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Doris Lessing's *The Golden Notebook***

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DEDICATION

I would like to dedicate this work to all women's and names I mentioned below, and I dedicate this work to you all from my heart for your support, I am blessed to have you all in my life.

I dedicate this work to my heaven my mother, my supervisor in this life; she encourages me in every step in my life. To my Love, my father, for being proud of his girl he was there all the time by my side, thank you for believing in me. Thank you both for providing me with whatever I need, and surrounding me with great affection and happiness to reach my objectives in this life.

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I dedicate my work to those people who did not believe in me, who cannot destroy me, "Hi I've made it".

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Abstract

This dissertation has as an aim the examination of the feminist dilemma in the formation of female identity in *The Golden Notebook* by Doris Lessing, because the novel deals with issues related to women who live in a male-centred society. It also questions the meaning of being a woman in a patriarchal society. In addition, through the analysis, it aims to highlight female issues, identity, gender, love, marriage, and freedom through studying the experience of the novel's protagonist, Anna, including various episodes in her life's journey. In order to do so, it utilizes the feminist approach to discuss femaleness in a contemporary world full of social and political challenges to women. Indeed, the novel gives power and voice to voiceless women all over the world and presents a truthful account of female identity from a feminist point of view.

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ملخص

Résumé

Introduction

Women throughout the history of many societies have been considered as second-class citizens compared to men, obedient to traditions, social conventions, and discriminations. However, women have at some historical points reacted to such injustices against them by claiming a respectful status in the society, searching for their particular identity, and freedom from different social bonds.

The subject of this present research is to analyse the main issues related to women living in the early 20th century by analyzing Doris Lessing's *The Golden Notebook* (1962). The study attempts to shed light on the difficulties that women face in western culture and their attempts to challenge the social oppression exercised on them. Moreover, the work strives at displaying the situation of women in 1960, the female identity in Europe, women's relationship to men, children, and specifically their position in a patriarchal society.

This study examines women's quest for female identity through their search for an independent life, in order to obtain the same opportunities and liberties that men enjoy. *The Golden Notebook* reflects the real life of the main character, through her journey of self-construction and fighting for freedom, where the protagonist's passed through a series of struggles. However, the protagonist faces inferiority and oppression, in addition problem-related to love, life, motherhood, creativity, and success. In this regard, this Novel is tackled from the feminist point of view.

Doris May Lessing is a white British-South African Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) novelist, poet, and short stories writer. She was born on 22 October 1919 to British parents in Iran, where she lived until 1925. Her works raise female issues, where Lessing performed as a spokeswoman for women's rights in her life and her works. She is a representative of first-generation feminist writers. In 1962, her masterpiece *The Golden Notebook* was published. The work soon became recognized among feminists, because of its realistic depiction of the life of women from various angles. She was gifted

several prizes, most remarkably the Nobel Prize (2007) the David Cohen prize for achievement in British literature (2001).

Doris May Lessing's *The Golden Notebook* (1962), is a collection of four distinct colored notebooks in which it consists of the writer's various events. In one Golden Notebook that contains five sections heading "*Free women*". However, *The Golden Notebook* starts with a free women section followed by the Black, the Red, the Yellow, and the Blue. The novel ends with *The Golden Notebook*, which represents the final part of the free women.

For many years, there have been many works on the novel *The Golden Notebook* by Doris Lessing. Meanwhile, it contains several aspects that can be studied from different angles and perspectives relying on various theories. Consequently, studies fulfil to discuss the major themes in the novel, which revolve around female issues like freedom, personal life, and motherhood.

In his article entitles "Analysis of Feminism in Doris Lessing's *The Golden Notebook*", Li Qinghua states, "The novel is regarded as a classic that highlights the growth and liberation of women, and Lessing is also known as the earliest and most powerful voice in the history of women's liberation, a feminist who never compromised" (49). He claims that the novel is a feminist one at the first level, due to the existence of sufficient components of feminism within the work, such as liberation, family, and relationships. Moreover, the period of publishing the novel that coincides with the emergence of the second wave of feminism in which, its main ideologies were against the patriarchal society and its restrictions.

Anna faces many difficulties against the traditional role of women, as she is a free writer and divorced mother. She refuses to be limited in a relationship with men precisely marriage. Anna, as well as any other women is forced to pass through a harsh road, in order to find freedom in a society ruled by men.

Indeed, *The Golden Notebook* is a debatable work; it is like other works that attract critics' attention. Where various critics view that the novel was not feminist, otherwise the work is classified among. However, Lessing denies that she stands firm to that, she describes only the reality lived by women as it is. Nevertheless, according to the Swedish Academy it is classified as a feminist work, Sue King-Smith in his paper, "I Am Anna Wulf: The Golden Notebook Revisited", (2007) claims that: "The burgeoning feminist movement saw it [The Golden Notebook] as a pioneering work, and it belongs to the handful of books that informed the 20th century view of the male-female relationship" (13). *The Golden Notebook* is regarded as one of the major works that depict the real situation of males and females in the 20th century.

In his article "The Subversive Feminine: Sexual Oppression and Sexual Identity in Doris Lessing's *The Golden Notebook*", (2011). Pedram Lalbakhsh Points out that: "The evidence taken from the novel's world show that society and its oppressive relations intend to shape women's identities. In a society in which suppression and exploitation dominate people's lives, women do not have the possibility to be what they really are" (96). Further, Society is the major responsible of these ideologies and gender differences. In other words, in society women are considering inferior and marginalized. However, the freedom is given to men who have total power over females.

Many critics find difficulties in understanding the novel and the messages embedded in it. This was one of the purposes of the author as she breaks the traditional way of writing. Yet, it gains numerous welcoming in the Feminist stream precisely and from women generally. In which, the author gives a detailed description of women's life. Further, Sue King-Smith asserts, "it's strange and often contradictory messages regarding society and the nature of subjectivity, and its fragmented and apparently chaotic style. Many women, however, saw it as one of the first books to genuinely articulate the female experience" (13). However, according to Doriss Lessing's unique and fragmented structure of that leads the critic to confusion and find it hard to understand and analyse it.

In addition, the novel is read from various approaches as the Feminist, the Socialist, the Psychoanalytic, and other approaches.

This dissertation is divided into two chapters. The first chapter is the theoretical foundation that represents the background of feminism, its waves, and the types that help in understanding the context of the novel. Afterward, the second chapter is the analytical for analysing female identity in the novel. So, the novel is discussed from a feminist perspective, through the depiction of the character's life and experience.

The purpose of the study is to give voice to voiceless women in general, and to show strongly they stand against all obstacles facing them to achieve their goals. The study seeks to analyse the protagonist's journey toward her search for real identity and freedom from different social restrictions, which is reflected through the real-life experience of Doris Lessing. The Feminist theory is used in order to help in the analyses of the novel. As a result, it helps to discover female issues the protagonist faced in the novel during her life because of men's chain, social restriction, traditional women life, and the existence in a patriarchal society.

Chapter One

Feminism: A Comprehensive Overview

Chapter One: Feminism: A Comprehensive Overview

Women dig deep into marginalization; they are deprived from their normal rights in order to live freely without any barriers. Furthermore, due to the social categorisation they are considered as weak creators. According to patriarchal society, they are regarded as inferior gender. After the spread of the various social movements, which have called for women's rights. Feminism is one of those movements that emerged in order to help them to get their independence and protect women's rights. This chapter attempts to investigate the theory of feminism. Through providing an overview about it. In addition to some definition about the term, famous waves, and types of the movement.

I.1. Definition of Feminism

The etymology of feminism is derived from the Latin word 'Femina', which refers chiefly to women, mainly to attain female standards. Although the term feminism, and feminist gain widespread use in the 1890s. The Lexico Dictionary defines the term as the following "the advocacy of women's rights on the ground of the equality of the sexes".

Feminism has broad and various definitions, according to the English journalist and novelist Rebecca West in an ironic way; she defines feminism as the following: "I have never been able to find out precisely what feminism is; I only know that people call me a feminist whenever I express sentiments that differentiate me from a doormat".

Zara Huda Faris defines feminism as "Feminists advocate that women have traditionally been dehumanised by a male dominated society, which they call the patriarchy" (1). The emergence of this movement was a necessity for females who suffer subjugation in a patriarchal society in order to gain their rights and equal opportunities. Hence, there was an organization that stands for oppressed women and still fighting for women's rights such as NOW (National Organization for Women), its main founders and members were feminist writers amongst them Mary Eastwood and Betty Friedan.

In line with the famous feminist authors and philosophers, by the mother of feminism Mary Wollstonecraft, and her praised book *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*, as many Feminist novelists who seeks for female rights. She declares:

I attribute to a false system of education, gathered from the books written on this subject by men who, considering females rather as women than human creatures, have been more anxious to make them alluring mistresses than affectionate wives and rational mothers; and the understanding of the sex has been so bubbled by this specious homage, that the civilized women of the present century, with a few exceptions, are only anxious to inspire love, when they ought to cherish a nobler ambition, and by their abilities and virtues exact respect. (74)

In her Political piece, Wollstonecraft calls for women's right for education and the importance of education for female. Additionally, she advocate for change the common ideology and Programmation that happens at the level of schools. Further, men are regarded superior than females, as well as, they took females only for fun and for their sexual needs, yet females must have same social rights and respect as men.

Like its predecessors, Simone De Beauvoir in her book *The Second Sex* (1956) is one of the famous feminist masterpieces, tackles female issues she states, “He is the Subject, he is the Absolute—she is the Other” (De Beauvoir xxii). She emphasises on the idea that women should share the same equalities as the other gender, to be considered as human being.

I.2. History of Feminism

After a long journey of suffering from subjugation and inferiority, feminism came to the surface. This latter has a broad History that carries in its folder the battle of feminists, towards erasing common ideologies and tradition, as result to change women's position in society and providing a suitable life. Furthermore, feminism reached its peak in the 1800s and 1900s, at the

beginning emerged in France in the 1890s and later outspread in the rest of Europe and then in America.

In the 19th century, this epoch tackles female issues from a different point of view. Each period concerned with a specific subject, and The 1950s-1960s it was the period where the state of women in male dominant society had begun to create its own discourse and to take a position in a male society. Besides, it is characterized by the appearance of numerous and valuable writers and works amongst, is the first remarkable critical book of French philosopher Simone de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*, which was published in English in 1952. In addition to, Doris Lessing's *The Golden Notebook* (1962) and Betty Friedan's *The Feminine Mystique* (1963). They focused on the issue related to women like, what it means to be a woman in a patriarchal society, the Quest for female identity, marriage, and motherhood (Rubenstein 46 - 47).

Along with, the era of the 1970s and 1980s was considered a period of women's liberation. Its main issue was the search for equal rights freedom; it sheds light on women's experiences from different sides. Like sexuality, maternity, love, gender identity, body desire, and sisterhood.

However, this period witnesses the emergence of many feminist writers, they use their pens to change their situation, and each one of them focus on a specific matter, through using their own characters. Such as, Fay Weldon's novels of the 1970s are sarcastic critiques of women state before feminism; in addition, Angela Carter, her plays with narrative reality through fantastic or magical realism, introduced to the feminist novel a blend of comic corny, *The Night at the Circus* (1985) (Rubenstein 52-57).

The twentieth century was a continuation of the preceded one. When feminism reached its climax and refreshed again. Further, women's life is transformed; they gain the right to vote in order to make their voices heard in society. The well-known writers of this period are Virginia Woolf, in the first half of the 20th century, is known precisely for her extended essay *A Room of One's Own*,

where she defends women rights and influenced many other female writers to write about their conditions, one of her notable novels is *Mrs. Dalloway* (1925). In addition, Jennet Winterson in the second half of the 20th century, among her famous works *The Passion* (1987) and *Sexting The Cherry* (1989) thus, are regarded as the main novels that spotlight women's situation in male society (Halířová p15). The rise of the social movement feminism, a lot of things have changed, and women begun to peruse their dreams and desire especially to gain equal educational opportunity, labor, equal salary, and the right to vote...etc.

The Feminist Theory is a vast system of ideologies that provide aspects for understanding human behavior. Hence, it depicts women's experiences, social life, and issues that face them in contemporary society. It tries to investigate the social life through women's perspectives, in order to make a better world for women and all humankind. In which its main concern is to find answers to many questions about women conditions in society, oppression, and gender differences, and inequalities.

This theory has specific standards pursue in real life. These principles seek to provide gender equality in which women work hard in order to change their life situation and make these ideas applicable in society to change their life situation. In addition to that enlarging human free will and choices that both genders are free to achieve their life even if it contradicts with old shared beliefs and tradition. Moreover, gender inequality is the most important principle of this theory in which they seek to remove it because women are controlled by the different cultural norms and tradition that prevent them from being free and gain their rights. Thus, they seek to end the sexual, male oppression and to be free and equal to the other gender.

Gender oppression emphasise on domination as a reason of inequality. Further, they belief that male interest is to control women. Where Albert Iopp in his paper "Feminist Theories: Overview", states "Theories of gender oppressions stress the practice of domination as the source of inequality. Theorists of gender oppression argue that men have an interest in controlling and

subjugating women and that the oppression of women is a direct consequence of this relationship of power” (1).

Furthermore, the theories of structural oppression investigate the way social structure is affected by male domination where the Intersectional theory thinks that women’s experiences of oppression differs according to some factors like age class, race, global location, and sexual orientation. Feminist theorists believe that women’s life is controlled by men and structural inequality.

I.3. Waves of Feminism

Many wonder how feminism facilitated the road for women in the entire world, to have such position and to make the dream of yesterday true. In order to be valued as an individual and equal to the other gender, after a long of sacrifices and suffering for ages. Yet, the history of feminism consists of three major waves that helped in the creation of female current state.

I.3.1. The Second Wave

It is considered as a continuation of the previous one, the second wave of feminism refers to radical feminism of the Women’s liberation movement, through 1960s and early1970s. However, there was a competition knowing as Miss America Pageants during 1968s and 1969s. Furthermore, this event focused on the external of women like the way of dressing rather than the internal like the way of thinking.

As a result, feminists have reacted negatively, they were furious about the situation. In which, they try to criticize it ironically through using theatre. On the other hand, to show to males that women are creatures equal like them not just a marionette in their hands. However, they did not focus only on right to vote but they wanted total freedom. In This period, many books related to the second-wave feminism produced as, Juliet Mitchell in *The Subjection of Women* (1970) and Shulamith Firestone in *The Dialectic of Sex: The Case for Feminist Revolution* (1970) besides others (Ghorfati Medini 14-17).

I.3.2. The Third Wave

This Wave was a reaction to the second wave beliefs and activities, this wave alluded to a group of feminist activities, who appeared in the 1990 century until the present. The Figure of this wave is Rebecca Walker. She was the first who used the term "Third wave" in 1992. Third-wave feminists view themselves as efficient and powerful. The new feminist generations assumed that in order to make this wave successful than the previous one is through looking for new methods and ways for asking for women's rights.

Hence, they used specific words, which contain a powerful and clear message like using the word "girl" instead of women to draw the attention of the new generation to the significance of feminism. Thus, another way of attracting them is through preparing some parties and events about young women and girls passion such as clothes and fashion, in order to make women feel that she is precious and worthy, who can change the world positively.

This new wave of feminism was an effective and successful wave. Since, it spots light on women's lives from all angles, from the idea of removing the stereotypical images and different categorizations and classifications that Women fall in. Furthermore, the recent wave its entire quest was not only the political and social rights but also they wanted to put their touch in different domains, in another word to take a part in life.

This wave is characterized by a famous feminist writer like the social theorist Judith Butler. Who wrote many famous books as *Gender Trouble* (1990). Where she discusses the injustice principles of the government and anti-feminism organizations. Therefore, there are also some notable literary works like *The Vagina Monologues* written by the American playwright Eve Ensler in addition to others (Kroløkke, Scott Sorensen 15).

In the end, the three waves play an essential role in society; these waves are interwoven together for changing female's situation all over the world. As well as, for feminist theorists,

novelists, and politics from 1960 until the present day. On the other hand, this latter strengthened women's voice to fight for their rights in order to have better life conditions to be socially and politically present besides religious and sexual rights.

I.4.Types of feminism

Feminism is a political and social movement that seeks for obtaining female rights, equality between genders, also to end women's oppression and sexism. This theory is divided into many kinds each one of them contains specific principles including: Liberal Feminism, Radical Feminism, and Socialist-Feminism.

I.4.1. Liberal Feminism

Liberal Feminism or mainstream feminism is an individualistic form of feminism; it is the most important kind of feminism. Considered as the most conservative branch, it focuses on the idea that all humans should be equal in sharing the same opportunities, rights in civic and political, and considering women as a part of the society. However, it targets the individuals to utilize legal and democratic procedure by using pressure groups and hire intellectual women to raise the consciousness of the case to aid women to be equal as men in the eyes of both law and society. (Ghorfati Medini 9).

The beginning of the 1960s was a revival of the energy that pursued the civil rights movement in the US, which was the reason behind the famous March on Washington. Moreover, this march took the concepts and principles of liberal feminism to a different level. As mentioned above liberal feminism calls for considering female as individual in the society, who must have a total freedom in governing her social life as a man where the main emphasis was on gender equality before (Ghorfati Medini 9).

I.4.2. Radical Feminism

Radical feminism its basic belief is that gender differences are deeply rooted in society and the only solution to get rid of these ideologies, is to destroy the concept of gender inequality of men and women. In other words, Radical feminists think that a patriarchal society is responsible for women's oppression. Therefore, it appears on the surface in the late 1960s by well-known chiefs Shulamith Firestone and T. Grace Atkinson.

Additionally, it refuses the idea of liberals that women's oppression due to the lack of political or civil rights. In fact, this tendency is aimed at social modification.

Furthermore, they shift from having a role to destroy the historic and biological conception of patriarchy because they assume that this is the reason behind the female unsuitable situation (Singh1335).

I.4.3.Socialist Feminism

In the early 19th century, the capitalist neglected the existence of women. Since, they were not able to have any of the two-position neither social nor economic. Consequently, Marxist and social feminism believe that women's oppression and marginalization linked to the capitalist system. On the other hand, socialist feminism calls for ending the capitalist system, because it is a major cause of gender inequalities and those benefits from an unpaid and underpaid female worker. Thus, socialist feminism attempt to combine women's struggles and issues in their category and for their adversary towards capitalism (Singh1336).

This theoretical chapter endeavours to set a few significant points in relation to feminism as a concept, belief, and movement. It transacts with various ideas and issues related to Feminism. Providing a comprehensive overview of the theory of feminism, major Waves, and types, in detail and each separately. It transfers the situation of the women and feminist experience, provides an overlook about women's path, which they extremely suffered. Although the obstacles they have been through, but they bear the pain and they gain their victory against the patriarchal ideologies. Yet,

they were able to destroy the different beliefs, and provide to all women their rights and dignity. Moreover, capable of making women glad and proud of their success and especially making them believe in themselves.

They tend to spread this new ideology among women that they are human beings they must have equal rights like other genders, who have the right to vote, to live, to marry, and be free to express their point of view. In other words, the freedom to say no or yes to what pleases her and what do not. Consequently, these women activists, feminists were able to change women's common ideology and make them believe in their existence and value, that she is important in the world as men.

Chapter Two

The Quest for Female Identity in *The Golden Notebook*

Chapter Two: The Quest for Female Identity in *The Golden Notebook*

The Golden Notebook is one of the famous literary work that tackles female issue and portrays women's situation during the 20th century. This chapter entitled "The Quest for Female Identity in *The Golden Notebook*" aims at spotlighting several matters of the novel through the analysis. It investigating the theme of Female identity in the novel through the depiction of the chaotic state of the protagonist Anna Wulf, Which is resulted from her previous disappointed experiences. On the other hand, this chapter portrays Anna's journey of contention toward all conflicts within herself and the environment until the end when she faces her real identity.

II.1. Structure of *The Golden Notebook*

Doris Lessing, known as an epicist of female experience and the Nobel Prize winner. She is a well-know woman writer, who embraces the feminist movement in order to tackle the politics of gender. *The Golden Notebook* (1962) is regarded as a feminist leading point, and one of the major works of the twentieth century. It is translated into many languages.

The Golden Notebook revolves around the life of two women, Anna Wulf the writer, and her friend Molly Jacobs a minor theatre actress. Both of them are divorced mothers with children. The two women faces some issues in their life concerning their relationships with men, motherhood, love...etc. The protagonist Anna suffers from social breakdown and disillusionment, in addition, to her worries concerning her bad experiences of life and relationships with wrong men, which lead her to record those different phases in four notebooks. The Black Notebook allotted to her life in central Africa, the Red Notebook to her experience in the communist party, and the Yellow deals with her emotional life. Finally, the Bleu is about her everyday life. Furthermore, these four notebooks are pursued by the fifth one, which is *The Golden Notebook*, where Anna connects her all experiences, in order to understand her life and her quest for identity.

The Golden Notebook is regarded as a way for Anna to self-healing from the fragmentation that she has been suffering from. Briefly, *The Golden Notebook* is a novel that maps the fragmentation within the life and identity of the female writer. *The Golden Notebook* succeeds not only in capturing the protagonist's life and breakdown but also, in reflecting the female's life in general, especially those who suffer from the different kinds of exile, and their struggle in order to define who they are.

The Golden Notebook is Doris Lessing's (1962) masterpiece, which is about women's struggle to chase freedom. However, the structure of the novel mirrors the chaotic outside and the breakdown, which the protagonist had been through her life.

The novel opens with a scene from free women and each episode is accompanied with passages from the colored notebooks. Hence, this format is repeated four times. Furthermore, afterward the four-time there are two sections, the first one, the section from the gold-colored notebook, the second, is the fifth and last section from free women. As it is stated by Sue King-Smith, in his article "I am Anna Wulf : The Golden Notebook Revisited", declares, "The Golden Notebook was ahead of its time, on a number of levels, but particularly in terms of its narrative structure and themes, and its exploration of the female subject. In many ways, The Golden Notebook exemplifies the uniqueness of Lessing's work as a whole" (12).

The structure of *The Golden Notebook* produces no chronological order and interconnection between sections. The fragmented structure reflects the fragmentation and breakdown that Anna's suffer from. In other words the disintegrated life that Anna live is clear through her use of four notebooks, which is depicted in the novel that there are many Anna's each one of them is living distinct life.

Besides, Anna writes the gold-colored notebook in order to put everything together. Her use of the gold-colored notebook is to refer first, to Anna last phase of mental breakdown, second her

seeking to put an end to the fragmentation and the chaotic life that she lives. Yet, the novel finishes with the final section of ‘‘Free Women’’. Anna uses of *the Golden Notebook* to depict her desertion of the fragmentation of the four notebooks, while Anna records and collect her realization in this gold-colored notebook. As stated by Sue King-Smith, in his article "I am Anna Wulf": The Golden Notebook Revisited”, (2017) that, “The structure of *The Golden Notebook* challenges traditional understandings of narrative progression and form. Lessing suggests that the structure should be read as an integral part of the text” (14).

II.3.The Golden Notebook: Female Issues, Identities, and Challenges

In *The Golden Notebook*, the author sheds light on several issues related to women's condition in a patriarchal society, who are in search for identity and self-fulfillment. The novel contains many Feminist characteristics and components that are depicted through the analysis of certain themes in order to discover the female identity, such as Family, home, love, relationship, Motherhood, society, Female identity, male oppression, and free women.

II.3.1.Challenges for Women with Family

The theme of family and home is one of the most interesting themes in *The Golden Notebook*. However, the family is pictured in the novel as a shattered one, by means that all the families living the feeling of abandonment, carelessness, and neglect. Mainly from the father’s towards their children, this is due to the conflicted relationship between fathers and mothers. After all, Anna get married to a man who she does not love and has a girl with him and later got divorced, which is the same case as her friend Molly. In addition, the majority of the female’s characters in the novel are divorced women with children. Although, women are considered as the controlled sex when it comes to home and family, because of the role they play at home, as mothers and housekeepers. Whereas, men’s place is outside the house at work assisting his family. In “Liberating Literature in The Golden Notebook”, Swarnalatha contends that, “the Free Women” of *The Golden Notebook* enjoys free

professional life, but they don't get deserved happiness although they walked out bravely from the kitchen" (1).

The novel sheds light on the efforts of two divorced women Anna and her friend Molly, which they work to take care of their children and provide them with everything they need. Thus, the fathers in the novel are rarely present, even though in some cases they are present, as the example of Richard Molly's ex-husband. However, he never shows his acts as a father, instead, he keeps talking about his work, how he is going to make his son successful as him and works with him in his company. Besides this, he never passes time with his family or his son. Unlike, Anna and Molly though are both working mothers they have enough time for their families especially for children. Despite that, women sacrifices and efforts in order to balance between their works and their children. Yet, women remain passive because they are hardly considered as individuals until the day they get married to men who are going to define them and give meaning to their life. As Anna mentions, "they still define us in terms of relationship with men" (*The Golden Notebook* 5). Thus, women are considered inferior to men and that marriage defines their state in the society.

Moreover, the married women are valued more than the unmarried ones, where women in the novel are considered as not being able for supporting themselves, due to the lack of enjoying the same right as men like the right to education. Pedram Lalbakhsh, in his article, "The Subversive Feminine: Sexual Oppression and Sexual Identity in Doris Lessing's *The Golden Notebook*", (2011) notes that "Oppressive systems that are designed to define and enfeeble women's genuine identity" (92). The novel depicts the reason behind Molly marriage by stating, "She knew now she had married out of a need for security and even respectability" (*The Golden Notebook* 7). Therefore, women are obliged to marry in order to live a good life and enjoy a sense of wholeness. However, women in the novel are not depicted as having many tasks as in the case of Anna and Molly, one of them is a writer and the other one is an actress.

Furthermore, the female's characters in the novel are against the concept that only men and marriage could define women, who they are only in relation to their men. Whereas, they think that women have the right to be independent free from male chains, and to be herself not only something that belongs to men as Richard claims “Yes - and you call yourself Miss Jacobs. Miss in the interest of your right to independence and your own identity - whatever that might mean” (*The Golden Notebook* 17).

As it is emphasized in the previous quote, where Molly and Richard discuss the women's right to be whatever she wants and do not let anything defines her identity. In the opinion of Charya Bhashkra, in her article “Doris Lessing’s *The Golden Notebook*: A Feminist Shell of the ‘Free Women’”, (2013) “Free Women” discarded their loveless marriage but still could not find their perfect marriage. Lessing’s novel tells us that males are not the enemies of women but their collaborators” (n.p). In addition, the novel shows that women place is at home, the ones who take care of children, while men regarded as the ones who work outside provide money and fulfil the need of the family. That is why men reject the idea of working women, as a result men feel inferior. Yet, women often show their want for men's interference and take part in the family.

The women watched how the boy, returning with an empty basket, swung out a filled one from the back of the milk-cart, receiving instructions from his father with a smile and a nod. There was perfect understanding there; and the two women, both of them bringing up children without men, exchanged a grimacing envious smile. (*The Golden Notebook* 10)

The quote depicts how the two women are jealous of the relationship between the milk-man and his son, the two women wishes if it is the same case with their children’s and their father’s. The novel shows that the women break up with the image they have about marriage and family, which is

not the same thing they expect. Above all, the novel portrays that the woman assumes to have one place, which seems to be the suitable one for her, which is the family.

II.3.2. Women's Love Relationships

The Golden Notebook sheds light on one of the main aspects of feminism. However, the theme of love and relationships reveals the interconnectedness of the novel to Feminism. The protagonist of the novel has many relationships with single and married men. However, men claim that they love their wives and children and they are happy with their families. Thus, they are unfaithful, in which they betray their wives. Because they think that, they are the superior gender. In another word, they can do everything, have fun, and no one blames them...etc. Together with that, they are aware that their wives are scared and worried about losing them because they totally depend on them, even though they know their men's secrets. Consequently, men beliefs that women are weak and they cannot stand against them.

Even though Anna is unfavourable to be in a relationship, but she is confused by the idea that these relationships might affect women's self and freedom. As a part of her life as a free woman, Anna felt the need for love and a relationship with men because she misses Michael. However, she finds it hard to enjoy this kind of relationship after they break up. In addition, she is unhappy and hurt when she experiences a sense of betrayal, while she recognizes that Saul has mistresses.

Moreover, the female characters in the novel are portraying the typical and traditional women or housewives. However, Anna and Molly are the opposite, who represent free independent women; may be due to that they are divorced and single mothers. Nevertheless, when it comes to being with men or in a relationship, they both change and being normal homemakers in which, they cook for hours, and clean...etc. for their men. Even though, they treat them unfairly. Like they cannot be on time or sometimes they suddenly postpone their engagements or rendezvous; as well as, they keep their relationship in secret so that their wives do not realize it or anyone else. They are ready to

please and sacrifice themselves for them. Although they know that, they have their own family and in the end, they will back to them. This exhibits how independent women look; they change when they are with men. In other words, they change for seeking their happiness. Ellen w. Brooks, in her article “The Image of Woman in Lessing's *The Golden Notebook*”,(2013) reports: “In Lessing's view, men and women do not really confront each other, for they define each other according to vastly different needs, shaping reality to fit the pattern of their desires. Women, depending on men for happiness, deny their men's deficiencies” (106).

Regardless, in the novel females are trying to satisfy men but sometimes, they use their beauty and appearance to control men, to show that has some power over them. Another trick to control men for women is to refuse them as Anna mentions in the novel, “I didn't let myself be chosen by men who really wanted me” (*The Golden Notebook* 89). However, Anna states that she rarely dates men who chose her. She confirms her ability of attracting any men. Rather, she want to be with men who do not recognize her, who already has a wife. Women have the power and right to select their life partner and fall in love with whom they want Ella states:

She once said, laughing at him, But Paul, you brought me that red blouse. It's cut to show the top of my breasts. But when I put it on, you came into the room, and came right over and buttoned it up - you did it instinctively. (*The Golden Notebook* 161)

Further, we observe that the unconscious controlling of Anna's Boyfriend Paul, in which when he confirms that their relationship is going well he starts using his power on her from small things in order to control her. Starting from the way she dresses to other things.

Although, sometimes he is the one who buys her clothes; he keeps nagging about her that she should dress well, and he is never satisfied. However, Paul affects Anna and she adheres him.

Ellen w. Brooks, In “The Image of Woman in Lessing's *The Golden Notebook*”,(2013) asserts that,” Men, in contrast, do not spare their women, using them as sexual scapegoats and viewing them as threatening, dominating mother figures, separating them into categories of conventional wife or sexual playmate, playing one off against the other” (106).

Therefore, when he left her she finds herself lost and changes to another different Anna. Moreover, instead of moving on forgetting the past and meets new men, she is afraid that she cannot destroy the shell he makes for her; she is totally programmed and influenced through his ideas. “...Two men good-humouredly greeted her, and both times she froze into nervous annoyance, and walked on with hastening steps. She got into her bedroom and locked the door as if against a danger” (*The Golden Notebook* 224). She cannot forget Paul's behavior and jealousy when she stares or talks to other men who try to be nice to her.

II.3.3.The Experience of Motherhood

Doris Lessing in the novel tries to evoke in details motherhood or the state of all mothers in the novel and their children. This shows that the mother is the only caretaker of her children. She tries to present perfect features of free female power.

The novel portrays that the female characters practice they roles as mothers not only on their children but also on their husbands, men, lovers, in one of her short stories about a fifty years old rich man Anna declares:

He is a cuckoo in half a dozen families, the old family friend. He is like a child, dependent on women ... is always ringing up some woman to do something for him ... making an impression on younger women for a week or so ... then returns to the older women who fulfil the function of kindly nannies or nursemaids. (*The Golden Notebook* 391)

However, we notice the act of mothering is practiced on each other, Moreover when we see Molly practice its mothering over Anna, because she is older than her and where Molly advises her to continue writing and never stops ...etc. Molly claims:

I keep telling you,' said Molly, her voice shrill, 'I'll never forgive you if you throw that talent away. I mean it. I've done it, and I can't stand watching you-I've messed with painting and dancing and acting and scribbling, and now... you're so talented... (*The Golden Notebook* 6)

In the male-dominated society, they have an ideology or shared belief them, that women should take care of the house and children only. In his article “The Subversive Feminine: Sexual Oppression and Sexual Identity in Doris Lessing’s *The Golden Notebook*”, Pedram Lalbakhsh claims:

Who accuses her of being irresponsible and ignorant. In the dictionary of patriarchy, women’s freedom from socializing and nurturing roles has no entry. Women are supposed to be bound to the house and children and this is what they all share. (95)

Consequently, the novel portrays how Richard Tommy's father criticizes Molly, because she left her child in the house alone though he is old enough “He was over nineteen, and I left him in a comfortable house, with money, and everything organized”(*The Golden Notebook* 15). Yet, he accuses her of being irresponsible. In another word, in the patriarchal society if the women do not take care of and raise a child in an acceptable manner based on the patriarchal standards or something happened to that child she is attacked. As Pedram Lalbakhsh, declares in his article “The Subversive Feminine: Sexual Oppression and Sexual Identity in Doris Lessing’s *The Golden Notebook*”, (2011) that:

Motherhood and mothering are the very means through which capitalism and patriarchy indoctrinate children to their own benefit. In fact they use mothers as indoctrinators, and through their socialization of children they raise agents who will promote the ideology of patriarchy and capitalism. (95)

As well as the freedom of females is not linked with mothering, because when it comes to her children she should forget herself, be free for them only and be her foremost responsibility, her freedom stops when her children needs her. This is what they share all. Like Molly, Marion is tied to her children nurturing only “tied hand and foot to the boys” (*The Golden Notebook* 15).

Despite all, Doris Lessing portrays mothering and motherhood as unique features specialized to females only. Because women are responsible of raising their children according to human standards. Moreover, Doris Lessing insists on rising them before they are manipulated by the male dominance standards and rules. Although, the problems that a child brings to a mother, but they take their strength from them. In “The Subversive Feminine: Sexual Oppression and Sexual Identity in Doris Lessing’s *The Golden Notebook*”, Pedram Lalbakhsh maintains, “By this assertion Lessing argues that despite all the problems children may bring to women they can be gifts helping women to restore a part of their suppressive power”(95).In addition, as it is stated in the novel When Anna watches Janet crying she implies, “Again the feeling of continuity, of gay intimacy” (*The Golden Notebook* 265).

Besides, Anna sees herself in her daughter, also for her Janet is her rescue boat when she loses herself only her daughter who can hold her, “It is true that with her I banish the Anna who is listless and frightene” (*The Golden Notebook* 393). She calls her, “My normality” and “... she anchors me in what is normal in myself” (*The Golden Notebook* 394).With her daughter; she is simple without any changes.

II.3.4.Female Identity and society

The novel shows that the unfair patriarchal society tries to overlap in a way or another in female's identity formation. In a society with oppressive relations taking advantage and eliminate women's lives. Otherwise, poor females look for a way to survive via changing their names, Obey, neglect themselves, remain silent about their rights, and hide their actual thoughts and emotions. In which in the novel we see Anna struggling within herself, this split symbolizes by her four Notebooks. However, the novel discusses fragmentation, and multiple identities. Thus, the reason behind character's struggles towards knowing themselves in this messy capitalist patriarchal society. For example when Film companies want to modify Anna's novel "Frontiers of War" into a movie but after they add changes, "It would be impossible to do Frontiers of War" on the ... magic box, as it is written" (*The Golden Notebook* 208). However, Anna refuses the suggestion of film companies to modify it because for her the novel and her writing which are part of her identity and the need to protect it. Further, in his article "The Subversive Feminine: Sexual Oppression and Sexual Identity in Doris Lessing's *The Golden Notebook*", Pedram Lalbakhsh points:

They have to fake identities to conform to male-defined codes and standards for survival. While trying to find a way to get along with the oppressive institutions they need to cave in themselves and hide their genuine emotions and thoughts. (96)

Men use the power provided by the nations and traditions to set females identities. In his article "The Subversive Feminine: Sexual Oppression and Sexual Identity in Doris Lessing's *The Golden Notebook*", states, "In a society in which suppression and exploitation dominate people's lives, women do not have the possibility to be what they really are" (Lalbakhsh 96). Thus, one noticeable illustration in the novel, when Richard defines female characters like Molly and Marion as workers for him or have an affair with him only. In addition, Richard's tendency of defining female identities and controlling them is not only for naive, savage namely Anna and Molly. Nevertheless, he does the same thing to Marion, in which Richard states in the novel that, "As it happens, Marion is a good person, not stupid at all, but she's been married for fifteen years to a man who makes her

feel stupid s 'What would they do, these men, without their stupid wives...' (*The Golden Notebook* 24). In addition, Capitalist male they share the same attitude as Richard towards women. Saul Green has his own share in molding Anna's consciousness and identity.

II.3.5. Male Oppression and Free Women

In *The Golden Notebook*, the situation of women in male dominant society is clearly depicted; there are no violent scenes by men over women whereas they use verbal and emotional violence, where they snatch their deep in order to destroy the inner self. Thus, the author describes what happens to her heroines with details. She analyses their emotions during a relationship, after the breakup, when they are betrayed, and abandoned. As stated in, "The Image of Woman in Lessing's *The Golden Notebook*", "In short, both men and women share in the violence of the modern world by playing their opposing roles of oppressor and oppressed" (Brooks 106).

Moreover, 'Free women' expression at the beginning of the novel when Molly and Anna describe themselves as free independent, and not like any other women. For which to be free for them is, to be single, not interested in marriage, and you have a relationship with whom you like even with married men. However, this illustrates from the novel when Molly says "Free. Do you know, when I was away, I was thinking about us and I have decided that we're a completely new type of woman" (*The Golden Notebook* 5).

As Anna's and Molly's alter egos, in the novel within a novel, the heroines Ella and her friend Julia, share the same position towards freedom or being a Free Women:

Ella says drily: My dear Julia, we've chosen to be free women, and this is the price we pay, that's all.'

'Free,' says Julia. 'Free! What's the use of us being free if they aren't? I swear to God, that every one of them, even the best of them, have the old idea of good women and bad women. (*The Golden Notebook* 336)

Furthermore. Male oppression in the novel is demonstrated through the love of Anna Wulf Michael desertion her after a relation that lasts about five years and it might end with marriage, only to marry another woman. In addition, all the relationships between the two genders in the novel show that man are not interested they have lower and empty feelings are contrary to females who have full and strong emotions. As claimed by Ellen w. Brooks, in “The Image of Woman in Lessing's *The Golden Notebook*”(2013) that, “The high level of intelligence demonstrated by the men in *The Golden Notebook* is sharply at odds with their emotional insecurity, their need to enforce submission, their aggressive cruelty in the face of frustration” (106). Nevertheless, in the novel Anna adds:

Morning when Michael woke in my arms he opened his eyes and smiled at me. The warm blue of his eyes as he smiled into my face. I thought: so much of my life has been twisted and painful that now when happiness floods right through me like being flooded over with warm glittering blue water, I can't believe it. I say to myself: I am Anna Wulf, this is me, Anna, and I'm happy. (*The Golden Notebook* 219)

Anna when she is with Michael she felt a sense of perfection and satisfaction. Additionally, in the Black notebook, there is another character who suffers from physical or emotional restrictions, and male oppression is Marie the wife of Boothby's' African cook. When Anna and Paul, are members of the communist party, Paul becomes friends with Jackson the Boothby's' African cook, and spent a lot of time with them in Mashopi Hotel, owned by Tow British couple Mr. and Mrs. Boothby.

Though, Marie when the Boothby's realize that she has an affair with Ms. George Hounslow, who is a member of the communist group too, resulted that Jackson and his wife is fired from the hotel, later he finds a job in the city but his wife couldn't stay with him, so he sent her to Iceland. Thus, the only victim of this story is the African woman Marry who is deserted by her lover and husband, sent off from Mashopi Hotel.

Furthermore, Marie is not the only character who experiences male oppression. Besides, in the Yellow Notebook, another character has shared apart from it. Yet, she is the Heroine of the novel within a novel entitled, "The Shadow of the Third", as well as Anna Alter Ego, namely Ella; she is subjected to male oppression. in which, Paul oppresses Ella and she suffers from his betrayal. He left her for another woman even they have been in relationship, Anna after what happens to her with her ex Michael she identifies herself with Ella and states:

Paul gave birth to Ella, the naive Ella. He destroyed in her the knowing, doubting, sophisticated Ella and again and again he put her intelligence to sleep, and with her willing connivance, so that she floated darkly on her love for him, on her naivety, which is another word for a spontaneous creative faith. And when his own distrust of himself destroyed this woman-in-love, so that she began thinking, she would fight to return to naivety. (*The Golden Notebook* 156)

Continuously another female figure who suffers from Male Oppression is Marion the wife of Richard, Anna's ex-husband. Richard's oppression is highlighted in the conversation of Anna and Marion:

I've been married to him for years and years and all that time I've been wrapped up in him. Well women are, aren't they? I've thought of nothing else. I've cried myself to sleep night after night for years. And I've made scenes, and been a fool and been unhappy and ... the point is, what for? Because the point is he is not anything, is he?

He's not even very good looking. He's not even very intelligent - I don't care if he's ever so important and a captain of industry. ...I thought, my God, for that creature, I've ruined my life. (*The Golden Notebook* 290)

However, Marion is upset that she destroys herself only for his happiness and satisfaction. As a result, she lost her identity; she loves things that she used to hate only for him. She declares:

I thought, My God, for that creature I've ruined my life. I remember the moment exactly. I was sitting at the breakfast-table, wearing a sort of negligee thing I'd bought because he likes me in that sort of thing-you know, frills and flowers, or well, he used to like me in them. I've always hated them. And I thought, for years and years I've even been wearing clothes I hated, just to please this creature. (*The Golden Notebook* 290).

II.4.Exploring Female Identity in *The Golden Notebook*

II.4.1.The Image of Women in *The Golden Notebook*

Lessing through her works portrays the female characters as complicated women who suffers from split, in which the women reject the different social conventions impose on her. Where, her main desire is freedom and independence. According to Ellen w. Brooks, in her article "The Image of Woman in Lessing's *The Golden Notebook*", (2013) declares that "the female protagonists in Doriss Lessing major work are complex human beings, their personalities the embodiment of that fragmentation and chaos which the novelists see as a fundamental features of modern life" (101).

Although, the women in *The Golden Notebook*, show up as free women, intellectual, emotional, and sexually independent. Who are Thirst to take power though they are still submissive due to their dependent nature and the defined roles by the social conventions but often tie with their emotional need for men which Anna states, in her black notebook, "I am living off the royalties from *Frontiers of War*" (*The Golden Notebook* 208). Further, women in the novel show their deep

need for men. Where Ella adds, “This business of not having a man around doesn't suit me” (*The Golden Notebook* 138). In other word, men existence in their life is a necessity for them, as the novel depicts “She knew now she had married out of a need for security and even respectability” (*The Golden Notebook* 7).

Furthermore, the women in *The Golden Notebook* are regarded as reticent and detached in contrast to men who are outgoing, noisy, mostly concerning love, and relationships. Wherein, women sometimes act as inferior roles as it is depicted with the protagonist of the novel Anna, while her love changes her from the state of being a free woman to an inferior one. Even though, Anna is a free woman but she is profoundly in need for men. so that, her life will be worthwhile.

Moreover, the novel alludes also to the power over sex where men are the dominant power in society and the home. While, women mainly use their appearance as indirect power in order to control men, Where Ella states, “What would he think if I started to wear sexy clothes? If I made myself very glamorous he'd not be able to bear it” (*The Golden Notebook* 161). In addition, the novel represents the image of women in different roles, mothers, and writers. Further, Lessing's novel gives the image of liberal women as divorced independent women. Thus, she is a female who has a fixed life and total freedom to fall in love with any man. As Ellen w. Brooks reports that “Her achievement is all the more significant in that so few writers have presented women with whom one can identify—complex, intelligent, questioning women who are not content with the status quo, who rebel against the established order”(101).

II.4.2. Anna as a Feminist character

Anna Wulf is the protagonist of Lessing's novel *The Golden Notebook*. A female writer and divorced woman in her thirties; who lives in London with her daughter Janet. However, Anna suffers from a mental breakdown in her life and her awful relationships with the wrong men, which leads to her confusion. Besides, the writer block that she passes through after her first bestselling

novel *Frontiers of War*. The article entitled “The Image of Women in Lessing’s *The Golden Notebook*” Ellen w. Brooks explains, “The supreme example of the divided woman—fragmented between her emotional needs and her intellect—is Anna Wulf, the protagonist of Lessing’s most psychologically complex novel, *The Golden Notebook*” (Brooks 102).

Furthermore, Anna portrays a new kind of “Free Women”, the independent and sexually free woman, who lives by herself and supports herself, while her dreams of marrying the men that she loves as Molly mentions at the beginning of the novel “Free. Do you know, when I was away, I was thinking about us, and I’ve decided that we’re a completely new type of woman. We must be, surely?” (*The Golden Notebook* 5).

Yet, she considers herself free, while she is not completely free, cause she is tied with the domestic role of being a housewife. However, Anna and her friend Molly are against the different social conventions and the institutions of marriage, they find themselves bound with feelings of the need for men in their life, and this is one of the split, which Anna suffers from and tries to get rid of it. Elaine Showalter, “*In a Literature of Their Own*” comments:

The novels of the 1960s, particularly Doris Lessing’s powerful *The Golden Notebook*, began to point out, in a variety of notes of disillusionment and betrayal, that the “free women” were not so free after all. Lessing’s free women are Marxists who think they understand how the oppression of women is connected to the class struggle, who have professions and children, and who lead independent lives; but they are fragmented and helpless creatures, still locked into dependency upon men. (301)

Yet, the novel ends up with the act of Molly’s marriage even though, their negative position towards the institution of marriage. While, Anna has an affair and she is able to connect her entire experiences and find the sense of completeness.

II.4.3. The Quest for Female Identity

Identity is crucial in human life in order to determine who he is. as well as in literature the concept of identity is tackled from different angles where we find in novels, that characters are looking for their identity, hiding it, changing it or looking for their old one and even creating a new one ...etc.

However, the notion of identity in Doris Lessing, *The Golden Notebook* is never clear, but briefly confused with the different experiences of life where a person seeks to define himself in relation to society and children. In "Female Identity in Doris Lessing's *The Golden Notebook*", Heba Mohamed Abd El Aziz establishes, "Doris Lessing is trying to convey a message, which is that admitting failure is the first step towards integration and that sometimes the break down is a way towards self healing" (154).

Anna as a female character is subjected to different splits, which is reflected through her four notebooks, she records her permanent worry of madness. Further, her past is represented in Black Notebook, the Red display her political life with the communist party, and the yellow symbolizes her fiction. She writes a new novel entitles, "The Shadow of the Third". The Blue contains her diaries, hoping to be her best work that records her real experience. Later she understands that none of these notebooks mirrors neither her real-life experiences nor her real identity.

Anna abandons her four notebooks; Anna tries to attach everything in a single book entitles *The Golden Notebook*. Yet, she finds her identity and reaches the sense of completeness through, facing the chaos within herself, thus she remains her focus only on one book, by means that Anna heals from the madness and find wholeness.

Doris Lessing's, in the fifth notebook, portrays Anna self-healing from fragmentation also her success in finding her identity, help her finds an answer to her Quest for identity, recaptures strength, and independence, with the aid of her American lover Saul Green, which both of them suffer from

self-division. In “The Image of Woman in Lessing's *The Golden Notebook*”, Ellen w. Brooks explains, “Thus, the man-woman relationship in Doris Lessing's fiction, although destructive in its conventional forms, can serve as a vehicle for self-knowledge, for overcoming one's divisions, and enabling one to live as fully as possible” (108). Furthermore, through her relationship with Saul, she becomes the new woman, that is looking for and she regains a sense of love again and be with a man after her toxic relations with her ex, and starts loving herself. Where Anna points in the novel,

I was all at once in a new state of being, one foreign to me. I realised my body was distasteful to me. This has never happened to me before; and I even said to myself: Hullo, this is new; this is something I have read about. (*The Golden Notebook* 440)

Nevertheless, her feeling to him guide her to the point that she changes her view about her body and self with a small discussion between them she transforms to another Anna states:

As his feet went down the stairs, my mood of self-disgust went with him. I sat and luxuriated in my body. Even a small dry wrinkling of skin on the inside of my thigh, the beginning of being old, gave me pleasure. I was thinking: Yes, that's as it should be, I've been so happy in my life, I shan't care about being old. But even as I said it, the security leaked away again. I was back in disgust. (*The Golden Notebook* 441)

Meanwhile, Anna discovers that she doesn't belongs to her previous Anna in various things as she mentions in the novel, “I remembered the Anna who can dream at will, control time, move easily and is at home in the underworld of sleep. But I was not that Anna” (*The Golden Notebook* 441).

Further reading *The Golden Notebook* represents Anna self-healing. However, she realizes the truth of her being and the ability to stand and live the different experiences and even face her various self especially when she is with Saul she releases her hiding emotion or feeling that she kept them away.

Later, we conceive that Anna's feeling of jealousy drives her again, she admits, "Jealousy drove through every vein in my body, like a poison, altering my breathing, making my eyes hurt" (*The Golden Notebook* 425).

Anna attitude depends on Saul, again in the novel she reveals:

Then I thought of the other woman and the jealousy started to work again in my blood I hated him. I remembered the cold tone of his diaries and hated him for it. I went upstairs, telling myself I should not, but knowing I would, and looked in his current diary. It was lying carelessly exposed. I wondered if he had written something for me to see, there were no entries for the last week, but under today's date: Am a prisoner. Am slowly going mad with frustration. (*The Golden Notebook* 425)

Although, Anna show her jealousy guides her to the point that she is searching for something about her in his diaries and she is frustrated that he doesn't writes anything about her.

At the end of *The Golden Notebook*, Anna Wulf declares that she puts away the four notebooks aside, "I'll pack away the blue notebook with the others. I'll pack away the four notebooks. I'll start a new notebook, all of myself in one book" (*The Golden Notebook* 439). Because of that, she is surrounded by as she told Tommy when he asks her why she kept four separate notebooks, "Why the four notebooks? What would happen if you had one big book without all those divisions and brackets and special writing?" I've told you, chaos" (*The Golden Notebook* 200).

Furthermore, both Saul and Anna influence each other, Ellen w. Brooks, in "The Image of Woman in Lessing's *The Golden Notebook*"(2013) believes that, "Through participating in Saul's many shifts of identity and mood, she recognizes the full potential of her being, her capacity to experience a whole spectrum of emotions and selves" (107). As a result, she opens a new page, with

him she revives again. Besides, this Relationship opens the path for her toward finding her real identity. Anna declares in the novel:

I was putting away three of the notebooks. He said: 'Why do you have four notebooks?' I said: 'Obviously, because it's been necessary to split myself up, but from now on I shall be using one only.' I was interested to hear myself say this, because until then I hadn't known it. (*The Golden Notebook* 432)

In addition, encouraging her to start writing again is represented through Anna and Saul conversation, which he states:

'Yes, I do know. But Anna, I'm going to force you into writing. Take up a piece of paper and a pencil.'

I laid a sheet of clean paper on the table, picked up a pencil and waited.

'It doesn't matter if you fail. Why are you so arrogant? Just begin. (*The Golden Notebook* 459)

Later, she puts her panic away and takes the pencil; he aids her in her opening and proposes for her the first line of the novel he points:

'I'm going to give you the first sentence then. There are the two women you are, Anna. Write down: The two women were alone in the London flat.'

'You want me to begin a novel with The two women were alone in the London flat?'

'Why say it like that? Write it, Anna.' I wrote it.

'You're going to write that book, you're going to write it, you're going to finish it'.

(*The Golden Notebook* 459)

In addition to that, they both help each other. We discover this in the novel where, Anna helps him in his novel and suggests for him lines in order to start his own work as if they rely on each other, which is portrayed through their conversation:

I said: 'Why is it so important to you that I should?'

'Ah,' he said, in self-mocking despair. 'A good question. Well, because if you can do it, then I can.'

'You want me to give you the first sentence of your novel?'

'Let's hear it.'

'On a dry hillside in Algeria, the soldier watched the moonlight glinting on his rifle.'

He smiled. 'I could write that, you couldn't.'

'Then write it'. (*The Golden Notebook* 459)

The novel ends up with the act of molly's marriage where she realizes that she can't stay single without a man in her life. While Anna has affirmed her decision to resume her career as a writer and becomes a Marriage counsellor, as mentioned by Rapin Subaneg in "The Ending of Doris Lessing's *The Golden Notebook*" (2008), "Consequently, the ending of the novel indicates Anna's ability to eventually reintegrate her personality, as well as her successful resumption of the function of writer" (2). Even though, she experiences a mental breakdown, but she is able to fight for healing and for unity, also against her fear of living without men. As well, she succeeds in reaching her identity and reintegration of her different selves.

This analytical chapter is devoted to analysing the protagonist's different phases of life and constructing her identity. Lessing gives newly female characters way far from traditional women where females are preserved and obedient to the social institutions. Contrarily again Anna represents

the free woman the independent who is able to fight in order to define her identity and to stand against the traditional roles which were given to her. Additionally, the analysis of Anna's various stages in which her identity and sense of wholeness is not reached completely, because of her mental breakdown.

This study under the title of "*The Quest for Identity in Doris Lessing's The Golden Notebook*" discusses female identity, highlighting several points in Anna's personal life, following the various identities that she passes by in all phases, in which this issue of the divided self is due to the repression of patriarchy society. All the circumstances Anna's has been through from motherhood, marriage, passion for writing, political propensity, all together affect and frame the identity of Anna, which is chaotic.

This study ends up with the analyses of the last section of *The Golden Notebook*, in which Anna reaches her final peace, and combines her selves in one definitive identity. Also with the help of her American lover Saul, whom interconnected her again with writing.

Conclusion

The Golden Notebook is one of Doris Lessing's significant works that showcases the Real life of women in patriarchal society where the author examines the different feminist issues, victimization, and identity formation. It also depicts the situation of women in a patriarchal society through the protagonist Anna Wulf. In this novel, Lessing displays to the reader the female struggle and the pressure that is imposed on women due to society. However, at the end of the story, Anna portrays the ability of women to stand against the different barriers in order to appear as strong women who are capable of fighting for their wishes and being able to live a decent life.

This study aims at investigating the feminist dilemma in the formation of female identity through using the feminist theory. It discusses femaleness in a contemporary world full of social and political challenges to women, also examines the personality of the protagonist, how it helps her to stand against the patriarchal society, and the various society chains. The novel, confirms that women are able to be independent and they have enough power to decide their way of life and how they want to be. However, Doris Lessing writes the novel in order to change women's position in the world, and give voice to voiceless women all over the world. By showing a truthful account of female identity. The study assists this claim by providing a deep analysis of the protagonist Anna Wulf and her journey in the search of identity.

The first theoretical chapter is involved with feminist aspects are manifested the novel Thus; it sheds light on the features that make the novel applicable to the feminist theory. Therefore, this chapter attempts to set important transacts with different ideas and issues related to Feminism. However, providing a comprehensive overview of the theory of feminism, it transfers the situation of the women and feminist experience, provides an overlook about women's path, which they extremely suffered.

The second chapter analyses the protagonist's different stages of life and the construction of her identity. Lessing gives newly female characters, unlike the traditional women where females are preserved and obedient to the social institutions. Contrarily, Anna represents the free woman independent who is able to fight in order to define her identity and to stand against the traditional roles were given to her.

The analysis of Anna's various stages in which her identity and sense of completeness is not reached completely, due to Anna's mental breakdown, where the repression of patriarchal society is a reason of her fragmented identity and divided self. Besides, the various Circumstances Anna's has been through from motherhood, marriage, passion for writing, and political propensity, all together affect and frame the identity of Anna. After all, as a result, the ending of the story shows Anna's capability to stand again as a free woman despite social pressures and against the patriarchal society. The analysis proves Anna's power and resistance through reaching the inside peace that she is looking for and her ability to find her identity as the real Anna.

The novel mirrors the real feminist aspects because it is built on Lessing's real experience in life to illustrate women's struggle in order to gain independence. Furthermore, based on the feminist theory and via the analysis, the novel confirms the existence of feminist aspects, beginning of the story with the protagonist in quest of identity, search for freedom from man chains and the conventional society. In addition, it portrays the way in which the female character challenges the traditional norms of society. In short, the ending of the novel proves that Anna is strong free women, a new type of woman, a free woman who confirms her presence as a liberal woman within a patriarchal society. Anna proves at the end of the novel the image of strong women who is about her needs and how she wants to be. Anna is the new type of woman who is powerful and able to stand and resist the various kinds of oppression, the patriarchal society, and submission. Although, the cruel conditions she faces, she is able to bloom like a rose, fight for her dreams, and enjoy her life with the sense of freedom and sense of wholeness.

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ملخص

تتناول الكاتبة دوريس ليسينج في رواية الدفتر الذهبي القضايا المتعلقة بالنساء اللاتي يعشن في مجتمع ذكوري. ولهذا فأن هذه الرسالة تهدف إلى فحص المعضلة النسوية في تشكيل الهوية الأنثوية. من أجل القيام بذلك استخدمنا النظرية النسوية لمناقشة الأنثوية في عالم معاصر مليء بالتحديات الاجتماعية والسياسية للمرأة. والتساؤل حول مكانة المرأة في المجتمع الأبوي. بالإضافة إلى ذلك، يهدف التحليل إلى تسليط الضوء على قضايا المرأة، الهوية، الجنس، الحب، الزواج، والحرية من خلال دراسة تجربة بطلة الرواية، أنا، بما في ذلك الحلقات المختلفة في رحلة حياتها. في الواقع، الرواية تهدف لإيصال صوت النساء إلى جميع أنحاء العالم وتقدم سردًا صادقًا للهوية الأنثوية من وجهة نظر نسوية.

Résumé

Le Carnet d'or de Doris Lessing traite des problèmes liés aux femmes qui vivent dans une société centrée sur les hommes. C'est pourquoi cette thèse a pour objet l'examen du dilemme féministe dans la formation de l'identité féminine. Pour ce faire, utilise l'approche féministe pour examiner de la féminité dans un monde contemporain plein de défis sociaux et politiques pour les femmes. Il questionne aussi le sens d'être une femme dans une société patriarcale. En outre, à travers l'analyse, il vise à mettre en évidence les problèmes féminins, l'identité, le genre, l'amour, le mariage et la liberté en étudiant l'expérience du protagoniste du roman, Anna, y compris divers épisodes de son parcours de vie. En effet, le roman donne pouvoir et voix aux femmes incapable de s'exprimer du monde entier et présente un récit véridique de l'identité féminine d'un point de vue féministe.