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# An Exploration of Feminine aspects in Mahesh Elkunchwar's Sonata

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**ABSTRACT:** *Sonata* deeply explores into the lives of these three friends who are seemingly lost. Dolon and Aruna have been in the same flat for the past seventeen years. Yet it is quite evident that they have been continuously rejecting each other. There are a few reasons behind it. Dolon with her dazzling and spirited character on the exterior is but a buried loneliness in the interior. She becomes the symbol of those contemporary women living the very kind of life which is multiple within its singular existence. On the other hand, Aruna, who has been psychologically hurt by her lover, is a reserved sulky school teacher and symbolizes such women who are never at balance and blame all men for the miseries and suppression of the whole women folk. We find another type through Subhadra. She is the third woman who conceals the reality that she is tortured and physically assaulted by her pro-masculine lover. She is dissatisfied to the core, but tries to project herself as the utmost happy woman of the world. Thus she symbolizes the women, who, under no situation can think of living without a male counterpart. These kinds of women, in spite of all the tortures keep returning to their oppressive male partners rather than risking a safe and descent life alone. So a sense of multiplicity runs through the difference of their characters.

**KEYWORDS** – feminine aspects , dazzling and spirited character – Dolon , psychologically hurt by her lover and never at her balanced– Aruna , concealer of reality tortured and physically assaulted by her pro- masculine lover – Subhadra , happy woman of the world , oppressive male partners , descent life , multiplicity.

Mahesh Elkunchwar's play totally revolves around the main theme FEMINISM. In this play writer has described that how 3 single working women from different fields live together with full freedom and live a life of solidary. This play also depicts friendship among the three women as they 3 live together in the same flat. It was originally directed and produced in English (rather than Marathi) by Amal Allana. Mahesh Elkunchwar is an acclaimed Indian playwright and theater director. Born on October 9, 1939, in Nagpur, Maharashtra, India, Elkunchwar is known for his significant contributions to Indian theater. He has been an influential figure in the Marathi theater scene and has written numerous plays that explore social, political, and cultural issues. Elkunchwar's works often delve into the complexities of human relationships, societal norms, and the struggles faced by individuals in a changing world. His plays are known for their realistic portrayal of characters and their exploration of themes such as gender, class, power dynamics, and personal identity. Some of his notable plays include "Wada Chirebandi," "Garbo," "Party," "Holi," and "Yatanaghar." These plays have been widely performed and critically acclaimed for their thought-provoking content and nuanced Storytelling. Mahesh Elkunchwar has received several prestigious awards and honors for his contributions to theater, including the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, the Sahitya Akademi Award, and the Padma Shri, one of the highest civilian honors in India. His work continues to be studied, performed, and appreciated by theater enthusiasts and scholars both in India and internationally. Women's liberation is a social and political development that supporters for the equivalent freedoms, open doors, and portrayal of ladies. It tries to challenge and destroy the fundamental mistreatment and segregation looked by ladies in light of their orientation. Women's liberation plans to accomplish orientation equity by resolving different issues, for example, conceptive privileges, equivalent compensation, admittance to training and medical care, portrayal in legislative issues and administrative roles, and fighting orientation based brutality. Feminism strives to build a society that is more just and eq uitable for people of all genders while acknowledging that gender inequality is deeply rooted in social, cultural, and ec onomic institutions. The goal of feminist activists and academics is to confront and alter society norms and expectations that restrict and marginalize women. They do this through promoting aware ness of and critique of gender roles, stereotypes, and preju dices. It's critical to remember that feminism is a broad mo vement with many branches and viewpoints, including libe ral, radical, intersectional, and ecofeminism. "Sonata" is a play written by Mahesh Elkunchwar that was first performed in 2000. It revolves around the lives of three women who are friends and explores their experiences, relationships, and personal journeys. While "Sonata" primarily focuses on the lives of these female characters, it is important to note that it does not necessarily present a straightforward depiction of "feminine



aspects" in the traditional sense. Instead, it offers complex and nuanced portrayals of women and their individuality. In "Sonata," the characters of Aruna, Dolon, and Subhadra are multi-dimensional and distinct. They represent different perspectives, aspirations, and struggles that women may encounter in their lives. The play delves into their personal stories, relationships, desires, and challenges, showcasing their agency and individuality. One of the central themes explored in "Sonata" is the idea of independence and self-discovery. The play highlights how these women navigate societal expectations, personal ambitions, and the complexities of their relationships. It portrays their efforts to find fulfillment, freedom, and a sense of self amidst the pressures and constraints they face.

While "Sonata" does not explicitly focus on stereotypical feminine aspects, it offers a rich exploration of the lives and experiences of its female characters. It delves into their emotional journeys, friendships, desires, and vulnerabilities, allowing the audience to engage with a multifaceted portrayal of women's lives. Some of the prominent themes in "Sonata" include:

- Female Friendship:** "Sonata" delves into the deep bond of friendship among women. The play portrays the complex dynamics, shared memories, and emotional support among the three central characters. It explores how their friendship evolves over time and how they navigate their personal struggles together.
- Individuality and Identity:** The play highlights the individual journeys and identities of the three women. Each character has her own distinct personality, desires, and conflicts. "Sonata" delves into their exploration of self-identity and the challenges they face in reconciling their personal aspirations with societal expectations.
- Independence and Autonomy:** Elkunchwar explores the theme of independence and autonomy in "Sonata." The characters strive for independence in various aspects of their lives, whether it's in their careers, relationships, or personal choices. The play examines the societal constraints and expectations placed upon women and their quest for personal freedom.
- Loneliness and Desires:** The characters in "Sonata" also grapple with feelings of loneliness and unfulfilled desires. They reflect on their choices, relationships, and the compromises they have made in life. The play delves into the human longing for connection, intimacy, and a sense of purpose.
- Time and Aging:** Elkunchwar portrays the passage of time and the impact of aging on the characters' lives. "Sonata" explores the changing perspectives, regrets, and contemplations that come with getting older. It reflects on how time affects relationships and the different stages of life. These themes intertwine throughout the play, offering a nuanced exploration of female friendships, personal growth, and the complexities of life.

Elkunchwar's "Sonata" provides a platform to examine the intricacies of womanhood and the human experience. "Sonata" is a play written by Mahesh Elkunchwar. It revolves around the lives and friendship of three middle-aged women living in Mumbai, India. The play explores their individual journeys, their shared experiences, and their perspectives on life. The three protagonists, Aruna, Dolon, and Subhadra, are friends who come from diverse backgrounds and have different personalities. Through their conversations and interactions, the play delves into their personal struggles, desires, and aspirations. "Sonata" takes place over the course of an evening when the three women reunite at Aruna's apartment. As they reminisce about their past and discuss their present circumstances, the play delves into various themes such as identity, loneliness, societal expectations, and the choices individuals make in life. Through the interactions and dialogues among the characters, Elkunchwar captures the essence of friendship, explores the multidimensional nature of womanhood, and raises questions about societal expectations and personal fulfillment. Overall, "Sonata" is a poignant and introspective play that offers insights into the lives of women, their aspirations, and the complexities of their relationships. I would like to conclude my project by stating that this play clearly explore the feminine aspects as we can clearly see in the play about the three women who live together belonging to different fields and enjoy full freedom and solidarity. Conclusion of "Sonata" is open-ended and leaves room for interpretation. Throughout the play, the characters share their joys, sorrows, dreams, and vulnerabilities, revealing their individual journeys and the evolving dynamics of their friendship. The play presents a realistic portrayal of the complexities of human emotions and the multifaceted nature of friendship. "Sonata" serves as a reflection on the lives of women in contemporary society, their aspirations, desires, and struggles. It invites the audience to consider the various roles and expectations placed on women and to contemplate the choices and sacrifices they make in pursuit of their own happiness and fulfillment. Overall, the conclusion of "Sonata" leaves the audience with a sense of introspection and encourages them to ponder the complexities of human relationships, personal identity, and the pursuit of happiness in a changing world.

movie – Sonata , Aparna Sen , 2017 plAy – Sonata , Leesa Gazi , 2008-2010, Sonata , Mukul Ahmed, 2008 reseArch pAper [27-29 BRAHMJOT KAUR.pdf \(ijelr.in\)](#) .A reflection of the inner strife in selected plays of Mahesh Elkunchwar by Brahmajot Kaur , 2020. Themes- Feminism in Sonata play by Mahesh Elkunchwar.



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