

**Death as an Escape in Selected Poems by Emily
Dickenson and Sylvia Plath: A Feminist and
Psychoanalytical Approach**

تمثيل الموت كهروب في قصائد مختاره لإيميلي ديكنسون وسيلفيا بلاث:
دراسة نسوية ونفسية

Prepared By:

Dine Wail Naqeeb

Supervised by:

Dr. Nadia Hamendi

**A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the
Degree of Master in English Language and Literature**

Department of English Language and Literature

Faculty of Arts and Sciences

Middle East University

Jan. 2019

Authorization

I, **Dine Wail Ahmad Naqeeb**, authorize Middle East University to provide libraries, organizations, and individuals with copies of my thesis when required.

Name: Dine Wail Ahmad Naqeeb

Date: Feb 13th 2019

Signature: 

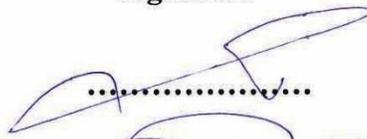
Thesis Committee Decision

This thesis “**Death as an Escape in Selected Poems by Emily Dickenson and Sylvia Plath: A Feminist and Psychoanalytical Approach**” was discussed and certified on January, 2019.

Thesis Committee

Signature

Dr. Nadia Hamendi

Handwritten signature of Dr. Nadia Hamendi in blue ink, written over a dotted line.

Dr. Mohamed Mahameed

Handwritten signature of Dr. Mohamed Mahameed in blue ink, written over a dotted line.

Dr. Tawfiq Yousef

Handwritten signature of Dr. Tawfiq Yousef in blue ink, written over a dotted line.

Acknowledgements

I would like to express my gratitude to the special people who extended their assistance for the success of this study, especially my husband who was always supportive.

God, who is the source of life and strength, of knowledge and wisdom.

And to my supervisor Dr. Nadia Hamendi, to whom I gave a hard time as she helped me.

The Researcher

Dedication

This thesis is dedicated to

My Husband, father, mother, father- in- law, and my mother- in- law and everyone without whose assistance I wouldn't have completed two years earlier.

The Researcher

Table of Contents:

Chapter one

Introduction.....	1-5
Statement of the problem.....	5
Questions of the study	5
Objectives of the study.....	6
Significance of the study.....	6
Limitation of the study.....	7
Definition of terms	7-8

Chapter Two

Introduction.....	9
Theoretical studies	9
Empirical studies.....	12-17

Chapter Three

Methods and procedures.....	18-19
Framework of the study.....	19
Procedures of the study.....	19

Chapter Four

An Analytical View of Dickenson's Poetry.....	20-31
An Analytical View of Plath's Poetry	31-43
A Feminist Approach to the Concept of Death.....	43-47
A Psychoanalytical Approach to the Concept of Death....	47-52

Chapter Five

Findings and conclusions.....	53-55
Recommendations.....	56
References.....	57

**Death as an Escape in Selected Poems by Emily Dickenson and
Sylvia Plath: A Feminist and Psychoanalytical Approach**

By

Dine Wail Ahmad Naqeeb

Supervised by

Dr. Nadia Hamendi

Abstract

The present study aims to investigate how Sylvia Plath and Emily Dickenson applied the theme of death in a number of their works. The study hopes to find how psychology, death and feminism are linked together in the works of these two poets, who suffered from feelings of loneliness and depression. The study supposes that both poets subconsciously sought out death for they saw death as freedom, and release from the pains, and injustices of life imposed upon them by their patriarchal societies.

The study applies theories of feminism and psychoanalysis on the works of the two authors in order to show that death for them meant not only an escape but also a triumph.

Keywords: death, feminism, psychoanalysis, Emily Dickinson, Sylvia Plath.

تمثيل الموت كهروب في قصائد مختاره لإيميلي ديكنسون وسيلفيا بلاث:

دراسة نسويه ونفسيه

إعداد

دينا وائل النقيب

إشراف الدكتورة

نادية حمندي

الملخص

اختصت هذه الدراسة لإيضاح كيف تمكنت الكاتبتين سيلفيا بلاث وإيميلي ديكنسون بجعل "الموت" موضوعاً أساسياً للعديد من أعمالهن. يؤمل من هذه الدراسة أن تبرز كيف ارتبطت النظرية النسوية والموت والتحليل النفسي في أعمال كلا الشاعرتين اللتين عانتا الوحدة واليأس. كما وتقترض الدراسة ان كلا الكاتبتين سعنا في اللاوعي طلبا للموت، حيث رأتا فيه الحرية والخلص من الألم والحياة غير العادلة المفروضة عليهن من مجتمعاتهم الذكورية.

هذه الدراسة تطبق كلاً من النظرية النسوية والتحليل النفسي على اعمال كلا الكاتبتين،

لتظهر كيف أن الموت برز كانتصار، لا كمفر فقط.

الكلمات المفتاحية: الموت، النظرية النسوية، التحليل النفسي، ايميلي ديكنسون، سيلفيا بلاث.

Chapter One

1.1 Introduction

Emily Dickenson and Sylvia Plath were and are still believed to be two of the most brilliant and significant poets in the scope of social and psychological literary trends. Emily Dickinson and Sylvia Plath share a common style, for their poems are usually considered to be extremely personal, idiosyncratic, ahistorical, unconventional, and hence obscure. A predominance of biographically oriented criticism has only succeeded in adding to the confusion.

Socially speaking, Feminism was and is a great revolutionary movement that started at the late eighteenth century which advocates for women's rights as humans in general and for equality with men in particular. It asks for the equality between the sexes and is considered as a vital issue to every house in the different societies of the States at that era. Since women were the main victims of the society; they were the ones who mainly championed it. They asked for social, educational, and social equality. As a result of this, feminism flourished in the literary writings and the issue of feminism became an important ideology that discusses a common main goal which is the equality between the sexes. According to Dickenson and Plath,

the case was very touchy. They both wrote about feminism as a major theme in most of their poems. Consequently, writing was a natural reaction to their lives and shaped their attitudes. Another main theme in their work was death, the natural fact and true end of all creatures on earth. Death is the main controlling theme in Dickenson's and Plath's works. They talked about death as a major theme in most of their literary works and particularly poems. Death as a concept was linked to attempts of suicide and accepting it as the releasing end. Both poets talked about death in their poems, they either personalized it, symbolized it, or directly talked about its incidents. They showed that death is strong enough to stop the crises they had lived through. It was freedom, release, and relief from pains, and injustice in life. Therefore, readers can smell death in their poems, and death in their poems was mentioned in a way or another, even in some titles of their literary works.

1.2 Emily Dickenson

Born on December 10, 1830, in Amherst, Massachusetts, Dickenson was a talented writer although she left school as a teen. She liked and enjoyed writings which were a bit different from her age. She liked to write much but was very pessimistic in her writings, and since she wasn't that close to her family, they didn't take her achievements into consideration.

Dickinson's poetry reflects her loneliness and sadness. She also wasn't satisfied with the society of men. Thus, she wrote and fought for feminism.

She followed Charlotte Bronte's ideology in writing directly about their intentions, and motifs in writing. She considered herself as a victim of the current social conditions and therefore, she emphasized sad and pessimistic concepts in her writings.

Emily Dickinson's poems particularly display a similar characteristic that reveals a revision of male hierarchy in literature. She challenged in her poems the subjugation of the women writers and asserted female literary prowess and authority with her unconventional poetic themes and style.

Despite some critics' rejection of Dickinson's ideology and methodology in writing, she became a brilliant name in American literature, and her works inspired many other poets and writers to follow in the same way.

1.3 Sylvia Plath

Sylvia Plath was born in Boston, Massachusetts, on October 27, 1932. Plath met and married British poet Ted Hughes, although the two later split. Plath's life wasn't successful, and she faced loneliness, and sadness. Being uninterested and unsatisfied in her personal life, Plath tried many attempts at suicide. She also had dissatisfactions about society, men, and inequality to

them. And as a result of this, she died committing suicide in her house putting her head in the oven and pumping the gas into it. She died in her thirties rejecting all the discrimination against women at that age, and finding death as the release of her pains.

Many of the poems Plath wrote were about women, women either achieving or non-achieving, and particularly women either fertile or barren. She also wrote about the cruelty of the masculine society toward women, and described that society with the ugliest descriptions that literature has ever had. In addition, she was a supporter of the movement of feminism, and believed in its beliefs and demands.

Death was also a major theme for Sylvia Plath, who wrote about the concept of death almost in all of her writings. She symbolized death as the reliever which stops the pains and the cruelty of life. She pictured death and wrote about it as the true end for all.

In addition, Plath linked death to feminism, as she showed that most of those who seek for death are women, thus, there is a direct relationship between women and suicide. Women preferred death to life because life had pressed them much.

Dying early, Plath's death was a shock to the society of literature. Some of her works were published after her death inspiring many other writers to adapt and continue her own methodology and strategy in writing.

The present study purports to find parallels in the works of these two poets for though both of them are extremely individualistic and though they are separated by a lengthy period of time, it does seem that a comparative study will reveal a common meeting ground.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

This study focuses on finding how women seek to find freedom and a unique voice in a male dominated and patriarchal society.

1.3 Questions of the study

The study tries to answer the following questions:

1. How the representation of death is seen as an escape from Sylvia Plath's point of view?
2. How the representation of death is seen as an escape from Emily Dickenson's point of view?

1.4 Objectives of the study

This study aims to:

1. To explain the representation of death as an escape according to Sylvia Plath.
2. To explain the representation of death as an escape to Emily Dickenson.

1.5 Significance of the study

This study aims to tackle the theme of death in Sylvia Plath's and Emily Dickenson's poetry. It also sheds light on the status of women and how she became a victim according to the patriarchal and male dominated societies in their eras and how the woman was weak and had no voice and how she found death the way to salvation and relaxation.

In addition, the present study purports to find certain parallels in the works of these two poets. Though both of them are extremely individualistic and though they are separated by a lengthy period of time, it does seem that a comparative study will reveal a common meeting ground.

1.6 Limitation of Study

This study will focus on selected poems by Sylvia Plath and Emily Dickenson therefore the findings cannot be generalized to other works or authors.

1.7 Definition of terms

Death: according to literature, death is the one which arouses terrible anxiety as it offers an avenue toward authentic self-discovery. Likewise, death is often perceived within a larger context, as part of the natural cycle of decay and renewal, or treated as a source of laughter by writes of black comedy and absurdist drama, which nonetheless recognize the high seriousness of their subject. Death in literature also carries with it a range of symbolic implications over the years, having been aligned with ideas of retreat into solipsism, escape, alienation, and ultimately with the sources of meaning and the creation of literature itself to symbolize escape.

Feminism: is a collection of movements and ideologies which started during the 19th century and aimed at defining, establishing, and defending equal political, economic, and social rights for women. This includes seeking to establish equal opportunities for women in education and

employment. A feminist advocates or supports the rights and equality of women.

Psychoanalytic criticism: adopts the methods of "reading" employed by Sigmund Freud and later theorists to interpret texts. It argues that literary texts, like dreams, express the secret unconscious desires and anxieties of the author, that a literary work is a manifestation of the author's own neuroses. One may psychoanalyze a particular character within a literary work, but it is usually assumed that all such characters are projections of the author's psyche.

Chapter Two

2.0 Introduction

This section includes two subsections: the first is a brief review of the theoretical framework proposed by the major scholars in the same field, and the second is a brief review of some related empirical studies that have been conducted in different areas of the world.

2.1 Theoretical studies

Betty Friedan (1963) argues for Feminism as a concept that asks for women's rights and equality. It also attempts to reject all the laws against women's rights especially in work and education. Moreover, she tackles the discrimination that women suffer from; she also discusses man's responsibility in subjugating her personality and causing the loss of her identity.

Feminism was also revolutionized in the beginnings of 1970s. It empowered the movement with great literary works such as Kate Millett's *Sexual politics* (1971) Germaine Greer's *The Female Eunuch* (1971) Nancy's Friday's *My mother myself, The Daughter's search for identity* (1977) and many others.

Jacob (1977) claims that feminism is a revolutionizing view against humanity as a whole. He believes in changing the conventional known unfair rules against women. He also believes that women must get their social freedom, rights in education and work, in addition to being equal to males. Many critics have argued against his targets and beliefs, while Jacob kept on defending women in most of his writings.

Rowland (1979) believes that there is a direct relation between females' problems and the desire for death, since females weren't able to get their rights and faced many illegal and unfair situations, which in its turn guided a high number of them to suicide or at least tried to. This is due to their beliefs that death would be much better than life in one way or another.

Fiedler (2003) in his book *Love and Death in the American Novel*, believes that death is not considered as a fearful end but rather a necessary stop to enter into the world of the eternal tranquility, where people can enjoy it without the fears of life's different troubles. It is a common practice among Christians to anticipate the everlasting spiritual tranquility in the world after death.

It is rather a characteristic attitude especially of the Puritans to regard the actual life as the condemned world of hardship and to look forward to

the posthumous consolation as an only hope. The fulfillment of their wishes is possible only in the kingdom of God. Such motif had been discussed by many literary writings of the Puritans like Bradstreet and Bryant. Whereas Fiedler discusses it as the fulfillment of the impossible wishes after death as it has been used in the later genres such as the sentimental novel and historical romance.

Lacey (2012) shows in his study that there are many arguments on poets' beliefs and definitions of death, for instance, Shelley's definition of death was extraordinary as a perfect state, where happiness and complete freedom exist. He showed the concept of death in almost every poem of his own.

Roger (2012) thinks that death is the complete relief of pains and sorrows, and it gives people things that life cannot simply do.

Feminism is based on the view that male- dominated institutions and male- oriented values and beliefs have lasted so long and have been so universal that they have become almost standard beliefs that we can find in any society. Hence, the need to counteract this patriarchal argument. Feminists say that from a traditional patriarchal view, women's work should suit her personality; it can be nurturing work such as a teacher, a nurse, a

secretary, etc. Woman is always connected to a male. She is a sister, a daughter, a mother, a wife. Her identity comes through a male. She can't stand alone by her name. She is a daughter of a male, a wife of a male. That means her name is tied to a male. No matter what a woman's achievement may be, her basic role is a wife or a mother. Her job outside the house isn't that important. (Roger, 2012)

2.2 Empirical Studies:

Al Rajihi (1985) states the point that Plath's poems are a kind of reflection of her family's discrimination against females, and her own personal judgments on things and life in general, which are a result of the male society that dominates in its ugliness and unfairness. Moreover, Al Rajihi describes Plath as a very successful artist in clarifying the women's image in the era she lived in. In one way or another, she gathered all the negative images of and about women and then noted them indirectly in her poetry and literary works.

Grabher et. al. (2005) in their handbook *The Emily Dickinson Handbook* say that Feminist conceptions of Emily Dickenson began developing in the first wave of new feminist criticism, although

concentrating generally on women novelists where the plots for women are most evident. Even early studies of the woman writer, such as Gilbert and Gubar's *Madwoman in the Attic: The Woman Writer and the Nineteenth – Century Literary Imagination* (1979), made a place in their discussions for Dickinson. And, as feminist criticism has developed and matured, Dickinson has remained at its center, the figure against which it has been able to test its insights, its theories, and its ambitions. Their study also showed that, as a poet, Dickinson had evoked mixed feelings for the main themes she fought for. They also claimed that she had become a common well-known name that is directly linked to those themes.. From this work, critics went on to reconsider the woman writer's relationship to her culture and to less-well known women writers among her contemporaries, to examine her interest in the social and political issues of her time.

Mina (2006) in her thesis "*Emily Dickinson: The poetic of absence*" states that given the fact that Dickinson writes many poems in the guise of dead narrators, it could be said that she escapes the conception of physical death as an absolute end. She clarifies that it is clear from the start that death is presented not as a goal to be attained, but as a process or a movement itself. What is more important is that there has already been another traveling companion "Immortality" before the narrator joins the

party. In other words, there is a tension between death and life in the carriage, for “Immortality” is the opposite of “Death.”

Mishra (2006) in her book *Critical Response to Feminism* sees that “Plath is a literary symbol of the woman’s rights movements. A common theme throughout her writing is the author’s intense desire to be a loved and loving wife and perhaps even more strong, her desire to become a mother as long as she could still speak from within her deeper self through her writings.” (p.203) Mishra adds that indeed it seems obvious that Plath was searching for an equal to accompany her through all the aspects of a complex life. To her, complete devotion, was not a betrayal of herself as a woman, it would make her whole as a person.

While Sawalha (2015) believes that poets such as Plath for example, had exaggerated the picture of the unfair masculine society, he claims that there is a kind of pessimism that really lies in her deep personality. In other words, such poets would have got a better kind of life, and a nicer portrayal of life as it were, but what led them to suicide and the desire for death is mainly their pessimism and deep rejection of life, which in its turn causes pain, sorrow, hardships, pessimism and suicide on a later stage.

According to Iyas, (2015), death represents escape in some literary works. It is a natural freedom that releases women from the social obstacles they had, especially in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. He portrays death as the hard truth that in some ways may be better than struggling in life. He also discusses a number of the famous writers who discussed death in their literary works like Dickenson, Plath, and Bronte, who were considered the most effective writers in this subject. They all frankly and clearly mentioned death in their writings.

Sadiq & Alqaruoti (2016), state that one of the most captivating aspects about the literature of Emily Dickinson is her ability to present death in varying forms. She describes the different emotional responses that death has on the human soul and mind and enables the readers to view death from a different perspective. The ambiguous meaning of death that Dickinson uses gives the audience a choice to have their own interpretations about death. Through the varying descriptions of death, the author explains the many types of death that individuals experience.

In her article about Dickenson, Waterson (2016) believes that Dickenson was a bit different from the well-known American literature writing. That's to say that she focused on themes that weren't discussed much in the previous writings in the American literature. Dickenson had

many ideas in her mind which she wanted them to be born, she insisted on repeating the themes of feminism and death too attract attention to her and to her principles, and she succeeded in doing it.

Feinstein (2016) in *A Psychoanalytic Study in Sylvia Plath* claims that Sylvia Plath's harsh life and unsatisfactory conditions ended with her suicide as finding death as the only relief to the severe conditions, and as not being able to stand against life's problems and dilemmas. Feinstein probably had focused on the relationship of one's life conditions and the desire for death, taking into consideration the feminist approach since females had suffered much in the old ages of different countries.

Frumkin et. al. (2017) believes that death is portrayed as the relaxing point of some people who struggled much with life. Suicide, death and the desire for death are shown as the better end that is preferred to the hard unfair life especially for women who faced mistreatment, racism, discriminations, and different unfair laws or life obstacles in the past ages. Death is the only way for them to escape from the harsh life, as they didn't have solutions that would give halt to the unfair dealings and comparisons to men.

The current study concentrates on the main reasons behind choosing death as a theme to write about, showing that it is due to the poets' personal lives which played a role in deciding what to write and how to write. The study analyzes the poems of both poets, in addition to linking the concepts of death, feminism and psychoanalysis to one another in literature.

Chapter Three

3.1 Methods and Procedures:

In this chapter the researcher discusses the methods and procedures followed in this study. This study is based on the descriptive analytical methodology applying a feminist and psychoanalytic approach on selected works by Sylvia Plath and Emily Dickenson. The purpose of this study is to tackle these issues in Sylvia Plath and Emily Dickenson, two famous poets, who suffer from suppressed feelings which resulted in depression; a close reading of their poems shows how the theme of death is central to them.

The current study explains the status of women in society who had to suffer from suppression, disrespect, weakness, lack of freedom of choice and no self-determination.

The researcher relies on the psychological analysis of the works of the two poets based on their personal backgrounds and how they influenced their literary works.

It is worth saying that both poets' sub-consciousness played an important and effective role in the ways of writing their poetry, since they are extremely affected by their own social circumstances and difficulties. In

addition, their commitment to the cause of feminism and the deep psychoanalytical approaches had also led them to choose specific topics and themes to write in their poems.

3.2. Framework of the study

The study uses a Feminist and psychoanalytic approach to study selected works of both poets Emily Dickenson and Sylvia Plath with regard to their perspective on death in their literary works.

3.3. Procedures of the study

The researcher follows the following steps to accomplish the objectives of this study:

- 1- Reading the selected poems of Emily Dickenson “I heard a fly buzz when I died”, “I died for beauty”, “Joy in death”.
- 2- Reading the selected poems of Sylvia Plath “Lady Lazarus”, “Mad Girl’s Love Song”, “Tulips”.
- 3- Collecting data and resources about two poets.
- 4- Reviewing the theoretical literature and empirical studies relate to issue under investigation.
- 5- Writing references according to APA style.

Chapter Four

4.1. An Analytical View of Dickenson's Poetry

Emily Dickenson is an American poet who left school as a teenager, and who lived a hard confusing and reclusive life on the family homestead. She never married, but had friends. Dickenson was known for her unusual life. She died facing the Bright Disease, which is a historical classification of kidney diseases that causes extreme high blood pressure and heart disease, while some other writings mentioned that her extreme sadness caused her high blood pressure. (Rott, 1999).

I think that her sickness was the main reason that caused Dickenson's extreme anger and over raged reactions and attitudes in her life. There is a link between her sickness and inability to accept life, a relation that made her see the world as black.

Dickenson is one of the famous poets known for writing about death, immortality, and extreme sadness. Her poems are probably ones of the most melancholic and effective, as a result of being reclusive, lonely and deeply broken. Critics believed that she is melancholic due to the different weird themes which she talked about. Most of Dickenson's poems resulted from her own hard and harsh personal life.

In the current study, a number of Dickinson's poems were selected for their realism, effectiveness, and suitability to the main themes of the study.

4.1.1. *"I heard a fly buzz when I died"*

This poem is one of Dickinson's most important and well known poems. In it, she is describing the progression of her death. She is on the deathbed and describes the moments that led to the point of death. In the poem she insisted on using the simple past tense to emphasize the view that she narrates the poem from a dead's person point of view. In the first stanza, Dickinson compared the stillness of the room she died in as the stillness of the air while beating heaves of storms are beating. She also emphasized the extreme quietness of death, hearing a fly that buzzed in her ears.

I heard a Fly buzz - when I died -

The second stanza showed the difficulties of gathering breath, the fastness of them, and the weird feeling a person might have a few minutes before his death. It is a feeling of comfort and fear, a contradicting feeling of desire and disbelief.

The Stillness in the Room

The third stanza shows Dickinson's body as a whole portion, motionless and very cold. In it she exaggerates the sad and lonely feelings of

preparing for death, followed by the final stanza which concludes her life, the ultimate end where she is extremely sad and uncertain of what was going on around her. The frequent stumbling buzz started to go fewer, she tried to see the light but couldn't as the windows were unable to spread the light, a small glimpse of light had disappeared and then she could see nothing.

Was like the Stillness in the Air -
Between the Heaves of Storm -

The Eyes around - had wrung them dry -
And Breaths were gathering firm
For that last Onset - when the King
Be witnessed - in the Room -

It's worth mentioning that Dickenson's method of writing this poem was quiet and very calm. She did so in order to prepare her readers to feel and smell death, and then to believe that it is the natural end of anybody's life. She narrates the events as well as incidents of death as if she could see them clearly, or as if she is a spirit who can picture them very clearly.

Moreover, in the poem, she shows death as the main relief of the extreme sad obstacles and events of her life. According to her, death is the main fact that releases her from her illusions, pains and dilemmas. She expects that the incidents of preparing for death are so polite in paving the ways to humans. It comes in fast few factual stages as if it is asking

permission from someone to take his/her spirit. Death is described indirectly as the true fact and the utmost truth. The tone used in the poem also has helped the readers to feel sympathetic and to believe in it.

I willed my Keepsakes - Signed away
 What portion of me be
 Assignable - and then it was
 There interposed a Fly -

With Blue - uncertain - stumbling Buzz -
 Between the light - and me -
 And then the Windows failed - and then
 I could not see to see -

According to feminists' views, death and especially suicide is a realistic result for people who don't get their rights as humans. To them, death is much more satisfying and having more dignity than life with humility and without dignity.

Both death and feminism are there in the poem, she represented death as a person who wanted to take her with him, and she mentioned some scenes of death as if she lived it. In addition, feminism was there in the poem since she showed us that she desired death to end up her extreme bad life.

In addition, according to the feminism theory, there is a direct relationship between death and women as they work with their own souls,

suffer pains, and die for the reasons of escaping their ugly unfair lives specially if compared to men at that time of history.

In this scope, it is also worth saying that Dickenson's life led her to such pessimistic type of writings, as she lived much of her life in deep isolation. She never married nor had friends. She became very lonely within her own bedroom at the last stages of her life.

In his study and analyses of the poem "I heard a fly," Rott (1999) describes Dickenson as showing her lifespan in the poem. He believes that she used the poem to talk indirectly about herself. The poem is sad itself, and Dickenson was sad and never thought of life as life but rather as a prison, thus, she preferred death to it. In addition, she couldn't say many things close to her in public so she used writing poetry as a revealer of her feelings and inner problems, so the poem can be seen as portraying Dickenson's feelings themselves.

On the other hand, Jacob's (1977) study described Dickenson's "I heard a fly" from a purely psychoanalytical view of her depressed feelings and desires of death. Psychologically, Dickenson felt death while alive as being lonely and isolated. She usually used to wear black and white to

indicate her sadness and death. The poem is a reflection of her own life, psychological problems and deep conflicts.

Moreover, Frumkin's (2017) analyses of the poem "I heard a fly" was a bit different, she worked on the semantic and lexical poetic lines that Dickinson used, thus, Frumkin analyzed the poem linguistically, she mentioned the effect of using extreme sad words, and depressing concepts in the poem. She claimed to the fact that Dickinson worked hard to use psychological words that evoke the readers' feelings and let them live the story of the poem. She also added that Dickinson was smart enough to make the readers fall one step backward while reading the poem. The uses of words were what made the poem a very successful one added to the theme of it which is death, the natural controlling fact, and the realistic end.

It is also worth saying that Dickinson was very talented in analyzing things psychologically, and this is not strange at all since she felt deep and inner psychological problems, therefore, she is considered to be the most suited to talk and reflect on death.

However, being a female has also led Dickinson to write about things pessimistically, she felt and lived the injustice of people around her and the

high level of discrimination between men and women, a thing that left her coming up with such types of writing literature.

4.1.2. “*I Died for Beauty*”

This poem is one that is told in the first person by someone who died for beauty. She was put in a tomb next to another dead person who was put in another tomb next to her, but he died for truth. The second stanza shows the person who died for truth addressing her, asking for the reason she died. He was apprehensive and hesitant to ask, and she replied for beauty. They both relaxed and realized that they are not alone. They have both given their lives on the altar of principle and so they respect and identify with one another.

I DIED for beauty, but was scare
Adjusted in the tomb,
When one who died for truth was lain
In an adjoining room.

The third stanza shows that they both died for noble reasons, and are able to be proud of what they died for. However, the fourth stanza concludes with their forgotten end. They will be forgotten and the reasons for their deaths will be forgotten too. The two speakers kept talking together until the fact of real death has stopped their lips making them unable to communicate.

They were forced to stop talking and, both “beauty”, and “truth” will be only remembered in the poem, which is the shocking conclusion, and the worst and pessimistic part of the whole poem.

He questioned softly why I failed?

"For beauty," I replied.

"And I for truth - the two are one;

We brethren are," he said.

The poem has portrayed Dickenson's extreme pessimism, private sadness and her deep understanding of people's reactions after the death of someone, and how death can be life and death at the same time.

It is worth mentioning that Dickenson's choice of truth and beauty as the ideals that are worth dying for wasn't done for nothing, for both themes are ultimately philosophically related. Both themes are represented by someone who died for them specifically, both are buried in the same tomb near each other, both die at the same time, both are covered by the same moss, and both are then forgotten.

And so, as kinsmen met a-night,

We talked between the rooms,

Until the moss had reached our lips,
And covered up our names.

The death of truth and beauty speaks to the extreme valuelessness of life at that age. The two figures of beauty and truth felt strongly enough about them that their human lives were even less valuable than beauty and truth. Dickenson wanted to evoke readers' feelings to what she believes in, in addition to her sad feelings towards society and life in the age she lived in. Feelings of sadness, pessimism, and depression are highly reflected in the poem where she symbolizes death as freedom, this freedom is linked to beauty which is what she wanted her entire life.

I believe that in the poem there was a very nice but weird mix between the two genders and the reasons for death. They both fought for a purpose that the majority of both sexes usually fight for. She died for beauty which is a matter needed by all women through history, while he died for truth, which is the main purpose and target of all men through history. Dickenson succeeded in publicizing the idea of death to specific purposes, and the linguistic uses were also very successful.

4.1.3. *“Joy in Death”.*

This poem differs from a bit Dickenson’s other poems about death. She presents death as a relaxing path that leads to satisfaction and heaven. She simply says exactly what she feels. In it, she asks why people feel sad when someone dies though they know very well that he is going to leave. He is going to a much better thing than life is, death to him is a kind of freedom , and of getting away from all the negative critical ideas and attitudes of others toward him.

She also suggests that death is even a relaxing point from pains and diseases; therefore, people should not feel sad for their dead and should not be scared of it. Death for someone who has suffered should enable him to enter heaven with no more pains and have their loved ones to be happy.

If tolling bell I ask the cause.
 'A soul has gone to God,'
 I'm answered in a lonesome tone;
 Is heaven then so sad?

The poem also shows that the people who are still alive should feel happy for the dead ones as death is the ultimate fact and the natural end for every human on earth. Therefore, she strongly believes that death isn’t a matter of sorrow at all; it is rather the ever relaxing point in anyone’s life,

and if compared with her other poems, “Joy in Death” is more optimistic since it sees the best part of death.

That bells should joyful ring to tell
A soul had gone to heaven,
Would seem to me the proper way
A good news should be given.

In my opinion, this poem is very sarcastic due to the fact that death is never joyous, but rather sad and grievous; however, she describes it as joy for being a reliever of the bad things she lived throughout her life. In addition, she wanted to make death look beautiful even though it is not.

To sum up, Emily Dickenson, a famous American poet, wrote many poems most of which were tragic and pessimistic, and she concentrated on writing on themes like sadness, tragedy, revenge, death, and feminism. She chose these themes for, as Al Rawashdeh (2014) claimed, there must be a relationship between the common surrounding circumstances and what writers generally write about in literature.

Below is another example of a similar poetic case, Sylvia Plath, a well-known American poet, who wrote on the same subjects and continued the journey that Dickenson had already started.

4.2. An Analytical View of Plath's Poetry

Sylvia Plath is a famous American poet and writer, who was married to the poet Ted Hughes and committed suicide at the age of thirty after suffering a severe stage of depression. After her death, she received many literary awards for her famous novel *Bell Jar*, and for her poetry collection *The Colossus* and *Ariel*.

Plath's poetry was known as pessimistic, indirect, and sad. Her poems were distinguished by confession, and feelings of desperation and confusion. Her most famous poems are: Daddy, Lady Lazarus, Tulips, Ariel, Mad Girl's Love Song, and Daddy You do not do.

4.2.1. "Lady Lazarus"

This poem generally resembles and actually represents Plath's life and sufferings added to her attempts of suicide. The poem represents Plath's

feelings toward death and feminism, and seeks readers' attention much. In the poem, she described her rejection of the life itself, life which wasn't suitable for her, wasn't fair to her, and was full of lies and betrayal. She also claimed to the idea that women are the most affected people of such aspects; this was done to let people see true life appropriately.

Having the title start with the word "Lady" is very important for the theme of feminism. Lady Lazarus, the lady who found neither rest nor justice through the men around her, reflects a feminist view by most females who lived in the time of Plath. Lazarus is a common stereotype of women who searched for release. She resembles a large number of females in society who suffered much, due to its domination by their men. Men aren't those good and understanding ones to women, and this is in discordance with the feminist demands and criteria. (Rott, 1999).

I have done it again.
One year in every ten
I manage it——

A sort of walking miracle, my skin
Bright as a Nazi lampshade,
My right foot

“Lady Lazarus” is one of Plath’s best known poems. It is a very complicated and depressing poem. This poem is a poem about suicide, which is narrated by a woman who tries to commit suicide every ten years; the ten years simply show decades of her life. She committed suicide three times. This represents death in her life; she lived as a dead person, her life was sad enough to make her not feel alive, and desires to die.(Rott, 1999).

A paperweight,
My face a featureless, fine
Jew linen.

Peel off the napkin
O my enemy.
Do I terrify?—

The nose, the eye pits, the full set of teeth?
The sour breath
Will vanish in a day.

In my opinion, “Lady Lazarus” is a life cassette that pictured Plath’s life as being a depressed person unwilling to live. Plath recognized her life as nonsense and found life in death, thus she committed many suicide attempts to end her life by herself, ignoring what people might say or comment toward her. Mainly, Lazarus reflects her own personality, pains, sorrow, and feelings.

Soon, soon the flesh
The grave cave ate will be
At home on me

And I a smiling woman.
I am only thirty.
And like the cat I have nine times to die.

This is Number Three.
What a trash
To annihilate each decade.

In addition, the idea of feminism is very clear in the poem, since the narrator Lady Lazarus, tells about how death will soon make her flesh vanish, and her beauty will go. Like most females, beauty still controls women's thoughts even after death, and in death. (Ryhne, I:1990)

I also agree with Ryhne in his point of view about beauty, since from the very past ages, women were and still are interested in beauty and in what makes them look more beautiful. They also seek beauty after death, how will their bodies faint, spoil, and vanish forever, therefore Plath talked about that clearly and directly in the poem, using words that reflect women's care for their shape even in hard times and in death.

What a million filaments.
 The peanut-crunching crowd
 Shoves in to see
 Them unwrap me hand and foot——
 The big strip tease.
 Gentlemen, ladies

The poem resembles Plath's rejection of the society's understanding of and dealing with women as objects and not as human beings. The suicide attempts also reflect the rejection of the life style women had during those times.

It is also worth mentioning that the continuous suicidal attempts that repeated every ten years indicated that nothing changed for Lazarus, during the three different decades while the desire for death still remains. These points to the idea that Lazarus represents a large group of women whose sufferings had led to suicide; that was considered much better than life for them. (John, 1996).

 These are my hands
 My knees.
 I may be skin and bone,
 Nevertheless, I am the same, identical woman.

The first time it happened I was ten.

It was an accident.

The second time I meant

To last it out and not come back at all.

I rocked shut

I think that this poem in particular seems bitter, hard, and aggressive. Plath shows that she hates herself, hates her body parts, and thoughts. She finds herself as unimportant, and her face as featureless. These poetic expressions reflect Plath's boredom, sadness, and severe depression as a whole.

4.2.2 “*Tulips*”.

“Tulips,” written in 1961, is a poem that deals with Sylvia Plath's state of being whilst in hospital for an appendectomy. She initially named it Sickroom Tulips in Hospital, but changed it into Tulips later. Most critical works on Plath think it played an important role as reflecting Plath's feelings at a specific time of her life.

The use of flowers as symbols of exterior life and heart, “Tulips” focuses in dramatic fashion on the sickroom space where the patient is resting. There is a subtle tension introduced from the opening line, perhaps

reflecting the poet's emotional uncertainty and over fear. Just weeks earlier she suffered a case of miscarriage and this particular theme is carried on right through to the end.

The poet is quite happy with the peaceful white surroundings of the sickroom but is tortured somewhat when the excitable tulips arrival with their loud noise and mouths like that of some great African cat.

The tulips are too excitable, it is winter here.
Look how white everything is, how quiet, how snowed-in.
I am learning peacefulness, lying by myself quietly
As the light lies on these white walls, this bed, these hands.

In my opinion, the main theme of "Tulips" is sickness and recovery and its main indication is stillness and whiteness. It is one of Plath's most famous and beautiful poems. The poet shows herself as a patient in hospital who woke up after a surgery and felt bored of the things around her. She talked about her feelings, as being disgusted of nurses, injections, and medicines. She showed us that she hates the color white as doctors and nurses were all in white all along. And when she got the tulips, she didn't see their beauty as being flowers, but rather a gift which she didn't like at all. (Waterson, 2001).

Plath is here implying a new idea in the poem, where the hospital where she stays is considered to be her life where she is prisoned, while the doctors and the nurses were like people who controlled her and restricted her soul from being free, and the disease that she had is her desire for death. She didn't like neither accepted the tulips because she considered them as the spirits of people whom she didn't recognize as vital or important in her life.

I believe that "Tulips" is one of the most difficult poems in American literature due to its double meanings, difficult words, metaphors and double references to different related and un related themes.

I am learning peacefulness, lying by myself quietly
As the light lies on these white walls, this bed, these hands.

In the poem, she portrayed the tulips as frightening people looking at her, staring at her, and their openings as mouths that suck all the breath out of the room. She deeply felt that the tulips were controlling and watching her. Also, being red, the tulips made her even sadder and angrier. She also once described them as animals sharing her room, and which had nothing to do except frightening her.

The concept of recovery and the beauty of tulips didn't change her mood for the better, but rather she linked them with evil images. (Wandy, 2005).

The tulips are too red in the first place, they hurt me.
Even through the gift paper I could hear them breathe
Lightly, through their white swaddlings, like an awful baby.
Their redness talks to my wound, it corresponds.
They are subtle : they seem to float, though they weigh me down,
Upsetting me with their sudden tongues and their color,
A dozen red lead sinkers round my neck.

Through the poem, Plath was extremely successful in making the red color look dreadful or a signal of pessimism. Moreover, she succeeded in making the readers think of flowers and roses in a completely different and unconventional way.

Thus, generally, the poem shows a character complaining about the excitable tulips which are totally and literally out of place in a snowy wintery world. The character is very sad and bored since she is in a hospital room lying alone after surgery, and she doesn't have anything to do other than listening to the doctors' and the nurses' orders. The tulips weren't described as amazing or beautiful but rather ugly and fearful. This in a way

reflects Plath's desire to reflect a pessimistic feeling on loneliness, disease, and life.

4.2.3. *Mad Girl's Love Song*

This poem talks about a girl who falls in love with her father, and that's the reason behind using the word "mad" in the title. The girl mainly considers that her love is a sin and extremely forbidden but still couldn't stop it neither tell him about it.

The stanzas of the poem reflect her feelings of love and sadness, and later the description of the devil who was the main leader to that kind of love. It also describes deep feelings to men like her father whose strength and imposing personality attract many women to him. She symbolizes her love as the devil lives in her soul that cannot be controlled.

The next stanza tells about her shock at her father's death, the fact that the girl couldn't even accept. She shows her deep sad feelings at her father's death, and described the memories that she tried very hard to forget.

I dreamed that you bewitched me into bed
And sung me moon-struck, kissed me quite insane.
(I think I made you up inside my head.)

The stanzas of the poem also showed that there are many things she likes to remember and many others to forget. Her love for her father, her sin, and her father's death were the main memories that she loved much to forget.

There is also a feeling of regret, where the poet uses the words 'should have', which show that her love causes problems and many psychological conflicts to her, it made her miserable as well.

I should have loved a thunderbird instead;
At least when spring comes they roar back again.

The poem itself is a mix of the concept of death and feminism where Plath discusses death as a person who took her beloved father, which she neither accepted nor wanted to believe. In addition, Plath repeated a line three times in the poem to evoke readers' feelings and emphasize the importance of the idea of death in the line itself.

I shut my eyes and all the world drops dead.

The line is also repeated to keep her sanity intact as she is awake to face the repeated bad memory of her father's death.

The poem is very deep, meaningful, painful, contradictory, and effective. It is worth noting that it may also reflect Plath's life and her relationship with her father.

According to Frumkin (2017), and based on her studies on American literature, the poem is misleading and a bit confusing as it links and relates many concepts together, such as love, despair, imagination, shock, death, feelings, and feminism. Frumkin thinks that Plath was trying to gather all of her feelings in this poem, a kind of an un-understandable one and that's the reason why she called it "mad", as it shows madness in some way.

I fancied you'd return the way you said,
But I grow old and I forget your name.
(I think I made you up inside my head.)

On the other hand, Al Sharary(2016) believes that Plath has her own way of describing different themes together and if readers read and analyze the poem deeply they will surely understand its main themes and different indications.

In my opinion, the poem is a bit strange even if compared with other poems by Plath, because her other poems are still one thematic poems, and

could be easily understood while this poem is hard, extremely deep, and a bit confusing for the reader.

4.3. A Feminist Approach to the Concept of Death:

Death is a prevalent theme in the poetry of both Sylvia Plath and Emily Dickinson. They both examine death from varied angles. There are many similarities as well as in the representation of this theme in their poetry. Plath views death as a sinister and intimidating end, while Dickinson depicts death with the endearment of romantic attraction. In the poetry of Plath death is depicted traditionally, while Dickinson attributes some mysticism to the end of life. (Frumkin, 2017).

I believe that despite the common similarities between the themes of Plath's poetry and Dickinson's poetry, there are differences in their poetic identification and portrayal of death where Plath showed death as the natural sad end of all humans, while Dickinson showed death as the realistic mysterious end of life.

Death came as a recurrent theme in the poetry of Sylvia Plath. She engaged the reader personally to view death either as a liberating force or a troubling and depressing experience. Her depiction of death is reflected by

the use of such techniques as imagery, language, structure, and tone. Plath underwent harsh experiences in her life that made her want death, for instance, her shock at her husband Ted, who lied to her and the discrimination between boys and girls in her family, left Plath unwelcoming of life and preferring death to it. The experiences made her need death. They made her crave death more than anything. Death became a friend not an enemy to her. Death was a friend to her because it was her means for escape. She wanted to escape from all the troubles that had befallen her.

The subject of death, including her own death, occurs throughout Emily Dickenson's poems and letters. She was also a young and sensitive woman that lived for about fifteen years of her life next to a cemetery that made her think of death and wonder about it all the time. Death is Emily Dickinson's main theme which left its impact on her thoughts and gave its tint to the majority of her poems. For Dickinson, death is the supreme touchstone for life. She lived incessantly in his presence. She was always conscious of its nearness and inevitability. (Kean, 2005).

In my opinion, Dickenson was preparing herself for death; she prepared herself physically and psychologically. In other words, Dickenson's disease paved the way for her to accept the coming of death anytime, in addition to accepting the idea of death as a natural end and a true fact that will face

everyone on earth, with her deep desire to end her life all in all played a role in the explanation of the concept of death to her readers.

Exploration of the theme of death gave her a panoramic view of vital issues such as religion, God, nature, love and immortality. In the poems discussed above, death assumes different personalities taken from life. The main features of death which are implied in her death poems disclose the very contradictions, absurdities and complexities of her life. Death may be a refined and respected coachman, a cruel victimizer and a personal enemy, a leveler, an elusive lover, a suitor, or an assassin. The poet uses these concrete images to portray death, which is an abstract force, in an attempt to come to terms with it as well as to understand it. She gave death human and nonhuman characteristics as part of her quest to comprehend it. In her death poems, she did not offer a final view of death because death for her remains the great unknown mystery. (Alsharary, 2016)

I think that Dickenson tried to simplify the concept and truth of death by personifying it to her readers. She wanted to make it memorable in her own poetry and easier to understand and picture.

Emily Dickinson and Sylvia Plath share a common predicament: their poems are usually considered to be extremely personal, idiosyncratic,

historical, unconventional, and hence obscure. A predominance of biographically-oriented criticism has only succeeded in adding to the confusion. Both shared a common theme: Death. Yet, both eyed it in different ways. It is a mysterious visitor to Dickinson and a dear friend and enemy to Plath.

Death is a crucial fact that cannot be avoided or even predicted. Considering the complex nature of death and the creatures that die, i.e. human beings, it is a study for scientists, philosophers, clergy, poets and other thinkers. (Almahdy, 2008). The idea of the truth of death and suicide, which is the subject of the current thesis, has occupied the mind of man since he realized that he was a dying being.

The concept of death has been discussed in all the poems in this thesis. The poets' desires to die in order to escape indicate that death was the only choice or option they both had to feel free of hardships, pains, and depression. The poems listed many words that described death as the gentle reliever to them. Moreover, both Dickinson and Plath's subconscious seek for death, think of death and believe in death. Both poets see death as a factual successful way that releases them from life. Their subconscious appears clearly in their writings, while unconsciously, writing about death came as a result of their beliefs toward their life and society. (Phillpe, 2010).

There is also a direct relationship between Feminism and death, for death is seen as the only escape for women who were the victims of the unjust masculine society; as statistics showed that at those times, women committed suicide more than men did, for they saw death as an escape, as mentioned in the works of American writers in the 19th and the beginning of the 20th centuries, and more particularly in the writings of Emily Dickenson and Sylvia Plath.

This is an expected result of the masculine society whose control, discrimination in education, work, laws, rights, social attitudes, social contributions and injustice, all led leaders of feminism to fight against the society and let writers write deeper about such problems in their writings. Such conditions also led many women to commit suicide as a result and as an escape of the circumstances which they couldn't accept nor live with.

4. 4. A Psychoanalytical Approach to the Concept of Death:

Man, according to psychologists, is composed of two main instincts, the instinct of life and the instinct of death. The instinct of death is a destructive instinct according to many psychologists including Sigmund Freud who sees it as an inward impulse and a self-destructive tendency, especially in relation to suicide attempts. However, this instinct then takes

the form of aggressive feelings, including anger and hatred. (Waterson, 1989).

According to Freud, the concept of death was initially described as “the goal of all life is death”. In this quotation, Freud believed that people typically channel their death instincts outwards. Feelings and reactions like anger and aggression are natural effects and reactions to death. Freud also believes that death, despite being a fact, was and is still fearful to most humans. However, he believes that people should prepare themselves for death as no one can escape it. To him, death is believed to be a destructive end which leaves the bodies in spoil and destruction, and rather vanish.

To Freud, death is one of two things, either a state of nothingness and unconsciousness, or a kind of change in a soul or body. However, philosophically Freud sees death a natural end that we should be aware of and well prepared for. That is what actually the researcher will try to find in the characters of the two poets.

In most of her poems, Dickenson tries to portray and embody death as a man offering her an invitation to that long journey. The poet used metaphors and rhetoric to help soften the meaning of death. Dickenson tries to replace

the frightening truth of death for the objective and emotional one as well as the intellectual truth that life for others will always go on.

It is worth mentioning in this scope that history had focused on death as a relief of pains. For example, according to the philosophical theory Socrates believes that death is better than life, and that death is not evil, it is thus a journey to a world that is much more beautiful, pure and complete, a world where there is no evil and no injustice. Socrates and many other philosophers dealt with defining death as the best end and in some versions as better than life. (Elton, 2004).

In addition, Dickenson believes that death is the only the liberation of the soul from its imprisonment and its return to the world of eternity and salvation that allows the soul to be liberated from the eternal prison and to return to its destiny.

In the same way, Plath sees suicide as a relief, although it is a myth for some in the sense that it is difficult to achieve, while others consider it as a last refuge or a haven and this is what Plath exactly wanted.(AlRajihi, 1999).

In my opinion, Plath saw suicide as the only way to escape the sorrows and pains of life. Plath was mainly satisfied with her own personal achievements but was shocked by her husband's betrayal when he left her

for another woman. Thus, she sees death as a relief of the psychological shocks that she had.

The method of death that Plath used, which was to stick her head into the gas oven and open the flask, tells us that she chose to go through all the stages of this death. Plath tries to show readers that suicide is happiness and victory. In her writings, she was thinking of cutting her wrist in the basin and imagining the color of water as a flower. In addition, Plath enriched the meaning of death even when she failed at suicide, as she still wanted to shed some blood for training.

While in Plath's "Lady Lazarus," death and suicide are described as rebellious pride where there is no fear or regret in performing it at all. Suicide for her is an affirmation of the strength and intensity of character, not of weakness. She isn't weak at all, but a strong scary and dangerous creature. Plath insists that she may be the victim, but she was a victim with the desire for revenge. (Right, 2007).

I think that a character like Plath is strong enough to take a decision of ending her life by her own hands. Her rejection of the surrounding conditions made her stronger and willing to find an end to all of that torture. Therefore, critics considered Plath as a strong personality and never weak,

shocked but not broken, sad but not defeated. She represented the cases of many women who lived at the same era she lived in.

In addition, though the feminist movements in the world have tried to accuse her former husband poet, Ted Hughes, of causing her suicide because of his authority over her, Plath's crisis was not a feminist one, but rather an existential crisis that began with questions about death, and ended in death as a response. (Romel, 2009).

It is worth saying that during that century, feminism worked against the control of men over women. For example, it fought against social discrimination and sought for equality in different social levels regardless of gender. In addition, feminism also worked hard to awaken women to their educational and labor rights, a thing which made women much more attentive and awake. Moreover, the movement also worked to abolish men's control over the women's sexuality.

Psychologically, there is a relationship between men's control over women and their inner psyche. In other words, Freud believes that men's inner psychology inclines them towards control of others and more particularly women. Men see themselves as bosses and controllers, and see women as their followers who must follow social rules. Psychologically,

men believe that they have the authority to control women and be their masters, a thing that satisfies their ego and inner desire to be followed. This was greatly helped by the support of the societies along history. Thus, there is an inner relationship between men's control over women and their own personalities.

To conclude, regardless of the reasons and all the backgrounds behind the rule of men over women, and based on the massive historical stories regarding this issue, and due to the fact there was and still is a desire for death in females as a result of the extreme mistreatment in different societies all over the world, there must be an urgent call for awareness among people and especially men, of the role of women in any society and their equal importance to men in building up any society. They are humans first, and should share the same rights and duties as men.

Chapter Five

5.1. Findings and Conclusions

This chapter sheds the light on the findings and the conclusions of the current study. It discusses the main themes and motifs that Dickenson and Plath concentrate on in their writings specifically loneliness and death. It also features the most important social relations and effects that made them see life from one main negative perspective. This is believed as a common and natural result and reaction on the society they both lived in, thee social discrimination and the communal unaccepted differentiations between men and women would be enough for them to hate the society. In addition, the meeting point between their psychological inner problems and the social mistreatment will lead to being unable to accept life that way. Their psychoanalytical views of the men around them and the breakdowns which they had, all played a vital role together in building up their personalities and leave them very aside from life itself. Pessimism was felt in every poem written by the two related due to the age they both lived in.

Both Dickenson and Plath had a pessimistic outlook on life and on the people around them. They faced loneliness, a harsh life and isolation, which

in turn negatively affected their reactions, attitudes and understanding of life. They lived in a time when females were treated unfairly and their societies forced them to react aggressively as a result of the ways they were treated. In addition, they both didn't find love in their smaller societies, families and homes.

Both Dickenson and Plath discussed feminism as a major theme in their lives. Both insisted on the importance of females as equals to men in any society. They saw feminism as a natural result to the methodology and ideology their societies used to deal with females. The injustice had made them focus on feminism as a case that must be taken into consideration at those times in history. And being writers they chose to write about feminism to raise people's awareness and enrich social consciousness to that important issue those times.

Both Dickenson and Plath wrote about the concept of death and personalized it in their poems. They both believed in death as a natural end for every human regardless of his/her social or educational position. They both believed that everything should end, and death is the final relaxing end for all humans. They talked about death as an important concept that people usually forget and don't like to talk about. In their poems, they highlighted that death is not always an evil end for humans, for they believed that death

is the only escape from the harsh lives they both led. Therefore, they both committed suicide at a young age, taking into consideration that since life won't give them what they wanted, death would be able to release them from the restrictions they had when they were alive.

Both Dickenson and Plath believed that death is the only thing they can choose to do, giving them the chance to be free of being imprisoned in their own homes. The meaning of death to both of them was pleasant and releasing.

Both Dickenson and Plath used the first person narrative technique in their writings to tell their readers indirectly that they are actually the main victims of the harsh societies. Both Dickenson and Plath left a mark in literature which other writers and poets have adopted in writing poetry.

It is worthwhile concluding this chapter by stating that though Dickenson and Plath worked with similar motifs and although they lived in different eras yet they both evoked certain concepts that were important and very vital to discuss.

5.2. Recommendations

In light of the results of the research, the researcher recommends the following:

- 1- How much does Dickenson's and Plath's poetry effect readers' minds and abilities to change the societies around them?
- 2- Are there any modern poems that deal with the same themes that Dickenson and Plath discussed in their literary writing?
- 3- How effective was Dickenson's and Plath's poetry in inspiring more poets to write using the same boldness which both of them had?

Each recommendation and question mentioned above is supposed to be a suggestion for further studies and worth searching. Therefore, the researcher has recommended the above questions for researchers to be their major topics in the future.

References

- Al Mahdy, K. (2008). **American poetry**. Amman: Amman Publishing Company.
- Al Rajihi, R. (1985). **A Comparative study in literature**. Amman: Dar Al Nasher.
- Al Sharary. M. (2016). **Studies in American poems: A comparative analytical study**. Irbid: Yarmouk University Press.
- Elton, M. (2004). **Psychoanalyses in literature**. New York: New York Press.
- Feinstein, F. (2009). **A Psychoanalytic study of Sylvia Plath**. New York: n. p.
- Fiedler, L. (2003). **Love and death in the American novel**. Chicago: Dalkey Archive Press.
- Finn, K. (2005). **Cognitive consequences in writing**. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Friedan, B (1963). **The feminine mystique**. New York: W. W. Norton and Co.
- Frumkin, A. (2017). **Deep concepts in literature**. London: McMillan Publishers.
- Gilbert, S, Gubar, S (1979). **The madwoman in the attic**. Connecticut: Yale University Press.
- Gudrun, et.al (2005). **The Emily Dickenson handbook**. Massachusetts: Massachusetts press.
- Iyas. W. (2015). **A critical study on Dickenson**. Beirut: Dar Al uloom.
- Jacob, J. (1977). **An introduction to literature**. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- John, H. (1996). **Death in literature**. London: Longman Publishers.

- Jonathan, M. (2003). **A brief study on American poetry**. Oxford: Oxford University press.
- Kean, J, (2005). **Modern concepts in literature**. New York: Holt Press.
- Keats, K. (2003). **Series of American literature**. London: McMillan Press.
- Lacey, M. (2012). **Studies in literature**. London: McMillan Press.
- Martin, L. (2003). **Sylvia Plath's poems about women**. North Carolina: University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.
- Mishra, B (2006). **Critical responses to feminism**. New Delhi: Sarup and Sons.
- Nameirakpam, R. (2011).**The woman's voice: a study of the poems of Emily Dickenson**. Meghalaya: North- Eastern Hill University.
- Philip, K. (2010). **Sylvia Plath's Poetry**. London: McMillan Publishers.
- Right, R. (2007). **Understanding literature**. New York: Holt Press.
- Roger, S. (2012). **An empirical study in literature**. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Rommel, M. (2009). **Listening to the inner voice in literature**. Amman: Dar Al Nasher Amman.
- Rott, N. (1999). **An introduction to American literature**. Massachusetts: University Press Massachusetts.
- Rowland, R. (1979). **Literary works**. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Ryhne, I. (1999). **A practical study in literature**. London: McMillan Publishers.
- Sadeq and Al Qarouty. (2016) **.A comparative literary framework**. Irbid: Yarmouk University Press.
- Sawalha, N. (2015). **Studies on literary concepts**. Amman: Dar Al Nasher Amman.
- Simon, J. (2003). **Works in American literature**. London: Longman Press.

Wandy, Y. (2005). **Literature and analyses**. London: Longman Publishers.

Waterson, F. (2001). **How to study literature?** Oxford: Oxford publishers.

Waterson, M. (2016) **A psychoanalytical article on death and feminism**.

Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Waterson, H. (1989). **Readers' companion on American literature**.
London: McMillan Press.

Yeats, K. (2005). **Literary works and arts**. New York: Holt Press.