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## The Mutation of Mannity: Reimagining Masculine Identity in the Selected Novels of Perumal Murugan

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**Abstract:** Liberation of men is not yet happened even in this era, there is a structure which had built by the society that the world is ruled by men called patriarchal system, women are portrayed as a weak one, they are marginalized, no way to have a power system for women and a lots of mythical tale about feminism and masculinity. But the truth is the so called voiced men are marginalized by the pseudo constructiveness of the society. It had become a pattern for generation after generations and now most of the men are in the state of mutation. This paper explicit the mutation of masculinity from the Perumal Murugan's selected novel through the male characters

**Keywords:** Mannity, Hegemony, Masculinity, Mutation, Liberation.

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### Introduction

Male this term has its own identity and power in the entire nation but does it had liberation. There is a universal statement men are known for their power system but the Alma matter researched in this paper is that they don't have a power; all the men are trapped in the pseudo social constructiveness of masculinity. This paper rewire the term masculinity give the original definitions of masculinity is mannity the term man is from Greek and the suffix ity describes the adjective of the man and deconstructs the portrayal of maleness which is constructed by the society through the male characters from Perumal Murugan's novel like *one part women*, *Resolve* all the male characters and their silent mutation portrays the marginalization by the society and some characters reflect the rejection of their own self which reflect the depressions and in the name of patriarchy the social system had built a trap where every men in the entire nation is been trapped for generations after generations in order to hold the reputation of the masculinity every men are trapped and later due to their surrender to the society automatically in any sort of their life they are pushed to be in the status of mutation, which is like a hell. This is the place where mannity evolve and question the stereotypes which were created by the society.

Firstly, the term mannity refers to the evolving ethical, emotional, social and ecological qualities through which a man negotiates the identity beyond the rigid expectations of patriarchal masculinity. Unlike masculinity which often emphasizes socially prescribed male roles, but mannity give importance to the humane, adaptive, relational and transformative dimensions of being a man.

### Mannity vs Masculinity

Mari Muthu the protagonist in the novel *Resolve* a unmarried man at the age of thirty five he has all sort of wealth and a well reputation for him as well for his family in the village but the sad part of the story is that he couldn't get a girl for his marriage everyone questions him this story represent the decades of sex- selective abortion, hierarchies of caste, agricultural change and the values of older generations. *Resolve*, this novel could be analyze in both a ways as a cultural critique and as a personal journey, here in the case of Marimuthu marriage had become the social contract its happening only for the honor of the family and in other hand if a family occupation is farming they should do only farming the land acts as the social power of a masculine. These sort of incidents reflect the social constructiveness for the masculinity, not only Marimuthu, most of the men are define by their



culture, occupation, heritage none of the men are represented who he is all are represented as what he is, how he is, even the who at times represent his heritage but these what, how represent his masculinity but the only who he is represent his Mannity, his own self without a mask he shows up with his own face to this pseudo constructive society, here Marimuthu was trapped by the norms of marriage at a point he couldn't think rationally that marriage is the only solution for all his problems like he strongly believed if he married his life will be settled, all his property would be shared by his cousins equally and he would benefit a lot for that marriage is the only solution but at a point when he faced the harsh reality that he couldn't find a soul partner to him he couldn't bear it he consider it as a lower self of himself which made him to attempt a suicide. This narration could sound strange but when we critically analyze these segments of this character we could clearly distinguish the difference between the masculinity and the mannity. It sharply depict Marimuthu was forced to be hold the term masculinity through the process called marriage, that to in the same caste and well rich family, these norms clearly depict the pattern of marriage where it's one of the stage to represent one of the hegemony masculinity. There was a situation where Marimuthu had the chance to escape from the loop like changing his occupation, marrying Saroja an outcaste girl due to his family reputation and restrictions Marimuthu gave up all sort of his chances these instances clearly depict the traps for masculinity. Mannity is not found in Marimuthu, he couldn't be himself, like he likes to ride his bullet due to one of the marriage brokers suggestion he changed his bike, left his habit of having toddy and his appearance he was not able to be himself, the stereotype here is Marimuthu tried to impress his environment this is the social constructiveness of the masculinity where a man need to be the donor always if anything is done to them then its consider as a sin because the society has seen and set a patterned that a man need be a hunter, build his kingdom, need to be vulnerable and fight and should have a power then only he could hold the status called masculinity.

At the end, most of the men like Marimuthu are in the trap and in the race to hold the status of masculinity without knowing their own purpose. But in the character Nallayan from the novel *one part women* he truly justify the definition of Mannity though his society called him rugged, useless and so on ill about him, he never cares about it because he knows who he is and he clearly understand what is life and define the trap of social constructiveness to the Kali, who is the protagonist in the novel *one part women*.

Through the definitions and the deconstructiveness of the trap Nallayan's mannity is vivid in this novel. Kali who longs for a child in his twelve years of marriage life and consider himself as impotent, but Nallayan who's fifty four, unmarried and he has his own land but he never do cultivation which is a sin according to his community he breaks the constructiveness, the traps with his rational thinking and he explore all the villages learn lots of culture, food, and have a good contact with all kinds of people but Kali just opposite to Nallayan he enclose himself to his barn, his field he never step out of his barn because his community, friends circle even a stranger, casually questions about a child which indirectly questions Kali's masculinity.

This makes Kali to feel like a subjugated one which he couldn't bear it on other hand when he came to that his wife Ponna had betrayed him and went to the chariot festival breaks him down because Kali was cultivated in the pattern like Marimuthu, a man need to guard his family, his community and need to be good leader, and need to marry and need to produce kid which then only reflect his masculinity. There is a universal statement that feminine are considered as birth giving machine they are used as a machines but none of the universal or even stately matters didn't made a statement that men always need not to the bread winner, though its wisely cultivating now in this era but too it questions masculinity that only a man should be the bread winner always not the women where is the equality if anyone break the pattern they are portrayed as a villain or started to question the gender.

This is what the scenario faced by the Kali, if he couldn't able to give a life to the new ones then his masculinity is been questioned, though Kali is good in his occupation taking care of his family, earning good and being a bread winner for his family that is not consider by the patterned social constructiveness because none of their



norms should be left over , if so that would be the thread which makes the man to trap again in their loop, and these men in order to hold the standards of masculinity they start to run the race.

### Conclusion

In this case Nallayan was one who evolved ethically, emotionally, socially and he was the one who negotiates identity beyond the rigid expectations of patriarchal. Where all other characters like Marimuthu, Kali were trapped and often projected them as a socially prescribed male roles but Nallayan who foregrounds the humane, adaptive, relational and transformative dimensions of being a man.

When men came to know they couldn't fulfill the norms of the masculinity it automatically subjugate them into the stage called mutation. Because they couldn't answer the questions which are raised by the society if they reply to the norms means in other hand it would question their masculinity, which makes them to forget or question their manly in them. Many men like to live a life for themselves either to the extreme level which leads to the domination of power and titled as a hegemonic masculinity, another extreme of hegemonic masculinity is toxic masculinity, hyper masculinity but none of the theorist was not able to fill the research gap why it had evolved they would answer it due to the social constructiveness yes but the reason for this social constructiveness is not answered but in this research paper by analyzing through the characters it depict that this pseudo society need men rather than women because men can be easily manipulated so that they could create a prophet, politician, king and so on because this pattern had already ruined and till now continuing and it would pass through generation by generations in order to hold the race in the name of masculinity.

Due to these almost eighty six percent men had muted their manly and start to project their masculinity which is always hold the standard of holding the power and leads to the war, destructions and so on. Nallayan due to his exposure with other culture and communicating with different kinds of people like some are from different locations their culture, food, occupation, language the way of seeing people evolved his manly in him though he is unmarried he didn't worry about his last days upto him living a life without disturbing others nature his ethical view of life and able to adapt himself a luminous for the

Kali's life depict his manly than his masculinity. To be single need to be more courageous.

Rather than trapping oneself in the loop.

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