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Social Identity of Women: Pregnancy and Sexuality in Fay Weldon's *Puffball*

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This article demonstrates Fay Weldon's influence of biological and cultural identity of women femininity on female identity in his novel *Puffball*. Every woman assimilates towards her future maternal identity. A women's desire on pregnancy has become a forcible one;because the patriarchal society has identifies childless women as sterile women. Weldon has shown how Liffey change from her immature position; she was twenty eight but her thing eighteen ant thing forever young, and cares about her tummy and her tiny breast. This article consist the impact of gender difference, reproductive and gender particularity in identity crisis as well as the role of socialization doctrine and discourse plays in thesociety.

Keywords: cultural, identity, femininity, patriarchal society.

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The society decides childless women as infertile women. Fay Weldon introduces Liffey as the infertile character who suffers from dilemma whether to give birth or not. To demonstrate her identity in society she follows different types of sexual activity by her menstruation pills and her uterus open and start menstruation so that her sexual desire increased. She likes her husband

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Richard so as a wife she learns multiple activities for sexual pleasure and attends class for religion and education. According to Schwartz sexual activities differs from and theoretical approaches.

> Essentialism…can be said to refer most generally to those theories of sexual difference that are primarily biologically determined, and so look to discover, define, and describe innate elements of the masculine and the feminine. Social constructionists look to culture and the language and ideology embedded therein as the historically determined creators of gender and gender role. (241)

This article considers the impact of sexual difference and the female identity construct by patriarchal ideology. Now the new medical intervention provides new reproductive technology.

Fay Weldon was born in Birmingham, England; from a literary family and her mother Margaret Jepson is also a novel writer. She has followed her maternal way; Weldon grow up in Christchurch, New Zealand. Her father, Frank Thornton Birkinshaw has worked as a doctor. Then she has studied in Christ Church Girls High School in 1944. When Weldon is six year old her parents got divorced. After that Weldon along with her mother and sister went to London, and has temporarily worked as clerk in the foreign office. After her marriage she has started her carrier as writer. *Puffball* is one of the famous novels in her career; this paper examines construction of female identity by their biological factor. In the novel *Puffball* Weldon has denoted the character how to build her identity and change in her sexual activities by using the Pills. Richard and Liffey got married seven years before and after that Richard behaves with responsibility towards his family because he loves his wife Liffey a lot. Liffey wants to move from Cadbury because they are childless couple for seven years still they are ideally suited and lived happily. Liffey is a beauty and charming lady and Richard is handsome man and

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responsible, he was thirty two and she was twenty eight. Richard's mother also prayed for her grandchild to Virgin Mary then they went Cadbury farm which was made by stones and has smooth field then fold of hill above the cottage, so she decided to live there according to Sarup

The identity of the human subject is, in some ways, an effect of …dynamics such as class, ethnicity, 'race', religion and nation, but the subject is not entirely determined socializing institutions….through 'free-well' – the process of choice in interpretation, selection – we can, to some extent limit or adapt the external determination. (Sarup 48)

Sarup argues there is an element to "choice" in determines identity.

Male and female are given a structure to mingle with the people in a society. The social positions express the reach of sexual difference in built identity. The difference between both biology and culture can lead to marginalization, as well as the woman in the society uses these differences to perpetuate gender stereotypes created by the dominant ideology. The sexual difference between men and women's biological ideology, and denote that "the male and female bodies are given meaning, and structured with reference to their relative social positions"(Psychoanalysis 305),women varies in their ability in pregnancy, while women's biological difference between their ability to pregnancy and have children. According to Stan worth,

> The lives of all women are shaped by their biological selves, and by their assumed or actual capacity to bear children, [their] bodies do not impose upon [them] a common experience of reproduction; on the contrary, [their] bodies stand as powerful remainders of the differentiating effects of age, health, disability, strength and fertility history. (485)

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This paper agree with Stan worth's lines, but the important role in the society, women shape themselves equally considers culture and the way they experience reproduction.

The society is divided between men and women's culture and amongst women is most notably related to different roles ascribed to them. Cultural differences are not universal in the world; the world allows different cultures and freedoms. Women have different influences and pressure because they come from different cultural backgrounds will experience pregnancy differently. Women are so closely linked with child and care of child through their bodies. The women's biological difference play a vital role in helping the social construction of women and identity cannot be denied.

Female identifies themselves through the social construction of woman's role as wife, mother and their essential aspects to have children. Women prove their meaning and value through pregnancy and motherhood, men are able to have many aspects and other related to their productive function. The patriarchy has control over society and maintains its position as authority.

Female knowledge and morality grounded in the potential of their bodies to reproduce or a resource based solely on experience. Richard said physical of course what he meant able to give and take pleasure, Bella doesn't interested sexually but her cloth and cozy on his bed and he is naked on it but that time sexual interest was quite nature. Liffey's maternal blood vessel the better to obtain the oxygen and nutrients it increasingly required, and Weldon explore how to the doctor's care about Liffey'smenstruation.

> Her hemoglobin count was high, yet she complained of listlessness, she was pale, and her eyes were dull. The doctor sent the health visitor up to visit Liffey. (Weldon 180)

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The doctor says Liffey's lower uterine segment is not working properly, so it is difficult to her pregnancy, but the nature aspire her to survive only long enough to breed. Every women

past the menopause, and she take one tablet a day that results her ovarian follicles failed to ripen and develop their egg, and her body has responded for pregnancy and she feel her heart understand that a child grows in her.

Liffey decide her child was to be male so she contributed her share of twenty two chromosomes plus the x and men x chromosomes could be female, Richard handed his twenty two chromosomes, plus as it a y sex chromosomes, forty four plus a xy make a male. Liffey measured the chromosomes her baby being male, because she placed too low in the womb for maximum safety.

She expected her period to start, but it didn't; because her pituitary gland out of its habituated season. Richard went to London but he doesn't fulfill her desire and she took some menstruation pill. The pill worked, but not perfectly her sexual desire was increased so that Liffey like tucker because she feel secure and caring, although she love her husband Richard after she feel much for menstruation and her inner surface of Liffey's uterus had in general, because highly reticent and active. It continues until the end of her pregnancy, Liffey fears of ageing. Liffey's fifth weeks of pregnancy the body is two millimeter long, and the child backbone has being formed. She feels her tender breasts become old then she is not ready to have ababy.

She doesn't change from her childhood, and she feel diminish after her child birth then Richard has come from London. Her sexual feeling increased for Richard, then she wished to new style, but he feel shamed so she quickly desisted, reticent at herself. Richard go back to

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London, on Monday morning Liffey is sick, afternoon she went buy pregnancy testing kit, and next day early morning urine into a phial adding with the chemicals, after she surely know her pregnancy, she feel anxiety and feel sick.

> 'I'm pregnant,' she said. 'Can I use the telephone to ring Richard?' But that's wonderful !' cried Mabs, and insisted that they open a bottle of blackberry wine to celebrate, and delayed liffey getting to the telephone until well after one o'clock, by which time Richard had gone to lunch(Weldon 130)

Richard is happy to celebrate Liffey's pregnancy, so they open a bottle of blackberry wine. 'I like being pregnant,' said liffey, the pregnant women face was bright as she saw Mab. That time Liffey was trying to the phone to Richard, and by the time he has gone off to a meeting. Twenty eight weeks after liffey's baby was eighteen inches long, and baby was almost fully mature, then liffey slowly toward the mother mature. The doctor said we will take care of you, and baby also struggle of getting out. But Liffey cares on her tummy than her child, andshe like to again young and pity after the pregnancy. The doctor said to her would be delivered on October 10 th. She feel fear and she is not ready to that; Liffey's baby kicked her tummy and change its position baby head move her left groin that's reason her pain in right rib, sometimes it hurt her elbows and made her gasp. So Mab said to Liffey to do daily exercise then Liffey and Mab went back to the cottage. The normal first pregnancy the baby's head down into the cavity of the pelvis at the ten months, Liffey's baby head move another direction it's not possible to easily get it out. But fortunately the knot don't tight and the cord continued to supply the fetus with blood, and her blood pressure has normally rise, the upper figure reached her blood vessel at the height of a heart beats, some basic change only her body circulation. It remits the blood supply to the uterus, placenta and baby and result the prematuredelivery.

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