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**Faculty of Letters and Foreign Languages**  
**Department of Foreign Languages**  
**Section of English**

*The Fallen Woman must Die in Hardy's  
Novel, Tess of the D'Urbervilles*

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the requirements for the degree of Master in Literature and Civilization

**Presented by:**

**Mr. Kamel TAHRI**

**Supervised by:**

**Pr. Ilhem SERIR (Professor)**

**Co-supervised by:**

**Miss. BELMERABet Fatiha (MAB)**

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## Dedications

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## Abstract

In the most Victorian novels, certain norms were dictated on women to be as the *Angel of the House*. However, when a woman deviated from the so-called noble conventions, she would be judged and stigmatized according to these ‘severe’ laws. Hardy developed a female character as the protagonist of his novel *Tess of the D’Urbervilles*. In this contribution and according to his view, we found that Tess is regarded a pure and innocent girl, but she committed a sinful act. Furthermore, it is viewed that he portrays her as a victim of many social misconceptions. Thereby, he wants to denounce these exaggerated laws. However, in the eyes of the readership, his portrayal was captured as alien image. As a result, this work proves evidence that Hardy’s image of Tess was criticized as being a liberal feminine piece of writing by most British critics. To mystify the social guilt, his work was highly misperceived and silenced.

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## General Introduction

The Victorian society has always been stigmatized as a strict and traditional community. Thereby, women were forced to follow very severe conventions, generally imposed by men. Thus, any straying out of these customs caused her member a condemnation and rejection from this society.

Thomas Hardy's twelfth novel, *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*, was published in 1891. In the *Westminster Review*, the novel is considered as one of the greatest novels of century and the greatest since George Eliot died. Throughout this novel, Hardy challenges under these strict British social norms of patriarchal British society, and he gives a lesson to the English reader when he portrays Tess as a pure woman even she was rapes or seduced. Therefore, he wants to reprehend and damn the society itself when he sheds light on her victimization.

To treat her tragedy, Hardy addresses numerous social problems in his novel as well as the issue of 'Falleness', since it was a great matter in Victorian society. However, the society always treated the feminine behavior, either positive or negative a great criticism followed a woman's action. Furthermore, when it comes to the patriarchal society, men are the norm of life and women should obey whatever they are told to do.

The present dissertation tries to answer two thesis questions:

- To what extend did patriarchal delineate the position of women in the Victorian society.
- How did Hardy portray Tess in his novel?



The goal of this dissertation is to demonstrate and understand the controversy over Tess' issues after the first publication of Hardy's novel. Moreover, Hardy's novel reaches an international success and receives huge responses from both the public reader and the literary critics. Besides this dissertation attempts, to shed light on women's position and perception according to the Victorian society.

This dissertation is divided into two chapters; the first one provides the reader with a background of the Victorian Era and how women were portrayed by the contemporary Victorian poets and novelists. The second one is devoted to the analysis of Hardy's *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*. In addition to that, it reveals the different circumstances in which a fallen woman endured.

# Chapter I

## Literature Review

- 1.1 Introduction
- 1.2 The Victorian Era in Literature
- 1.3 The life of the Victorian women
- 1.4 Thomas Hardy
- 1.5 Her Achievement
- 1.6 The Victorian Novelists
- 1.7 The Use of Language vs Dialect in Victorian Novels
- 1.8 The Industrial Revolution in Great Britain
- 1.9 The portrayal of women by some Victorian novelists
- 1.10 The Portrayal of Women by some Victorian Poets
- 1.11 Conclusion



## 1.1 Introduction

Thomas Hardy (1840-1929) is one of the prominent figures in the Victorian Nineteenth Century literature. He wrote many poems and novels that made him admired by many readers. In fact, Hardy was always interested in the art of writing poetry since it was his favorable vocation, but later on, he deviated to the art of writing novels when he submitted a bundle of poems; yet the publishers rejected them. Therefore, he considered the last art of writing as a trade to earn money through these contributions (Pollard Arthur 1969 324).

Throughout his career, Hardy was living in society known by its rough laws and rigid interactions against women. The latter were regarded to fulfill their tasks as good housekeeper, virgin lady and pure wife and they have nothing to do with education, thinking, philosophy, sciences and politics since they were compelled to understand their destinies for men.

In fact, these oppressions and obligations increased the women's awareness to ask for equal rights and good treatment. As a matter of fact, in most of his works, Hardy developed and evolved the big question of the woman in many subjects as "Sexuality" and "Fallen Woman".

This chapter sheds light, on one side the British society and the position of Victorian women in the other side during the Victorian Era. When a woman deviated from the Victorian laws of the ideal woman, she was relentlessly troubled by the Victorian country. The fallen woman became focus for the contemporary anxieties about marriage.

Moreover, she was stigmatized and labeled at that era. Therefore, this situation was viewed as social behavior of female character in Hardy's *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*. We analyze a social image was picked up in Hardy's *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*.

## **1.2 The Victorian Era in Literature**

It is well known that the historians divided the history of England into series of periods. Therefore, from ancient Britain to Modern Age were distinguished into era and every era has its particular characteristics whether in the social life, religion, literature or others aspects.

Victorian Era in literature refers to the body of literary work that was written during the reign of Queen Victoria over the United Kingdom. This period formally begins in 1837 and ends in 1901. Moreover, it was considered as the transition between Romantic Period and the late of the Twentieth Century.

In some sense, Victorian Era in literature can be regarded as the Golden Age of the novel. Since that time, it was well known as the prominent source for the educated middle classes to vindicate their rights in an artistic way.

## **1.3 The life of the Victorian women**

The most significant way to characterize a society during a given time is to divide it into social classes and emphasize to analyze, criticize and evaluate the most remarkable differences between these social groups.

However, Victorian Era in England had witnessed a huge differentiation between gender roles that can be analyzed according to separated functions and roles that were signed by man and woman in Victorian society.

At that time, women did not have equal rights to those of men; therefore, they were believed to be inferior to men. And it was evident that they "were subjected to their authorities" (Fletcher 108). Moreover, they were expected to stay at home and to dedicate all their times to their husbands and

children. It was publically agreed that woman's place was the house. This situation can be summarized in one sentence *Woman was as an Angel in the House*.

Rather, the most preeminent written poetry that was published during the nineteenth century shared the same position of women. In a poem entitled "The Princess" written by Alfred Tennyson, published in 1847. He said:

Man for the field and woman for the hearth:

Man for the sword and for the needle she:

Man with the head and woman with the heart:

Man to command and woman to obey (48 ).

This poem, at the closing of this tale about the battle of the sexes, provides us that the suitable place of women is the house to perform certain tasks as housekeeper or maid as he mentioned like needlework.

Being a woman in a male society was not easy during the Victorian Era, since woman had a lot of obligations and a few options. She was put under immense pressure by her family and also by society's conditions.

In this period, marriage was mostly regarded one of the best important points in woman's life. Since marriage was considered the first and the last chance for woman to figure out her social issues in daily life. Furthermore, woman was dominated by any form of her sexuality and was expected to fall silently into the social mold crafted by man. As Susan observes: "Women were exclusively identified by their sexual functions that nineteenth-century society came to regard them as the -Sex-" (32).

She had no rights whatever and she had no power over her personal properties after her marriage. Moreover, she could not inherit her properties if there was a male child in the family or relative.

In the Victorian Era also, the novels started to replace the poem as a new fashion of that time. Many writings were published at that era to share same plot. This means that the majority of those novels fueled the discussion around the marriage, the struggle against the female character and also some social problems. It was undoubtedly claimed that Charles Dickens and Thomas Hardy were pushing the novel to its limits.

#### **1.4 Thomas Hardy**

Thomas Hardy (2June1840 - 11January1929) is an English novelist and poet. A Victorian realist in the tradition of Eliot, he was influenced both in his novels and in his poetry by Romanticism, especially William Wordsworth. Charles Dickens was another important influence. Like Dickens, he was highly critical of much in Victorian society, though Hardy focused more on a declining rural society.

#### **1.5 Hardy's Achievement**

Thomas Hardy was among the famous well known authors of Victorian Era. He wrote fifteen novels and spent most of his life to describe the social position and inequality of women challenged for the first time in history. He is seldom called a social novelist since he was concerned to pick up the melancholy position of the working class in the country side during the Victorian period. Because, he was always struggling against the restrictions imposed by Victorian society, he wanted to figure out many serious issues relevant to women characters.

Hardy's first novel, The Poor Man and the Lady, finished by 1867, failed to find a publisher. He then showed it to his mentor and friend, the Victorian poet and novelist, George Meredith, who felt that The Poor Man and the Lady would be too politically controversial and might damage

Hardy's ability to publish in the future. So Hardy followed his advice and he did not try further to publish them. Later, he destroyed the manuscript.

After he abandoned his first novel, Hardy wrote two new ones that he hoped would have more commercial appeal, Desperate Remedies (1871) and Under the Greenwood Tree (1872), both of which were published anonymously. In 1873 A Pair of Blue Eyes, a novel drawing on Hardy's courtship of his first wife was published under his own name. The term "cliffhanger" is considered to have originated with the serialized version of this story (which was published in Tinsley's Magazine between September 1872 and July 1873) in which Henry Knight, one of the protagonists, is left literally hanging off a cliff.

In his next novel Far from the Madding Crowd (1874), Hardy first introduced the idea of calling the region in the west of England, where his novels are set, Wessex. Wessex had been the name of an early Saxon kingdom, in approximately the same part of England. Far from the Madding Crowd was successful enough for Hardy to give up architectural work and pursue a literary career. Over the next twenty-five years Hardy produced ten more novels.

Subsequently Hardy moved from London to Yeovil, and then to Sturminster Newton, where he wrote The Return of the Native (1878). Hardy published Two on a Tower in 1882, a romance story set in the world of astronomy. Then in 1885, they moved for the last time, to Max Gate, a house outside Dorchester designed by Hardy and built by his brother. There he wrote The Mayor of Casterbridge (1886), The Woodlanders (1887), and Tess of the d'Urbervilles (1891), the last of which attracted criticism for its sympathetic portrayal of a "fallen woman" and was initially refused publication. Its subtitle, A Pure Woman: faithfully presented, was intended to raise the eyebrows of the Victorian middle classes.



A major location of The Return of the Native as part of Hardy's fictional Egdon Heath. Jude the Obscure, published in 1895, met with an even stronger negative response from the Victorian public because of its controversial treatment of sex, religion and marriage. Furthermore, its apparent attack on the institution of marriage caused further strain on Hardy's former difficult marriage because Emma Hardy was concerned that Jude the Obscure would be read as autobiographical. Some booksellers sold the novel in brown paper bags, and the Bishop of Wakefield, Walsham How, is reputed to have burnt his copy. In his postscript of 1912, Hardy humorously referred to this incident as part of the career of the book: "After these [hostile] verdicts from the press its next misfortune was to be burnt by a bishop -- probably in his despair at not being able to burn me". Despite this, Hardy had become a celebrity by the 1900s, but some argue that he gave up writing novels because of the criticism of both Tess of the D'Urbervilles and Jude the Obscure. The Well-Beloved, first serialized in 1892, was published in 1897.

### 1.6 The Victorian Novelists

The Victorian Era was depicted by the most representative literary figure by the famous novelists with their brilliant style in writing and telling stories. And it is obvious when Bloom said that "Without exception the Victorian novelists were masters of the art of telling a story." (Bloom 2004 173).

The most important Victorian writers are : Charles Dickens (1812-1870) dominated the first half of Queen Victoria's reign, George Eliot (1819-1880) and the three Brontë sisters, Charlotte (1816-1863), Emily (1818-1848) and Anne (1820-1849), Joseph Cornard (1857-1924), Elizabeth Gaskell (1810-1865), George Gissing (1857-1903), Richard Jefferies (1848-1987), Thomas Hardy (1840-1929), Oscar Wilde (1854-1900), Lewis Carroll (1832-1898), Robert Browning (1812-1889).

### 1.7 The Use of Standard Language vs Dialect in Victorian Novels

By the beginning of the nineteenth century, spoken dialect was quite common among all people in Great Britain except for the well educated (Görlach 1999 28). In 1992, Zanger defined dialect as: “Literary dialect is the attempt to indicate on the printed page, through spellings and mis-spelling, elisions, apostrophes, syntactical shifts, signals, etc., the speech of an ethnic, regional or racial group.” (Zanger 1992 1).

According to Leech and Short (1981 167), dialect is the particular set of linguistic features which correspond to the speech communities. Thus many 19th-century English novelists used dialect speech in their novels in order to give them more reality (Görlach 1999 33). There has a reason behind why the author would write in dialect rather than in the standard form of their languages. Because, it is quite sure 100% when something written in the national language would have the biggest, popular audience, and will be well sold and more effective.

There are plenty of dialect examples in literature that show the best usage of dialect as literary device. One of them is Twain’s The Adventure of Huckleberry Finn when the author used exaggerated dialect to differentiate between characters as well as in:

**Jim:** “We’s safe, Huck, we’s safe! Jump up and crack yo’heels. Dat’s de good ole Cairo at las’, I jis knows it.”

**Huck:** “I’ll take the canoe and go see, Jim. It mightn’t be, you know.” (Chapter 6, page 92).

In addition to that, Charles Dickens in all his novels made a free use of dialect in order to distinguish between one character and another. It is a class dialect rather than regional to give the opportunity to the London poor people.

Therefore, it is the dialect of the average working men who have not had much schooling. The following examples in Bleak House is typical:

They're wot's left, Mr.Snagsby, out of a sovring as was give me by a lady in a wale as sed she was a servant and as come to my crossin one night and asked to be showd this'ere ouse and theouse wot him as you giv the writin to died at, and the berrin-ground wot he's berrid in. She ses to me, she ses, 'can you show me all' them places? I ses, 'yes', I ses. And she ses to me 'do it', ' and I dun it, and she giv me a sov'ring and hooked it. And I an't had much of the sov'ring neither. (chap.19)

### **1.8 The Industrial Revolution in Great Britain**

The Industrial Revolution can be defined as the most fundamental transformation and change, which happened in the early years of the 18th century, in the history of the human life (Hobsbawm E.J 1968 13-14). The Victorian Era saw an enormous and unprecedented expansion in the physical and social fabric of the urban realm. These changes were occurred in several countries in the world and England in particular. At that time, the Victorians considered that period as the time of peace, development, prosperity and sensibility in many fields as economic, social, politic and literary (Devasi M.C 2013 1-4).

However, the outcome of the Industrial Revolution in Victorian society was the resultant of the distinguishable social classes. First, the Bourgeoisie class which was the richest and dominant one, but on the other hand, the Middle and Working classes were undergoing social issues. However, the Revolution was not the reason behind the division of society into social classes poor and rich. In fact, the concept of social class not only depended upon the amount of money people but also it did rest as well as on the birth and family connections (Sally Mitchell 1996 17-18).

In literature, that period in Victorian society was regarded as the high noon of the social realist novelists as Dickens. They were likely considered as the greatest novelists concerned with social reform often used The Industrial Revolution as the setting of his works. Moreover, in Hard Times, Dickens highlights the concept of The Industrial Revolution as the cause of suffering and misery of the lower class, including the young boy Dickens when he had a hard life from his childhood. Therefore, he describes the society with its social problems during the machine era. The complexity of that situation shows that the novelist wants to figure out these somber consequences of The Industrial Revolution (Trikaloka Handayani Putri 2015 2-5).

In fact, Industrial Revolution was not the reason behind poverty and inequality in the social life of the Londoners since these diseases were existed before. Therefore, no city of that day faced problems on the scale London did. There were many issues, including overcrowding, pollution, ineffective governance, prostitution and disease, which on overwhelming presence in the lives of Londoners. As Allen said:

There had always been overcrowding, there has always been drunkenness; there had always been sweatshops in cellars, and exploitation of children in industry. But now, they existed on so colossal a scale that awareness of them had become unavoidable (1991 144).

### **1.9 The Portrayal of Women by Some Victorian Novelists**

Most of the contributions that were produced during the 18th Century in Victorian society centered on the same plot. Elizabeth Langland stated that “One plot that shaped the rise of the novel in 18th Century England a virtuous serving girl winning the love of a master vastly her social superior”( Langland 1992 290). This means that the most writings of that era were concerning on

the kernel social problem in England, it was marriage between two extreme social classes. It was between a maiden girl from her low social class and a master rich noble man from a high class. This fact can be justified in order to keep in mind that this poor jumped up to marriage so as to secure her life and make it more comfortable. This circumstance can be sustained through different works that were produced during the Victorian period:

Austen's Pride and Prejudice is considered the best example to exemplify this point of marriage in two passages from this novel, the first when Charlotte decided to marry Collins. She asks only a comfortable shatter, higher position with wealthy life. Indeed she explained to Elizabeth when she said "I am not romantic, you know. I never was. I ask only a comfortable home; and considering Mr. Collins character, connections, and situation in life, I am convinced that my chance of happiness with him is as fair, as most people state" (Austen, 1970). For Mrs. Charlotte, she accepted to marry Mr. Collins only since she is in economic needs.

The second, when Mrs. Bennet tells her husband that it will be a great accomplishment if one of her five daughters succeeds to marry the rich man Mr. Binley. Therefore, she makes great efforts to marry off her daughter Miss. Jane. As Nash Geoffrey remarked that the most of Jane Austen's novels center on marriage and were merely romantic (Nash Geoffrey, 1980:60). This means that all these novels were dealt with love stories and all people always think that Austen was an expert at telling love story. In fact, marriage in her novels is not the result of love but the result of economic needs. It concludes that this social situation reflects big problem of society at Victorian era (Pei 2014 1-3).

Patricia Meyer Spacks stated that "Victorian novels characteristically conclude with marriage; a heroine's early life measures her worth and the

man she wins provides an index of her accomplishment; in marriage she finds opportunities to exercise to woman's traditional function"(1972 36-51).

Through this quotation, we have understood the type of plot as well as romantic status tackled with love stories at that time. Indeed, it is remarkable in those contributions which were concerned with social situation and the mode life. Thus, most novelists were very interesting for women's the future careers changes that affected their society due to industrialization.

### **1.10 The Portrayal of Women by some Victorian Poets**

It was commonly agreed by the Victorian writers that the suitable place of woman is the 'house'. Later on, it was a great debate held over this social issue that the most Victorian poets varied in the portrayal and the representation of woman in the Victorian society.

Some of them regarded her as being fit only to give birth to children, take care of them and work as a house-keeper. Whereas others viewed her as equal as men, and she has full rights [education and vote] as male.

Among the writers who advocated and supported the idea for women to be a good housewife, we can select one of them Patmore who treated this subject widely. In the poem entitled *The Angel in the House* (1854-1856). Through this very nice poem, Patmore makes a good image that the woman should be like an angel in the house. He said:

Her heart to an incicle or whim  
Whose each impatient word provokes  
Another, not from her, but him;  
While she, too gentle even to force  
His penitence by kind replies,  
Waits by, expecting his remorse

With pardon in her pitying eyes;  
And if he once, by shame oppress'd  
A comfortable word confers,  
She leans and weeps against his breast,  
And seems to think the sin was hers;  
Or any eye to see her charms  
At any time, she's still his wife,  
Dearly devoted to his arms;  
She loves with love that cannot tire;  
And when, ah woe, she loves alone,  
Through passionate duty love spring higher,  
As grass grows taller round a stone (48).

Throughout this poem, the poet Patmore sheds light that the adequate place for the women at that time is the house to practice and perform certain tasks. Since she was regarded as the source of joy, happiness and considered as a perfect companion to make the life for her partner more agreeable and comfortable.

He provides some qualities that should be possessed by the Victorian woman to reach the level of angel in the house. Therefore, she should devote herself and her time for her husband by obedience and she does not commit any fault even an error as the 'Sin' was made by her.

This poem provides us with particular qualities of the Victorian woman that should be accomplished to attain the perfect wife, partner for the husband. Through the previous poem, we pick up that Patmore believed that any relation binds a man and a woman relies on marriage.

Contrary, most of the works were portrayed the Victorian woman in a romantic way. For example, Hardy shared a new idea of life. He said:

I do not wish to win your vow  
To take me soon or late as bride,  
And lift me from the nook where now  
I tarry your farings to my side.  
I am blissful ever to abide  
In this green labyrinth let all be,  
If but, whatever may betide,  
You do not leave off loving me!  
Your comet-comings I will wait  
With patience time shall not wear through;  
The yellowing years will not abate  
My largened love and truth to you,  
Nor drive me to complaint undue  
Of absence, much as I may pine,  
If never another 'twixt us two  
Shall come, and you stand wholly mine.

(Hardy 98-99 1992)

In this poem, Hardy depicted a strange image of the woman which seemed completely indifferent to marriage.

### **1.11 Conclusion**

To conclude, this chapter has been concerned with the description of Great Britain and the position of British women during the Victorian Era. It has analyzed the major events that characterized this period as well as the living conditions of Victorian women.

It was a great change like Industrial Revolution and reforms to the society; however, it was a somber situation for the Victorian women. They were oppressed by strict laws.



This chapter has also pointed out to the struggle of women to overcome the hardships and the injustice they faced at that time.

At last, it has provided a short overview of Hardy's life. Furthermore, it has found out that Thomas Hardy's career as novelist and poet was influenced by incidents, theories, stereotypes and prejudice of his age.

## **Chapter II**

# **Thematic Analysis of Hardy's Novel *Tess of the D'Urbervilles***

2.1 Introduction:

2.2 Summary of the Novel

2.3 The Fallen Woman

2.4 Positive criticism towards 'Tess'

2.4.1 'Tess' as a Pure Woman in Hardy's View

2.4.2 Innocence of 'Tess'

2.4.3 Beauty of 'Tess'

2.5 'Tess' as a Victim

2.5.1 'Tess' is Victimized of her Sex:

2.5.2 'Tess' is Victimized of her Religion

2.5.3 'Tess' is Victimized of her Family

2.6 The Use of the Language and its Varieties

2.6.1 Standard Vs Dialect

2.7 The Misinterpretation and Social Prejudice of the Novel

2.8 Conclusion



## 2.1 Introduction:

Being a woman in a male society is a difficult situation during the Victorian Era since she has a lot of obligations and a few options. Furthermore, there were strict social norms dictated to the British woman to be as the 'Angel of the house'.

In fact, under these responsibilities and compulsory tasks, they developed a strange character of the 'Fallen Woman' who existed within her own sphere of genre literature as in Dickens'<sup>1</sup> *Oliver Twist* and *David Copperfield* and Hardy's *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*.

There were a numerous tragedies that riveted the increasing of the woman's repressed sexuality and its sequences of the female wrongdoing in Victorian novels. Therefore, the peculiar behavior obsessed the British readers to untie these bonds.

In *Tess*, Hardy portrays a poor innocent rural girl who deviated from conventional Victorian norms and regarded as a 'Decadent' woman. Moreover, He saw as a victim many forces of Victorian patriarchal society as the injustice of social law, the hypocrisy of social prejudice and inequality of male dominance.

## 2.2 Summary of the Novel

Tess D'Urbervilles is a seventeen years old, simple countryside girl. She is the eldest daughter of John and Joan D'Urbervilles. Early the next morning, Tess, his dutiful daughter, sets out to the market, but she falls asleep and the family's horse dies in an accident.

Tess' plight begins when her parent conveys that he is a descendant from the noble D'Urbervilles family. Later on, they decided to send her to discover this wealthy kin in order to seek a work from this rich family. At this point, she is depicted as an innocent, intelligent and pure girl.

Unfortunately, after her arrival to this family, she has her first encounter with her ancestor Alec D'Urbervilles. Instantly, he was attracted by her beauty and

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<sup>1</sup> Charles Dickens (1812-1870), is an English novelist. He is well known for his host of cruel, comic and repugnant characters. He remains the most widely read of the Victorian novelists.

physical maturity. During the next meeting, Alec arranges for Tess to live and work in The Slopes. However, she was reluctant for his offer, but she accepts it in order to alleviate their impoverished condition. Therefore, she becomes the caretaker for his blind mother's poultry. While in this residence, Alec seduces and rapes Tess.

A few weeks later, Tess flees from The Slopes and returns to her village. She gives birth to a child, Sorrow, who was the production of seduction, but Sorrow becomes ill and dies. She makes another journey away from home to nearby Tolbthays. She, changed by her experiences, regains hope by taking a job as a milkmaid in this new village.

In the meantime, Tess meets and falls in love with Angel Clare who was a traveling farmer. He does not know Tess' past and it deems unable to avoid the consequences of her status as 'Unchaste Woman'. After their wedding day, Tess and Angel confess their past for each other and she forgives him but Angel cannot believe that she was pregnant by another man [Alec] and he cannot bear the social implications of this situation. Therefore, this couple splits up and Tess returns to her parents' home and Angel to Brazil.

Sometime later, Tess sees Alec for the first time after she left The Slopes. However, he follows her for asking her to marry him. She refuses in the strongest terms when he was persistent since she was firstly victimized by his hands. After her learning that her parents are ill, she returns home and she finds that her father dies suddenly.

Meanwhile, Angel regrets from his decision against Tess. After her meeting with him, she confronts Alec and accuses him of lying to her about Angel. She stabs and kills Alec with a carving knife. She finds Angel to tell him the deed (Kathleen, 1990).

### **2.3 The Fallen Woman**

The term 'Fallen Woman' was used to describe a woman who has lost her innocence, and fallen from the grace of God. In fact it is closely associated with the loss or surrender of woman's chastity.

Furthermore in literature, the 'Fallen Woman' is peculiarly Nineteenth Century concept which demotes a woman 'Fallen' in sexual knowledge outside marriage, frequently appears in Victorian Age. Therefore, it was applied in Victorian Culture to symbolize a certain class of feminine identities: Prostitutes, Unmarried woman who was engaged in sexual relationship with man and she is regarded as a victim of seduction (Anderson 1993 2).

In addition, the Victorians regarded this behavior as a moral menace, a contagion. Moreover, she was restrained from her property and neglected in her society in all fields (socially, economically and politically). The Victorian view was that the 'Fallen Woman' lacked shame and modesty. Thus, it was a moral and social repugnant of this behavior.

In 1892, Hardy wrote a tragedy *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*. I intend to demonstrate a certain behavior done by the protagonist of this story Tess who was a poor innocent country girl. In fact, we want to depict an image of the 'Fallen Woman' shown in Tess being judged by society regardless of her character and values in tragedy. I will argue that Tess exhibit the inner quality of the ideal woman in the Victorian society meanwhile she was judged by her sexual lapse.

## 2.4 Positive criticism towards 'Tess'

### 2.4.1 'Tess' as a Pure Woman in Hardy's View

In 1891, *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* first appeared faithfully with the subtitle of 'A Pure Woman', but after twenty years Hardy added the subtitle 'At the Last moment' in the preface of the edition of 1912. This novel had aroused a substantial amount of controversy. In fact, Hardy demonstrates his deep sense and moral sympathy for the British lower classes and special acclamation to country women.

At the first glance, this novel witnessed a widespread public scandal throughout sexual hypocrisy of English society. Tess in Hardy's novel was characterized as a noble and pure woman of this tragedy on the first pages of the novel as in "A pure woman" (25). Moreover, he used the word 'Pure' many times in the novel to clarify to the reader even if Tess is a 'Decadent Woman', she is still virtuous and victim of her social problem of her family. Therefore, he was clearly trying to shock his Victorian audience out of their misplaced complacency (Analysis, 2).

At the second glance, when Tess meets Angel Clare, a young man from a humble family. She falls in love him and during their wedding night, Tess reveals and confesses her past to him. Although, Angel finds it [the shame of her fall] difficult to forgive Tess as he says: "I do forgive you, but forgiveness is not all" (260) and "If I can bring myself to bear [as Fallen woman] if it is desirable, possible, I will come to you. But until I come to you it will be better that you should not try to come to me" (281). Thus, Tess' act should prove to the public speaking that she deserves the innocence, honesty, patience, submission and purity as the critic Morris asserts to Tess' purity: "Because she is completely and totally womanly" (127).

#### **2.4.2 Innocence of 'Tess'**

Being an innocent girl in male exaggeration during the Victorian age is not easy. When it comes to Tess, she is seventeen years and the eldest one in the D'Urbervilles family and she has never been aware from what it comes from man's cunning. Hardy has an opportunity to experience innocence. He invokes the notion of innocence many times when she is described as in "[Tess] large innocent eyes" (41) and "Tess innocently looked down at the roses in her bosom" (69).

Throughout the novel, Hardy underscores Tess' innocence when she returns from her employment at the D'Urbervilles family and has raped by Alec. She confronts her mother why she does not make her aware from that situation and she puts much of the blame on her:

O mother, my mother!" cried the agonized girl, turning passionately upon her parent as if her poor heart would break. How could I be expected to know? I was a child when I left this house four months ago. Why didn't you tell me there was danger in men-folk? Why didn't you warn me? Ladies know what to fend hands against, because they read novels that tell them of these tricks; but I never had the chance o' learning in that way, and you did not help me!(112).

The pertinent point depicted for this particular aspect of Tess' innocence clarifies that she was raped and lost her chastity due to her innocence and ignorance. Moreover, when she returns home and tells her mother about the terrible experience [She was raped by Alec and was pregnant], hoping help and consolation from her mother. But she gets much of reprehension from her (Huo and Jing 2016).

### 2.4.3 Beauty of 'Tess'

When Hardy describes Tess, it was a combination between her delicately beauty and innocence:

He said, with a soulless sneer in the word... But you have been the means — the innocent means — of my backsliding, as they call it. I ask myself, am I, indeed, one of those 'servants of corruption' who, 'after they have escaped the pollutions of the world, are again entangled therein and overcome' — whose latter end is worse than their beginning?" He laid his hand on her shoulder. "Tess, my girl, I was on the way to, at least, social salvation till I saw you again!" he said freakishly shaking her, as if she were a child. "And why then have you tempted me? I was firm as a man could be till I saw those eyes and that mouth again — surely there never was such a maddening mouth since Eve's!" His voice sank, and a hot archness shot from his own black eyes. "You temptress, Tess; you dear damned witch of Babylon — I could not resist you as soon as I met you again!" (349).



At the first glance, Alec acknowledges and praises Tess as the means of innocence. But at the other glimpse, he is blaming her beauty many times in the novel since he is unable to resist the enticement of lusting after her.

Moreover, Hardy uses comparison throughout the novel to reveal her protagonist Tess. There is a little difference between Angel and Alec Tess' description. Both of them, portrait her in sensual and physical terms (Pearce 33). As mentioned in the first pages, Angel sees as "What fresh and virginal daughter of nature that milkmaid is!"(151). Later on, he was sexually attractive by her:

She was yawning, and he saw the red interior of her mouth as if it had been a snake's. She had stretched one arm so high above her coiled-up cable of hair that he could see its satin delicacy above the sunburn; her face was flushed with sleep, and her eyelids hung heavy over their pupils. The brimfulness of her nature breathed from her. It was a moment when a woman's soul is more incarnate than at any other time; when the most spiritual beauty bespeaks itself flesh; and sex takes the outside place in the presentation (198).

This Angel's description was blended with animal imagery. Therefore, it is evoking the notion of dangerous woman, but it is also associated with the description of her mouth and its color 'red'. Thus her beauty is more human which is implicitly sexual.

Furthermore, in *Tess of the d'Urbervilles: Unorthodox Beauty*, Peter J. Casagrande coins a new word "**Beaugly**" a combination of the words "**Beautiful**" and "**Ugly**". He argues that Hardy wrote with a chock-full of these comparisons: innocent/victim, beautiful/ugly, poor/rich and good/evil.

## 2.5 'Tess' as a Victim

### 2.5.1 'Tess' is Victimized of her Sex:

The novel begins to introduce the women and girls of the countryside, among them Tess who was dressing up in white and red to celebrate the event of the forthcoming spring. The author describes her as follows:

She was a fine and handsome girl—not handsomer than some others, possibly—but her mobile peony mouth and large innocent eyes added eloquence to color and shape. She wore a red ribbon in her hair, and was the only one of the white company who could boast of such a pronounced adornment (8).

In this description of her, she is regarded as a beautiful girl and there is a significance sense of happiness, joy and hope for her future. However, we can notice that there is special thing when he says 'the red ribbon' since it is closely related with the love that will come later to her.

When it comes to certain behavior done by a Victorian woman, we keep in mind her sexual experience since it was regarded as a shame. Therefore, we want to discuss this issue and its circumstances on women in Tess' story.

The first man who comes to Tess is Alec D'Urbervilles. From his appearance, he seems as a "Womanizer" with his crude, full lips, his bold eyes and his dark moustache. After the dancing party, Tess refuses Alec's offer to take her home as Hardy comments on the novel:

At almost any other moment of her life she would have refused such proffered aid and company...But coming as the invitation did at the particular juncture when fear and indignation at these adversaries could be transformed by a spring of the foot into a triumph over them, she abandoned herself to her impulse (66-67).

Alec embraces the situation since she is dependent economically on him and is socially regarded inferior. Therefore, her social situation does not enable her to reject her offer totally. However, this traumatic experience gives us an idea of what kind of man Alec (Mona 2010 1-30). Because he does take care for her answer since he thinks that the men are the norms and women should obey what they are told. Furthermore, she tells him that she dislikes him and was anxious by his kissing her and she clarifies that he cannot be her first love as "one of those sudden impulses of reprisal to which she was liable" (60).

Eventually, many critics over the years have discussed whether Tess is raped or seduced, however, the event is fated. Thoroughly, Hardy in this passage makes the incident of rape unrecognized by the readers. Kathleen, a leading scholar in the field of acquaintance rape, highlights the issue: "The exact manner in which Alec awakened Tess at the chase and Tess' subsequent reaction to Alec, are unknown to the reader" (319). Thus, unless she resisted Alec in violent manner, she would face many problems as the "**Rape victim**" as:

Darkness and silence ruled everywhere around. Above them rose the primeval yews and oaks of The Chase, in which were poised gentle roosting birds in their last nap; and around them the hopping rabbits and hares...Why it was that upon this beautiful feminine tissues, sensitive as gossamer and practically blank as snow as yet, there should have been traced such a coarse pattern as it was doomed to receive; why so often the coarse appropriates the finer thus, the wrong man the woman, the wrong woman the man, many thousands years of analytical philosophy have failed to explain to our sense of order (68-69).

Furthermore, in the light of the prevalence view, life is full of innocent victims. Ironically, he gives three animals 'birds, rabbits and hares' are considered as victims. Moreover, he describes her as a pure innocent woman and especially when he tackles this sentence 'beautiful feminine tissues, sensitive as gossamer and practically blank as snow as yet'. Therefore, the author makes that Tess is as victim

of her sex and it a clear situation of rape (Mona 2010 5). Now, she ends up in a complicated situation which leads to other sequences.

Moreover, the following passage shows an image when Angel loses her heart to Tess during their wedding night as follows:

It was then, as has been said, that she impressed him most deeply. She was no longer the milkmaid, but a visionary essence of woman — a whole sex condensed into one typical form. He called her Artemis, Demeter, and other fanciful names half teasingly, which she did not like because she did not understand them. "Call me Tess," she would say askance; and he did (68-69).

It was a mutual and profession love between them. However, she resists a long time in fear and hopes which her past will blight this romantic relationship (*Thomas Hardy's Tess of the D'Urbervilles: A Routledge Study Guide and Sourcebook*, 151). Furthermore, both Tess and Angel are deluded about the real character of the other.

Finally, we end up with this quotation from D. H. Lawrence. We hope in the future, we can smile in an amusement as his words as much as possible:

Man is willing to accept woman as an equal, as a man in skirts, as an angel, a devil, a baby-face, a machine, an instrument, a bosom, a womb, a pair of legs, a servant, an encyclopedia, an ideal or an obscenity; the one thing he won't accept her as is a human being, a real human being of the feminine sex (D. H. Lawrence 1913 16).

### 2.5.2 'Tess' is victimized by her Religion

During the 19th Century, 'Religion' and 'Science' were two prominent entities in the Victorian Society. Moreover, the church had a heavy influence in the community in order to flourish the situation of poor people. In fact, it was a big contribution of literary works about 'Religion' and 'Science', since they have a beautiful accordance between them throughout the Bible and the personal experience of God.

In *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*, Hardy struggled with his own beliefs since he was born in Christian family. Therefore, he wants to idealize the Paganism<sup>2</sup> of the past. He portrays Tess as pagan innocent. This part is devoted to pick up how Tess was victimized in her religion [Christianity].

However, Tess is the eldest child and has many responsibilities for her parents since they are poor. She has to help them out whenever they need her. To be a good Christian, she must respect the Bible as it says: "they shall honor thy father and thy mother"<sup>3</sup> and that what she is doing all the time when they are in difficulties. In fact, she does the right the right thing for her parents. Hardy characterizes Tess as symbol of honor and obedience in her novel.

However, when Tess has been raped, she decided to go back to her family and she schedules to visit the church every Sundays. She always stays in the back of the church in order to be unseen by the majority of people as Hardy says: "The people who had turned their head turned them again as the service proceeded; and at last observing her they whispered to each other. She knew what their whispers were about, grew sick at heart, and felt that she could come to church no more"(80). After this forgotten situation, she feels ashamed since they never forgive her even if in a religious place. Hence, she decides to stay indoors and go out at the dusk while even if members from the church do not help her as the Bible says: "Do to others what you wish others do to you". Therefore, she will be unsaved and hooked by these religious rules.

In the beginning of the novel, Tess was portrayed as a poor and unmarried girl with her an illegitimate baby. She was shocked and traumatized two times in the church. First of all, when she wants to baptize this illegitimate baby, but the church does not accept it since he was illegal baby. And also, when the baby dies she tries to bury him, yet it was refused because he was regarded as the fruitful of rape and sin. In the eyes of Tess, she was refused and victim from church even if she was a good Christian. As Hardy noticed this "She first asks if her baptismal

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<sup>2</sup> Any of various religions other than Christianity or Judaism or Islamism

<sup>3</sup> The Bible : Exodus 20 : 12 (Oxford : University Press, 1995)

service will "count" with God—if it will keep the baby from burning in hell. He assures her that her service will get the job done. So then she asks if he'll give the baby a Christian burial at the church, and he feels trapped. He says that he can't for reasons of Church politics". Tess is a victim of her religion since she gives birth to an illegitimate baby. The parson does not accept to baptize the baby when he was still alive and also when he was died to bury him. In fact, she has seen herself neglected by the church that refuses her when she asks for help (Mona, 2010).

Tess is a victim of her religion for many reasons. Therefore, she considered herself as an ignorant Christian, since she has done sinful act by her own hands. However, the church is the mean to be refused. It can be regarded as a 'Rebellion' against religion when Tess says to the parson: "I never go to your church". Tess chooses to leave church, stay home alone and continue to live strongly with her own efforts.

### **2.5.3 'Tess' is Victimized of her Family**

When a mother gives birth to a child in poor family, we cannot blame either the mum or the child for this bad situation. Therefore, Tess cannot be reprehended for being born into a poor family. She is the eldest of family's children, so it will be a difficult situation to cover the financial support of her parents.

In fact, her mother thinks that the great Tess' opportunity to reach the wealthy state is to marry off her with a noble and rich person from her kin as Hardy notices:

Tess is a fine figure o' fun, as I said to myself to-day when I zeed her vamping round parish with the rest," observed one of the elderly boozers in an undertone. "But Joan Durbeyfield must mind that she don't get green malt in floor." It was a local phrase which had a peculiar meaning, and there was no reply (22).

While, she is driving the carriage, the family's horse dies by an accident. Tess feels responsible for the accident, so she wants to do right things for her

parents. Moreover, her father, works very hard in order to buy a new horse as "He worked very harder the next day in digging a grave for Prince in the garden that he had worked for months to grow a crop for his family"(29). However, his health does not allow him to work hard, eventually causes Tess to fetch a job in Durbeyfield family and she will be responsible. She works in the field and takes care of her parents.

However, when Alec rapes her, she decides to return her parents' home even she was pregnant and without a husband. As Perkin says: "It was accounted no shame for a child to be begotten out of wedlock-the shame was when there was no wedding to follow"(59-60). In fact her mother does accept this situation and even she blames her to smart and more careful as: "You ought to have been more careful if you did not mean to get him to make you his wife" (77). Therefore, Tess answers in agony:

O mother, my mother!" cried the agonized girl, turning passionately upon her parent as if her poor heart would break. "How could I be expected to know? I was a child when I left this house four months ago. Why didn't you tell me there was danger in men-folk? Why didn't you warn me? Ladies know what to fend hands against, because they read novels that tell them of these tricks; but I never had the chance o' learning in that way, and you did not help me!" Her mother was subdued (77).

Here, her mother does not tell her about men, therefore she blames Tess about what happens since a working girl did not receive education about things like this at that time (Mona).

As Albert says: "She goes to Trantridge despite her apprehensions of danger, in an effort to do something about a situation with which neither she nor her family can cope in the old ways" (19). In fact, she seems as a victim of her family since her parents were poor and her mother wants to benefit from her marriage with a rich noble person.

## 2.6 The Use of the Language and its Varieties

### 2.6.1 Standard Vs Dialect

Language can be regarded in sociolinguistics as human characteristics. Therefore, all humans who are living identified in their terms of community or ethnicity. Moreover, in Britannica “Language is a system of conventional spoken, manual, or written symbols by means of which human beings, as members of a social group and participants in its culture, express themselves”. From such definition, language is viewed as the back bone of human communication in a certain social area in order to show up their existence.

Furthermore, the most important feature of human language was characterized by its productivity and creativity to represent a social class, ethnicity and educational background that are called social dialect. As Holmes said “ social dialect is a variety of language that reflects social variation in language use, according to certain factors related to the social group of the speaker such as education, occupation, income level” (1992 145).

According to Bex and Watts

Standard English is a dialect; it is simply one variety of English among many; it is a sub variety of English; it is the variety of English normally used in writing; it is the variety associated with the education system in all the English-speaking countries of the world, and is therefore the variety spoken by those who are often referred to as —educated people; and it is the variety taught to non-native learners (1999 177 178).

From the above definition, the most sociologists are agreed that Standard English is a dialect conducted from a bundle of social dialects. This variety of dialect is important in the English-speaking world from a social, intellectual and cultural point of view. However, it is used by educated person in writing and communication context.

This social dialect gives rise to the spoken and written language. Moreover, it fulfills the real life and the literary works. Therefore, the last branch is an



interesting topic to be explored. In fact, we instantly focus in *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* and we want to investigate the social dialect in it. Moreover, Tess' speech contains a social dialect with no clear pattern even if with a 'person of quality' (Susan 1998). To illustrate, her language tinges with dialect as in:

Her mother expostulated. "You will never set out to see your folks without dressing up more the dand than that?" "But I am going to work!" said Tess.

"Well, yes," said Mrs Durbeyfield; and in a private tone, "at first there mid be a little pretence o't ... But I think it will be wiser of 'ee to put your best side outward," she added. "Very well; I suppose you know best," replied Tess with calm abandonment. And to please her parent the girl put herself quite in Joan's hands, saying serenely — "Do what you like with me, mother."(43).

From Tess' adventure from the deprived background of her family to live in a rich and noble family of D'Urbervilles. In fact, there are many various languages when Tess reacts against her mother's decision and also when she speaks with Angel and Clare. Throughout this analysis, it is a quiet challenge to know different spoken languages from different social groups [Lower, Middle and Upper Classes], since the main character of this novel has an educational background that conducts her to speak many languages in different culture contexts. Moreover, Hardy acclaims by the narrator in his novel that it was a plenty of multi languages in Tess tragedy as:

Mrs. Durbeyfield habitually spoke the dialect; her daughter, who had passed the Sixth Standard in the National School under a London-trained mistress, spoke two languages: the dialect at home, more or less; ordinary English abroad and to persons of quality (15).

Thus, it enables Tess to communicate with her mother in a certain accent, but in other social dialect with Angel and Clare in order to differentiate between her and their social classes. Here is an example when she makes a conversation with her mother:

"Get up his strength!" said Tess impetuously, the tears welling to her eyes. "O my God! Go to a public-house to get up his strength! And you as well agreed as he, mother!"

Her rebuke and her mood seemed to fill the whole room, and to impart a cowed look to the furniture, and candle, and children playing about, and to her mother's face.

"No," said the latter touchily, "I be not agreed. I have been waiting for 'ee to bide and keep house while I go fetch him."(26).

Although, Holmes says "Certain social factors – who you are talking to, the social context of the talk, the function and topic of the discussion – turn out to be important in accounting for language choice in many different kinds of speech community. It has proved very useful, particularly when describing code choice in large speech communities" (1992 21). The conversation above shed lights in the use of social dialect between Tess and her mother. She uses nonstandard English as "And you as well agreed as he, mother!" and to accurate this statement we say "And you as well agreed as him, mother!".

However, in this passage "The dialect was on her tongue to some extent, despite the village school: the characteristic intonation of that dialect for this district being the voicing approximately rendered by the syllable UR, probably as rich an utterance as any to be found in human speech" (9) Tess seems at the first glance with a traditional way of speaking. However, the school represents the authority imposes rules concerning how people should talk in public or educational areas. Therefore, she was obliged to learn the language of her master [Alec] to enable herself to get married with what her mother has expect in order to regain her parents' life.

To sum up, as well in all Victorian novels emphasized to quote speech in scene of dialogue. Meanwhile, Hardy makes a liberal use of free indirect discourse in order to establish and maintain clear boundaries between social dialect and standard (Susan 1998).

## 2.7 The Misinterpretation and Social Prejudice of the Novel

*Tess of the D'Urbervilles* is the innovative product of Hardy's fiction during the Victorian Age. He witnesses the injustice of social law and the ill effect of male dominance over the Victorian women throughout their miserable life. In fact, it is a prominent experience with female character [Tess] who is regarded as a woman of beauty, energy, innocence and intelligence. By the time, this country girl was raped by her master [Alec] at the beginning of her tragedy. Furthermore, this event was considered as Hardy's liberal ideas to free Victorian women in order to figure out their repressed sexuality and wrongdoing relationship with men (Casagrande 1992 8-9).

Throughout this analysis, we endeavor to see the perception and the social prejudice of Tess' wrongdoing. The novel's largest critics is aimed at the sexual intercourse in order to high light the unfairness of her social treatment. Because the society victimizes her when she was from a poor family and also condemns her when she was raped. Hardy makes society disapproval of her view of Tess [as pure and victim] much more unjust.

Furthermore, in this tragedy Tess is one of the typical characters in Hardy's novels who were trapped between their aspirations and social assumptions. Therefore, after her unconventional practice, she confronts and traumatizes all the public by her wrongdoing and it leads to be ruined (Casagrande 1992 8).

In this novel, Tess explicitly considers Alec her seducer. Like many critics of Tess, Rooney sees her status as the helpless victim of rape. As Rooney notes, "preserves the purity of women by seeing them as objects; sexuality is entirely the work of men and sexual women wholly victims. The (desiring) feminine subject does not exist" (Rooney 1983 94). Therefore in her sight, Tess has found as a seductive female subject and she cannot be willfully seductive without forfeiting her purity. She can only be the passive medium of her own innate, inescapable seductiveness. However, Alec does not accept to marry Tess even if he was the rapist; consequently, he disturbs her in order to abandon him. Hence, she would

prefer to remain in a poor cave to endure the cruel exploitation and the social oppression of her community since he completely ruins her happiness and chastity.

Later on, she returns home to give birth to her baby who was regarded as the fruit of the sin. She escapes from bad past in order to reach the happiness as she thinks "she might be happy in some nook which had no memories. To escape the past and all that appertained thereto was to annihilate It, and to do that she would have to get away" (103).

Meanwhile, Tess falls in love with Angel. During their wedding day, they confess each other. In the eyes of Tess, he will accept her but Angel himself rejects her largely based on what his community and family would think if they discovered her past as Hardy said, "I do forgive you, but forgiveness is not all" (260). In his sight, she is deviated from an innocent and ideal girl to her collapse.

As in many of his other works, Hardy puts Tess' tragedy as a vessel to blow up his criticisms of the 19th English Victorian Society. However in patriarchal Victorian Society, many critics observe that Tess is a novel that challenges the actual social order. Therefore, Hardy wants to defend and reclaim for what has been taken as social prejudice [Fallen Woman].

To keep in mind, *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* is one the highlight Hardy's novels that denounce the social handcuffs putting for Victorian woman. In fact, Hardy sheds light on the liberal ideas in order to leave out the anti female laws. He involves in this novel the tragic construction of the classical playwrights but moulds it into a new shape to merge it with multiplicity, irony, and surprise and enriching his style. Unlike the other Victorian novelists, Hardy never turns his work into a didactic discourse achieved through satire. He reveals that man is just a victim for man since he is unable to change his fate.

## 2.8 Conclusion

The aim though this modest master's dissertation is to fuel the discussion of the position of women during a given literary period when they were demoted by a

lot of social rules. Therefore, we focus to analyze a certain feminine class picked up by a Victorian novelist and poet Thomas Hardy.

In fact, it was the perception of particular image "Fallen Woman" by Victorian people in Hardy's eyes throughout *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*. We want to shed light on the reason behind his renunciation in it, since his novel was admired and widely read.

However, it was a big question treated by Hardy during a severe age for women. In fact, we can call it 'The Woman Question in Victorian Era', since it was regarded as frustrating moment for women. In Hardy's novel, he kept to defend and represent the decadent woman as a pure, beautiful, and innocent and victim of many factors as society, religion and her sex.

## General Conclusion

The Victorian Era (1837-1901) has witnessed such polarized gender roles in British society. It was a big differentiation between men and women. In fact, women were considered to stay home and take care of their children; however, men were regarded as the norms of conventional society.

Thomas Hardy is a Victorian male novelist wrote about women. He is regarded as an irresistible paradox. Furthermore, his goal is to voice the problems of women since they were widely oppressed by the conventional laws. In his novel Tess of the D'Urbervilles, he expressed himself to surprise the readership. We have seen that the woman was oppressed by a male dominated society. Furthermore, they were neglected from all their rights.

In Hardy's eyes, Tess is undoubtedly considered a pure and innocent girl. She was victimized by the obsession of Victorian society under her sexual innocence and moral chastity. Therefore, these cruel features, led her to an extreme stigmatization and sharp situation. However, it was different in the eyes of the most people; Tess was seemed against society and should be excluded from respectable society.

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**Résumé:**-----

Cette recherche vise à examiner une certaine catégorie de femmes britanniques identifiées comme "Les Femmes Tombées" et les institutions qui ont été construites pour maintenir et réhabiliter cette classe connue sous le nom des pénitenciers et considérée comme victime. Dans le roman de Hardy, *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*, nous prenons un coup d'oeil de cette image pour analyser ce stéréotype afin d'alimenter la discussion.

**Mots clés:**-----

Epoque Victorienne, Femme Tombée, Innocence Sexuelle et la Victimisation.

**Summary:**-----

This research aims to examine a certain category of British women identified as "Fallen Women" and the institutions that were built to hold and rehabilitate such class known as penitentiaries and regarded as victim. In Hardy's novel *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*, we take a bird's-eye view of this image to analyze this stereotype in order to fuel the discussion.

**Keywords:**-----

Victorian Era, Fallen Woman, Sexual Innocence and Victimization.

-----: **المخلص:**

يهدف هذا البحث إلى دراسة فئة معينة من النساء البريطانيات يدعى "المرأة الساقطة" والمؤسسات التي بنيت لعقد وتأهيل هذه الفئة المعروفة باسم السجون ويعتبر الضحية. في رواية ، ونحن نلقي نظرة شاملة على هذه الصورة لتحليل هذه الصورة النمطية من أجل تأجيج النقاش.

-----: **الكلمات المفتاحية :**

العصر الفيكتوري، المرأة الساقطة، البراءة الجنسية والتعرض .