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**FEMALE IDENTITY AND STYLISTIC ANALYSIS OF
SIVAKAMI'S "THE TAMING OF THE WOMEN"**

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Abstract

P.Sivakami (born 30 November 1957) is an Indian Dalit-Feminist writer, former IAS officer and activist predominantly writing in Tamil. Her notable works include Pazhayana Kazhidalum, Kurruku Vettu, Nalum Thodarum and Kadaisi Mandhar. Apart from being one of the most prominent Dalit novelists in India, she has also constantly voiced her opinions on contemporary social and political issues. An author of six novels and more than 60 short stories. P. Sivakami has regularly kept in touch with editing and has actively contributed to the monthly magazine Puthiya Kodangi since 1995.

Key words: Dalit, Feminism, contemporary, social and political issues

Dalit writers make use of literature to express their sufferings, cultural exploitation and political suffering. The first title of the novel is Anandhayi by P.Sivagami and it was translated into English by Pritham K.Chakravarthy as "The Taming of women" is her second novel. Here in this paper the researcher would like to bring out the style used by the author. Stylistics is the branch of Linguistics. It is concerned with the artful expression of idea and stylistics is the bridge that

links the idea of style to the analysis of literary texts through the tool of Linguistics.

Each writer has its peculiar way of using lexis and syntax. Abrams opines:

“Style is the linguistic expression in prose or verse -it is how speakers or writers say whatever it is that they say. The style of a particular work or writer has been analyzed in the terms of the characteristic modes of its diction, or choices of words, its sentence structure and syntax; the density and types of its figurative language; the patterns of its rhythm, component sounds, and other formal features: and its rhetorical claims and devices”.(203)

The scope of this paper is to bring out the patriarchy and discrimination of men on women and how they suffer due to patriarchal society. The protagonist of the novel *Anandhayi*, if it is submissive and oppression there comes women, main protagonist of the novel. Here it is very sad to see machinery life of *periyannan* and he doesn't even seem to see or even feel for physical and emotional suffering she undergoes as a woman.

Another most disappointing point is that even women support this type of oppression as they think and make others to believe that if you are born as a women it is their duty and even a part of life to suffer and to be under control of men even though he is wrong. During post-partum period they seem to be very much down physically and also mentally. *Periyannan*, antagonist of the novel who is longing for the power and their tyrannical behavior in the treatment of women and he sees women in the place of sex and in the household chores ,men in the place of dominating and it is very normal for him to have an extra-marital affair with another woman, *Lakshmi*. He is not capable of treating women by showing them love and respect not only because of their contribution for the family even as human being everyone in the society should be treated equally.

The researcher would like to expose the dialects that portray the discrimination. In chapter seven at one-point *Dhanam* was poked fun because of her protruding front teeth. As a woman, even *Anandhayi* she should have supported her to develop and prepare herself to be mentally strong rather she just mentioned that as her drawback that this tooth may spoil her marriage opportunities. So, it is very clear that even women they themselves were not ready to encourage women in case of their daughters, mothers, sisters, and mother-in-law. This shows marginalization even among them. Here in this novel she brings out the double marginalization first as women and in another case, they belong to the Dalit community. In the meantime, *Periyannan* went from the house in order to earn outside the village, he was in charge to build a dam and it takes at least three years to complete the project even in that meantime he doesn't fail to insist often by visiting the house and saying that he is the bread runner of the family. *Periyannan* once accused her of having an affair with another man, she immediately exposed to him about his affair that in order to hide

his illegal and shady activities he just blames and accuses her and he was not even hesitated and he was more arrogant in saying that why should he be scared of Anandhayi and he is very sure and he says that he can have any woman he wants.

“of course she will come , will thrash her with a broomstick. Then we'll see how she can come back . ' "Talk anymore, I'll bring her right here and make you lick off her hands like the dog you are"

Even Aanandhayi's mother-in-law asked her grandchildren to help Anandhayii in doing her chores. Once there was a scattered rice grains on the floor of the house and even for that Anandhayi was blamed for that by forgetting that each and every one is responsible for keeping the house and the things in the house clean. she blamed her that if she is responsible the house wouldn't survive.

Another most important character to be given importance is Lakshmi, who is a second wife of Periyannan, even in one place he doesn't feel ashamed of his arrogance rather Lakshmi suffered under Periyannan and also humiliated by his children. As soon as the girl child attain its puberty, they think of only of their marriage whether they were happy or unhappy. But in case of men they always wanted to live life on their own terms.

There are many rituals that are followed in villages mentioned in the novel by the author. There was mention of Lord Ponnusami, their family God. Thought process and their thinking (as soliloquy) is mentioned in Italics so with these italic letters readers will be able to identify it as a thought-process of characters in the novel. The researcher would like to recall the introduction the novel where there was some other woman who secretly meets Periyannan even that too with the help of Muthakka who came there as a helper but even that turned to be a suffering for her. The statement there she utters even seems to be very ironical, "When the man of the house is sleeping upstairs, which stranger is going to enter?" She forgets that only he is the reason for the stranger entering into the house. He doesn't care or bother that his wife is going to give birth. He just spends his time sluggishly. His treatment of women is extremely horrible for the readers while they read about Periyannan's activities towards his wife and children. She referred a woman who visits her husband in the middle of the night as slut. Even though she even acts biased even though she knows that her husband is the root cause of all these incidents happening. There she uses dialect which they use ,

" Adiye has your father let you free, so you can roam the town? She must pluck off her tongue and die in shame? Lakshmi, whom he married later, even she seems to be fond of his children. Lakshmi is very strong mentally and she is very stubborn he treated her just like how he treated Anandhayi. Even the younger boys in the novel are being taught by elders to treat women in a submissive manner. They are consoling themselves as they did not need to work as coolies for

their daily meal. They were content even the basic needs are provided only by men in the family. "Though I am sad he died, I am equally relieved Only now I am able to sleep peacefully". Through these lines the readers are able to empathize with these female characters. The story seems to be very normal but both pain and sufferings they undergo make the readers to understand it in a better way. Even if the women seem to be beautiful, they label her as characterless (For eg: Character of Neelaveni in her school days) and how she becomes a plaything for everyone.

Another devastating incident for Anandhayi is the death of her son even then he doesn't feel ashamed that he was not able to look after his children in a better manner even then he blames her for not taking care of her children carefully. Even at the end of the story Anandhayi was with her grandchildren Periyannan threw coin on her face and he belittles her by saying that she is incapable of even buying a basic need for her. When you are born a woman, you have to learn to control your tongue"

once he was with Lakshmi she prepared food for him to eat he complained of the food as too much spicy and for that she just responded that that's how they prepare food in their house and suddenly he started insulting her by saying that she doesn't have any home and that proves that she should be under his control by always depending on him for every single thing she needs in her life. Later she was shocked to hear that Periyannan had a family on his own and she was shattered after coming to know the truth. Periyannan at the same time came to know about the death of his son Balan he went there to finish his rites and as soon as he came from the cremation ground he was thinking of some ideas to get rid of his house in order to meet Lakshmi. As usual he blamed her for not taking care of her son properly, he complains that because of her carelessness that is she doesn't bother about the intake of his son as he dies of his swollen stomach because of the raw rice.

As soon as he finished this ceremony and went to meet her and she was shocked to see him as she heard the news that his son is dead. And she thought that he would not return for a couple of days so when she saw her on the day itself, she was shocked and her reaction made him to suspect her. Only after this incident he came to a conclusion that he needs to get her daughter married soon and settle his son as soon as possible. So, he decided to take Lakshmi with him and decided to make her stay with Anandhayi. Then only he spoke positive about Anandhayi and that positivity according to him is her patience only if the woman is patient in her life she will be taken in a positive way. He was not even ashamed to say that she is scared of him. We came to know about Anandhayi and Periyannan, she was feeling sad that she doesn't even take a photograph on the contrary he went there in search of his second wife Lakshmi.

There are many phrases that add flavor to the rural living. The aim of the author is to empower women in the dalit community in order to emerge as a separate individual. Thus, in this

novel the author brings out the arrogance and chauvinistic attitude of men towards women and also explains how they undergo those torments and overcome in their life.

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