

Sherry Sabbarwal

Vocabulary:

Quantity

- A profusion of feminist work
- The blooming of feminist theory
- A range of political opinions

Nouns:

- Inquiry → e.g. women as a valid object of inquiry
- Intellectual endeavor
- Basis, bedrock
- Inaccessible language
- Pledge
- Erudition, expertise

Useful verbs:

- Explicate
- Raise, investigate, discuss
- Rectify (e.g. – rectify the gender imbalance), remedy (the situation)
- Regard as
- Neglect, reject, negate
- Coincide with
- Focus on, be concerned with
- Cease – e.g. cease to exist
- Abandon
- Trivialize
- Range from ... to

Adjectives:

- Scholastic
- Essential
- Idiosyncratic
- Resourceful
- Profound – e.g. profound contradictions (e.g. as a synonym to real problems)

Feminist terminology (and language used in social sciences relating to oppressed minorities)

- Male-stream
- Sex/gender
- Oppression, the plight of the oppressed
- Dichotomous divisions
- The politics of retreat
- Transformation of theory into practice
- Grassroots organizations

- Femocrat
- Suppressed woman, subjugated woman
- Agenda
- Embodied theory, situated knowledge, politics of location
- Periphery/center dichotomy
- Armchair feminist

Questions to discuss:

- 1) How does she define feminism/s? Why plural?
- 2) What waves does she outline?
 - a. In what sense does she use the word “sexual”?
- 3) Why launch Women’s Studies programs? How does she describe the history of the initiative? How do you react to it? Why not just Human Studies? Is there a need for a “woman’s point of view”? Why/not? What was the criticism towards Women’s Studies from a feminist perspective?
- 4) What is the third wave/post-feminism? What are the grounds for its critique?
- 5) Personal is Political – a feminist slogan. What does it mean?
- 6) What is the conundrum of universal perspectives vs. speaking on behalf of a group, only if one belongs to the group in question? How does it relate to “woman’s voice”/“women’s voices”?
- 7) How does she characterize a feminist academic and what are the dilemmas?
 - a. E.g. – p. 275 – theory vs. practice – is it a valid consideration?
 - b. “The question which arises then is what exactly is the role of the feminist academic professional (and all feminist professionals in general)? Is it that of the metropolitan cultured radical or is it 'just a job in the public sector' (Wise 1997)?” (276)