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### (FE)MALE MIND IN WOOLF'S ORLANDO

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#### Abstract

Currently, clashes among binaries in our lives are so many. One of them is male/female issues, especially in minds. The application of the Androgynous mind theory by Virginia Woolf on Orlando Novel for the same theorist is controversial between the researchers and critics. It has two sides, one is connected to the cognizance and the other one is connected to the physical side. This paper shed light on the mental part with feministic background and in access to psychoanalysis excluding the physical side. Some researchers interpret Orlando under the physical side of the Androgyny, while this paper shows that there is no connection between Virginia and her novel that some researchers, such as Rado, try to demonstrate the transsexual operations through literary works. On one hand, the Androgynous mind theory has been manipulated by some scholars for their interests or other agenda, such as Sandra Bem, who uses this theory to promote the idea of transgenderism. On the other hand, the Androgynous mind theory in connection with feminism and access to psychoanalysis can be beneficial for the societies apart from the physical side applications. To put it differently, it is a tool for thinking like a man and a woman at the same time. As a result, one, regardless of his/her gender, can get benefited from the theory in his/her daily basis when dealing with the other gender to understand and feel him/her.

**Key Words:** Orlando, Androgynous mind, Identity, Virginia Woolf, Feminism

#### Introduction

In all aspects of human activities, battles never end between man and Satan, virtues and vices, the strong and the weak, the colonizer and the colonized, the West and the East, the North, and the South, intelligence and stupidity, even between ideas in the same mind towards any concept, the battle will not stop. Among these concepts that have been popular in literature and have occurred around conflict and wars is the concept of "the androgynous mind". Many analysts and critics have dealt with it, whether positively or negatively, and they applied it to many literary novels, including these novels, the Orlando novel by Virginia Woolf. Woolf (1882- 1943) was and still one of the greatest British novelists, essayists, and dramatists. Her literary works were rich and full of details for readers and critics as well as her personal life (Woolf & Schreiner, 2020).

Furthermore, she is considered to be one of the first feminists in the world but this can indirectly be interpreted from her literary works and her personal life. Because through her diverse literary works, she fought for women's rights especially in the west. Generally, women suffered from patriarchal dominance in western societies. She exposed this fact in her novel, *Orlando*, over a period that lasts for three centuries as stated in the novel and it will be tackled through different parts of this paper. She also maintains that women were deprived of the right for education as in the Victorian era and King Edward's era. They were prevented to write and to express their thoughts, such as Shakespeare's sister, through different literary works. Woolf's feministic point of view towards the issues of women's rights in the societies leads her to coin the concept of Androgynous Mind and apply it in writing *Orlando* to demonstrate that men and women can think of the other as if s/he is without bias to either gender. Here the aesthetic of the term stands out (Cerwonka, 2008). In the like manner, Alimam (2010) emphasized that "Woolf intends the female artist to move outside the male culture, Woolf herself as an artist celebrates femininity against the patriarchal system" (p. 49). Additionally, this research paper intends to show how Virginia managed to use her theory, "Androgynous Mind", to serve women's issues in her society against patriarchal dominance. In other words, she disguised her feministic views and passed her ideas to her audience indirectly. Since at that period, the men's dominance over the women was evident in the western literatures. Also, a few female scholars' names can be found in all fields of life. Alas, when Woolf was six years old, her two stepbrothers Gerald and George maltreated her sexually (Wick, 2014) and that deeply affected her spirit and psychology. Profoundly, this incident has affected her and her writings. And one could say that was somehow clear while she was creating and composing the Androgynous *Orlando* character as we are going to see later in the analysis section.

Based on that, this paper sheds light on Woolf's androgynous mind, as a tool for thinking as a man and a woman at the same time, binary mind, male and female mind. As an illustration, for a male, trying to think like a woman when talking and addressing the females and vice versa, for a female, trying to think like a man when talking and addressing men without gender bias or gender equality, and keeping their both identities and gender. Moreover, there is no need to go beyond that for transgenderism for example. In the end, a man is a man, and a woman is a woman, and each sex has his/her traits whether they are biologically or psychologically sex-typed. Thus, the interpretation of the biographical *Orlando* novel will be under the applicability of the Androgynous mind theory with accessibility to the first wave feminism in Woolf's period. Additionally, psychoanalysis will be in the mind of the researcher at the background through the whole document during the analysis process.

### **Problem Statement**

To date, the researchers, who analyze *Orlando's* novel by Virginia Woolf using the Androgynous mind theory, focus on the physical side only ignoring the mental part of the theory. Thus, this research concentrates on the mental side excluding the physical side. Also, it is a call for developing

the relationships among the males and females and bypass the controversy in the academia circles concerning the transgender calls in specific, and in some societies in general. Alas, some researchers focus on the body, applying and interpreting the text according to their view from only one angle, a Transsexual point of view. On the other hand, the Androgynous mind theory has been manipulated by some scholars for their interests or other agenda, such as Sandra Bem, who uses this theory to promote the idea of transgenderism (Duerst-Lahti & Kelly, 1995). And, she used the term and closely associated it with Virginia Woolf for her popularity to convince her audience that Woolf was supporting transgenderism (Hollinger, & Winterhalter, 2001). Bem's ideas about the psychology of gender and sexuality have a presence in gender studies (Leaper, 2017).

It is important to realize that androgynous mind theory has been manipulated by some scholars according to their ideologies and interests (Grusec, & Lytton, 2012). Some of them use it as a tool to support his side regarding the transgenderism matter, gender equality, and psychology of genders such as Judith Butler and Sandra Bem. Additionally, capitalism has a tremendous effect on literature for marketing the ideologies through literary works (Bohlin, 2019). As a result, many theorists and critics have changed their views towards male/female issues according to their interests under the pressure of the media and academia. To clarify and in this context, I will borrow the term coined by Pope Francis "Ideological Colonisation" (Dempsey, 2020), and modify it to "Pseudoscience Colonisation". And one cannot swim against the stream. significantly, Woolf created her character, Orlando, in the Orlando novel concentrating on the mental side of the androgyny, not the physical one.

However, when a reader reads the novel without any precedent bias to the text to prove his/her point. One can see that Woolf composed the novel, Orlando, as a kind of fantasy (Burns, 1994). Also, it is a journey in the mind and has nothing to do with the body as transgender trying to prove. Additionally, as you are going to see in the analysis section, there is no clear evidence from the text that denotes the transgender process for Orlando. On the contrary, readers will Virginia call for a binary mind. In other words, she urges her audience to think like a man and a woman at the same time according to the situation and the addressee whether it is a male or a female.

### **Questions of the Study**

The research questions for this study were: what is the impact of Androgyny in interpreting the Orlando novel? How Androgynous mind theory can serve society? How Androgynous mind theory can save the relationships between male and female?

### **Theoretical Framework**

There are so many concepts and theories that have been interpreted and explained positively and negatively according to the interpreter and his/her

ideology (Hale, & Napier, 2013). And one of those theories is the Androgynous Mind Theory created by Virginia Woolf. In the light of that, Showalter contends that using the androgyny mechanism is a migration of the self, in other words, it is a solution for both (fe)male to get out of the obstacles and troubles with the opposite gender, and if life getting worse and worse, and one cannot interact, socialize, address, communicate and finally reaches for a dead-end, one can use androgynous mind theory. which is considered the final solution for social relations among genders (Visvanathan, 1996). Indeed, some critics disagree with this notion, since it is a call for denying the materialism which parts of the body consist of, consequently, it is a call for disrespecting the identity which the body is part of it: “denies the importance of the body, of sexual desires ... of any material markings of sexual difference” (Grosz, 1993, p. 201).

In different incidents in the novel, a reader can notice that Virginia created the protagonist, Orlando, with changes in his ins and outs of his/her characteristics without justifications for those changes leaving that for the imaginations and interpretations of the readers. For example, Orlando “left off frequenting the beer gardens and the skittle alleys, hung his grey cloak in his wardrobe, let his star shine at his neck and his garter twinkle at his knee” (Woolf, p. 13). This quote from the novel leaves the reader in a puzzle, why Orlando suddenly decided to reveal for others his star necklace as well as the garter on his knee, although he was keen to hide them all the time during his presence in the beer gardens.

Simply, Orlando is a try from Woolf to go deep and hack the minds of human males and females. Thus, Orlando's character at the inception of the novel was a man, then in the middle of the story, he turns into a woman. and in both cases, s/he reveals inner thoughts and feelings socially through a long period extended for three centuries according to the incidents that happened during the narration of the novel. And Orlando, the protagonist, lived for three centuries. Consequently, this paper applied the androgynous mind theory created by the same author, Virginia Woolf, in 1928 - 1929 as a tool to express her thoughts about humankind and his/her relations with her/himself and others regardless of his/her sex. Additionally, she criticizes her society and its wrong practices toward women generally from her view. In light of that, her thoughts have a great influence as well as will affect the track of women issues in western culture in modern times. She exposed the oppression practiced by the western patriarchal society against women, from her experience. She declared that she was deprived of her rights for education, while her brothers attended high-quality schools (Froula, 2005). To put it another way, she educated herself in her father's library while her brothers are educated in schools unlike her.

The analysis and interpretations of Orlando apart from the physical side of Androgyny theory, and concentrate on the mental side, and decoding the implied messages embedded in the novel, provide a novel portrayal of women and men who similarly understand each other. Generally speaking, this leads to improving societies in many fields of life, especially social life. Besides, it enhances the politics of a country which reflects on the quality of social life. Since the family is the cornerstone of any society

(Marshall, 2006), this theory concentrates on the mental part not the outfit of humans. Thus this leads to better relationships between the parents, male and female, who foster and support the family members. It means better families, better societies, healthier families' relationships, then healthier societies (Taylor & Hall, 1982). Also, if the family members have good psychological conditions, then that reflects on the communities and societies they live in it. And those members of the family who are part of the society they reside in it will deal with the other gender positively since they have healthy minds towards the other sex. They will try to think positively not negatively, and even if they think negatively, then s/he has the right path to go back and think in a binary mind, Androgynous mind.

To emphasize, parents with an Androgynous mind could help their children to understand the opposite sex and how they think to remove the intellectual barriers between the two genders, male and female (Crespi, 2003). Meanwhile, the researcher wants to emphasize one point concerning the body. The majority of people do not deny the physical appearance between the two genders, except those who support transgenderism and some extreme feminists such as Judith Butler, who consider the body is only a pot for masculinity and femininity and the society is responsible to define the gender traits and shape our identities to be male or female. Which the researcher is totally against this notion, which has no scientific proof at all. And there are no empirical studies show or prove this theory. Poljaković and Dodig, (2016) illustrated that Lippa in 2007 conducted a study on 200.000 peoples, male/female, and he concludes that "although the influence of different cultures and societies on the behavior of men and women is indisputable, biological traits play a crucial role on the differences between the male and female sex" (p. 50). Thus, whether we agree or disagree with gender theory, no one can bypass the physical or the mental side. Both are completing each other, the body, the soul, and the mind. Under those circumstances, Orlando the protagonist of the novel created by Woolf is no exception. From the inception of the novel, Virginia Woolf reveals and embodies the masculinity of Orlando through phrasing that he "could be no doubt of his sex, though that fashion of the time did something to disguise it - was in the act of slicing at the head of a Moor, which swung from the rafters" (Woolf, p. 1).

As a result, the novelist, Woolf, expresses that Orlando is a male at the beginning of the novel and after the middle of the novel he turns into a woman. But there is no mention that he made a surgical operation or so. But it is a journey in Woolf's mind and the way she can think of as once as a man and once a woman. She created a character that represents an androgynous mind in one personality. Also, if Woolf can do that, she urges her audience to think like her. Furthermore, Woolf, as a feminist, wants her readers to feel with her, the sufferings and limitations of humans regardless of their gender. Since humans are vulnerable creatures, and full of senses and one cannot bypass these feelings inside his soul and think only materialistically.

### **Analysis:**

## Orlando's Struggles

At the inception of chapter two of the novel, Woolf recognized that was not easy to describe Orlando's social life and his historical circumstances. Since at that time in the west, the restoration era which was approximately and commonly between 1660 up to 1700 (Sutherland, 1969), the society lives under the pressure of patriarchal power, although, some jobs were permissible for women to join, unlike the Elizabethan period. And women have no voice to speak about their rights. And one of their simplest rights cannot get was education. On the contrary, Woolf delivered her message intelligently to her audience about that era by her unique style of writing. Thus, Virginia started to blow her ideas on her audience regarding women's rights through literature. Generally speaking, she was one of those who planted the first seed of women's rights in the twentieth century. With this in mind, one can see how much took time for women to take their role in western society. Additionally, ideas take time to affect society and change their belief systems as well as ideologies.

Although Orlando as a man was completely desperate to meet with Sasha again. He kept watching the sea if ships are coming from Russia where Sasha Comes from. Additionally, his egoism banned him to confess that Sasha will not come again and she deserted him. That hurt him badly. But instead, he wished that the ship sank and Sash died. He could not bear in his mind that she was unfaithful and betrayed him with someone else. His patriarchal trends towards women made him mad at females. Also, he started to curse her in a bad way which reflects his real Satan soul if something was against his masculinity and pride. He was "Standing knee-deep in water, he hurled at the faithless woman all the insults that have ever been a lot of her sex. Faithless, mutable, fickle, he called her; devil, adulteress, deceiver" (p. 32).

Furthermore, he called Sasha with the ugliest words one could imagine such as Satan, treacherous, and whore. Those words can kill any women. They are darts in the heart of any female. They reveal the subconscious mind of Orlando the man, who absorbed the western patriarchal social norms against women. Paradoxically, he called her with all those despising words, when he felt that she left him, while he considered his relationship with her as legitimate before that. This duality echoes the immoralities and the binaries of the western culture.

One of the panoramic incidents in the novel is that when Orlando had been exiled from the court because he treated his fiancé's family arrogantly and in a mean way. Here, Woolf tried to reverse the patriarchal society practices in the west towards the women's treatments, and she is not a toy in a man's hand. Besides, she portrayed and engraved an image in her audience's minds to change and modify the image of the relationships between the male and female. She wanted to show that the court, the judicial authorities, can be just if they look and see things in the eye of an androgynous mind. At that point, women will have their rights in western societies. And justice will dominate the communities without bias to any sex. To demonstrate, Woolf wanted to tell her readers that if a man humiliates a woman. A woman also can do the same thing to him

psychologically and by law as “the summer of that disastrous winter which saw the frost, the flood, the deaths of many thousands, and the complete downfall of Orlando’s hopes — for he was exiled from Court” (p. 33). Moreover, women have power over men, and they can devastate them and leaves them motionless, exactly as men can do the same for females, as happened in “that summer, Orlando retired to his great house in the country and there lived in complete solitude” (p. 33). He moved away from people and deserted them at all. He collapsed and psychologically isolated himself with himself. Woolf wants here, to show that men can harm women and vice versa. But if both sexes, can think with an androgynous mind, they may be can bypass the western social norms, and can think of each other with acceptance of the other as it is not with a distorted image or with pre-misconceptions toward the other. Additionally, they preserve their identities even the society has restrictions.

Indirectly speaking, Virginia indicates that females have an inner power as the same as that men have. And both of those powers complete each other perfectly. Further, they help each other logically and heartily to reach their goals peacefully and pass the obstacles as well as the turbulences of life that are existed whether we like them or not. In other words, when men and women have an androgynous mind, they can think of the other mutually. In general, when one can focus on anything from one side and ignores the other side(s), s/he will astray the straight path and the logic, since humans do not know everything concerning the being of existence. Consequently, they have a lack of knowledge about the other gender. That is why Woolf created the Androgynous mind theory to serve social life. Significantly, both sexes fit and complete each other in the best way, if they think theoretically Androgynously such as a “revelation that a woman could be as tolerant and free-spoken as a man, and a man as strange and subtle as a woman, that they had to put the matter to the proof at once” (p. 144).

Correspondingly, Orlando was sometimes a man, and other times a woman. As time passing through, Orlando as female encounters Sasha for a second time who “had grown so fat; so lethargic” (p. 171). But, this time, Orlando has a different character and behaviors, Sasha does not know her as she is a girl but a man. So, Orlando now can understand Sash very well, because she can think just like Sasha. Furthermore, Orlando, now, grew to have various characters, and s/he can perform any of them straightforwardly in front of Sasha to get closer to her and avoid the old faults he made with her. On one hand, since Orlando had “a great variety of selves to call upon ... Orlando may now have called on the boy who cut the nigger’s head down; the boy who strung it up again; the boy who sat on the hill” (p. 174). On the other hand, she may have “called upon the young man who fell in love with Sasha...the girl in love with life ... the woman” (175). Subsequently, Orlando as the s/he was going back and forth between the he and the she qualities to support the androgynous mind character.

To clarify, Orlando, the female, lived between, mainly, two selves. One is a female and the second is a male. And inside those two selves, different selves appear on the surface according to the situation s/he is in.

Sometimes, s/he fully aware, and other times s/he is unaware, sometimes, the strong and other times weak; occasionally, s/he is obedient and other times rebellious and all that depends on the psych and the circumstances s/he in probably because “one she needed most kept aloof, for she was changing her selves as quickly as she drove- there was a new one at every corner ... the conscious self, which is the uppermost...wishes to be nothing but oneself” (p. 175).

By the same token, s/he conceals many more personalities which are exemplified any gender from different periods of times, past and present. Some of those selves are honorable and pure as the driven snow others cruel and horrible. They all appear in the monologues “‘What then? Who then?’ she said. ‘Thirty-six; in a motor-car; a woman. Yes, but a million other things as well. A snob am I? The garter in the hall? The leopards? My ancestors? Proud of them? Greedy, luxurious, vicious? ... Truthful?’” (p. 175). And on some occasions, s/he feels that s/he is stupid, dull, empty-headed, unthinking, irresponsible, and even cursed. Altogether of those personalities, selves as well as qualities keep Orlando in a puzzle and misperception in his/her life and dealing with others as s/he always questions his/herself “what is called, rightly or wrongly, a single self, a real self” (p. 177).

Additionally, and important to consider that many personalities and qualities characterize Orlando to sum. Thus in many incidents and situations “the selves ... are conscious of dismemberment, and are trying to communicate, but when communication is established they fall silent” (p. 177). Another time, the internal clash discloses an androgynous spirit; an identity that alters from a man into a woman swiftly according to the situation s/he is in as usually “Orlando change her skirt for a pair of whipcord breeches and leather jacket, which she did in less than three minutes, was to be ravished with the beauty of movement” (p. 178). Besides, s/he came to this community hiding nothing from them; s/he “had come to them as boy and woman, crying and dancing, brooding” (p. 179).

Important to realize that Virginia continues to concentrate on one of the main women's issues, which is the right for literary publications in public. She affirms that when men write any literary works, it is easy for them to publish their works, and society accepts their works normally. On the other hand, women cannot write and publish their works, Also, the society at that time, was hard for them to accept such an idea, and “the truth is that when [they] write of a woman, everything is out of place — culminations and perorations; the accent never falls where it does with a man” (p. 176). This is one of the central ideas that Virginia tried to find a solution for it. She devours to change her society's mentality towards the simplest right for females through Orlando. In other words, she attempts to deconstruct her society toward the women issues and reconstruct it again with a new view. Thus Orlando cannot imagine the society s/he lives in that they treat women that way; for his/her feelings and imaginations are between the fantasy and truth oscillating between those two binaries. S/he turns into an “indifferent witness to the truth of what was before her and might easily have mistaken a sheep for a cow, or an old man called Smith for one who was called Jones and was no relation of his whatever” (p. 182). In the

background, Woolf has a profound deep feminist inside her personality. However, in her time, she cannot expose that publically since her society refuses those notions concerning the women issues. She covers her feminism views under the cover of androgyny.

Brenda and Curtis (2004) argue that Bem's studies and beliefs toward androgyny in the 21st-century exclusively focusing on the physical characteristics. (((lit rev)))) Furthermore, they claim that the androgynous mind theory is not useful to our daily life. Nevertheless, the researcher claims in this paper that the androgynous mind concept may play a prominent role in people's life which leads to assist humanity and amend societies. Further, the following analysis highlights the mental side of androgyny only, which may lead to harmless information for our youth minds and rejects the call for a third gender. The researcher also highpoints Woolf's androgynous mind in many centuries, not only a specific period but also a full background of the term androgyny and its possible relation to these days. Therefore, based on *Orlando's* analysis in the current study, Brenda and Curtis's study fails to solve the disagreement between Woolf's androgynous mind's vision and the advocates of the sexual transmutation phase. As a result, one can notice that the androgynous mind is creative in that it drives relationships to perfection. Accordingly, the line that separates the perception of both sexes will be crossed, and the barriers which prevent the two sexes from having a full relationship will be broken selfishly, even though in "each of us two powers preside, one male, one female ... The androgynous mind is resonant and porous... naturally creative, incandescent and undivided" (Spitzer, 2018, p. 560).

### **Orlando's Identity**

Orlando's identity in the novel is varied between a man and a woman to exhibit the feelings and the reason for the readers, also to convince her audience that the androgynous mind theory is trustworthy from a patriarchal society to apply the theory in their daily life to enhance the quality of relationships in that community. Additionally, it is advised by Woolf to try the theory to bypass the troubles, sufferings, miseries, and sorrows of life that happened between the husband and wife specifically, and man/women in general. Also, it is a call to preserve one's identity and feels and think like the other sex who has "legs, hands, carriage, were a boy's (p.17), then even if Orlando questions concerning that individual in the skating zone and monologues with her/himself that there is "no boy ever had a mouth like that; no boy had those breasts; no boy had eyes which looked as if they had been fished from the bottom of the sea" (p. 17).

For that reason, Orlando [the she] approaches near to him, he wonders if such a beautiful individual is possibly a male. He doubts that and cannot believe it, besides he thinks of tearing his hair if he were wrong, and Orlando "was ready to tear his hair with vexation that the person was of his sex" (p. 17). This advocates that the notion of androgyny does not appeal the audience to apply it on the physical side as other theorists did, such as Rado. However, it is only a call for genders to think and feel each

other well. We can see that Woolf declares that each gender has its own identity physically and mentally. Nonetheless, she shows that the protagonist has no suspicion that this person who skates and has a superb leg, mouth, and eyes cannot be a male though we have separate gender features for men and women as the writer expresses.

To put it in another way, Virginia labeled Orlando from the inception of the novel; his body shape, outfit, and cheeks. She demonstrated that he is so gorgeous even Queen Elizabeth was fond of him, as he has “shapely legs, the handsome body, and the well-set shoulders were all of them decorated with various tints of heraldic light” (p. 4). This depiction of the character, Orlando, put the audience in advance in a mood of the journey that Orlando will go through in the rest of the novel. Beautifulness is one of the most characteristics connected with the females, as Virginia designates “Orlando’s face, as he threw the window open, was lit solely by the sun itself. A more candid, sullen face it would be impossible to find” (p. 4). Thus, from the beginning, Virginia put her audience in a mode that they will accept the idea of transformation from a man into a woman. Although it was not a call to change one’s sex, it is a call to think of the other gender not to transform the body into the opposite sex.

In the light of the above, Virginia dived in the human soul and got the gems and jewels from the psych that resides in the body. Thus, at the end of the novel, Orlando kept his/her personality and identity the same even he transformed into a woman. The transition state of Orlando between a man and a woman Virginia reflects in the novel expressed the feminist view. She criticized the Victorian era where females were oppressed and banned from their simple rights. Virginia was smart that at the beginning of the novel, she created Orlando's character as a poet and an author. She let him composed a poem titled “The Oak Tree”. And at the end of the novel, Virginia characterized him as a smart female author which signified at that time, women can be smart authors the same as men.

### **Diverse Gender with Similar Identity**

Virginia wanted to support her thoughts concerning the Androgynous theory through the kind of clothes-wearing in her English society by men and women. She let Orlando wear Turkish coats and trousers, which, according to her, can be worn by males and females since Orlando “had now washed, and dressed in those Turkish coats and trousers which can be worn indifferently by either sex” (p. 76). Thus, Orlando was a man then changed into a woman at the end of the novel, so s/he wore those either sex clothes. Furthermore, Virginia added that despite Orlando had been changed into a female, but s/he still do things as she was Orlando the man such as writing poetry and loving dogs as she “carefully examined the papers on the table; took such as seemed to be written in poetry; next she called her Seleuchi hound, which had never left her bed all these days ... fed and combed him” (p. 76). Also, Orlando has the same courage as he was a man and when she was a woman, as when she traveled around with the gypsies when “they rode for several days and nights and met with a variety of adventures, some at the hands of men, some at the hands of nature, in all of which Orlando acquitted herself with courage” (p. 76).

This showed that Orlando as a man and a woman had the same characteristics of both genders. Although this is true, no one can generalize that all males and females have the same features. They share some characteristics, and they are relative according to the personality itself.

Panken (1990) claims that Virginia tends to change her sex into a man. He interpreted that Virginia's Androgynous mind theory was an invitation to both genders who wants to be the opposite sex. Yet, this is only a claim and he did not prove that. While Virginia fought for female's concerns as she was an honest feminist and with herself. Also, if anyone read Orlando without prerequisites, he will not find any promotion from Virginia to transsexual operations. But, she simply tried to understand how both genders can think and feel of each other. Also, if one tried to understand his mate and to think like him/her, one will succeed to have a semi-perfect relationship. Important to realize that Panken concentrated on Orlando the protagonist him/herself aside from the context of Virginia's life and her ideology as well as her English society. While the researcher in this paper tried to take the subject from different angles, Virginia's social life, her theory of mind Androgyny, women issues "Feminism", psychoanalysis concerning Virginia and her characters in Orlando novel.

Virginia also employed the theory and affected the other characters in the novel. For example, Orlando recites some poetry for Archduke Harry as "enormous tears formed in his rather prominent eyes and ran down the sandy tracts of his long and lanky cheeks" (p. 99). In those days, the prevailing custom regarding the man's crying was very shameful, because men were supposed to be strong and they were born to be protective of women. And crying for women is normal. Thus, Virginia wanted to change this idea in her readers' minds, as that men and women have emotions and passions so they both can cry and express their feelings freely as "men cry as frequently and as unreasonably as women; Orlando knew from her own experience as a man". What Orlando was not aware of though was "that women should be shocked when men display emotion in their presence" (p. 99). Additionally, the constraints of the social norms at that time that men must not show their emotions in front of females, otherwise they were considered to be weak and did not deserve to be a man. For example, "for women are not obedient, chaste, scented, and exquisitely apparelled by nature. They can only attain these graces, without which they may enjoy none of the delights of life, by the most tedious discipline" (p. 86).

One of the chief concerns of feminism was the educational rights for females in western societies and other parts of the world. They were deprived of their right for education for a long period that Virginia showed in the novel over a period of three centuries that she made her character, Orlando, to live. She shed light on this issue well, because she struggled with this issue herself at a late stage of the nineteenth century. Her brothers were allowed to go to the best universities in Britain while she was not. Education for Virginia is freedom, it unleashes the mind to be set free from the constraints of the society and culture that surround a person. She hinted that Orlando before he turns into a woman, was able to read and write poetry at an early age. He wrote the "The Oak Tree" poem. And although

he was young he read and wrote poetry quickly as “he had covered ten pages and more with poetry. He was fluent, evidently, but he was abstract” (p. 5). This also reflects that men were the only influencers in society, unlike women. Yet, Orlando’s texts were “turned with a fluency and sweetness ... At last, however, he came to a halt. He was describing, as all young poets are forever describing, nature ...” (p. 5).

Correspondingly, Woolf herself was fascinated by nature and its power. It impacted her as much it impacted other poets and authors. The power of nature is as pervasive as the power of the word. It can ruin one’s ability to write. On one hand, we can imagine how words can destroy nature and the world because people are driven by what they hear. They start wars that destroy nature, others, and themselves because of following a word that they heard from a politician or leader. On the other hand, nature can distract a poet or writer and make him/her dazzled about what they see. They stand speechless in front of the solemnity of nature. Perhaps this is what Woolf meant when she said “Green in nature is one thing, green in literature another. Nature and letters seem to have a natural antipathy; bring them together and they tear each other to pieces” (p. 5). Surprisingly, Orlando comes back to his nature at the end of the novel. Thus, Orlando as a poet of nature, s/he sees that there are many similarities between males and females. both genders have the same sufferings with the opposite sex, sometimes difficulties to understand the other. Virginia, from the beginning of the novel, tried to convince her readers that a man can think like a woman, so he can understand and feel her better and vice versa. But she sometimes hints that it will be difficult for some males/females to apply this theory in their life, and that is normal since changing the ideas take time to apply in the societies, as “the young men had plotted her death. Honour, they said, demanded it, for she did not think as they did. Yet they would have been sorry to cut her throat; and welcomed the news of her departure” (p. 83).

### **Conclusion**

In essence, many theories or ideas from the west can have both sides, bright and dark. As a result, I highlighted the bright side of the Androgynous mind theory with the exclusion of the dark side of it. The bright one is the mental side while the dark one is the physical side. All things considered, the current paper concludes that the Androgynous mind theory in connection with feminism and access to psychoanalysis can be beneficial for the societies apart from the physical side applications. It is useful for both male and female to think androgynously with the other. Furthermore, the theory has positive sides that can be applied in patriarchal societies to reach a level of stable relationships between males and females, such as husbands and wives, fathers and daughters, brothers and sisters. No one can deny that western culture is dominant in almost all over the other societies in the world. Thus, the weaker always imitates the stronger. Consequently, our youth are replicating the western culture with its good and bad. They are importing their culture to our communities without thinking of the consequences whether the ideas and theories are worthy or immoral and to what extent can those ideas applied in other societies.

The interpretations of Orlando's novel exposed that Virginia masquerading feminism. And she indirectly criticized her society with feministic views. Thus, she hid her fears of the patriarchal society she lived in. In those circumstances, she created her androgynous theory to have a wide area to criticize her community at that time freely. Additionally, the Androgynous mind theory was a smart way for her to inject her ideas in the protagonist character in the novel, Orlando to explore the way each gender thinks and feels. From the analysis, one can notice clearly that Woolf never calls for changing the sex type, unlike Showalter and Rado. It was clear that she called to think binary with the other sex.

the androgynous mind theory, generally, and in connection with Woolf's Orlando novel, specifically, have few research papers and theses. Thus, the researcher recommends the researchers to further investigate this area as well as in conjunction with other similar novels. Additionally, the researchers can connect it with feminism and psychoanalysis to get benefit from it to the maximum when applying it to literary works.

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