



Breaking the Chains: Exploring Empowerment and Agency in Preeti Shenoy's *Rule Breakers*

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Abstract:

This research paper investigates the thematic core of Preeti Shenoy's Rule Breakers, focusing on the protagonist Veda's transformative journey from compliance to resistance within the rigid framework of Indian patriarchal norms. The study seeks to unravel the complexities of gender, identity, and agency as portrayed in the narrative.

Trans-Deconstruction Theory on Monism (T2M) provides a lens to deconstruct and subsequently reconstruct the binaries present in Veda's experiences, such as conformity vs. rebellion, individuality vs. societal expectations, and tradition vs. modernity. By revealing the inherent interconnectedness of these opposing forces, T2M showcases how they collectively influence Veda's progression toward self-realization and empowerment. This holistic approach challenges the traditional notion of binary oppositions, instead presenting Veda's journey as a dynamic and interdependent process of negotiation and growth.

The Theory of Interpretations (TI) enriches the analysis by embracing the multiplicity of meanings

embedded within Veda's choices, struggles, and victories. It highlights how her journey resonates across diverse contexts, offering feminist, existentialist, and socio-cultural readings. This multiplicity underscores the novel's layered critique of patriarchal systems while emphasizing Veda's individuality as a microcosm of broader societal challenges faced by women in contemporary India.

This study contributes significantly to feminist literary discourse by employing T2M and TI to analyze Shenoy's work, thus offering fresh insights into the resilience and agency of women navigating traditional frameworks. It illuminates how resistance is intricately tied to the very structures it seeks to dismantle, portraying empowerment as an ongoing and multifaceted process. Ultimately, the paper asserts that Rule Breakers transcends a simple feminist narrative, instead offering a richly textured exploration of gender dynamics and self-empowerment in Indian society.

Keywords: Gender, Patriarchy, Self-Empowerment, Trans-Deconstruction, Theory of Interpretations

