



University of Zabol

Graduate School

Faculty of Literature and Humanities

Department of Arabic Language and Literature

**Master's Thesis**

**In the field of Arabic Language and Literature**

**Comparative Analysis of Women's**

**Assertiveness in the Novels "Memoirs of a**

**Woman Doctor" by Nawal El Saadawi and "We**

**Get Used to It" by Zoya Pirzad**

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## Abstract

Psychological criticism is considered one of the main branches of literary criticism, and among the practical topics of this type of criticism, one must refer to the issue of assertiveness (assertive behavior) and non-assertiveness (passive behavior). In contemporary times, with the growth of feminist movements and movements defending women's rights, the discussion of empowering women's assertiveness and activism against aggression and male-dominated behavior in traditional Eastern societies has been the focus of feminist criticism theorists. From a psychological perspective, the reading of contemporary female writers' works can provide a comprehensive depiction of the position of women as actors or recipients of action in their family and society. This article aims to examine the assertive and activist behavior of women in contrast to their non-assertive and passive behavior in the novels "Memoirs of a Woman Doctor" by the Egyptian writer Nawal El Saadawi and "We Get Used to It" by Zoya Pirzad, using a descriptive-analytical method and a comparative-interdisciplinary approach. The research findings indicate that due to Nawal El Saadawi being one of the pioneers of the feminist movement in Arab countries and the more open atmosphere in Egyptian society and families, the women in the novel "Memoirs of a Woman Doctor" had more opportunities to exhibit assertive behaviors and appeared more activist in society and family, expressing their feelings and pursuing their desires compared to the novel "We Get Used to It". They also have higher self-esteem, less anxiety, and a more explicit language.

**Keywords:** Psychological criticism, assertiveness, women's activism, novel "Memoirs of a Woman Doctor", novel "We Get Used to It".