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## **AN ANALYTICAL APPROACH TO THE NOVELS ‘THE VILLAGE IN THE JUNGLE’ AND ‘THE WISE VIRGINS’ BY LEONARD WOOLF IN RELATION TO THE PORTRAYAL OF THE FEMALE FIGURE**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The role and identity of women are defined and conceptualized as the secondary negligible elements within the conventional superiority of the masculine social sphere. In consequence of the influential socio cultural and socio-political transformations (colonization, industrialization, World Wars, feminist movement etc.) the role and identity of women were defined, produced and reproduced. The study has focused on analyzing the capacity and effectiveness of each novel, ‘The Village in the Jungle’ and ‘The Wise Virgins’ to portray, produce, scrutinize and represent the feminine characters corresponding to their gender roles and identity within the related cultures, social contexts and inbuilt social concepts. The content analysis (conceptual analysis, relational analysis), discourse analysis and structural analysis are used in collecting and analyzing the relevant data and the theoretical perspectives of *Simon de Beauvoir* (‘*The second sex*’) and *Sigmund Freud*, (‘*Civilization and its Discontents*’,) are taken into thorough consideration. ‘The village in the jungle’ portrays the inner battle between the repressed female being and the dominating traditional requirements. The narrative reflects how women are made to be dependent on the masculine authority. ‘The Wise Virgins’ as a socio-political scrutiny of the feminist ideologies, is interpreted to be a questioning approach to the concepts of love, marriage, Victorian morality and feminine independence. The social awareness of the female figure as the object of desire, an element whose existence is validated for the erotic gratification of the male figure, is ironically questioned through the portrayal of female characters in the narrative. when critically analysing the two narratives, ‘The Village in the Jungle’ and ‘The Wise Virgins’ in relation to the portrayal of ‘feminine figure’ it can be asserted that the author could identify how the dominant masculine authority which established gender prejudices devalues the identity of women irrespective of her true nature and vitality whether it is Eastern or Western culture. Consequently, by comparatively portraying the conventionally fashioned feminine figure and intellectual, liberally thinking independent women Leonard Woolf through his novels could assert the fact that women cannot be devalued merely as the ‘objects of desire’ since the feminine figure plays an imperative role within the society.

**Keywords:** Woman, Identity, Independence, Social constrains, Masculine authority