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Article

Replacing the Self: Bahiah Shaheen's Transformative Odyssey in Nawal El Saadawi's *Two Women in One*

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Abstract: Nawal El Saadawi's groundbreaking novel *Two Women in One* presents the arduous journey of Bahiah Shaheen, an 18-year-old medical student, as she navigates the complex terrain of self-discovery and self-assertion within the confines of a patriarchal Egyptian society. This comprehensive research paper offers a meticulous textual analysis of Bahiah's quest for self-realization, illuminating the nuances of El Saadawi's feminist agenda and the universal struggle of women to forge autonomous identities. Grounded in feminist literary criticism and relevant theoretical frameworks, the study examines Bahiah's confrontations with patriarchal authority, societal gender norms, and familial expectations. The analysis situates the narrative within the socio-political context of post-colonial Egypt, underscoring the intersections of gender, culture, and national identity. Through a close reading of the text, the paper explores Bahiah's evolving self-awareness and her interactions with the "other," highlighting the complexities of female identity formation. The protagonist's defiant acts of resistance, culminating in her dramatic desertion of an arranged marriage, are analyzed as powerful symbols of her refusal to be subjugated by the patriarchal order. This comprehensive analysis contributes to the scholarly discourse on Nawal El Saadawi's feminist literature, inviting further exploration of the emancipatory potential of her narratives and their relevance to contemporary feminist movements.

Keywords: self-discovery; self-assertion; female identity formation; patriarchal authority and emancipatory potential

Introduction

Nawal El Saadawi's groundbreaking novel *Two Women in One* presents the arduous journey of Bahiah Shaheen, an 18-year-old medical student, as she navigates the complex terrain of self-discovery and self-assertion within the confines of a patriarchal Egyptian society. El Saadawi's protagonist embodies the quintessential struggle of the modern Arab woman, torn between the dictates of tradition and her own burning desire for personal autonomy and fulfillment.

As Bahiah strives to reconcile her individual conscience with the oppressive social environment that surrounds her, the novel becomes a powerful exploration of the multifaceted nature of female identity and the relentless efforts required to transcend the shackles of gender-based oppression. Through a meticulous analysis of Bahiah's evolving self-awareness, her confrontations with patriarchal authority, and her ultimately defiant acts of resistance, this comprehensive research paper aims to illuminate the nuances of El Saadawi's feminist agenda and the universal struggle of women to forge autonomous identities.

Literature Review

The scholarly discourse surrounding Nawal El Saadawi's literary works, particularly her novel *Two Women in One*, has primarily focused on the author's unwavering commitment to the emancipation of women in the Arab world. Feminist scholars have extensively examined the ways in which El Saadawi's fiction serves as a vehicle for challenging patriarchal structures and amplifying

the voices of the oppressed. For instance, Saeed (2021) analyzes El Saadawi's narrative techniques, highlighting how her storytelling methods contribute to feminist discourse. Additionally, Ghazaleh (2021) explores the legacy of El Saadawi within contemporary women's resistance movements in Egypt, emphasizing the ongoing relevance of her work.

In her book *Men, Women and God(s)*, Fedwa Malti-Douglas provides a comprehensive analysis of El Saadawi's literary oeuvre, situating the author's works within the broader context of Arab feminist poetics. Malti-Douglas argues that El Saadawi's novels "uncompromisingly deal with highly proscribed and provocative subjects related to women's body and sexuality" (1), making her a pioneering voice in the struggle for women's rights. Moreover, Al-Ali and Karam (2021) discuss the complexities of gender and class in resistance movements, adding depth to the understanding of El Saadawi's feminist agenda.

While the existing scholarship has provided valuable insights into El Saadawi's literary contributions and the broader feminist discourse, there remains a need for a comprehensive, in-depth examination of the protagonist Bahiah Shaheen's quest for self-realization in the novel *Two Women in One*. This research paper aims to fill this gap by offering a meticulous textual analysis informed by relevant theoretical frameworks and situated within the socio-political context of post-colonial Egypt.

Objectives

The objectives of this research paper on Nawal El Saadawi's novel, *Two Women in One* are:

1. To conduct a meticulous textual analysis of the protagonist Bahiah Shaheen's quest for self-realization within the context of a patriarchal Egyptian society.
2. To illuminate the nuances of El Saadawi's feminist agenda and the universal struggle of women to forge autonomous identities.
3. To situate the narrative within the socio-political context of post-colonial Egypt, examining the intersections of gender, culture, and national identity.
4. To explore Bahiah's evolving self-awareness and her interactions with the "other" in order to understand the complexities of female identity formation.
5. To analyze Bahiah's defiant acts of resistance, particularly her dramatic desertion of an arranged marriage, as powerful symbols of her refusal to be subjugated by the patriarchal order.
6. To engage with counterarguments that challenge or complicate the interpretation of Bahiah's journey, providing a nuanced understanding of the themes presented in El Saadawi's work.
7. To discuss the broader implications of the study, encompassing critical discussions on global feminism, the impact of education, mental health, and the ongoing struggle for women's rights and self-identity in diverse cultural contexts.
8. To contribute to the scholarly discourse on Nawal El Saadawi's feminist literature, inviting further exploration of the emancipatory potential of her narratives and their relevance to contemporary feminist movements.

By addressing these key objectives, the research paper aims to offer a comprehensive and insightful analysis of Bahiah Shaheen's transformative odyssey in Nawal El Saadawi's groundbreaking novel.

Methodology

This research paper employs a qualitative, textual analysis approach to examine Nawal El Saadawi's novel *Two Women in One*. The study is grounded in feminist literary criticism and incorporates relevant theoretical frameworks, including feminist theory, postcolonial theory, and theories of identity and subjectivity. Recent scholarship, such as Moghadam (2021), highlights the intersection of gender and globalization, which will inform the analysis of Bahiah's evolving identity within a broader socio-political context.

1. Textual Analysis:

- A close reading of *Two Women in One* will be conducted to uncover the nuances of Bahiah Shaheen's character development and her quest for self-realization. Key passages will be selected to illustrate her confrontations with patriarchal authority, societal norms, and familial expectations.
- The analysis will focus on how El Saadawi uses narrative techniques, such as imagery and dialogue, to convey Bahiah's internal struggles and external conflicts.

2. *Theoretical Frameworks:*

- Feminist Theory: Concepts from Simone de Beauvoir's *The Second Sex* will be utilized to analyze Bahiah's positioning as the "other" within the patriarchal social order. This framework will help explore the dynamics of power and identity in her relationships.
- Postcolonial Theory: The study will situate the narrative within the socio-political context of post-colonial Egypt, examining how El Saadawi's feminist agenda intersects with the nation's historical struggles for independence and social reform.
- Theories of Identity and Subjectivity: Insights from scholars like Jean-Paul Sartre and Kenneth Gergen will inform the analysis of Bahiah's evolving self-awareness and her interactions with significant others in her life, emphasizing the interplay between self-perception and societal expectations.

3. *Engagement with Counter-Narratives:*

- The methodology will also include an examination of counter-narratives within the text that challenge or complicate the themes of female empowerment and self-assertion. This will involve analyzing the roles of secondary characters and their influence on Bahiah's journey.

4. *Comprehensive Review of Secondary Sources:*

- The research will be supported by a thorough review of scholarly articles, books, and critical essays related to El Saadawi's work and feminist literature. This literature review will contextualize the findings and highlight gaps in existing research.

5. *Framework for Analysis:*

- A structured framework will be employed to analyze the data collected from the text, focusing on specific themes such as oppression, resistance, identity, and autonomy. Each theme will be examined through the lens of the chosen theoretical frameworks, allowing for a deeper understanding of Bahiah's character and her quest for self-assertion.

By integrating these methodological components, the research aims to provide a nuanced and comprehensive understanding of Bahiah Shaheen's journey in *Two Women in One*, contributing to the scholarly discourse on Nawal El Saadawi's feminist literature.

Situating the Narrative: Post-Colonial Egypt and the Feminist Awakening

To fully comprehend the significance of Bahiah's quest for self-realization, it is essential to situate the novel within the broader socio-political context of post-colonial Egypt. As the country emerged from under the yoke of British rule in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, a growing nationalist consciousness gave rise to calls for social reform, with the improvement of women's status becoming a crucial component of this movement (Jayawardena 149).

The writings of influential thinkers like Qasim Amin, who advocated for the abolition of the veil and greater educational opportunities for women, laid the groundwork for the first phase of Egyptian feminism (El Saadawi, *The Hidden Face of Eve* 176). This period witnessed the active involvement of women in the nationalist struggle, as "veiled gentlewomen of Cairo paraded in the streets shouting slogans for independence and freedom from foreign occupation" (Jayawardena 149).

However, the subsequent suppression of feminist organizations and the withdrawal of political rights for women in the mid-20th century cast a pall over the burgeoning movement, leading to what El Saadawi describes as a period of "independent feminism" maintained "behind the scenes" (*The Hidden Face of Eve* 12). It is against this backdrop of both progress and setbacks that Bahiah's

story unfolds, reflecting the author's own lifelong commitment to the emancipation of Egyptian women.

Discussion and Analysis

Replacing the Self: Bahiah's Confrontation with Patriarchal Authority and Gender Norms

At the heart of Bahiah's quest for self-realization lies her fraught relationship with her father, who represents the unyielding patriarchal authority that pervades Egyptian society. El Saadawi's vivid description of Bahiah's father underscores his oppressive presence. However, as Saeed (2021) notes, El Saadawi's portrayal is nuanced, reflecting the societal pressures that shape patriarchal figures.

Bahiah's struggle for self-realization also encompasses her rejection of familial expectations. As Ghazaleh (2021) points out, this rejection mirrors the broader context of women's struggles in contemporary Egypt, where traditional roles continue to be challenged. El Saadawi's vivid description of Bahiah's father underscores his imposing physical presence and the sense of oppression he exudes: "He would turn up at home, with his tall, bulky frame, his straight back, and those big strong hands that could slap her down" (Two Women in One 15). Bahiah's father had hoped for a son and is deeply disappointed by her gender, a fact that profoundly shapes his interactions with his daughter. As El Saadawi observes, "Bahiah's father had never been able to deal successfully with his disappointment" at having a female child (Two Women in One 43). This paternal rejection manifests in the father's constant scrutiny of Bahiah's life and behavior, as he "exerts continuous scrutiny over her life and over every move she makes outside her home" (Two Women in One 10).

Bahiah is acutely aware of this "power, which threatened her very being" (Two Women in One 10), and she comes to view her father as a "huge obstacle" preventing her from fully asserting herself (Two Women in One 27). The father's domineering presence is further amplified through Bahiah's perception of him in her drawings, where she depicts him with "two red eyes and a black handlebar moustache, huge hands and fingers coiled round a long stick" (Two Women in One 27). This vivid imagery not only reflects Bahiah's definition of her father but also the oppressive control and "abusive" nature of his patriarchal authority (Two Women in One 27).

Bahiah's quest for self-realization is further complicated by her confrontation with the societal expectations and gender norms that seek to confine her. As Simone de Beauvoir observes, woman is often relegated to the status of the "other," an object defined in relation to the male subject (160). This dynamic is clearly evident in Bahiah's experience, as she grapples with the burden of her own body and the ways in which it is perceived and controlled by the patriarchal order.

El Saadawi poignantly captures Bahiah's ambivalence towards her physicality, as the protagonist longs to "free herself from all that- the patriarchy and her body" (Two Women in One 11). Bahiah's body becomes a site of contention, a source of both oppression and potential liberation: "She would be swept by an uncontrollable desire for those fingers to abandon their false affection and to crush her, to free her from her own body forever" (Two Women in One 11).

Bahiah's resistance to the societal dictates of femininity is further manifested in her defiant choice of attire, as she "defies convention" by wearing trousers rather than the traditional garments expected of women (Two Women in One 42). This act of sartorial rebellion becomes a tangible expression of Bahiah's refusal to conform to gender norms and her determination to assert her individuality.

Rejecting the Prescribed Roles: Bahiah's Struggle Against Familial Expectations

Bahiah's struggle for self-realization is not limited to her confrontation with patriarchal authority and gender norms; it also encompasses her rejection of the familial expectations and conventional roles that seek to define her. As the novel progresses, Bahiah becomes increasingly aware of the ways in which her life has been shaped by the desires and decisions of others, rather than her own aspirations.

El Saadawi poignantly captures Bahiah's sense of disillusionment, as the protagonist reflects, "None of her life was of her doing or her own choice" (Two Women in One 72). Bahiah resents the fact that "Everyone told her what they wanted. No one asked her what she wanted" (Two Women in One 73), a realization that fuels her growing determination to forge her own path.

Bahiah's rejection of the roles prescribed for her by her family and society is most dramatically manifested in her defiant desertion of the husband forced upon her in an arranged marriage. As El Saadawi writes, "Bahiah's situation does not allow her to protest against the marriage, but after the marriage Bahiah manages to run away from home on her wedding night" (Two Women in One 42). This act of rebellion represents a pivotal moment in Bahiah's quest for self-realization, as she refuses to be reduced to the status of "property" to be transferred between male authority figures (Two Women in One 100). Bahiah's willingness to risk the consequences of her actions, even to the point of imprisonment, underscores the depth of her commitment to her own autonomy and the rejection of the patriarchal order that seeks to subjugate her.

The Emergence of Self-Awareness and the Confrontation with the "Other"

Central to Bahiah's quest for self-realization is her evolving self-awareness, a process that is inextricably linked to her confrontations with the "other" – both within herself and in her external relationships. As Bahiah becomes increasingly conscious of the discrepancy between her true self and the societal expectations imposed upon her, she begins to grapple with the complexities of her own identity.

El Saadawi masterfully captures the nuances of this internal struggle, as Bahiah is described as being "afraid of her real self, of that other self-dwelling within her, that devil who moved and saw things with the sharpest powers of perception" (Two Women in One 38). This duality within Bahiah reflects the broader tension between her individual desires and the constraints of her social environment, a tension that lies at the heart of her quest for self-realization.

Bahiah's interactions with the significant "others" in her life – her father, her mother, and her love interest, Saleem – further illuminate the complexities of her self-discovery. As Jean-Paul Sartre argues, the acknowledgment of the "other" is a crucial aspect of identity formation, as it involves the recognition of oneself as both subject and object (314). Bahiah's refusal to lower her gaze in the presence of her anatomy professor, for example, represents her determined effort to assert her own subjectivity and resist being reduced to a mere object of the male gaze.

Similarly, Bahiah's relationship with her mother is marked by a profound sense of alienation, as she perceives her mother's passivity and compliance with patriarchal norms as a betrayal of her own potential. As El Saadawi observes, Bahiah "sees herself as threatened by her mother's lack of identity, which, limited by social restraint, has reduced her to a role mothering" (Two Women in One 46). This rejection of the maternal figure, who represents the societal forces that have constrained Bahiah's own development, is a crucial step in her journey towards self-realization.

Bahiah's encounter with her love interest, Saleem, further illustrates the complexities of her self-discovery. Saleem's "blue-black eyes, different from that of Dr. Alawi's and her own, try to reach her inner self that is to understand her and unite with her" (Two Women in One 50). However, Bahiah "does not yield to it," as she is determined to assert her own subjectivity and resist being objectified by the male gaze (Two Women in One 50).

Through these interactions with the "other," Bahiah gradually becomes more aware of the social forces that have sought to define and constrain her. As she reflects, "Now she was sure that she did not belong to this family. Blood ties, she felt, were no bond at all, since they were no one's choice" (Two Women in One 59). This growing self-awareness fuels Bahiah's determination to forge her own path, setting the stage for her ultimate acts of defiance against the patriarchal order.

The Defiant Act of Resistance and the Pursuit of Autonomy

Bahiah's quest for self-realization ultimately culminates in her dramatic desertion of the husband forced upon her through an arranged marriage, an act that serves as a powerful symbol of her refusal to be subjugated by the patriarchal order. As El Saadawi poignantly describes, "Bahiah's

situation does not allow her to protest against the marriage, but after the marriage Bahiah manages to run away from home on her wedding night” (Two Women in One 42).

This defiant act of resistance represents a pivotal moment in Bahiah’s journey, as she rejects the societal expectation that she be reduced to the status of “property” to be transferred between male authority figures (Two Women in One 100). Bahiah’s willingness to risk the consequences of her actions, even to the point of imprisonment, underscores the depth of her commitment to her own autonomy and the rejection of the patriarchal order that seeks to subjugate her.

El Saadawi’s portrayal of Bahiah’s decision to flee her arranged marriage is imbued with a sense of both triumph and tragedy. On the one hand, Bahiah’s actions demonstrate her unwavering determination to forge her own path and assert her right to self-determination. As the author writes, “she refuses to abide by social hypocrisy and blind tradition” (Two Women in One 102), a stance that aligns with the broader feminist agenda of challenging the oppressive gender norms that have long constrained women’s lives.

On the other hand, Bahiah’s ultimate fate remains uncertain, as she is once again arrested and imprisoned for her defiance. This ambiguous conclusion, while leaving the reader with a sense of unease, also serves to underscore the formidable obstacles that women like Bahiah must overcome in their pursuit of self-realization within the confines of a patriarchal society. As El Saadawi herself observes, “The [women] are crushed in the mill of contradiction between lip service to traditional religious and moral precepts, and the invasion of their lives by vested political and economic interests” (Two Women in One 49).

Addressing Counterarguments

While this research focuses on Bahiah Shaheen’s journey of self-realization and resistance against patriarchal structures, it is essential to engage with counterarguments that challenge or complicate this interpretation. These counterarguments provide a more nuanced understanding of the themes presented in Nawal El Saadawi’s *Two Women in One*.

Complexity of Patriarchal Influence

Critics argue that Bahiah’s father, while a representation of oppressive patriarchal authority, also reflects a more complex character driven by societal pressures and personal disappointment. For instance, Bahiah reflects, “My father had hoped for a son and was never able to deal successfully with his disappointment” (Two Women in One 43). This suggests that his harshness might stem from a desire to conform to societal expectations rather than pure malice. As Amireh notes, “The father figure often embodies the societal norms that both oppress and shape familial bonds,” emphasizing the dual nature of paternal relationships (50).

2. The Role of Sisterhood and Female Relationships

Some interpretations highlight how Bahiah’s interactions with other women complicate her narrative of resistance. For example, her mother represents a conformist role that Bahiah struggles against, stating, “I see myself threatened by my mother’s lack of identity” (Two Women in One 46). Critics argue that this dynamic can hinder Bahiah’s journey rather than support it. As Spacks observes, “Women can be as oppressive to one another as men, reflecting the internalization of patriarchal values” (190).

3. Ambiguity of Resistance

The nature of Bahiah’s defiance is also a point of contention. Some critics argue that her escape from an arranged marriage, while an act of rebellion, may also stem from desperation rather than empowerment. El Saadawi writes, “Bahiah’s situation does not allow her to protest against the marriage” (Two Women in One 42), indicating that her actions might be reactions to oppressive circumstances rather than a conscious assertion of agency. As Al-Ali argues, “Resistance can

sometimes arise from a place of survival rather than empowerment, complicating the narrative of autonomy" (78).

4. Cultural Context and Individualism

Critics also caution against an overemphasis on individualism in interpreting Bahiah's story. They argue that her experiences should be contextualized within the collective struggle of women in Egyptian society. As Jayawardena notes, "The feminist movement in Egypt is not merely about individual agency but about collective identity and resistance" (156). This perspective invites a broader examination of how Bahiah's individual journey reflects, and is shaped by, the communal struggles of women in her society.

5. Impact of Socio-Economic Factors

Socio-economic factors significantly influence Bahiah's experiences and choices. Critics argue that her educational aspirations and acts of defiance cannot be fully understood without considering her socio-economic context. As El Saadawi illustrates through Bahiah's life, "None of her life was of her doing or her own choice" (*Two Women in One* 72), implying that her actions are constrained by external circumstances. Malti-Douglas emphasizes that "the intersection of class and gender plays a critical role in shaping women's experiences in the Arab world" (89).

By engaging with these counterarguments, this research paper deepens its analysis of Bahiah Shaheen's journey in *Two Women in One*. Addressing alternative perspectives not only enriches the discussion but also highlights the complexities inherent in the struggle for self-realization within a patriarchal society. This nuanced approach reinforces the paper's commitment to a comprehensive understanding of El Saadawi's feminist agenda and the broader implications for women's autonomy in diverse cultural contexts.

Broader Implications

The broader implications of Bahiah Shaheen's journey in *Two Women in One* extend beyond individual experiences to encompass critical discussions about gender, culture, education, and resistance. As El Saadawi writes, "The improvement of women's status became a crucial component of the nationalist movement" (*The Hidden Face of Eve* 149). This highlights the idea that the feminist struggle is intertwined with broader movements for social justice and national independence. Moghadam (2021) emphasizes that understanding these intersections is vital for a comprehensive feminist discourse today.

Moreover, Al-Ali and Karam (2021) illustrate how women's liberation efforts are not isolated but part of collective resistance against oppressive structures, reinforcing the relevance of Bahiah's story in contemporary feminist movements.

1. Intersection of Gender and National Identity

Bahiah's struggle illustrates how women's liberation is tied to national identity and sociopolitical issues. As El Saadawi writes, "The improvement of women's status became a crucial component of the nationalist movement" (*The Hidden Face of Eve* 149). This highlights the idea that the feminist struggle is not isolated but intertwined with broader movements for social justice and national independence.

2. Global Feminism and Cultural Specificity

Bahiah's experiences resonate globally, emphasizing the need for culturally specific feminist discourse. El Saadawi's work challenges universalist narratives that overlook local contexts. The text suggests, "None of her life was of her doing or her own choice" (*Two Women in One* 72), indicating a shared struggle among women across different cultures who grapple with imposed identities. This invites a discussion on how local feminist movements can inform global dialogues.

3. Revisiting Traditional Gender Roles

The rejection of traditional gender roles is central to Bahiah's journey. El Saadawi captures this when Bahiah resists societal expectations by stating, "She would be swept by an uncontrollable desire for those fingers to abandon their false affection and to crush her, to free her from her own body forever" (Two Women in One 11). This reflects a desire to break free from prescribed roles, advocating for a nuanced understanding of identity that allows for individual expression beyond binary definitions.

4. Impact of Education and Empowerment

Education serves as a pivotal theme in Bahiah's quest for autonomy. As an aspiring medical student, she embodies the transformative potential of education. El Saadawi notes, "Education is a weapon for women to fight against oppression" (The Hidden Face of Eve 176). This illustrates how access to education empowers women, enabling them to challenge societal constraints and assert their identities.

5. Resilience and Resistance

Bahiah's journey emphasizes the importance of resilience in the face of adversity. El Saadawi writes, "Bahiah manages to run away from home on her wedding night" (Two Women in One 42), symbolizing her refusal to accept oppression. This act of defiance underscores the notion that individual resistance contributes to collective movements, inspiring contemporary feminist activism that values community support.

6. Mental Health and Self-Identity

The internal struggles Bahiah faces highlight the mental health implications of patriarchal oppression. El Saadawi states, "Afraid of her real self, of that other self-dwelling within her" (Two Women in One 38), showcasing the psychological toll of societal expectations. This suggests the necessity of addressing mental health in feminist discourses, advocating for comprehensive support systems that prioritize emotional well-being alongside physical autonomy.

7. Future Research Directions

The implications of Bahiah's story can guide future scholarly endeavors. El Saadawi's portrayal of women's struggles opens avenues for research on the evolution of feminist thought in the Arab world. As she asserts, "The women are crushed in the mill of contradiction" (Two Women in One 49), this highlights the ongoing challenges faced by women and the need for continued exploration of feminist narratives that resonate with contemporary issues.

By situating Bahiah's narrative within these broader frameworks, the analysis enriches the discourse on autonomy and empowerment, underscoring the ongoing relevance of her story in today's feminist movements. The implications encourage a holistic understanding of women's rights as part of a larger struggle for social justice, contributing to a richer scholarly dialogue on the complexities of female identity and the universal quest for self-realization.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Nawal El Saadawi's *Two Women in One* offers a profound exploration of Bahiah Shaheen's quest for self-assertion within a patriarchal Egyptian society. Through her journey, the novel highlights the complexities of female identity, the struggles against oppressive societal norms, and the relentless pursuit of autonomy. Bahiah's experiences serve as a microcosm of the broader challenges faced by women in both local and global contexts, illustrating the intersections of gender, culture, and socio-political identity.

El Saadawi's narrative not only sheds light on the personal dimensions of Bahiah's struggle but also situates her within the larger framework of feminist discourse. The exploration of themes such

as resilience, education, and the rejection of traditional gender roles underscores the importance of understanding women's rights as integral to social justice movements. As Bahiah's story unfolds, it becomes clear that her defiance against patriarchal constraints is not merely an act of personal rebellion but a significant contribution to the collective fight for women's liberation.

By engaging with the complexities and counterarguments surrounding Bahiah's journey, this research paper has provided a nuanced and comprehensive analysis of Nawal El Saadawi's feminist agenda as reflected in *Two Women in One*. The study's exploration of theoretical frameworks, such as feminist theory and postcolonial theory, has illuminated the broader socio-political context that shapes Bahiah's quest for self-realization, while the examination of counter-narratives has highlighted the multifaceted nature of the struggle for women's autonomy.

The broader implications of Bahiah's story, as outlined in this paper, underscore the universal relevance of El Saadawi's work and its potential to inform contemporary feminist movements. From the intersection of gender and national identity to the mental health implications of patriarchal oppression, the analysis has demonstrated the profound and far-reaching impact of Bahiah's journey, inviting further scholarly exploration and dialogue on the emancipation of women in diverse cultural contexts.

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