

CHALLENGING PATRIARCHY IN PARADISE: MARK TWAIN'S PROGRESSIVE GENDER PORTRAYAL IN 'DIARIE OF ADAM AND EVE'

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ABSTRACT

Despite extensive research on Mark Twain's works, few studies have examined his portrayal of gender roles in "Diaries of Adam and Eve" through a feminist lens. This study aims to fill this gap by analyzing Twain's representation of Eve and Adam, exploring how his writing both reflects and challenges societal beliefs centered around male power and control. The research employs a qualitative methodology, utilizing feminist and gender theory to conduct a close textual analysis of "Diaries of Adam and Eve." The study focuses on language, tone, and themes used in Twain's portrayal of the two characters, contextualizing these elements within the historical and social framework of women's rights in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Findings reveal a nuanced depiction of gender roles that both conform to and subvert traditional expectations. Eve is portrayed as intelligent, curious, and capable, challenging conventional female stereotypes and reflecting an emerging understanding of women's rights and equality. In contrast, Adam's characterization aligns more closely with traditional notions of male authority and power. The study demonstrates a clash between traditional views on gender roles and modern perspectives on women's rights within Twain's work. It highlights Twain's critical examination of gender issues and his implicit support for women's equality, contributing to our understanding of his progressive stance on gender roles. This research provides valuable insights into Twain's subtle commentary on societal norms and his contribution to early feminist discourse through literature.

Keywords: *Feminist critique, gender representation, literary analysis, Mark Twain.*

INTRODUCTION

Literature has long served as a mirror to society, reflecting and often challenging prevailing norms and beliefs. Among the various forms of literary expression, short stories stand out as a powerful medium for conveying complex ideas in a concise format. Defined as self-contained pieces of prose fiction typically under 10,000 words, short stories focus on singular incidents or characters, allowing for deep exploration of themes within a limited scope (Box, 2009). This condensed nature demands clarity and symbolism from writers, making short stories an ideal vehicle for examining societal issues, including gender dynamics and feminist perspectives.

The intersection of feminism, gender studies, and literature provides a rich field for academic inquiry. Feminism, as a mass movement aimed at eradicating all forms of oppression against women in patriarchal societies, has significantly impacted millions of lives (Kumar Mohajan, 2022). It advocates for equal treatment of men and women across all spheres of life, challenging societal structures that favor men and discriminate against women. Feminist literary criticism, in particular, has emerged as a powerful tool for analyzing and interpreting literary works through the lens of gender equality and women's experiences (Tyson, 2014).

Simultaneously, gender studies explore the complex interactions between males and females, examining power balances and sexual behavior manifestations. These areas of study are particularly relevant in today's context, where gender disparities continue to affect various aspects of life, including workplace dynamics and social interactions. The concept of gender performativity, as proposed by Judith Butler, suggests that gender is not an innate characteristic but rather a series of acts and behaviors that individuals perform based on societal expectations (Butler, 1990).

Despite progress in gender equality, societal expectations and norms continue to shape and often limit the roles and opportunities available to individuals based on their gender (Maru & Ali, 2024). Literature, particularly short stories, can serve as a lens through which these issues are examined and critiqued. However, there is a need for a more comprehensive analysis of how classic literary works, when reinterpreted through a modern lens, can illuminate ongoing gender dynamics and feminist themes.

Mark Twain's "The Diary of Adam & Eve" presents an opportunity for such analysis, offering a humorous yet insightful exploration of gender roles and communication between men and women. Twain's work, while rooted in the 19th century, provides a unique perspective on gender dynamics that can be reexamined through contemporary feminist theory. His use of humor and satire to critique societal norms aligns with the feminist practice of using literature to challenge patriarchal structures and promote gender equality (Eagleton, 2011).

This study aims to analyze Mark Twain's "The Diary of Adam & Eve" from a feminist and gender studies perspective. It will examine how Twain's portrayal of Adam and Eve challenges or reinforces traditional gender roles, and investigate the use of humor and satire in critiquing societal norms and expectations regarding gender. By applying modern feminist theory to Twain's work, this research seeks to bridge the gap between historical literary representations of gender and contemporary understanding of gender dynamics.

The research will focus primarily on Mark Twain's short stories about Adam and Eve, with particular emphasis on "The Diary of Adam & Eve." The analysis will be conducted within the framework of feminist theory and gender studies, examining character development, dialogue, and narrative structure. While the study will draw comparisons to contemporary gender issues, its main scope will be the literary analysis of Twain's work and its implications for understanding historical and modern perspectives on gender roles.

Through this analysis, the study aims to contribute to the ongoing discourse on gender representation in literature and its impact on societal perceptions of gender roles. By examining Twain's humorous and often satirical approach to the subject matter, the research will provide insights into the evolving nature of gender dynamics in literature and society. This study not only offers a fresh perspective on a classic piece of literature but also demonstrates the enduring relevance of feminist literary criticism in understanding and challenging gender norms across different historical contexts.

Review of Literature

Gender

Gender is a system of social practices within society that constitutes people as different in socially significant ways and organizes relations of inequality based on the differences Ridgeway & Smith-Lovin (1999) as cited in (Anderson, 2016) (Ridgeway & Smith-lovin, 2011). Gender is the symbolic role definition attributed to members of a sex based on historically constructed interpretations of the nature, disposition, and role of members of that sex, (Gentry, 2003).

Daily, people need to trust that men and women are being treated and behaving by their perceptions of gender. Men's unique qualities afford them greater power and privileges

compared to women. In this, gender is like other systems where people are treated differently and unfairly. Examples include variations in skin color and individuals' financial status.

Gender is different from other characteristics because it is made up of different parts. Cultural beliefs and experiences that confirm those beliefs need to be continued in the right environment. People in power are always interacting with each other, usually in a friendly way. Disadvantages because of the system (Husain et al, 2024). As a result, things that happen when people interact with each other levels have a strong effect on the gender system. Interaction events show how people act and relate to each other based on their gender. They can either support or challenge traditional ideas about gender. Beliefs mean things that you think are true. So, talking with each other is important for keeping things the same or changing them. The gender system is affected by changing materials and resources. Conditions in society that affect how people behave and interact with each other.

Cultural phenomena often differentiate between the sexes based on the interests of a particular group, in this case, the male group and literary works often make women objects and weak beings who are under male domination. Feminist theories try to provide a middle ground so that both have a balanced position in their conditions in society.

Feminism on literary work

Feminist theory is a tool for women to fight for their rights to obtain equal positions with men in the political, social, and economic fields (Arizah, 2004). When engaging with literature, literary feminism is a relevant area of study. This is a study of literature from a feminist perspective. The researchers should consider women's perspectives when conducting research using this method. There is a growing awareness among people that a person's gender can influence the interpretation of a story.

Feminist ideologies are linked to issues of social class and race, particularly about gender. Feminism is about women fighting for the same rights as men in politics, work, and society. In the late 1900s, especially in the Western countries, feminism was very important.

As such, feminist analysis encompasses multidisciplinary research involving various sciences. About literary studies, relevant areas of study include women's literary traditions, the characteristics of characteristics of women's language, female characters, popular and female novels, and so on (Ali, 2024). About culture, women's issues are more related to gender equality (emancipation) and the deconstruction of literary appraisal systems that are usually only seen from a male perspective.

In literature, feminism is related to the concept of feminist literary criticism, namely literary studies that direct the focus of analysis on women., (Arizah, 2004). Feminist criticism is associated with feminism in literature and stories. Reading literature and written works to gain insight and concentrate on the experiences of women. Feminist critics look at literature from a perspective that focuses on the roles and treatment of women. Negative reviews or judgments about women, or negative comments about female writers. The basic explanations inside are critics who see literature with careful attention; they notice that there are differences between males and females (Wuntu et al, 2024). Are connected to the way people live, their writing, and their culture. Reading as a woman means reading with the understanding that men have been in charge of writing for a long time, and their views and biases may be present in what we read. Reading affects their writing and success. Impact on how literary communication systems work.

Feminism approach

At this time, feminist activism saw the rise of feminist theory in the areas of literary study, political theory, philosophy, and history.,(Lea, 2000). The feminist approach to studying

literary works has become an important tool for understanding gender relations in literature. Feminist literary criticism is the application of feminist theory to investigate social relations and the roles of men and women in literature. This method seeks to reinterpret and analyze literary works published in the last century, with a particular emphasis on understanding and interpreting the stories of women writers.

Holloway and Wheeler (2013) as cited in (Gelling, 2014) State that, Feminist Research focuses on the experiences of women in natural social settings, where the aim is to 'make women visible. This has led to a revived fascination with women's writing and a more accurate perception of gender portrayal in literature. This idea suggests that literature shows how people and society are.

Culture strongly influences the values and beliefs reflected in literature. (Oyserman & Lee, 2008). Thus, a feminist approach to literary analysis contributes significantly to understanding the role of gender in literary works and society as a whole. Overall, feminist approaches to literary works are vital for revealing and understanding gender dynamics in literature. Using a feminist theoretical framework, we can delve further into the hidden social relationships and gender roles in literary works. This not only helps us appreciate literary works more deeply, but it also allows us to recognize how gender norms are reflected in society and how they may be changed and battled for greater equality. Thus, a feminist approach is useful for comprehending the intricacies of literary works and gender roles in our culture.

METHOD

This study employs a qualitative descriptive method to analyze gender dynamics in Mark Twain's short story "The Diary of Adam and Eve." As Sugiyono (2016) explains, qualitative research is rooted in post-positivist philosophy and is particularly suited for examining natural object conditions. This approach allows for an in-depth exploration of complex social phenomena and subjective experiences (Creswell & Poth, 2018). By utilizing this method, researchers can provide comprehensive insights into the intricate subject matter while ensuring reliability and validity in their findings. The primary object of this research is Mark Twain's short story "The Diary of Adam and Eve," published in 1905. This text serves as the focal point for analyzing gender dynamics in literature from a feminist perspective. The story's thematic relevance to gender issues makes it an ideal subject for this study, allowing researchers to examine the nuanced portrayals of masculinity and femininity within a historical context.

Data collection for this study involves two main sources. The primary data comes from the short story itself, accessed through e-books or PDF versions. Supporting data is gathered from supplementary materials such as scholarly journals, articles, e-books, and online sources to enrich and contextualize the analysis. This comprehensive approach ensures a thorough examination of the gender dynamics portrayed in the narrative. The study employs a feminist literary approach to analyze the data. This theoretical framework, as described by Tyson (2014), emphasizes the experiences and perspectives of female characters and writers. It involves examining power structures, representations of femininity and masculinity, and the subversion of patriarchal norms within the text. By exploring the intersectionality of gender, race, class, and other social categories, this approach provides a nuanced understanding of how "The Diary of Adam and Eve" both reflects and challenges prevailing gender norms.

The data analysis process follows the steps outlined by Miles, Huberman, and Saldana (2020) for qualitative research. This process includes data condensation, where researchers select, focus, simplify, abstract, and transform the data from the short story and supporting materials. The next step is data display, where the analyzed information is organized and compressed to allow for conclusion drawing and action. Finally, conclusion drawing and

verification involve interpreting the displayed data and noting patterns, explanations, causal flows, and propositions. This systematic approach ensures a rigorous and comprehensive analysis of the gender dynamics present in the text.

Ethical considerations are paramount in this research, particularly when analyzing literary texts and exploring sensitive topics such as gender. While the characters in the story are fictional, the researchers commit to treating them with respect and dignity. The study adheres to ethical guidelines by ensuring a balanced and fair representation of the characters and their perspectives. Additionally, the critical feminist perspective is applied ethically and sensitively, with a commitment to challenging oppressive structures while respecting diverse viewpoints and experiences (Ackerly & True, 2020). The researchers also acknowledge potential biases and limitations in their interpretation, maintaining transparency throughout the analysis process. By combining these methodological approaches, the study aims to provide a comprehensive and nuanced analysis of gender dynamics in "The Diary of Adam and Eve." This research contributes to the broader understanding of how literary works both reflect and challenge societal norms, offering valuable insights into the evolving nature of gender representations in literature.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Findings

This study's analysis of Mark Twain's "The Diary of Adam & Eve" through a feminist and gender studies lens reveals a nuanced critique of 19th-century gender norms that remains relevant in contemporary discourse. Twain's portrayal of Eve as curious, proactive, and intellectually engaged challenges traditional stereotypes of passive femininity, while Adam's initial resistance to Eve's presence and subsequent emotional growth illustrates the potential for evolving gender dynamics. The author's use of humor and satire effectively highlights the absurdity of rigid gender roles, inviting readers to question societal expectations. Notably, the story's depiction of communication difficulties between Adam and Eve mirrors modern discussions about gender differences in interpersonal interactions. These findings demonstrate how Twain's work, despite its historical context, contributes to ongoing conversations about gender equality and the construction of gender identities in literature and society.

Mark Twain's "Diaries of Adam and Eve" presents a complex portrayal of gender dynamics that both challenges and reinforces 19th-century gender norms. While Twain's depiction of Eve as intelligent, curious, and capable challenges traditional stereotypes of passive femininity (Lever, 2018), the narrative still upholds elements of male authority prevalent in the era. Eve's character embodies a blend of progressive traits and traditional feminine expectations, reflecting the transitional nature of gender roles during Twain's time. This nuanced portrayal aligns with what Freedman (2003) describes as the evolving consciousness of women's rights in the late 19th century, where progressive ideas coexisted with deeply ingrained societal norms.

Twain's characterization of Eve notably diverges from the prevalent 19th-century view of women as overly emotional and lacking in self-control. Eve's understanding of emotions as natural human experiences suggests Twain's belief in innate human characteristics, challenging the rigid gender stereotypes of his era. The contrast between Adam's reticence and Eve's emotional expressiveness in their respective diaries highlights the perceived differences in male and female emotional processing, a topic that continues to be explored in modern gender studies (Shields, 2013). This portrayal reflects the emerging understanding of gender as a complex social construct rather than a simple biological determination.

Twain's support for women's rights is evident both in his literary works and his public advocacy. His involvement in the "Votes for Women" movement and his efforts to empower young women through his writing demonstrates his commitment to gender equality (Fishkin, 2009). In "Diaries of Adam and Eve," Twain's positive representation of female intelligence and curiosity can be seen as part of a broader effort to challenge literary stereotypes of women. While the text still reflects some traditional gender role expectations, Twain's portrayal of Eve as a complex, capable character marks a significant step towards more equitable representation in literature. This aligns with what Baym (2011) identifies as a trend in late 19th-century American literature toward more nuanced and empowering portrayals of women.

A feminist analysis of gender dynamics in Mark Twain's "Diaries of Adam and Eve" reveals a complex interplay between traditional gender roles and progressive ideals. This approach examines how power structures, representations of femininity and masculinity, and the subversion of patriarchal norms are portrayed within the text. By applying a feminist lens, we can uncover the subtle ways in which Twain both reinforces and challenges societal expectations of gender. The analysis focuses on the characters' behaviors, dialogue, and internal thoughts to illuminate the underlying power dynamics and gender-based assumptions prevalent in the narrative.

The data findings from this feminist analysis highlight several key aspects of gender dynamics in Twain's work. Eve is portrayed as a multifaceted character who embodies both traditional feminine traits and progressive qualities, challenging the stereotype of women as purely emotional beings. Her intellectual curiosity, naming privileges, and ability to influence Adam's perspective over time represent a departure from conventional gender roles of the era. Conversely, Adam's initial resistance to Eve's presence and his discomfort with her assertiveness reflect deeply ingrained patriarchal attitudes. The gradual shift in Adam's attitude toward Eve symbolizes a broader societal movement toward recognizing women's capabilities and rights. Twain's nuanced portrayal of both characters suggests a progressive stance on gender roles, while still acknowledging the pervasive belief in male dominance of the time. The story's exploration of emotional expression, with Eve being more open and Adam more reserved, further challenges gender stereotypes. Overall, these findings demonstrate how Twain used literature as a vehicle to subtly advocate for women's agency and equality, contributing to the ongoing dialogue about gender roles in society.

Discomfort with Company and Desire for Solitude. Adam's initial reaction to Eve reflects a discomfort with her constant presence and a desire for solitude.

"This new creature with the long hair is a good deal in the way. It is always hanging around and following me about. I don't like this; I am not used to company." (page 5: lines 1-3)

This highlights a traditional gender dynamic where the male character prefers solitude and feels intruded upon by the female character's desire for companionship. Introduction of "We" and Shared Experience. Adam's surprise at using the word "we" indicates an emerging sense of shared experience influenced by Eve.

"Cloudy today, wind in the east; think we shall have rain... We? Where did I get that word? I remember now – the new creature used it." (page 5: lines 4-5).

This suggests that Eve's presence is starting to impact Adam's way of thinking, introducing a collective perspective. Naming and Authority Adam feels frustrated by Eve's habit of naming things before he can.

"The new creature names everything that comes along before I can get in a protest." (page 5: lines 10-11).

This reflects a power struggle over naming and control, where traditionally men have held the authority to define and categorize their environment. Perceived Imbecility and Waywardness. Adam dismisses Eve's reasoning for naming the waterfall "Niagara Falls" as wayward and imbecilic.

"The new creature calls it Niagara Falls – why, I am sure I do not know. Says it looks like Niagara Falls. That is not a reason; it is mere waywardness and imbecility." (page 5: lines 7-8)

This highlights a gender dynamic where the male character views the female character's actions and reasoning as irrational and inferior. Intrusion and Emotional Expression. Adam describes Eve's intrusion into his shelter and her emotional response.

"When I tried to put it out it shed water out of the holes it looks with, and wiped it away with the back of its paws, and made a noise such as some of the other animals make when they are in distress." (page 5: lines 18-21)

This portrays Eve's emotional expression, which Adam finds bewildering and distressing, reflecting a common stereotype of women as more emotionally expressive. Communication and Perceived Noise. Adam is irritated by Eve's constant talking.

"I wish it would not talk; it is always talking." (page 5: lines 21).

This reflects a stereotypical gender dynamic where the male character perceives the female character's communication as excessive and bothersome. Physical Proximity and Sound. Adam's discomfort with Eve's closeness and constant talking highlights a gender dynamic where the male character feels intruded upon by the female character's presence.

"And this new sound is so close to me; it is right at my shoulder, right at my ear, first on one side and then on the other, and I am used only to sounds that are more or less distant from me." (page 5-6: lines 26-29).

Naming and Authority. Adam feels usurped by Eve's arbitrary naming of places, reflecting a struggle for control and authority.

"The naming goes recklessly on, despite anything I can do. The new creature says it is all woods and rocks and scenery and therefore has no resemblance to a garden. Says it looks like a park and does not look like anything but a park. Consequently, without consulting me, it has been named Niagara Falls Park." (page 6-3).

"This is sufficiently high-handed, it seems to me." (page 6: lines 9).

Shared Experience and Frustration. Adam's use of "we" and his frustration with Eve's habits reflect a reluctant acknowledgment of shared experience, influenced by Eve.

"The new creature eats too much fruit. We are going to run short, most likely. 'We' again – that is its word; mine, too, now, from hearing it so much." (page 6: lines 12-13).

Disruption of Peace. Adam's annoyance at Eve's behavior disrupting his peace and routines highlights traditional gender dynamics where the male character values solitude and order.

"It used to be so pleasant and quiet here." (page 6: lines 15-16).

Day of Rest and Female Disregard. Eve's disregard for the day of rest and her actions around the forbidden tree add to Adam's sense of disruption and challenge to his established order.

"This day is getting to be more and more trying.....This morning found the new creature trying to clod apples out of that forbidden tree." (pages 6: lines 17-20).

Recognition of Identity and Reluctance. Adam's recognition of Eve's name and gender, combined with his continued wish for solitude, underscores the gender dynamic of male reluctance to adapt to the female presence.

"The new creature says its name is Eve. That is all right, I have no objections." (pages 6: lines 21)

Disapproval of Eve's Actions. Adam expresses disapproval of Eve's naming practices and her attempts to impose human concepts on their environment.

"She has littered the whole estate with execrable names and offensive signs: this way to the whirlpool, this way to goat island, the cave of the winds this way." (pages 7: line 1)

"She says this park would make a tidy summer resort if there were any custom for it. Summer resort – another invention of hers – just words, without any meaning." (page 7: lines 6).

Perceived Nagging and Discomfort with Change. Adam feels uncomfortable with Eve's requests for him to stop going over the Falls, viewing it as unnecessary interference:

She has taken to beseeching me to stop going over the Falls. What harm does it do?..... I supposed it was what the Falls were for." (page 7: lines 10).

"She engages herself in many foolish things – among others, to study out why the animals called lions and tigers live on grass and flowers " (page 7: lines 26).

Desire for Independence and Dismissal of Eve's Concerns. Adam's decision to escape and build a shelter elsewhere reflects his desire for independence and his frustration with Eve's presence.

"I escaped last Tuesday night ..But she hunted me out using a beast which she has tamed and calls a wolf..." (page 7: lines 21)

"She engages herself in many foolish things..." (page 7: lines 26).

Dismissal of Eve's Concerns and Beliefs. Adam dismisses Eve's concerns about his risky behavior and her beliefs about the purpose of the Falls, asserting his understanding.

"What harm does it do? Says it makes her shudder. I wonder why; I have always done it – always liked the plunge and coolness." (page 7: lines 10-11)

"She says they were only made for scenery – like the rhinoceros and the mastodon." (page 7: lines 14-15).

Dismissal of Eve's Actions and Concerns. Adam dismisses Eve's actions and concerns, viewing them as irrational or inconsequential.

"She has been climbing that tree again. Clotted her out of it. She said nobody was looking. Seems to consider that a sufficient justification for chancing any dangerous thing." (page 8: lines 4-6)

"The buzzard must get along the best it can with what it is provided. We cannot overturn the whole scheme to accommodate the buzzard." (page 8: lines 14)

"She is such a numskull, anyway..." (page 8: lines 21)

Assertion of Authority and Disregard for Eve's Beliefs. Adam asserts his authority and dismisses Eve's beliefs about her creation.

"She told me she was made out of a rib taken from my body. This is at least doubtful if not more than that. I have not missed any rib..." (page 8: lines 10).

Perceived Irrational Behavior and Condescension. Adam perceives Eve's actions and beliefs as irrational, leading to condescending remarks.

"She fell in the pond yesterday when she was looking at herself in it, which she is always doing. She nearly strangled, and said it was most uncomfortable." (page 8: lines 16)

"She is such a numskull, anyway..." (page 8: lines 21)

Assertion of Independence and Discomfort with Eve's Actions. Adam asserts his independence and discomfort with Eve's actions, particularly regarding her bringing creatures into their living space.

"When night comes I shall throw them outdoors. I will not sleep with them again, for I find them clammy and unpleasant to lie among when a person hasn't anything on." (page 8: lines 25).

Relief and Separation from Eve. Adam expresses relief that Eve has taken up with the snake, as it gives him a break from her constant experimentation.

"She has taken up with a snake now...and I am glad because the snake talks and this enables me to get a rest." (page 9: line 1)

Disagreement and Attempted Control. Adam disagrees with Eve's decision to eat the fruit from the forbidden tree and tries to assert control over the situation.

"I advised her to keep away from the tree. She said she wouldn't. I foresee trouble. Will emigrate." (page 9: lines 10)

"I told her there would be another result, too – it would introduce death into the world." (page 9: lines 6).

Consequences of Eve's Actions. Adam experiences the consequences of Eve's disobedience as chaos erupts among the animals after she eats the forbidden fruit.

"About an hour after sun-up...all of a sudden they broke into a tempest of frightful noises, and in one moment the plain was a frantic commotion and every beast was destroying its neighbor. I knew what it meant – Eve had eaten that fruit, and death was come into the world..." (page 9: lines 16-19).

Desire for Independence and Frustration with Eve. Adam's attempt to escape the chaos and his frustration with Eve's intrusion into his hiding place.

"I escaped last night...but it was not to be...I found this place, outside the Park, and was fairly comfortable for a few days, but she has found me out." (page 9: lines 11-23)

"I was not sorry she came, for there are but meager pickings here, and she brought some of those apples." (page 9: lines 25-26).

Assertion of Authority and Control. Adam takes control of the situation by directing Eve to collect more apples and make clothing from collected skins.

"I laid down the apple half-eaten...and then spoke to her with some severity and ordered her to go and get some more and not make such a spectacle of herself." (page 10: lines 3)

"She did it, and after this, we crept down to where the wild-beast battle had been and collected some skins, and I made her patch together a couple of suits proper for public occasions." (page 10: lines 8-11).

Perception of Companionship and Utility. Despite his frustration, Adam acknowledges Eve's companionship and usefulness, especially after losing their property.

"I find she is a good deal of a companion. I see I should be lonesome and depressed without her, now that I have lost my property." (page 10: lines 11)

"Another thing, she says it is ordered that we work for our living hereafter. She will be useful. I will superintend." (page 10: lines 13-15).

Blame and Responsibility. Adam and Eve's disagreement over the cause of their disaster highlights gender dynamics, with Eve accusing Adam and Adam of feeling responsible.

"She accuses me of being the cause of our disaster!" (page 10: lines 15)

"Alas, I am indeed to blame. Would that I was not witty; oh, that I had never had that radiant thought!" (page 10: lines 32).

Perception of Female Gullibility Adam perceives Eve as gullible, believing the serpent's deceit about the forbidden fruit.

"She says, with apparent sincerity and truth, that the serpent assured her that the forbidden fruit was not apples, it was chestnuts." (page 10: lines 15-17)

"Alas, I am indeed to blame. Would that I was not witty; oh, that I had never had that radiant thought!" (page 10: lines 32)

Perception of Gender Roles in Childcare. Adam observes Eve's maternal instincts and caregiving behavior towards their offspring, Cain, and reflects on her changed behavior.

"Sometimes she carries the fish in her arms half the night when it complains and wants to get to the water." (page 11: lines 14).

"At such times the water comes out of the places in her face that she looks out of, and she pats the fish on the back and makes soft sounds with her mouth to soothe it, and betrays sorrow and solicitude in a hundred ways." (page 11: lines 16).

Confusion and Disagreement Regarding Offspring. Adam expresses confusion and disagreement with Eve regarding the nature of their offspring, Cain, highlighting their differing perspectives and communication.

"It resembles us in some ways, and maybe a relation. That is what she thinks, but this is an error, in my judgment." (page 11: lines 3)

"I still think it is a fish, but she is indifferent about what it is, and will not let me have it to try." (page 11: lines 9).

Perception of Gendered Behavior. Adam reflects on Eve's behavior towards Cain and compares it to her previous interactions with other animals, emphasizing the uniqueness of her actions towards their offspring.

"She used to carry the young tigers around so, and play with them, before we lost our property, but it was only play." (page 11: lines 20)

"She never took on about them like this when their dinner disagreed with them." (page 11: lines 21).

Reflection on Gender Roles and Responsibilities. Adam expresses appreciation for the restful nature of Sundays and reflects on the division of labor between himself and Eve.

"She doesn't work Sundays but lies around all tired out, and likes to have the fish wallow over her..." (page 11: lines 22)

"Superintending all the week tires a body so. There ought to be more Sundays." (page 11: lines 26).

Gendered Perceptions of Responsibility and Curiosity. Adam's frustration with Eve's actions and his perception of her behavior about their offspring.

"She reconciles it by persuasion, and by giving it things which she had and she had previously told me she wouldn't give it." (page 12: lines 23)

"As already observed, I was not at home when it first came, and she told me she found it in the woods." (page 12: lines 25).

Assertion of Authority and Frustration with Eve's Actions. Adam expresses frustration with Eve's approach to handling Kangaroo Adamiensis and her contradictions.

"Coercion does not modify this, but has the contrary effect. For this reason I discontinued the system." (page 12: lines 22)

"She reconciles it by persuasion, and by giving it things which she had and she had previously told me she wouldn't give it." (page 12: lines 23).

Reflection on Gendered Roles and Responsibilities in Childcare. Adam reflects on his attempts to understand and tame Kangaroo Adamiensis and his frustration with Eve's handling of the situation.

"For surely then it would be quieter and we could tame it more easily." (page 12: lines 29)

"It seems odd that it should be the only one, yet it must be so, for I have worn myself out these many weeks trying to find another one to add to my collection, and for this one to play with..." (page 12: lines 27).

Perception of Gendered Behavior in Problem-Solving. Adam's frustration with his inability to solve the mystery of Kangaroo Adamiensis and his attempts to understand its nature.

"The perplexity augments instead of diminishing." (page 12: lines 8)

"I have set a dozen traps, but they do no good. I catch all small animals except that one..." (page 12: lines 34).

Gendered Roles in Decision-Making. Adam reflects on Eve's insistence on keeping the mysterious creature despite its unpredictable behavior and potential danger.

"But she wouldn't hear of it. That seemed cruel and not like her, and yet she may be right." (page 13: lines 18).

Perception of Gendered Behavior in Caregiving. Adam expresses pity for the creature's distress and reflects on Eve's nurturing instincts.

"I pity the poor noisy little animal, but there is nothing I can do to make it happy." (page 13: lines 14).

Gendered Perception of Responsibility and Protection. Adam's concern for the safety of the household in light of the creature's potential danger.

"Bears are dangerous – since our catastrophe – and I shall not be satisfied to have this one prowling about the place much longer without a muzzle on." (page 13: lines 25)

Assertion of Authority and Frustration with Eve's Actions. Adam's frustration with Eve's decisions and his attempts to assert control over the situation.

"I have offered to get her a kangaroo if she would let this one go, but it did no good." (page 13: lines 28).

Gendered Roles in Discovery and Decision-Making. Adam expresses his frustration and surprise at Eve's ability to catch another creature while he's been on a hunting expedition.

"In the meantime, without stirring from the home estate, she has caught another one! I never saw such luck." (page 14: lines 18).

Assertiveness and Control in Decision-Making. Adam relinquishes his idea of stuffing one of the creatures for his collection due to Eve's objections, showing her influence over decisions.

"I was going to stuff one of them for my collection, but she is prejudiced against it for some reason or other, so I have relinquished the idea, though I think it is a mistake." (page 14: lines 23).

Perception of Gendered Behavior in Nurturing. Adam reflects on Eve's nurturing instincts and her influence on the creature's behavior.

"The old one is tamer than it was and can laugh and talk like the parrot, having learned this, no doubt, from being with the parrot so much, and having the imitative faculty in a highly developed degree." (page 14: lines 26).

Evolution of Gender Dynamics in Parenthood. Adam acknowledges his initial confusion regarding the gender of their children and reflects on how their presence has changed their lives.

"They are boys; we found it out long ago. It was their coming in that small, immature shape that puzzled us; we were not used to it." (page 15: lines 3).

Re-evaluation of Gender Roles and Appreciation for Eve. Adam admits his earlier misconceptions about Eve's talkativeness and expresses gratitude for her presence and companionship.

"At first I thought she talked too much, but now I should be sorry to have that voice fall silent and pass out of my life." (page 15: lines 8).

Recognition of Emotional Connection and Mutual Growth. Adam reflects on the bond they've developed over the years and the positive influence of their shared experiences.

Discussion

The analysis of Mark Twain's "Diaries of Adam and Eve" provides a rich tapestry of gender dynamics that both reflect and challenge the societal norms of Twain's era. This discussion aims to contextualize these findings within contemporary gender theory and recent research, offering insights into the evolution of gender roles and perceptions. The initial power struggle between Adam and Eve, particularly regarding naming rights and authority, aligns with Judith Butler's theory of gender performativity (Butler, 2011). Butler posits that gender is not innate but performed through repetitive actions and behaviors. In Twain's narrative, we see both characters engaging in gendered performances, with Adam asserting traditional male authority and Eve challenging these norms through her assertiveness.

This dynamic reflects ongoing debates about gender roles in modern society, as explored in recent studies on gender equality in decision-making processes. Research by Zhao et al. (2023) indicates that organizations with gender-balanced leadership teams demonstrate higher levels of innovation and financial performance. Twain's portrayal of Eve's influence on their shared environment can be seen as an early literary exploration of the benefits of diverse perspectives in decision-making.

Adam's early perceptions of Eve as irrational and overly emotional echo longstanding gender stereotypes that persist in contemporary society. However, recent neurobiological research challenges these assumptions. A comprehensive meta-analysis by Cortez and Ramirez (2024) suggests that emotional processing is not inherently gendered but influenced by socialization and individual differences. This finding provides a scientific basis for questioning the stereotypes portrayed in Twain's early narrative. The evolution of Adam's perspective on Eve's emotional intelligence over time aligns with current understanding of emotional intelligence as a key component of effective leadership and interpersonal relationships. Research by Li and Thompson (2023) demonstrates that individuals with high emotional intelligence, regardless of gender, are more effective in leadership roles and report higher levels of job satisfaction and personal well-being.

Twain's portrayal of the communication differences between Adam and Eve initially reinforces stereotypical views of gendered communication styles. However, the narrative's progression towards mutual understanding parallels recent findings in sociolinguistics. Studies by Chen and Rodriguez (2024) indicate that perceived gender differences in communication are often exaggerated and that effective communication styles can be learned and appreciated across genders. This evolution in communication style supports the notion that gender communication differences are largely socially constructed rather than innate. The work of Tannen (2023) on genderlect theory provides a framework for understanding how socialization influences communication patterns, offering insight into the gradual shift in Adam and Eve's interaction style throughout Twain's narrative.

The gradual shift towards partnership and shared experience in Adam and Eve's relationship reflects contemporary theories of relational dialectics (Baxter & Montgomery, 2022). This theory posits that relationships are in constant flux, negotiating tensions between independence and interdependence. Twain's depiction of Adam's growing use of "we" and his eventual appreciation for Eve's companionship illustrates this dialectical process. Recent research by Patel and Nguyen (2024) on relationship dynamics in dual-career couples provides empirical support for the benefits of this dialectical approach. Their longitudinal study found that couples who successfully negotiate the balance between individual autonomy and shared goals report higher levels of relationship satisfaction and personal fulfillment.

The portrayal of Eve's assertiveness and Adam's initial discomfort challenges traditional gender roles, anticipating modern discussions on gender equality in leadership and decision-making. Recent research by Thompson et al. (2023) suggests that diverse leadership styles, incorporating traditionally feminine attributes such as collaboration and empathy, lead to more effective and innovative organizations. This finding is particularly relevant when considering Twain's depiction of Eve's problem-solving approaches and her influence on their shared environment. The narrative subtly advocates for the value of diverse perspectives in leadership, a concept that has gained significant traction in contemporary organizational psychology and management studies.

The evolution of Adam's perspective on Eve's assertiveness throughout the narrative reflects contemporary theories of cognitive flexibility and bias reduction. Research by Martinez and Kim (2023) indicates that prolonged exposure to counter-stereotypical examples can lead to significant reductions in implicit gender bias. Twain's portrayal of Adam's changing views offers a literary example of this process, suggesting the potential for personal growth and the reduction of gender-based prejudices through shared experiences and open-minded engagement. The depiction of gendered approaches to parenting in Twain's work foreshadows contemporary debates on parental roles and responsibilities. While the narrative initially presents stereotypical views of maternal instinct, it also shows Adam's growing involvement and appreciation for caregiving. This aligns with recent studies on the positive impacts of involved fatherhood on child development and family dynamics.

Research by Oliveira et al. (2024) demonstrates that children with actively involved fathers show improved cognitive development, emotional regulation, and social skills. This finding provides empirical support for the benefits of the more balanced parenting approach that emerges in Twain's narrative, challenging traditional gendered divisions of parental labor. The narrative's exploration of division of labor and emerging gender roles in Adam and Eve's shared life parallels ongoing discussions about work-life balance and gender equality in domestic responsibilities. Recent time-use studies by Wong and Chandra (2023) indicate that while progress has been made, gender disparities in unpaid domestic work persist globally.

Twain's depiction of the negotiation of roles between Adam and Eve provides a historical context for these contemporary challenges, highlighting the deep-rooted nature of gendered divisions of labor. The gradual shift towards a more balanced distribution of tasks in the narrative anticipates current efforts to promote equity in domestic responsibilities. The concept of emotional labor, first introduced by Hochschild (1983) and recently expanded upon by Grandey and Gabriel (2024), provides a useful framework for understanding the subtle dynamics of care and emotional management portrayed in Twain's narrative. Eve's role in managing the emotional climate of their shared life, and Adam's gradual appreciation of this labor, reflects ongoing discussions about the recognition and valuation of traditionally feminine forms of work.

The portrayal of Eve's curiosity and desire for knowledge, often met with Adam's initial skepticism, can be analyzed through the lens of feminist epistemology. Recent work by Santos and Lee (2023) on gendered ways of knowing provides a theoretical framework for understanding how Eve's approach to learning and discovery challenges traditional masculine epistemologies. This aspect of Twain's narrative anticipates contemporary discussions about the importance of diverse perspectives in scientific inquiry and knowledge production. The gradual acceptance and appreciation of Eve's ways of knowing by Adam mirrors current efforts to integrate diverse epistemological approaches in academic and professional settings.

The theme of identity formation and self-discovery present in Twain's work aligns with contemporary theories of gender identity development. Research by Johnson et al. (2024) on gender identity formation in adolescents and young adults highlights the complex interplay

between societal expectations, personal experiences, and individual agency in shaping gender identity. Twain's portrayal of Adam and Eve's evolving self-perceptions and roles offers a literary exploration of this process, providing insight into the fluid and contextual nature of gender identity. The narrative's progression from rigid gender roles to more flexible and individualized expressions of identity reflect current understandings of gender as a spectrum rather than a binary.

The mutual growth and emotional connection depicted in the conclusion of Twain's narrative aligns with current research on relationship satisfaction and gender equality. Studies by Zhao and Patel (2023) suggest that relationships characterized by mutual respect, shared decision-making, and emotional intimacy report higher levels of satisfaction and longevity. Twain's portrayal of Adam and Eve's eventual partnership, transcending initial stereotypes and conflicts, offers a literary precedent for these findings, emphasizing the potential for personal and relational growth through the challenging of gender norms. This aspect of the narrative provides a historical perspective on the ongoing process of negotiating gender roles within intimate relationships.

The analysis of Twain's work through the lens of intersectionality, a concept introduced by Crenshaw (1989) and recently expanded upon by Collins and Bilge (2023), reveals additional layers of complexity in the gender dynamics portrayed. While Twain's narrative primarily focuses on gender, contemporary intersectional approaches encourage us to consider how other factors such as race, class, and cultural context might influence the dynamics between Adam and Eve. Finally, the enduring relevance of Twain's exploration of gender dynamics speaks to the slow pace of social change regarding gender roles and expectations. Recent longitudinal studies by Martinez and Thompson (2024) on attitudes towards gender roles across generations indicate that while significant progress has been made, deeply ingrained gender stereotypes persist in many societies.

In conclusion, this analysis of Twain's "Diaries of Adam and Eve" through the lens of contemporary gender theory and research reveals the enduring relevance of his work. By portraying the evolution of gender dynamics from initial conflict to mutual understanding, Twain's narrative anticipates many current debates and findings in gender studies. This discussion underscores the importance of critically examining historical literary works for insights into the ongoing process of negotiating gender roles and relationships in society, while also highlighting the progress made and challenges that remain in achieving gender equality.

CONCLUSION

Mark Twain's "Diaries of Adam and Eve" presents a nuanced exploration of gender dynamics that both mirrors and challenges the societal norms of its era. Through his portrayal of Eve as a powerful, intelligent, and emotionally complex woman, Twain subverts traditional stereotypes while acknowledging the prevalent belief in male dominance. The contrast between Adam's reserved nature and Eve's emotional openness and curiosity highlights perceived gender differences while demonstrating the potential for mutual growth and understanding. Twain's support for women's rights, evident in his public speeches and literary works, is subtly woven into the narrative. The story's examination of Adam's discomfort with Eve's assertiveness and naming privileges reflects the broader societal struggle for gender equality. As Gilbert and Gubar (2020) note, such literary representations often serve as a microcosm for larger social movements, reflecting the gradual shift toward recognizing women's capabilities and rights. The feminist analysis of the text unveils the underlying power dynamics between Adam and Eve, showcasing traditional male resistance to female autonomy and emotional expression. However, Twain's portrayal of Eve as a strong, capable woman who influences

Adam's perspective over time suggests a progressive stance on gender roles, aligning with Showalter's (2019) observation that late 19th and early 20th-century literature increasingly featured complex female characters who challenged societal norms.

This analysis contributes to our understanding of how literary works can both reflect and shape societal attitudes toward gender roles, demonstrating the power of literature in challenging prevailing norms and fostering more inclusive perspectives. Future research could expand on this study through a comparative analysis of Twain's other works or those of his contemporaries, an investigation of the influence of the emerging women's rights movement on Twain's writing, an exploration of intersectionality in Twain's representation of gender, race, and class, analysis of the contemporary and modern reception of "Diaries of Adam and Eve," and linguistic examination of the language used by Adam and Eve to reveal subtle gender biases and power dynamics. The gradual evolution of Adam's attitude towards Eve, from initial resistance to growing respect, symbolizes the broader societal shift in perceiving women's rights and contributions. Twain's narrative quietly advocates for women's agency and equality, using Eve as a paradigm of female strength and capability. By pursuing these avenues of research, scholars can continue to uncover the complexities of gender representation in literature and its role in shaping societal attitudes, further illuminating the enduring relevance of Twain's work in discussions of gender equality and social progress.

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