

Feminism is a source of modern consciousness, energy, and understanding for contemporary thought. It is a very nuanced way of thought and considered both a historical and global philosophy. "Feminism incorporates diverse ideas, which share three major perceptions: that gender is a social construction, which oppresses women more than men; that patriarchy shapes this construction; and that women's experimental knowledge is a basis for a future non-sexist society" (Humm X). The word of Feminism is universal for belief systems and theories which pay particular attention to the rights of women and the role of women in society and culture. The term appears to use for the movement of women's rights that started in the late 18th century and remains to advocate for social, cultural, and full political, gender equality. It is a corps of social theory, and a political movement focused primarily on and inspired, by women's experiences.

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While typically offering criticism of social relations, most feminist proponents often concentrate on discussing gender inequality and supporting the rights, desires, and concerns of women. Jane Freedman in "*Feminism*" detects, "feminisms may start with the assertion that feminisms concern themselves with women's inferior position in society and with discrimination encountered by women because of their sex... feminists call for changes in the social, economic, political, or cultural order, to reduce and eventually overcome this discrimination against women" (Freedman 1). It is therefore very difficult to describe feminism as a central ideology, however, its common core would be that gender relationships are one of injustice or oppression. "All forms of feminism seek to identify the causes of that inequality and to remedy it, but the issue of precisely which agency produces and reproduces inequality is the source of many of the differences between feminisms". (Macey 122)

Feminists are unified by the belief that the role of women in society becomes inferior to that of men, and that society is organized in a way that benefits men to women's social, political, and economic detriment. Feminists have, nevertheless, used various arguments to justify these inequalities and promoted various approaches to address inequalities, and that there are major regional and historical differences in the essence of feminism. Feminism generally is, "concerned with how women's lives have changed throughout history, and it asks what about women's experience ... either as a result of an essential ontological or psychological difference or as a result of historical imprinting and social construction". (Ryan, 101)

The very first chronicled use per French feminism traces back to the 1830s and also the concept is usually coined by the liberal revolutionary Charles Fourier (1772-1837), whose degree of women's liberation was a metric of society as a whole's emancipation. 'Feminism' was first used in English in 1851, but became even more popular in the 1890s, when it became equivalent with 'women's rights activism' and was linked to the suffragette movement organized by the Women's Political and Social Union in the period 1906-1914.

Partial suffrage was gained in 1918, and a full vote in 1928; In the United States, the Constitutional amendment of the 19th century granted women the right to vote in 1920. After which, in the early part of the 20th century, several nations began to grant women the vote, particularly, in the last years of World War I, and the first decades after the war. According to feminism, women's subservience originated in primitive places where women served as just an object of exchange between father-dominated families that formed associations through marriage. Yet archaeological evidence in the Middle East and Europe indicated that Stone Age cultures conducted goddess worship and were structured as matriarchies-; social orders with the women responsible. These civilizations, nevertheless, were already surpassed by patriarchal a society that worshiped male gods and in which male was political since the earliest known records; Political, military, even women leaders were held insubordination.

As in Early Greeks and Romans, as well as in the Early Christian Age, Women were left out of public life and subordinated to men. Greek philosopher Aristotle, for instance, has argued that women are inferior to men and should be ruled by males. Saint Paul instructed Christian wives, not to talk in church, but to follow their husbands. Also, modern technological society is patriarchal by and large. Michael Ryan states that "men hold almost all positions of political and economic power, and economies work in such a way that women are more likely to be poor and men more likely to be rich. The assumed norm in many societies is for women to be in charge of domestic labor and child-rearing while men engage in more public concerns". (Ryan, 101)

In many other societies, women were deprived of land, citizenship standing, and education for much of the second millennium. If they had been married, they were made liable for their spouses, or their fathers, or even other male cousins if not. Just at the end of the seventeenth century, several female writers were advocating for reforms in women's education, like Marry Astell from England. Feminist literary studies focus on presumption, when females keep reading, or that conviction how feminist comprehension produces massive variations. 'Female' usually implies disparity portrayed via criticism of psychoanalysis as well as of established legal. The feminist movement constantly includes the term 'reshaping' which describes women as human beings, femaleness, or womanhood. Through "*A Critique of Postcolonial Reason*" Spivak, asserted which; "the problem of representation - in the double sense of a proxy and a portrait, speaking for and a 're-presentation as in art or philosophy'- is a permanent problem for feminist politics and feminist thought". (Spivak, 256)

The contemporary feminist theory seeks to explain the connections between men and women and their contrasting roles in society. Many feminist literary theories tell us how the relations, between females and males in society, are indeed unequal and reflect a particular patriarchal ideology. Such unequal relationships could occur in the production of literature and also in literary texts in many different ways. Feminist thinkers are requesting readers to pay close attention, to thought trends, beliefs, decisions, and power within these relationships Feminist literary critics seek to portray the fact, that men themselves have traditionally shaped literary values, traditions, and even literature development. They motivate readers, to

recognize recent and neglected works by women, as well as to consider reading common literature from a female viewpoint.

There are lots of different forms of literary feminist theory, in this regard. A few scholars talk about symbols used, and the vocabulary, and whether the vocabulary and symbol use is "gendered", while others inform us, these males and females, make different decisions and investigate why the narrator's reproducing in publications influences sex. Many feminist critics look into how the characters are presented, in particular the women characters, then ask us to recognize how female characters are embodied. "Many gender Theory critics look at how the characters, especially the female characters, are portrayed and ask us to consider how the portrayal of female characters", Strengthens or erodes gender stereotyping. (Appleman 190)

The contemporary feminist hypothesis, argues that the identity of the reader dictates our reaction to a text. Feminist critics might argue, for instance, for certain masculine authors view all audiences as males, except for the feminine audience. It is applied during careful observation, of the protagonists' representations, the words of the book, the attitude of the writer, and the interaction of the characters. The assumptions, that the writer tends to make about society as a whole, must be taken into account. ([www.apps.carleton.edu](http://www.apps.carleton.edu)).

Feminism upholds a valuation with female empowerment living accomplishments but expects the destinies in which, challenges are removed to women's full participation in public life. Inside feminism, there are various political ideologies, principles, moral views, doctrines, and points of view. Feminists have certain five common obligations:

1. To appreciate women and their special social contributions.
2. To examine the past critically, to understand, how women have been oppressed by patriarchal systems.
3. Evaluating gender constructions, which highlight male-female variations and investigating differences between women, in particular in terms of ethnicity, age, race, class, sexuality, body form, and religious belief, And other types of identification used for denigrating, dismissing or delegating people without regard to the quality of their behavior, judgments or behavior.
4. Acting towards individual and social transitions, through policy activities designed to allow women, to engage in public life, as free members; and
5. Making fresh considerations, which may change personal, public and radical activities based on interests, values and female experience.

This brand of equality emerges from American civilization, receipts form through 20th century, in the sense of feminist conversations between English speakers, and also is affected by worldwide debates on the women's role. (Tierney, 476-477)

Feminist women working on behalf of all these five obligations include two main practices. Firstly, while feminists often advocate female 's independence and aspire to acquire the same political women's rights granted to Western men, by going beyond equality to fair spending of social power, they seek citizen rights. Additionally, since feminism becomes skeptical towards individual constructs, which in fact could only articulate men's experiences, In particular, the experiences of, heterosexual men, white, middle-class, supposed to represent the whole humankind, the suffragettes assert that concreteness in both, the existences including their observations women. Feminists also stress the importance of everyday life and individual experiences, within this context, and highlight the relations between the formal and informal realms of social existence (Tierney, 477). Feminism originated mostly as philosophy in the 1830s, or even as an organization, of an emotional response with patriarchal violations. This is attributed to the lady's weakened mind, who has been exploited as well as violated in associated with sexual harassment, and discrimination against women. According to Sarah M. Grimke, "man has subjugated woman to his will, used her as a means to promote his unselfish gratification, to minister to his sensual pleasure, to be instrumental in promoting his comfort, but never has he desired to elevate her to that rank she was created to fill. He has done all he could do to debase and enslave her mind". (Grimke, 101)

It is the past of patriarchal, as Kate Millet observed in *"Sexual Politics"* (1969) that committed cruelties, and barbaric acts on women (46). Both colonization and patriarchy are systems of power that act on similar principles. Colonization can be employed, as a model of patriarchal society through feminist theory. Because sex relations can get a basis for most social relations, which are the model of power dynamics among cultures, economic groups, connections, ethnic/traditional groups, or even between imperial powers, and colonialists. All dominance and colonialism have relations of supremacy and inequality, assumed superiority, and imposed inferiority, in which the dominant is coerced to assume the vulnerable, abused position of the offender. The party leadership takes legislation to compensate for enforcement payments and non-compliance penalties. The oppressed community uses different subversion elements, both in patriarchy and colonization –

secret revolt, open rebellion, the forming of rebellious groups, Outward compliance accompanied by a growing desire, for the autonomous internal world, subterfuge even assassination, and space creation, via composition of verbally or in writing language.

Social feminists, look at the abuse of women in aspects of gender, race, class as well as sexual preference. That theory challenges the structures of domination throughout the patriarchal capitalist society Also it asserts, that equal opportunities in the community can never be possible provided, there are major differences in privilege, wealth, and control(www.shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in).

Simone's (1949) *"The Second Sex"* and Millet's *"Personal Politics"* are questioning the cultural and moral principles in multiple scholarly narratives. throughout the second-wave feminism. Millet and Beauvoir drew attention to how the stronger dominance of males over females in society is transformed into textual traditions. Ellen Moers and Elaine Showalter; the novel has made its work a specific priority, making this a significant basis for thoughts and perspectives for girls and young women. *"Literary Women"* (1976) by Moer; argues as exact woman styles the supernatural, definite woman themes (scenery, birth), even specific woman symbols (roses, birds) are present. That second wave of feminism put literature with sexual and patriarchal elements in a historical and social context. A central theme in the critique of the second wave was its belief as literature portrays femininity inequality or disparities as a result of the human spirit, instead of a position of the socially assigned. Through *"Sexual Politics"* Millet claims, that patriarchal dominance is omnipresent. That is a profoundly rooted sexuality program, starting from the reproduction of patriarchy, by family psychological conditioning, functioning in both financial and cultural system.

Recurrently, the theme and character of the feminist novel were described by many feminist critics. For instance, one such critic argues that a novel; may serve the cause of emancipation; and, gain feminist acceptance; if it carries out one or all of the following tasks: 1) creates role models, 2) increases awareness, 3) acts as a women's forum, 4) encourages sisterhood, 5) assists in achieving sexual androgyny. An instance of a novel that makes feminism as a central focus is Irving's *"The World According to Garp"*. It illustrates the importance of concentrating on the relationship, between gender and narrative structure, rather than on character. In this novel, the hero receives this rave review, "the women's movement has at last exhibited a significant influence on a significant male writer" (Irving 476). It addresses feminist problems including rape, single motherhood, women's ambitions for political authority, household role reversal in such a positive way. The leading female characters are strong and skillful. One of them, Garp 's mother Jenny Fields, is a feminist writer who documents her story and seeks advice on her destiny. The second, the wife to Garp, Helen, seems to be an indication of intelligence and integrity. She helps her husband, while Garp takes care of babies, cooks, as well as want to clean them - an agreement that suits everyone. First, *"The World According to Garp"* seems to protect women's right to historically assert male prerogatives. Jenny is the novel's main female character and *"A Sexual Suspect"* is the strongest example of women's fiction (Spector 60-61).

## 2.1 The Adaption of Feminism Philosophy to John Irving's *"The World According to Garp"*

*"The World According to Garp"* is not just a man-written novel concerning feminism; it was a novel about a man-written novel about feminism. T.S. Garp was born in 1944 and lived a life of exception. He was named like his father, Jenny Fields' bastard son, an opinionated radical nurse who wanted a baby but without a husband. From an injured soldier identified as Professional Officer Garp in his deathbed, Jenny became pregnant. As a young person, Garp is an ambitious author and freestyle wrestler, influenced by his childhood, particularly by the impact of his mother. He exhibits great skill in both. His work also motivates his mom to attempt her hand, her topic being her strongest interest in life, that is human sexuality, especially male desire, and also its impact on women. Into the world of Garp brings a multitude of Jenny 's colleagues, associates, groupies, and advisors, including a transgender former-football player called Roberta Muldoon, a former prostitute, and a bunch of women, committing body-mutilation all within the hope of proving a statement. Helen Holm enters into Garp's world too, His Wrestling trainer's daughter. Helen and Garp have tumultuous yet passionate friendship, passion, partially based on a shared admiration of literary. Through these odd interactions, Garp only attempted to discover his place in the universe, that has a sensation different from him. ([www.imdb.com](http://www.imdb.com))

Although several attempts have been made to gain equal voting rights, inherent properties, and even be respected in civil society, that "war" wasn't over throughout every area of the world. Every process, which has continued for many centuries, is always hard to understand, especially when it becomes a method, which is as vast of goals, and means are

concerned. Then, as William O'Neill, wrote in his volume *"Feminism in America"* in its 1st section, always it's "easier to describe than explain, and this is especially true where our domestic institutions are concerned"(O'Neill 3). The opening line of the bullish novel by John Irving, *"The World According to Garp,"* indicates the beginning of sexual abuse, which is becoming progressively political. "Garp's mother, Jenny Fields, was arrested in Boston in 1942 for wounding a man in a movie theater." Jenny was a single nurse; who has become a single mother, and a revered yet controversial feminist figure. (www.penguinrandomhouse.ca)

The condition of women in western communities has changed considerably since the early 20th century. Even by the 1960s, American women were already eligible to vote and university education was permitted (Although not in each school, as the traditional division of males and females in several institutions was generally quite carefully preserved), the work prospects were also liberalized. When females were allowed to join University, general presumption concerning middle and upper class, predominantly young females, women were often supposed to go to school and make friends, and gradually grew into marriages. Through her work *"The Feminine Mystique"* Friedan claims what girls were benefiting from a college education, for just such goals (Friedan 245).

In *"The World According to Garp"*, it becomes obvious, "that the chief purpose of her (Jenny Fields') parents' sending her to Wellesley [college] had been to have her dated by and eventually mated to some well-bred man. The recommendation of Wellesley had come from her older brothers, who had assured her parents that Wellesley women were not thought of loosely and were considered high in marriage potential" (13-14). In the beginning, Jenny selects to complete the treatment-training course and takeoff education. According to the modern perspective, the female option should be simple and rational, because Western culture accepts freewill irrespective of sex. Nevertheless, Already, Jenny didn't recognize the negative effects of her choices; her parents will not comprehend her, because she's the Black Sheep of a family.

Reacting to her daughter's independent and inappropriate actions, Jenny's mom begins to be very concerned about the protection of her daughter, pretending to worry about her welfare. She points out her mom "assumed that Jenny's sexual activity was considerable and irresponsible." (23) Because the majority of other females often are under the supervision of college authorities or are wife, or still working to their families, Jenny is the exception that gives rise to unwelcome desires, Destroy this form of stereotyping, yet appropriate for another, which suggests how females were definitely sexually hyperactive and reckless unless they obey her family. The status of her parents was quite easily reflected in the comment: "If she is to be a whore, let her at least be clean and well shod." (25) She didn't consider university rejection a noble aspect towards herself; Wellesley was educating her "was merely a polite way to bide time, as if she were a cow, being prepared only for the insertion of the device for artificial insemination" (14) and, thus, meaningless.

Helen, another female character, has varying educational experiences. In terms of receiving a professional education, she is wise, lettered, and ambitious. Jenny "would graduate from college two years after she began; she would have a Ph.D. in English literature when she was only twenty-three, and her first job – an assistant professor at women's college when she was twenty-four." (178) It's not difficult, to be a successful academic nor student, throughout the 1960s, but there is always a sense of frustration of girls such Helen- She expressly rejects, at the end of the story, to scatter the ashes in the guiding school field that she and Garp lived, with the conclusion " she would be damned... if the Steering School, which did not admit women students when she had been of age, would get to have any part of her now" (546). After illustrated by two protagonists, schooling seems to be an important weapon within the spirit of the times the novel is being created in. Mostly on one hand it served for best reasons – to create smart, self-reliant and capable humans, female or male. On the other side, societal necessities might easily affect the picture of a productive female students.

A further dimension of feminism was a wedding and a feminist home life. Jenny is a global icon throughout the novel's management of her capacity to produce and solitary motherhood. First, at the beginning of the novel, Jenny learns a very critical reality concerning future private lives "she would like to have a baby – just one. But the trouble was that she wanted as little to do with a peter [a penis] as possible, and nothing whatsoever to do with a man" (18). The most significant knowledge a reader gets from the quote relates to Jenny's purely rejecting stance toward the widely accepted definition of families. This is by no means implies an obvious sign of future modern feminism; Jenny obviously may not follow societal rules in marrying and bearing his babies, which is quite natural to her.

Throughout the story, Jenny doesn't care for contraception in any way, since her only objective is to get baby, so she didn't find having any fun with this. She decided to pursue a job, after giving birth to a child called Garp, that is not a rewarding choice for her father; "he was [her father] irritated with her that she chose to work at all; there was money enough, and he'd been happier if she'd gone into hiding at the family estate in Dog's Head Harbor until her bastard son

had grown up and moved away.” (41) Such a statement indicates it was not uncommon for middle-class Western women, throughout the 1940s, to get a baby outside traditional marriage, as well as have a working woman, and the responses of community and even one's parents were not supportive whatsoever.

In the case of Helen and Garp, under the situation which, Helen seems to be ready to fall pregnant with Garp, while she is working on her career, she stays home with their children. She is much more effective than her husband at the time their deal is completed. This was definitely not very popular in the early 1960s; Friedan claims that the overall sentiment of (youths) girls is to not take this issue deeply until you worried about the kids and marriage (Friedan 233). Formerly Helen is conscious that if she were the man she wouldn't be that successful. Nonetheless, Garp likes to spend time raising their kids in the house, but at the start of the 21st century, Helen has a career that suits her, a community idea not widely really seen now; it was certainly something very extraordinary in the mid-20th century.

Feminism is the most relevant aspect in "*The World According to Garp*" is her new role within women's movements and a book of Jenny. There are dissimilar viewpoints to study; how was Jenny think like being recognized as feminism among the public, or not if she is really one. "*A Sexual Suspect*" by Jenny, this is literally the revelation of a woman, who lived her life according to her perceptions of what was good to herself. Jenny feels a need to explain his intentions in the book because the Popular society of the 1950s and 1960s did not support quite a strategy. The substance of the book, was its true story of Jenny's existence, never attempting to overstate or minimize all that has occurred to her. Jenny aims to describe her decision to leave college, take up a job, or become pregnant; specifically how she has done it. Of course, the effect seems to be the most significant issue concerning "*A Sexual Suspect*". The agent of Jenny expects the 2 major answers to the audience before the book is released: they either like it or dislike it. This book eventually transforms into a big success, linked to that amount of publicity Jenny does not like. In general, the reactions are moist "though the more serious journals occasionally chided her for her actual writing" (180). However, whatever pattern of the language system, a text by Jenny is quite common, used by feminist movement representatives- "she became a figure of famous strength; women sought her advice"(181). "*A Sexual Suspect*" understood similarly "the first truly feminist autobiography that is full of celebrating one kind of life as it is full of putting down another" (180).

Besides being famous, Jenny has not attempted to do anything new, with the rapid rise to "*A Sexual Suspect*", "Jenny Fields uncovered a nation of women who faced making choices about how to live; these women felt encouraged by Jenny's own example of making unpopular decisions" (181-182). This book might possibly be seen as a political document, while Jenny does not really wish to write it. Such two facts actually relate to Friedan's "*The Feminine Mystique*", the genuine manifesto of a 1960s feminism right. Betty Friedan and Jenny are from the same age as she completes her book, with only one exception-Jenny strongly autobiographic book, focused on the indices of women's discrimination by American society.

Although both books deal with a really delicate subject, "*The Feminine Mystique*" in the Real World and "*A Sexual Suspect*" in "*The World According to Garp*", both writers became immediately famous. Actuality, Jenny, such as Betty, is starting to get interested in community living. In Dog's Head Harbor Jenny establishes "a women's center", while Betty, is a founding member of "National Women's Organization", further Jenny "first began her role as counselor to the women who sought some comfort from her no-nonsense ability to make decisions" (182). Its essence, of becoming a spokeswoman for feminist rights, falls between the tremendous obligations in others' lifestyle, and the potential of supporting most crazy ideas, whenever required. At least, in New England, Jenny became indeed a best-recognized feminist of her time. But in fact, she does not just adore. Many people definitely don't respect her actions or support her; "some people truly hated her, they wrote to Jenny that they wished she had cancer" (220). Over generations, Jenny's involvement had never regularly become the main subject to newspapers and writers if there is a big occasion throughout the state, like a campaign for president. A famous person always needs to help such an event, So Jenny's really the best one that was involved because the entire thing turned out to be a sexual game.

It is among the reasons that Jenny is taking part in the movement. The second one will be "the candidate running for governor against this well-liked fool was, apparently, a woman"(448). This often; a pervasive ability to evaluate injustice and inequality in one's acts, together with the shared sense of female gender which began with movement, eventually leads to a disaster. Apart from Betty Friedan, throughout the real world, that for several decades has been a popular, and honorable writer as well as a significant figure of a feminism cause, Jenny Fields was fired after a supportive address of favors of women gubernatorial nominee, As Roberta Muldoon states of tragedy when informing Garp, "[It was] a man! A man who hated women" (451). Sadly, the most widely recorded media reporting of this incident, that the shooter was actually a hunter, then "the dear season had not officially opened" (455). Like if it diminished any value of the man's

murder of a woman. Garp, witnesses his mother's murder on TV, the case between alternatives was portrayed, by using a conventional image of a mean, old man but a classy lady.

Regardless of how much her programmer performs well, a female elector could not gain a vote. A woman politician, can't win, Garp, was told by a cab driver after he returned to America to participate in his mom's funeral. He further learns of what happened, dealing with the mortality of Jenny, never knowing, that Garp, is her son. The 1960s American Society holds a clear depiction of a common interpretation of this case. After Jenny is killed, many ladies used to enjoy their spare moments in Dog's Head Harbor, emerge with a need to express themselves. Roberta attempts to convince Garp to do so "simply going to be a kind of memorial service" besides "better not to think of it as a funeral", "the newspapers had said it was to be the first feminist funeral in New York" (457). With this mark, Jenny's son isn't really relaxed, And if he is disguised and veiled just like a lady, he will be permitted to attend a funeral only. At the funeral, there are several comments, the conduct of a more violent group of his mother's worshippers even tries to strike him violently, when they learn he is a male. Eventually, Garp and Roberta discuss the issue of Jenny's being a feminist in more depth when they make the argument about the funeral.

A feminist became the naming of Jenny Fields so that the entire community recognizes the true meaning of the word to reflect a clearly defined meaning. On the other hand, not promoting discrimination against women, regardless of the political or religious point of view, may not automatically imply anyone is feminists. So Jenny certainly does as she stated it; "she felt only that women - just like men - should at least be able to make conscious decisions about the course of their lives; if that made her a feminist, she said, and then she guessed she was one."(181). After all, like Garp notes, this could be an aspect for her fate; "I sometimes think that's what Mom is for. She makes people happy by letting them think she is something she isn't." (357).

There are two forms of abuse, abuse as a form of violence and aggression, as in the example, of a little girl rescued by Garp, and Ellen James, and abuse during work only as means of rejecting social system, of gender and sexual discrimination. Raped, is really an extremely cruel act of terror, involving not just to sex abuse, or bodily injury, moreover intimidation, and embarrassment. In most cases, there is a risk of miscarriage, or spreading the contagious disease. Abusers, feel physically humiliated, as well as psychological harm lasts forever. Victims of rape typically feel humiliated and the psychological harm will last several years. (Řičan 91). This feature reoccurs several times in "*The World According to Garp*". This is illustrated by both, merely fictional stories were written by Garp or actual novel events. Irving approaches this theme with great regard for the vulnerability of women but also makes men a character for most barbaric acts of violence against women. The cruelty of rape and abuse is reflected and represented in real pain and suffering of women who undergo either physical or psychological exploitation abuse from men. For instance, Ellen James is an example of a horrific act of violence committed on an eleven-year-old child. She was repeatedly raped by several men who cut her tongue afterward to be sure she didn't talk about what happened to her. "The two men raped her when she was eleven years old, 'Jenny said', Then, they cut her tongue off so she couldn't tell anyone who they were or what they looked like .... they didn't know an eleven-year-old could write. Ellen James wrote a very careful description of the men" (Irving 184).

The Ellen Jamesians demonstrate the most obvious aspect of feminist ideology through "*The World According to Garp*". They are a bunch of women that surgically destroyed their tongues on their own free will in a futile effort to sympathize with Ellen James, the 11-year-old rape victim. That Ellen Jamesians, regard liberalism as a gender war and see it in light and dark; every male became competitors, and all negative stuff, which harms females, is because they are females. Jamesians, can't understand nuances in the fight for gender equality, that's why people turn away toward their radical liberalism tag. The troubling truth is; "... Ellen Jamesians are among the few characters who claim feminism and participate in feminist politics" (Loudermilk, 77). Though Ellen Jamesians is the most prevalent female representation in Irving 's novels. In Ellen Jamesians Lorensen explains the principles of feminism; "The feminist revolution is about overturning the gender inequality, and oppressing men for the feminists depicted in "*The World According to Garp*", moving the oppressed group to the top of the social pyramid" (Lorensen, 24). Lorensen, seems absolutely accurate in her view, of Ellen Jamesians; the struggle is not just about women's rights, but instead about the superiority of females, and its oppression of males, rather than a community, wherein males and females stand together to the welfare of women.

Irving surprises the readers of the book with the violence that he depicts, particularly by using a girl-character that makes the situation even more troubling. The other example of physical abuse against a little girl is when Garp goes to the park and sees a young, around 10-year-old naked girl running on the trail ahead of him. The little girl is raped in the park and Garp sees her right after, but the guy who did it is no longer there. She is scared, trembling, and crying. Garp is

surprised by what he sees, as well as being eager to help. "It was a cold day, late fall, and Garp saw the blood on the child's things and her frightened swollen eyes. She screamed and screamed at him." (Irving 192). Garp's position in these violent acts, being viewed as a supportive example of feminism, is the position of a saver and supporter. In the case of Ellen James, Garp supports and defends Ellen from the Ellen Jamesian radical party. And he seeks to fight for Ellen's peace, because, as he says, the radical group prolongs the suffering by making this public. He also tries his best in supporting her and finding the man who abused her when he sees a little girl in the Forest. It seems as if through Garp's story, Irving attempts to portray the brutality of men and give an example of a person who stands on the woman's side.

In a brutal piece written by Garp, "*The World According to Bensehaver*", rape, and violence are in fact included. The story portrays a lady's abduction by a 16-year-old teenager, who only wants to have her and kill her right after. She attempts to appease him with oral sex to save her own life and then she kills him with her pocket knife as she is being raped. Mr. Bensehaver is portrayed as a criminal policeman searching her and finding her right after being raped, and killing the teenager. Bensehaver shares her appreciation of what she did, and she is deeply sorry, as he sees rape as a crime worse even than murder. When his wife was raped and killed, while waiting for her to pick up the clothes from the public dryer, Bensehaver experienced this type of crime on his own. Three young guys put her head and arms in the dryer so that she couldn't scream loudly, raped her, and then died, as she had suffocated and vomited in her own clothes. Bensehaver is portrayed as an extraordinary vigilante cop, sympathizing with the victims of rape and abuse and promising to kill the sex offender because of what he has done. "Bensehaver's world. She floated and dipped over the farmlands beside him, trying not to be sick. She was beginning to notice things about her body again, she could smell herself and feel every sore spot. She felt such disgust, but here was this cheerful policeman who sat there admiring her – his heart touched by her violent success." (Irving 412).

Brutalization of sex in this novel is an important theme for Irving. He depicts women as victims and lesser people, either demonstrating men in the role of rapists or rescuers. He generalizes abuse and aggression in such a way that people tend to be violent by definition and that little can be done about that. On the other hand, he makes critical points that men too are conscious of and should not neglect the nature of abuse and violence caused to women. Irving shows that some other kind of violence by men on women is the root of men's hate that women experience. The amount of raping throughout the story might imply that the writer regards American culture as being very aggressive. Sexual violence, not only is seen as a symbol of extreme harm, as well as men dominance but as an indication of continuing exploitation of females. The first step towards minimizing rape in culture is just to make clear the difference amongst sexual harassment and sexual attitude, as this is wrongly exchangeable (Opočenská, 124).

Sexual harassment may not be the only kind of abuse which appears in "*The World According to Garp*". Roberta is mentioned for the first time in the book only after she's finished a sex-change surgery. Unfortunately, this occurs "the television networks . . . had secretly agreed not to hire her as a sports announcer for the football season." (219). Several movements are supporting the cause, particularly amongst university learners and lecturers, and transforms Roberta; "a figure of striking controversy"(219). She sees herself in a situation, which is essentially comedic. By society and other television networks, she is considered a woman, which indicates she is never the right choice to just be a football commentator. But she's always been a guy one who played ball bizarrely. Therefore, it would be unacceptable for certain media networks to complain about a lack of sufficient field awareness. Since nobody can question the skills of Roberta, who was its subject for systematic abuse- under these conditions, The distinctions between the sexes are based upon. Although the novel is no longer about Roberta's profession, the difficulty of able to get work becomes example of sexual violence and prejudice towards transgender. In reality, It is not a rejection of the policy on, equality of opportunity, that will not compel mothers to give up their own lives, or subordinate themselves to home, nor does it force males to subordinate with their employment, and caring for only babies. Then job equality and salary for women and men but the question of trans-sexuality was discriminated against.

Roberta Muldoon was the real ended of Philadelphia Eagles, following reviewing Jenny's manuscript "*A Sexual Suspect*" she conducted the sex-change operation. As she makes up her mind, she states; "I always knew I should have been a girl!" (357). It is clear in her actions that Roberta has mostly felt like a woman, As Jenny's murdered, Roberta's telling Garp that. It's evident by her actions how Roberta behaves like a girl. Roberta utters; "I'll tell you who's to blame ... It's men, Garp. It's your filthy murderous sex!"(453). Then when judgments regarding Jenny's reputation or the community have to be made at Dog's Head Harbour, she "shared with Jenny Fields the desire to educate Garp and other men concerning the legitimacy and complexity of women's needs" (495). Whether she has a "female attitude" Roberta, certainly feels more like a female. A problem was that in the early 1960s, transsexuality wasn't common and she really



made some people angry. These reactions, particularly, which purposely combine females and males pronouns, whenever talking to Roberta and about her, suggest certain elements in western civilization's, unwillingness to accept the sex-change process, as a natural step with one's lifetime. Such an attitude these days should be considered racist, and extremely disrespectful. The topic was to be debated, on the context of the gender roles, that concerns by how men and women identities were formed, and also how sexual and racial divisions could be overcome, Roberta would be seen as a normal victim, of racism and misconception (Sokolová 209-210).

### **Conclusion.**

"*The World According to Garp*" interacts with several subjects, that are characteristic of the literary works, of John Irving-absence of a mother and father, and also the significance of family relationships, combined gender norms, aggression, or mortality. Typically it's up to a reader to decide, which chapter of the story with him - and she is most relevant. The most critical element is the one described in this paper, the feminist feature, that appears many times throughout the novel. Jenny behaves the way many normal women, throughout the early 1960s not want, and because she's a symbol of a women's movement, despite that she may hate it. The novel's heart is surrounded by adherents of Jenny, Somewhat radical and opulent, with the efforts to achieve their goals, for example, Ellen Jamesians, even characters representing the dissolution to traditionally assigned positions, for instance, Roberta.

For contemporary readers, the importance of feminist ideology throughout "*The World According to Garp*" was for special interest. The campaign 's depiction of the author is wide-ranging, and most successful, demonstrating not only exceptions like Ellen Jamesians, also changes within the family and community dynamics, carried by updates to sexual difference. Jenny plans to become a single mom, but since the mid-1940s she has had no insemination and non-parent adoption services. Her choice of a severely injured person as a dad to her son stems from rational thinking instead of from radical feminism; quite afterward, as she publishes her memoirs, does she articulate the need for tolerance for those of unorthodox means. Garp himself is a homemaker. He writes at home, cares for his family, and cooks while Helen lectures at the college. Thus, he has to deal with societal cynicism, that he is an insecure embarrassment, and his own situation makes him understand several feminist's struggles and see the damage done to the feminist movement by extremists like the Ellen Jamesians. John Irving managed to produce a really fascinating and surprising yet believable book; there are several potential interpretations of the reader's picture of "*The World According to Garp*" Whether the story was written to foster freedom or support basic values of the feminism rights, and even to make fun of that, and demonstrate which dramatic, the commotion of ladies in the early 20th century was. Yet most definitely, Irving deliberately combined all behaviors to maintain the secrecy of the plot and the characters.

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