CRITIQUING THE INTERSECTIONAL EXPERIENCES OF WOMEN IN *A THOUSAND SPLENDID SUNS*

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ABSTRACT

Intersectionality is a theoretical tool that primarily studies the interconnections of structures of domination and oppression, the interactions between these structures, and how these interconnections and interactions influence the lives of those who cross-identify between these structures. This theory was propounded by Kimberlé Crenshaw in her brilliant essay "Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex: A Black Feminist Critique of Antidiscrimination Doctrine, Feminist Theory, and Antiracist Politics" (1989). The present paper seeks to offer an understanding of the intersections between various forms or systems of domination and oppression, and social inequality and discrimination faced by the female characters of the novel, A Thousand Splendid Suns. It examines different viewpoints through the framework of intersectionality, which asserts that social identity is a feature of various, interlinked factors like gender, race, or ethnicity, and the linkage of such aspects of social identity with broader social power systems, thereby becoming the way of demonstrating the miserable predicament of female characters in the present text. A Thousand Splendid Suns written by one of the popular writers, Khaled Hosseini depicts the social positions of the female characters, more so Mariam and Laila, based on the social identities of their gender, class, and ethnicity. Thus, this paper seeks to analyse the interactions and intersections affecting the livelihoods of the female protagonists of the novel within the theoretical framework of intersectionality.

KEYWORDS: Intersectionality, Social location, Gender, Class, Discrimination, Oppression