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COMPETENCY OF HERMIONE GRANGER IN J.K ROWLING'S HARRY POTTER SERIES

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Harry Potter series are the masterpieces born from the great women writer J.K. Rowling. There are seven books in the *Harry Potter series*. J.K. Rowling, born on 31 July 1965, is a British novelist who is best known as the author of Harry Potter novels. Rowling played a remarkable role in bringing back children to book reading through the Harry Potter series. The books reached a fantastic worldwide audience. *Harry Potter and The Half-Blood Prince* even got the title of the fastest selling book in the History of the Guinness book of World Records.

In her novels, Rowling presents strong female characters by empowering female personality which is presented through almost all characters. Rowling offers to show the strong side in several female characters such as Hermione Granger, Ginny Weasley, Minerva McGonagall and also Bellatrix Lestrange. Their characters are strong willed and interesting. J.K Rowling is one female writer who has surely shaped feminist perspective worldwide because her works have been read by people from all the world.

The literary work is a medium channelling the thoughts of the author. By writing the work, the author can explore the ideas that they want to explore in their works. Rowling succeeds in presenting strong female characters directly. J. K Rowling wrote in an interesting way about the strength of the woman in action and behaviour which is presented by most of her female characters. Although she focuses on a male hero, Harry Potter as the major character in this series, she keeps presenting equally heroic women characters, especially in the character of Hermione.

This paper aims to reveal the development of the female character Hermione Granger and her important existence in the mission completion and how Rowling succeeds in showing gender equality through her story. The paper uses a feminist perspective to examine the gender roles portrayed in Harry Potter. It helps people to understand the gender roles in society and how they should and should not be treated.

Rowling creates the strong female characters in Harry Potter to strengthen the philosophy that she wants to show in this story. The philosophies are those of community, friendship, trust, regardless of race, gender, nationality, and religion. J. K Rowling presents the development of the characters in the *Harry Potter Series*, especially female characters. The development is shown in *Harry Potter and The Sorcerer's stone* until the last book, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*.

The Feminist theory, takes as a given, the premises that society is patriarchal and that women do not occupy a position of political, economic or social equality, creating difficulties and barriers for both genders. The feminist theory provides a framework from which to examine, explain and understand how gender affects all aspects of life, primarily focusing on the female as the more disadvantaged gender, but also analysing how the patriarchal structure negatively affects the male. The end purpose of understanding and applying the feminist point of view is to eliminate inequality for women and improve the lot of everyone.

J.K Rowling has said repeatedly that Hermione is a "caricature of me when I was young". A caricature is a representation in literature or art that implies a somewhat ludicrous exaggeration of real life. In introducing the personality of Hermione Granger, Rowling begins with the description of the negative side. Hermione appears as a kind of person who is selfish, arrogant and sometimes tends to underestimate

others. "Books! And cleverness! There are more important things – friendship and bravery and – oh Harry – be careful!" (16.288-89) Her arrogance makes people around her uncomfortable. Harry and Ron do not like her the first time they meet Hermione. The situation has changed, when Hermione has an accident in the toilet and almost got attacked by the giant monster. Then, Ron and Harry helped her and the three became friends in the process. Professor McGonagall who found them at that place asked them about what they were doing there, Hermione lied to save Harry and Ron from punishment.

By describing the movement of Hermione's characteristics through her decision to save her friends, Rowling shows the starting of Hermione's development from that point. The other developments are in the fifth book when she should do something in order to save Harry from Umbridge. "He really is out there, isn't he? We've got to be able to defend ourselves. And if Umbridge refuses to teach us how, we need someone who will". (*Order of Phoenix*, 747-748). Here, the maturity of Hermione's personality is revealed more and Rowling also shows that Hermione is a character who is able to take action based on her head rather than emotion.

In their journey in search of Horcruxes, Hermione should take a wise decision in a difficult situation. Ron who was influenced by the Horcrux effect becomes very emotional in that situation. Then, when Ron decides to leave Harry and asked Hermione to join him or stay, she decides to stay and help Harry. Along with Hermione's decision to stay with Harry, Rowling describes Hermione's maturity. Hermione makes a very wise option by choosing to stay with Harry because she knows that Harry still needs her favour. Although that is a hard choice for her because she cannot let Ron, the man she loved left alone with an unstable emotion.

Hermione had changed her personality from an arrogant, strict about the rules and selfish to the one who cares. In a difficult situation she can find the best solution to save her friend by using logical decision. By creating Hermione, J.K. Rowling gives a powerful role model showing to women them how to react proactively in particular situation. She seems to try to give a message that women always have a right and chance to develop their personality.

In *Harry Potter series*, Rowling is able to portray as Hermione Granger as someone who can do with logical action not emotion usually as represented in a female character. The development of female personality which is presented by Rowling demonstrate to the readers that the woman also can take her place on the man's side and they can also act decisively like a strong heroic male.

J.K. Rowling as a woman and writer seems to break the opposition between male and female position by offering a new perspective of women's image which can be seen through her master piece, the *Harry Potter series*. She presents the female characters who have a strong personality by showing their important role in the story. Hermione's rebellious power is shown in several parts of the books. As illustrated in *Chamber of Secrets*, Hermione arranges to make poly juice potion by stealing Crabbe and Goyle's hair. Harry and Ron feel doubtful and afraid of the plan. They are not sure it will be a success because they think that the plan will be risky. However, Hermione is very confident that the plan will be successful and tells them how important the mission in gaining information about the Chamber of Secret from Malfoy is. (*Chamber of Secrets* 214).

J.K. Rowling as one of the greatest female authors in the 21st century has tried to bring out a woman's imagination through her masterpiece *Harry Potter Series*. The action in the novels break the belief that places women on the inferior side and makes men more superior and dominate over women. Through her depiction of female characters that represent the characters of an independent, strong, brave and dominant women can be seen as the new offerings from Rowling toward women's upliftment by giving greater opportunities for themselves to gain happiness through a more logical and rational action-oriented life.

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