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**Investigating Feminist Utopia and Science Fiction through  
Ursula K. Le Guin 's Ambiguous Utopia  
*The Dispossessed (1974)***

**A Dissertation Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the  
Requirements for the Degree of Master in American Literature studies**

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**Abstract:**

During the few past decades, a good deal of attention has been paid to women's position within society. The literary market has been fertilized with a considerable number of works by and about feminist utopia. With the aim of contributing to this field, this study analyzes Ursula K. Le Guin's *The Dispossessed* (1974) based on utopian theories and feminist thoughts, besides the use of science fiction's perspective. It explains, also, the role of people in changing their social conditions for the better. In three chapters, this study will delve into the deepest thoughts of the ambiguous anarchist utopia, to explore utopia's real existence through spreading awareness among the individuals. Eventually, Le Guin proves the power of women in understanding and transcending the life's complexities.

**Key Words:** Women, Society, Utopia, Feminist, Ambiguous, Anarchy, Change, Science Fiction.

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## **General Introduction:**

In the avenue of the complexities of the American people and life during 1960's and 1970's, prose ensured the connection zone to move back up the shared betterment of equally group and individuals. The utopian literature gained meaning in the contemporary American fiction. Women's issues became a booming line of work to bare its importance. As a result, a large come this they grasp attracted the focus of literary studies and befall the canons of the utopian lectures.

The issue of women's better existence concerning their role and status in society became the focus of various academic researches. Moreover, throughout the last few decades, the female writers have been continuously challenged by the paradigm of gender. Gender issue, in fact, is repeatedly examined and reframed as a notion to define, as an aim to pursue, or as a functional concept in the society. Therefore, the subject of women's equality and freedom in their connection with the social existence is the most studied issues within utopian case studies.

The 1960's and 1970's witnessed an explosion of the rise of women's voice, as it was the subject of a number of interested scholars who address the issue of gender. This was the outcome of women's mass participation in the movement of equality and freedom which is a landmark in the history of women's changing position in society. Nowadays, the feminists have new responsibilities and roles, apart from the traditional role they were used to play for age. As they seek to crave to reframe women's existence in society.

The present study will concentrate on the work of one of the female writers, Ursula k. Le Guin, and will explore her work with regard to the utopia theories in a combination with the feminist movement owing to women's better existence under the shadow of Le Guin's ambiguous utopia. Hence, this study will discuss Le Guin's work, namely *The Dispossessed (1974)*, where she introduced the ambiguous utopia as a vehicle to express her opinion and ideas. The present paper has been undertaken with the objectives to study new utopia with attention to feminist utopia

highlighting the writer's contribution in order to illustrate the women's need to change and to move to the better existence in society.

*The Dispossessed* (1974) presents a very monolithic and closed understanding of the complexities of life in order to move to the best existence. It emphasizes the role of awareness, diligence, and persistence, as the tools that enable the protagonist Shevek, to overcome all the difficulties since it provides the alternative space for the utopian society for individual's best existence.

Central to this investigation is the following question, to what extent Le Guin's *The Dispossessed* elucidates and disseminates woman's competencies as a female contributor in social consciousness and enthused to women's issues in particular? Besides the sub-question; in which way does Le Guin expose and examine women's affairs? Is it through a womanish eye or does she believe in women's right to be an essential existence element in society?

What is hypothesized, therefore, is that Le Guin's vision, perhaps, has clarified in a successful way of presenting the idea of women's social analyses through her biological status as a reason to push her to call for women's rights or by the deep understanding of society which led her to be sure that the woman is an effective element in her society.

The value of the present study lies in the contributions it hopes to achieve. Such a study, we believe, would contribute to the debate about the importance for understanding the complexities of life in order to create a change for more appropriate individuals' situation in society, by focusing on women's involvement in it through Le Guin's new utopia. Moreover, it is expected to contribute to the field of literature and literary studies. It might be helpful for those who are interested in the study of utopian literature and feminist utopia.

This study falls within utopian literary theories, precisely feminist utopia. It will discuss utopia particularly feminist utopia under the umbrella term of ambiguous utopia. The data used are of qualitative nature. Therefore, an analytic-descriptive approach will conduct this study. The specific procedure used in the election of quotations involves close reading<sup>1</sup> to have a deep understanding of the novel and demonstrate Le Guin's way of analyzing a utopian society.

This investigation will be made up of three chapters; the first chapter discusses the theoretical background on which this study draws its contributions, dealing with the notion of utopia in companies with science fiction and feminism movements. While the second chapter analyzes the historical repercussion on Le Guin's *The Dispossessed* (1974) meanwhile, it will link her philosophical orientation in relation to her work in order to justify such creation. The third chapter analyzes the application of those ideas which lie on *The Dispossessed* (1974) and clarify Le Guin's feminism that goes into the details of the novel. A discussion of the central role of individuals in order to create a change in the hope to live in better condition as a utopian society mainly will be the core of this chapter.

The female writers discuss how women can live in equality and justice through creating futuristic and imaginative features of the utopian world, furthermore, they examine social science fiction specifically feminist utopia. Their thoughts are based on defending female's presence in the world utopia. Therefore, Le Guin has proved that women are able to criticize and create a world of their own, by having a deep vision to the details in order to analyze societies of both communities and individuals. Accordingly, I structured my searching through books, master research, search engine and other sources reveal a subtle number of works published on the subject of feminist utopian science fiction, for example, Plato, Adam Robert, and Celine Briot.

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<sup>1</sup>In literary criticism, close reading is a careful and sustained interpretation of literary texts. It emphasizes the single and the particular over the general, affected by close attention to individual words, the syntax, and the order in which the sentences unfold ideas, as the reader scans the line of text.(Wikipedia)

*The Republic* is a Socratic dialogue that was written by Plato who analyzed the real society which led him to think about the future society as being equal and justice. According to Plato, utopia is an imagined ideal model of society which structured by linking a relationship between government and people while having a peaceful community and gender equality.

Adam Roberts (2000), *Science fiction*, presented different definitions of science fiction, the origins, and characteristics that make this kind of literature specific and enjoyable in the imaginative dimension of the futuristic world. It was used by writers to escape from the real world and create suitable ones according to their needs by using the elements of science fiction, which are alienation and estrangement.

Celine Briot (2015), *Feminist Science-Fiction? Gender Aspects in Ursula K. Le Guin's "The Dispossessed"* and *Feminist Criticism*, has examined the Status of women in the details of the novel and she has analyzed Le Guin's feminism through comparing and contrasting the structure of each planet, Annares, and Urass, meanwhile, it presents a set of debatable thoughts.

After searching and checking several sources, the majority of the studies which have been done on *The Dispossessed (1974)* are either articles, doctoral thesis or book chapters; yet, no study so far, as far as I know, has discussed the subject of the investigating feminist utopia science fiction in *The Dispossessed (1974)* through Le Guin's philosophical explanation of new utopia that it interests to the community, generally, and women's mainly. Therefore, a study is needed to examine the extent to which the novel conforms to the best existence in society as a utopia concept; hence, the study aims to bring the idea of change for social status betterment.

# **Chapter One: A Theoretical Background**

## **Introduction:**

Literature took changeable shapes through different periods in which Utopia has an ancient existence. This chapter will present an illustration of the origins of utopia and its relation with other imaginative literary genres in order to shed light on the difference among them, and also how the feminist movements have involved in its folds.

## **Section One: The Roots of Utopia**

The main structure of utopia is represented in a fictitious place and also better living conditions. Utopia means a model of an ideal society or community that builds a relationship between government and society under the shadow of equality.

### **1. A Historical Overview:**

The origin of the concept utopia comes from the Greek topos, which means precisely the place or region and the word dystopia is the antonym of it. The term was also coined by Thomas More in 1551; it was used in the title of his book 'Utopia' that talks about an imaginary island. One of the most famous philosophers that highlighted the idea of the best place was Plato who analyzed the structure of his society that it resulted in him to give birth to the notion of the utopian imaginary good life. It means to live in a better place than they were living in. The ancient communities were characterized by the separation of government from its citizens. Therefore, the wise philosophers gave decisions to improve their society by making utopia as a production and also knitting a relationship between morality and politics.

According to the elements of the real world such as poverty, social classes and the disconnection between the administration and the people that lead the thinkers to the embodiment

of self-reflection and create heaven on earth. For instance, equality, happiness, and peace are part of the perfect community (the utopian impulse). Thus, the key meaning of the concept utopia is to spread awareness among people to reach the aim which is having morality and justice. In addition to that, it is a place where there is no human ruling but God's rule. This idea is stated in Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics work:

we must not follow those who advise us to have human thoughts, since we are [only] men, and mortal thoughts as mortals should; on the contrary, we should try to be as immortal as far as that is possible and do our utmost in accordance with what is highest in us” (Aristotle 34).

So, Aristotle is a kind of guiding people's behaviors and avoid laws makers, thus to advise the men to pursue God's principles. Integrity has to be applied so that actions would be chosen not by those who impose laws on them but to have a personal responsibility for their behaviors. These points shaped the right options for men to enjoy the goodness.

The concept utopia witnessed some of the changes that developed over time in the way of presenting the classical and modern utopia. It can be both based on the individual changing and the change that may appear in the system of society. However, both of them have the same source that embraces the term peace, equality, and happiness. Therefore, the old and new performance of the utopian society appears between them.

## **2. Classical Vs. Modern Utopia:**

Plato, Thomas More, and Johan Valentine Andreae drew an ideal image of the society by their own imagination and each of them participated in creating these societies on the

basis of the individuals who should change themselves according to the unchanged social principals. The things that affected their ideas are mainly concerned with religion and nature as a whole to illustrate the starting point of humans and how they developed through their experiences. For instance, the classical thinkers imagine their communities as Eden which is flawless from any contradictions and brought from the holy bible. The utopian history started when humans, especially, thinkers such as Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle have hoped to see a better and happy world that is empty of existing conflicts. However, it can be realized in the societies; Plato represented morality and ethics by discussing them in one of his most well-known books 'The Republic'. This literary prose or specifically the Socratic dialogue was preserved in his works in which ethics and politics are amalgamated. So, that it would embody the perfect society.

Plato's vision of future societies was constructed of individual justice and that was the purpose to reach the aim he dreamt of (spark notes The Republic Plato). The society is composed of three different classes which are producers that are farmers or craftsman, auxiliaries who consist of warriors and guardians who are responsible for ruling and men are set to obey these arrangements. Again, Plato drew an ideal image of society, although these ideas did not come from any. The old societies were accepting the life they lived in by becoming followers while having a limited vision for the social real life. It is important to note that men existed only in the inside box rather than the outside, i.e. those people started looking for happiness, this resulted in them to believe and imagine everything that faces them. So, the ones who were outside the box are the thinkers that can see clearly the facts surrounding them under the light of the sun:

First, the answer of Socrates is altogether indirect. He does not say that happiness consists in the contemplation of the idea of justice, and stills less will

he be tempted to affirm the Stoical paradox that the just man can be happy on the rack (The Republic 22).

The existence of justice results happiness, thus justice is used as a signal of joy. It also can be seen as a stimulus and on the other hand happiness is the response. Through this quotation, justice can be thought of as a coin that has two different faces. The first represents the ethics or morals; whereas the second is a bond between the individual and the society.

According to Plato's point of view, every class of the society has its own morals and standards. Therefore, every man is set to one class to a suitable situation in the society. As an extension of Plato's work, the Republic, Thomas More discussed in his book Utopia the life in a way communities have a common culture (British library 16<sup>th</sup>-century dreams: Thomas More). He means that people must change; so that they would adopt the rules made by the societies and not the contrary, i.e. the rules and structures of the community are steady and unchanged. However, the individuals change to understand and to be aware of the future. Furthermore, it contained different basic systems that held the idea of sharing the same disciplines all over the world and which spreads harmony and balance.

In addition to what has been mentioned, Thomas gave the notion of distribution of riches by representing the image of the wrong societies and then by representing the right or the utopian one. There is also, however, a further point of view of Johann Andreae to be considered in this case of study (Andreae, 1914). He analyzed the reality of social and political of what he has gone through by giving his gathered observations about the community and then picturing it as being moral and ethical. While in his book, Christianopolis Johann took the features of utopia and then placed them in the theoretical model as a basis for them.

Indeed, utopia still has the same value as it did before and after time; it developed by adding the sense of a comfortable society that leaves everyone in a state of luxury. The economy

makes and forms a better modernist world which started to exist from the technological developments. Thus, the imagination of every individual also changed and though the path of the future societies transformed. In his novel, Herbert George Wells discusses the modern utopia according to the advanced society that he is placed into. Accordingly, he uses a developed vision of a perfect society and discusses the social theory invariant classes that are concerned with the intellect which is used to fit every individual. First, the poetic minds those have the ability to create and invent. Second, the kinetic minds are capable of doing things but do not create.

Third, the base minds that do not have the ability to distinguish between right or wrong. Finally, the dull minds have lack imagination. He points out and differentiates between both the contemporary and traditional utopias.

A modern utopia is characterized by transformation. Therefore, Wells sees utopia as relative according to different human minds, i.e. the community may change and not the opposite and gives everyone what they need. As well as the employment of technology such as transportations and communication technologies which are used as a tool to make their lives easier and more comfortable. This kind of writings whether classical or modern utopia focused on the individual or on social principles. However, they believe in the perfect living conditions. Thus, it is widespread among the readers who are interested and influenced by this genre (Herbert, 1905).

### **3. Utopia vs. Dystopia:**

Dystopia is the opposite of utopia because it rather depicts an ideal society in a way that it changed for the worse. Although they are the opposite of each other, in a way, they have both a common center in which dystopia and utopia meet each other. Utopia gives the notion that community is being in a state of happiness because of the tranquility and the balance that spreads all over it. It often depicts these societies or worlds as perfect which means that there is no

existence of violence or injustice. Utopia and dystopia change our view of the world since they are both genres of speculative fiction. Dystopian stories differ from that of utopian ones. If there is no presence of dystopia, then utopia cannot exist and vice versa. They are both used to criticize and spread awareness among people or more specifically the readers and go hand in hand with each other. Moreover, they share even the same practices of scientific knowledge to produce the perfect living conditions. Even though, its aim is to focus on the individual's minds and feelings (Megan Pryor, 1983).

Utopia is also used as criticism and awareness for the readers. It consists of variant types which construct and give the meaning of this genre. So, it is categorized by a Veronica Sicoe who writes fiction that it is as follows. In her vision, the ecological utopia illustrates men treasuring nature and life as a whole. While the economic one is concerned with a society which has this sensation towards ameliorating equal delivery of goods. Science and technology utopia uses technology to provide everything for the humanity and maintain equality between men and even robots by having the same privileges.

It is important to mention that both dystopia and utopia have science and fantasy features. This type of stories more often delivers an idea of warning about the future and the members must be aware of what truly the society is about. Yet, by depicting the other side of what is right and using the dictatorship over people in order to control them and also forcing them to obey the government, i.e. the dominants treat men as if they do not have the right to be free or even have a voice. In addition to that, rulers use technology to control citizens as if they are dolls and limit their thinking and visions. As it was mentioned before that utopia has different types, then of course dystopia also have them but in the opposite way. It is also concerned with ecology that illustrates the nature as ruined. The economic dystopia controls the human mind by using technology and manipulation. While science and technology, dystopia concerns the results of the

technology itself on life. Besides, in feminist dystopia women are living in bad conditions and the main problems are inequality and how the patriarchal dominated them (Dylan Glynn 2013).

## **Section Two: Utopia & Science Fiction:**

The deep meaning of utopia is world perfection on the base of imagination, in which imagination is uniquely the pillar element of science fiction.

### **1. Science Fiction between the Past and the Present:**

Back to the early civilizations of the world, Science fiction was even a genre; it already existed in the Greek civilization and there are many ancient works that contain the elements of science fiction. As an example of ancient Greek literature Lucian of Samosata who wrote *Ikaromenippos*. The protagonist is traveling to space not by the technological and scientific advances but rather by having wings attached to his arms. Therefore, moving to the other world or space requires a transportation means that would fulfill their needs (the free encyclopedia). This type is the so-called Proto-science fiction, a sort of suggesting that it is not really science fiction since they only used the natural imagination i.e. using their undeveloped vision to the future by replacing new conditions in the imaginative life inspired from nature. Thus, linking their imagination only to what is around them. For instance, imagining a body of a horse linked with a human head or a human with wings that he can fly with.

Proto-science fiction is characterized by the acceptance of details of the supernatural that can make it reasonable and at the same time pleasant. In other words, the pillars of stories are understood simply from the human mind since it is based on nature. It can be more simplified in these words, the body can be unknown, but the soul can create a smooth combination that the mind can agree on. Another feature of the Proto-science fiction is the spontaneous way of presenting their thoughts and dreams as it also can be interpreted as a mirror that reflects the

internal feelings that they want to see and live in. Hence, it shapes an innocent child diving in every writer or more specifically the ancient ones. The travel tale stories must be mentioned in this kind of writings because it gave a precious traditional value at that time. Eventually, feminist science fiction often depicts the coming future as presenting the female's societies as isolated from men (the earliest science fiction).

The old vision of ancient writers was limited. As time goes by, people made researchers about different subjects. Resulting people to have a new vision of the future world which also changed and developed through time combined with new ideas. In addition to that, people advanced at first by their explorations and then progressed technologically which brought new ideas to literature. Through science, transformations in literature began to show up; this resulted in researchers to have different definitions of science fiction. In one hand, Science fiction portrays some imaginative hypothesis and on the other hand. It may draw an assumption of the future society by bringing another world into the human mind and creating this idea of traveling by time or going in a journey to another dimension, space or a new planet. In other words, science fiction away from literature is pictured as a fictional world that does not exist in the real world or actual world. Simply, it is understood as no cord would link the fictional image of the world with the existence of reality.

Sci-fi is characterized by the usage of modern technology which is based on material systemization unlike the supernatural. Then, it embraces the fictional imagination. All this is from the general side; however, when digging deeper and by getting the essence of science fiction. It holds a different way from the other imaginative and fantastic literature. Therefore, it has particular definitions that are separated from the typical ones.

One of the writers named Edward James discussed in his book that Science fiction could be seen in different shapes when you see it from one angle to another. The starting point of it is

based on popular culture by the engaging of science speculations and involving the difference of social relations. Therefore, the view is confined to society which is built on a scientific basis. This point of view comes from Marxism, postmodernism, feminism and queer theory. Besides, science fiction becomes a genre through narrating the imaginative voyage and creating a utopian fantasy. To structure the image of utopian fantasy, technology plays an important role and influence in the way of repairing society.

During the nineteenth century, some authors tried to imagine how a life in the moon could be. As a futuristic vision, it is against religious faith since the church embraced the idea of the geocentric cosmology. Church limited society's thinking and took the role of technology because there was no definite definition of the human mind. So it interpreted everything around people in the way church believes in. After science discoveries and scientific explanations came into existence, the source of knowledge changed and turned its convictions into rational and became more debatable. By the fusion of religion and scientific fantasies appears the hybrid sub-genre exactly concerned with cosmic tours. Both Damon Knight and Norman argued about science fiction introduced as a science fiction. Thus, when the reader looks at any definition accepts it as it is and do not change it i.e. it is used as a business.

The Oxford English Dictionary defines it as the imaginative fiction based on postulated scientific discoveries or spectacular environmental changes, frequently set in the future or on other planets and involving space or time travel. This definition leads to understanding that the term Science fiction has a special way of any other independent genre of literature, such as imaginative and realistic fiction. Science fiction focuses more on inventions and imagination, whereas realist writers concentrate on accuracy. Hence, the difference lies in the world described and where the readers do in fact live.

Sometimes science fiction predicts the future technologies since imagination is the only thing that our brain helps make knowledge applicable. However, it may not be applicable yet but it

could be viable after time. Science fiction works might make the reader think that it might happen in the future and also make them accept this world because it is based on logical implications. To give a better view of Sci-Fi, it must be mentioned that the development of earliest science fiction was from fantasy and supernatural fiction. Alienation and estrangement are both components of SF that play an important role in creating the whole of futurism. On one hand, estrangement is a kind of separating our habitual assumptions from that of reality, while alienation or isolation in science fiction is a familiar term for Marxist theory and the same thing is applied on estrangement. Darko Suvin's main interest was science fiction and known for the idea of cognitive estrangement. In his own view, the use of our thinking as cognitive estrangement encourages new ways of cogitations that are concerned with the society.

Sci-Fi estrangement is able to make use of the future space to catalyze human's current status. Feminist science fiction writers use estrangement to show that the public relationships are built on sexual politics. In the same field, the notion of alienation is used by the critics to present the male power over women. In a Marxist point of view, Suvin changed the literary history of this kind of view so he would reveal that it already existed (Adam Roberts, 2000).

While science fiction contains so many elements of speculative genres, speculative fiction includes fantasy, science fiction, horror, superhero, dystopia, and utopia. Even though, the main concern of this study is only three genres that are mentioned above. The relationship between both Sci-Fi and speculative fiction can be highlighted in different ways, by introducing how speculative fiction might be in contrast to Sci-Fi.

## **2. Speculative Fiction:**

Though, Speculative fiction is not at all times Sci-Fi and vice versa. It is frequently described as "what if" which is based on unusual thoughts that come from our imagination and also on exceptional things. In other words, it is characterized by the uncommon ideas that appear

to be unique as a genre of literature since it embraces many other genres. Thus, it can be seen as an umbrella of different genres that is far from reality that is structured on preposterous ideas which can never be attached to what we call reality.

However, the existence of real events or images is unattainable to connect what is fictional with non-fictional. Through this, author's use of this genre seems to apply different aspects of speculative fiction by believing that these aspects are real. So this leads the readers to adopt the images given by the writers in their stories. It is important to mention that the readers will have no option to choose whether to accept or not by leaving those to surrender and agree on what is all mentioned in the tale and live it as reality. Although the reader believes that it is a reality, it is hard for the reader to deal or live with it directly. These kinds of tales have strong points in accepting it, but there's no way that you can find it which makes it hard to find. Another aspect that should be highlighted which is the freedom of writing that gives the writer to have no limits or boundaries that could stop him from writing unless it is created by them. Thus, it leaves the authors in a state of power and shows how much their imagination is fertile. This shows how much the writers are drilling deeper to the world by adding fictional thoughts or changing the real image of it.

In addition, the speculative fiction talked about humanity as a separated subject by carving new shapes for humanity and present variant images according to the writers' needs and also what they like. Whereas Life as a subject is interpreted in a flexible way with a profound sense which makes another face of it that does not exist, yet it gives it in a hidden message. The main motivator in this type of literature, speculative fiction, is the sense of ownership like one who holds everything. This field was also defined by a number of writers whose works are valuable. Merrill defined it as, "...Stories whose objective is to explore, to discover, to learn by means of projection, extrapolation something about the nature of the universe of man or reality..." (Rob Latham, 2014). Therefore, to kill two birds with one stone Judith introduced this definition to show the role and the characteristics of speculative stories. In order to extract the real world's

aims, she linked it with these kinds of stories that deal with finding new ways of searches and learning more about the nature of humans by using imaginative ideas. Thus, reading behind the real meaning or by releasing this kind of thinking that only she can see through bringing different aspects of the universe.

Indeed, the speculative demonstrates variant genres of discoveries in the outer space. It changes our reality by questioning our mind, for this reason, it might include dystopian or even surrealism. On the other hand, Sci-Fi is not often but may be speculative fiction which includes so many aspects. Furthermore, it is mentioned that this literary genre may change over time since it is based on imagination and technology that progresses over time. As a whole, this imagination of thoughts and ideas can also be depicted in a genre called fantasy. This genre holds some elements of the speculative fiction and that is why it is classified as a branch of the entire tree. However, it has its own unique form in a way of presenting the ideas in a fictional image. It also includes a mixture of science and fantasy gives the birth to science fantasy under the wing of speculative fiction.

### **3. Fantasy:**

Fantasy is distinguished from science fiction and different in the setting and time. This genre uses imagination without including science in which the magical elements and myths are the main contributor to this genre and also the supernatural elements. It is defined as the branch of literature by using the imaginative fiction. It has been characterized by the being away from the reality and breaking the rules of it. In addition to that, fantasy is impossible to exist in the real life, i.e. there are no barriers that could limit the ideas. It is often set in a non-existing place or imaginary by adding the sense of being not affected by the passage of time. In fantasy, the setting tempts over detail in which it appears in most of the fantastic works. The characters are special in a way that they attract and have this kind of difference. For instance, creatures do not exist in our

world, but instead, it only exists in the unreal world and this is where our imagination works (Robert Sweetland, 2013).

Although fantasy has its own principles, there is a fine line with science fiction that separates both of them. On one hand, science fiction is explained and clarified the details through the use of technology and science. On the other hand, fantasy's details are not explained. When both science fiction and fantasy are viewed they can be seen as being the same composition but it is not. Fantasy is free from the technological side and set in an imaginary planet, while science fiction is often depicted in the future and uses scientific knowledge. Another point is that science fiction authors also write fantasy because as mentioned above that they have some common characteristics. In a general point of view fantasy gave a chance to all those who have a fertile imagination to dive in this type of literature and like any other genre there are many audiences and followers show its importance.

### **Section Three: The Feminist Utopia:**

Men over years exercised control over women by driving and representing humans. Feminist utopia defended and is seen as a shield for women who are subjugated. Women are obliged to create an imaginative world which is based on equality to the other gender by breaking through this patriarchal domination and engaging in different ways of utopian novels so that they could give a voice for those who cannot speak. Science fiction embraces all the aspects of life, such as the economy, politics, and even more society. Thus, there is a specific type which is social science fiction is concerned with feminist utopia.

#### **1. The Significance of the Feminist Utopia:**

The Feminist utopia brought equality between men and women and as a futuristic vision. It is seen as a development of human values as a whole. Some of these feminists imagined a world without men's domination purely feminist and independent from the other gender. The

feminist utopia flourished in the 1780s which are a significant period of literary development. This of the type of thinkers precisely had dispersed ideas and also bounded because they did not like the reality they are living in i.e. the thoughts existed, but it was not well expanded and did not give the sense of the feminist utopian society. Plato first discussed this equality between men and women in his work *The Republic*. He mentioned that both genders have souls and bodies and the soul is independent of the body. Therefore, both sexes have to fulfill all the functions required by the community (UK Essays, 2015).

The modern feminist utopia is longing to construct bisexual equality without acting cruelly toward women and that is what it is constructed on. Again, social science fiction is the bowl that holds feminist utopia. It is imagined as a society where there is no lack of equality between men and women. In other words, there will be a balance between concerning the two genders. Moreover, his subgenre deals with society more than the technological advances. There are some novels that illustrate feminist thoughts and reflect the essence of utopia about female and human future is used to show female's desires over the years. In addition to that, it is also used to criticize the domination of men and ignore women existence and importance. Besides, feminist utopia views the patriarchal power as the primary cause of issues whether the social or the political side.

## **2. Feminist Utopia & Feminists Thoughts:**

The combination of the feminist thought and theories and the utopian thoughts give a new construction of human culture. As a result, it expresses an unusual vision which is based on the shift from the domination of men in society to the equal existence of women in it to achieve bisexual equality. Above all, feminist theories tried to clarify and spread awareness among the oppression and the harm that touched most of the women all over the past centuries. Then, it developed more and became more analytical to the social issues and the relations between classes. The experiences of women changed from the surface to the deep views, i.e. through clarification

and contextualization, it began to follow the exact path. Moreover, women have their own position and category as men do. Therefore, females became aware of the gender practices. Feminist theorists explored and searched for the inequality between genders and practices in all the different fields.

The different works of feminist utopia had some obscurity and needed clarifications. Thus, feminist criticism took the role and responsibility for showing its aim and the right interpretation of the feminist thoughts. It uses its basis which is the feminist theory to analyze philosophical studies. Feminist literature emerged from the need to change and the gender inequality. She was involved in the second wave feminism<sup>1</sup> and calls for the woman to develop and produce in her society. These waves have an important role that brought females rights and gave them the ladder to shift from a passive situation to an active one. Moreover, it even helped to show what capacities that women have in the different fields of innovation by proving her position and the society as a whole (daily history.org).

## **Conclusion:**

Overall, the perfect image of society is restricted in the concept of utopia rather than other speculative genres. However, the need for science fiction gives an extra place as a futuristic utopia existent. In addition, feminists' ambition embraces utopian science fiction in order to proclaim for equality and freedom.

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<sup>1</sup> The feminism waves are actually divided into periods, each period had its specific goal based on the issues and situations. The first wave differs from the second one and the second wave differs from the third one and the same thing for the other waves of feminism. According to this work, the two first feminism waves are our main objective. Each wave has a specific aim, the first wave calls for equality, second wave purposed to obtain work and activities for females and the third wave is based on the freedom of choice. In particular, the first-wave feminism or proto feminism appeared in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century to the early of 19<sup>th</sup> century, many philosophers and writers began to defend and depict women's segregation. After some time, things changed and developed and women felt that nothing has changed which led for another wave which is the second wave feminism. It gave women more and more employments since men left their home countries and went fighting in the Second World War. So women enjoyed and evermore they felt that they are independent. Even after the war men came back but found their works occupied and asked women to get back to their daily life. Even though, women claimed to have the right to work and equal payments. On the economical side, they used this as a turning point and demand for equal working conditions.

## **Chapter Two: Repercussion of Reality on the Imaginative Production: The Dispossessed Internal and External Effects**

### **Introduction:**

On the basis of what was introduced in the first chapter, Le Guin seems influenced by other factors that are external and internal in order to produce a specific image and examine it with real events. However, they are combined to gather in order to produce new ideas which are centered on the details of the story. This second chapter will discuss the important historical events and varied factors that are external and internal that inspired Le Guin to compose *The Dispossessed* (1974) and draw the exact plan to locate its path and make it possible to be shaped or embodied as she probably wants.

### **Section One: Background of the Novel:**

Impacted by the different external effects of the period between the 1960s and 1970s, the American literature witnessed changes all there the past years. Some people broke out because of the atmosphere they were living in which brought new ideas that took place in America.

#### **1. Le Guin an American Talented Feminist Author:**

Ursula Kroeber Le Guin is an American famous writer who used a specific literary genre in order to spread consciousness among the Americans and paying attention to the human environment. She believes that literature and its imaginative kind can play or use it as a key to life's complexity. Le Guin was born on October 21, 1929, in Berkeley, California. Le Guin wants to make sense of her thoughts and help herself to make links between contrasted things and to give attention to the bad points to reach good ones. The mixture of numerous notions led her to produce a new utopia (Wikipedia) through *The Dispossessed* (1974) and put it on the correct path.

The contemporary American literature looms how the Americans can express and present their thoughts, emotions and daily life experiences and also analysis. However, female writers involved themselves in this kind of art and put their imprints with awareness through the spirit of responsibility. Furthermore, she was interested in fantasy and science fiction literary genre. Thus, allowing her to show her talent to write perfect stories by portraying futuristic or fictional possibility for the world in the human natural environment, politics, gender, and sexuality.

Le Guin works afford her the opportunity to be celebrated as a famous female writer during the period of the 1960s. *The Dispossessed* (1974) leads her to be the first winner who got both the Hugo and Nebula prizes of the most excellent and effective novel. Through the novel, Le Guin shows her capacity of deep analyzing and paying attention to the details examination, typically, as a basis for interpretation of different writers and politicians who have a great impact on her way of thinking and producing new sights in the aspects of life. While the elements of science fiction and fantasy genre inspired Le Guin to originate a certain notion to identify social and psychological identity together.

Besides, Le Guin's work submits the foundation of her archaistic thought believing that the abolition of all government authorities gives the society a cooperative basis without recourse to force; while environmentalism plays a role in making efforts to protect the environment around people. The use of science fiction provides a futuristic image to the world through understanding and examining methodologically in detailing the structure or constitution of reality i.e. the imaginative stories should have references which are given from the interpretation of the complexity and mystery of the existing world. Thus, the writer can be shifted from the pleasure of writing to become a reformer or a guide to explain and discover the mystery of life.

## **2. Le Guin Axis of Literary Interests:**

The subjects Le Guin are interested in our race and gender. Le Guin also was interested in making a link between everything contrasted in order to progress in writing her novel and also resulted in her new possible ideas of which she can carry on her analysis. This brings the notion of two halves that complete each other and the idea of change as the two principles or the philosophy of Yin and Yang that shapes the sense of complementary and this process allows each half to complete interdependence function to the other.

The main characteristic of the yin and yang symbol which was taken from the Chinese culture that yang is male, bright, dry, hard, active and penetrating. Instead, Yin is female, dark, wet, easy, receptive and containing (Electric literature 2017). Therefore, both of them have powers. However, when yang is control and yin accepts here the equation will be completed among them i.e. the features of each one show a certain equal point which does not exist in the other, but yang serves yin and vice versa. Consequently, the integrative relationship between them illustrates the fact that the difference creates a great power by the use of correct proportion. This theory inspired Le Guin as the social conditions exist while the balance takes place inter alia the contrasted things.

Le Guin also emphasizes the idea of impermanence and imperfection in order to express the changes that may face humans during life journey through having the capacity to be flexible to fit in different situations and this is on one hand. On the other hand, she took the spirit of responsibility as a tool to accept life misfortunes in which the person attempts to achieve awareness about what surrounds him and how he develops himself. In other words, the difficulties and the complexities of life need an extensive vision accompanied by a deep analysis to access the right path that leads to having self-satisfaction which makes each member in society lives in utopian conditions.

Thus, Le Guin's beliefs are a foundation to produce *The Dispossessed* (1974). Support her vision in order to make this novel well-structured and oriented to the correct trajectory. As well as, her foresight to make the concept of utopia exists in reality through the use of some elements which were taken from the real world to draw a certain image. The highlighted elements that Le Guin emphasized on are the individuals of society who are responsible for knowing and understanding life's principles and also the circumstances of changes during life journey. Likewise the classical or traditional creators of utopia, Le Guin focuses on the importance of the individual in the way of creating a good life. The most important figure in that era was Thomas More who had a great impact on Le Guin's method of producing the notion of utopia and guided her in making a plan to write *The Dispossessed* (1974). Yet, she adds and imposes her personal interpretation concerning utopia which is an ideal society that contains freedom and equality. By adding a new features of the utopian community to her novel.

The unprecedented vision of anarchism is the main element Le Guin used in her work to help her illustrate how she creates an atmosphere with a view to present new utopia (Taylor 2008). This unusual presentation is based on an opposite interpretation to anarchism; it actually shows the shift from the negative and violence significance to become the positive and peaceful. A meaning can be seen as an essential characteristic of the uncommon use with regard to social case. The earliest existence of the anarchist theory was associated with expressions like random activities of devastation and ultimate anarchy as an axiomatic explanation to the term. However, the contemporary understanding of anarchism has another connotation as it is seen as a key to change some things or get self-reliant in society, consequently, freedom and equality spread in the whole. Peter Kropotkin, a scientist, philosopher Russian revolutionary, thinks that anarchism provides the power or the right to act, speak, and think as one wants without hindrance or restraint. He defends and supports anarchism, through his principles that are self-governing and individuals' position as

the effective main element in communist society hence their behaviors are inspired from one soul without association to government rules.

The modern anarchist theory gives a special importance to the futuristic condition of a society. When a society lives in a state of disorder or in a revolutionary situation in the present, consequently, it becomes different through moving from voiceless to voice or from none existing to the existence in many aspects of life. The major argument of this opinion is hidden under its aim which is to remove the oppression, the exploitation and the inequalities that the previous people suffered from. Additionally, it has another pillar that gives an important role to the modern vision concerning anarchy such as the function of it can be seen as a method to solve the social problems. When the individuals refuse oppression and resist the unjust laws chaos is used as a tool to raise their voice since it imposes authorities to meet their demands. Moreover, the anarchist condition makes an interconnection relationship between society and politics. This connection effectively provides the services and protection of rights which are given by the government.

Another idea, Le Guin emphasized on is the suggestion to see the voyage from another dimension in which to focus on how the main character, Shevek, had the feeling to get back home even when he felt that it was not a utopian society i.e. his mother country. Through, bringing back the past to his unconscious mind and to show that there is always a link between the character and his past or previous living condition. The fact that you cannot live in a society that is your community gives the notion that the character no longer wants to be a part of it. Even though, the space travel to the other world made him realize that he was living in utopian or a better society. Thus, it gave him more thoughts about the complexity of the living situation and gains a deeper understanding of a person's essentials through life (Ursula 1982).

Thus, the general view of the novel is completed in Le Guin's mind in which she collected varied theories and composed them in order to produce an artistic piece of writing with a purpose.

Furthermore the capacity and intellectual elements of Le Guin prove that female writer is at the level to present work contains perfection and also it can be used as a guide to understanding the ambiguity of life. In addition, *The Dispossessed* (1974) has examined all the issues that are mentioned above social, political, psychological and even though the feminist issue.

### **3. The Main Concerns and Issues in The Dispossessed:**

The set unquestionable questions present Le Guin's style of structuring the story as it revolves around moving deeper to open the door for analyzing and discussing *The Dispossessed* (1974). Moreover, the use of contrast and comparison make the novel more effective and also help Le Guin to focus on particular themes, characters and symbols this is on one hand. On the other hand, these techniques allowed her to make a connection between different ideas which are detailed in the story.

Le Guin produced the concept of the Hainish cycle which means the name of her specific works, in other words, this concept referred to the series of Le Guin's science fiction novels. *The Dispossessed* (1974) is one of these collections which are characterized by the use of planets as the setting of the story. In addition, the attractive thing in her work is the concentration on the inhabitants of each planet through their lifestyle which is obtained and expressed from their civilization and also described the first contact between planets in an attempt to establish a diplomatic relation. From the general appearance of *The Dispossessed* (1974) that is usual story takes place in space and contains different characters in order to present a set of events.

However, the novel has political, social and psychological dimensions. It aims to understand who we are and where we are in order to know how to make a balance in our lives and improve ourselves to live in good conditions. All these things are hidden between novel's lines and also loom in the details of the story. Thus, the novel consists of numerous chapters each one gives the path to the other. The events of the story take place in space between two different planets that

are separated by a wall. These planets are Annares and Urass, the first planet is the moon of the second one that each of them presents a civilization, culture, in which shapes a specific way of living and thinking. Annares is an isolated anarchist society inspired its system from the Odonien theory which is referred to Laia Odo who is a female philosopher had been exiled from her mother country Urass, which means that the inhabitant of Annares are settlers come from Urass i.e. their origin or roots is derived from Urass (gatech.edu).

Annares' social system is based on equality in which all the inhabitants are sharing the same things in life that means there is no property, so the main principle is the collective ownership and therefore freedom takes shape among Odonien basics. In other words, through the philosophy of Odo, when someone possessed thing automatically he will be possessed in which it limits the human spirit i.e. freedom exists while nothing is owned and this is a sign of freedom. Moreover, the language spoken in Annares illustrates the idea of the common life i.e. there is no possessive words or form when communicating, such as the use of the expression of the mother instead of my mother which indicates the absence of possessive adjectives in their language. Besides, this spoken language constructs the Annaresti thinking and culture.

Again, the social classification does not exist in Annares; therefore, there is no hierarchy in which all the members of the society are different and each one has a certain capacity of talent, power or domination. Wherefore, all citizens are respected as a complete member of the community and have responsibility. In addition, women position is likewise men's presence in the social production and they are also an effective element in several domains which offer them equal opportunities to live in prosperous conditions.

The protagonist of *The Dispossessed* (1974) is Shevek, an intelligent young physicist, born and raised in Annares. He believes that society needs other things to produce harmony. He is disappointed at the anarchists of Annares and their way of living and he is also against the

sequestered situation that they are living i.e. the separation from the other planets. These factors pushed Shevek to think to rebel and show his personal expression with regard to his anarchist society. Yet, he chose to focus on his studies then structured the General temporal theory which concerns with ideas of time, then introduces an unusual deep explanation to perceive new intended meaning for time. He wants to bring what was occurred in the past simultaneously as the present and it structures not only in mathematics and physics but also philosophy and ethics in which time gives an essential fact to increase life's events on several issues.

On Anarres the establishment of this idea is impossible because it disturbs their stability and opens the door of communication with others. While Urass welcomed Shevek's idea in order to be more powerful to control and join other planets under its control. Thus, Shevek decided to leave his mother planet to continue his project and makes it come alive, moreover he is very inquisitive about what is concealed behind the wall and do efforts to combine the worlds in order to make a communication between them further to know the unknown fact that led to embrace anarchist as ruling system (gatech.edu).

The destination of Shevek is the neighbor planet Urass which is a new world for him and it identifies it as a turning point in his life. To move there he utilized the spaceship, in such a way he starts his space journey that is full of ambiguity and adventures through discovering an unusual exciting experience. When Shevek arrives at Urass, he surprises at Urassti first contact which is delighted with his arrival and what is more they accept and support his theory enthusiastically. In contradistinction to Anarres, Urass has government and authorities which imposes set of laws to control and construct an organized society i.e. Urass inhabitants are under the domination of the decision makers who adopt and practice capitalism as system to guide them, through this system private property existed in which the society members are working to own money and possessed things or bring their needs and also education is not for free, hence the rich has the opportunity to be educated.

In addition, the society is divided into separated classes and each class has specific activities so there is social hierarchy in Urass, consequently freedom does not occur within limits of the compartmentalisation that draws lines to control individual's choices i.e. while an urassti is classified in a certain class, thus the offers are limited accordingly to the social position that forced the inhabitant to put in it. Besides to the difficulties that face the members of society to live in their suitable situation and also do what they want, therefore violent behaviors dominate their way of living and creates estrangement relationship among them, in other words, the powerful obliges others to perform actions and obey his orders by force.

Indeed, the differences between individuals give bad destiny to the whole society, especially women who do not have the right to continue their studies in university or reach high intellectual levels likewise men's rights to develop skills and pursue a carrier. Furthermore, the role of women in society is limited in the context of sexual charge or regarded as a thing in which men practice their desires hence females are not an active element in the community also they cannot exist like male's existence, moreover, the unequal way of treating women forbidden them to hold any important position either they can be seen as the same men's position or tend to have the opportunity to be equal with men. So Urass is patriarchal society while the male is the source of power and domination. According to the population density, Urass creates huge ships and interests to science and technology discoveries in which is based on humans as a resource to increase production.

Shevek has seen a totally different society in which he dislikes the Urassti social structure, moreover, the violence and oppression that imposed on the inhabitants, in general, and women, in particular. In addition, he discovered an unexpected image that is provoked him to make conversation with many people about their way of living and how they accept the worst conditions that are unacceptable to him. In relation to Shevek's impression that leads him to think again about his life in Annares particularly when he contacted unprecedented civilization, culture and lifestyle

which were inverted to his principles that were taken from Anares, thence Shevek compared between the two societies thoroughly and he finds out that the ideal conditions to live in wherever freedom and equality prevail. Thus, Shevek wants to back home.

#### **4. The Impact of the Liberation Movements:**

Different movements implanted so they would gain their independence through peace or rebellion to live in good conditions or in a society which is based on equality. Thus, it is a sign of democracy. At this time, *The Dispossessed* (1974) by Ursula K. Le Guin took its shape during the rise of the liberation movements and spread in most of the American corners. Women started to make their voices heard when the African Americans fought for their independence from the inhuman treatment and the inferior positions to achieve social equality.

Through the help of revolutions and rebellions, the African Americans took their rights and became free only with this way of treatment. However, Martin Luther King used peaceful resolutions though he was killed after all. In addition to that, the Indian Americans aimed for economic equality in the society to remove the poor education, poor housing and disease from this dystopian society. Therefore, they created a revolutionary movement called The Red Power and due to this reaction, they improved their situation in the American society. While the Mexican American revolted and made strikes for those who were working in bad conditions or out of it so that they would create better conditions and wages for them. Hence, revolutions allowed different ethnic groups achieving equality and freedom. They gained awareness among people and affected them spiritually.

This kind of movements also increased women's consciousness towards equality and gender equality. In addition, American women needed more attention on the economic, political, social spheres. Literature plays an important role in discussing such issues. In her novel, Le Guin was influenced significantly by the events such as the Cold war and the Vietnam War which led

people to reject these ideas of conflicts and began requiring peace, happiness, and security. Thus, this period had a great impact on Le Guin's writings and this time was a turning point for the Americans to change their visions and ideas towards societies.

## **Section Two: The Signs of the historical influence in Ursula's *The Dispossessed***

*The Dispossessed* (1974) is categorized as a work which reflexes the condition of America during a certain moment. Through the use of the imaginative elements helps Le Guin to show her interpretation concerning the psychology, society and the political activities and attempts to open the closed doors meanwhile facilitate the complexity of life.

### **1. Influential Events during the 1960s and 1970s:**

The American community was influenced by variant incidents which led to the innovation of new thoughts among inhabitants. The main events that affected Ursula K. Le Guin to write her novel *The Dispossessed* (1974) which means that it was the period of the Cold War and also the Vietnam War. Initially, The Cold war is known by the rise of the tension between the Soviet Union and the USA and other Allies that affected the whole world and specifically the American societies in several aspects politically, economically and psychologically. During this period, the colonies started to take their independence or in other words decolonized such as the African colonies.

Moreover, every power, based on a specific political vision by supporting the spheres of each country, wanted to dominate the economic system. For instance, the Korean War which was divided it into two, a capitalist and a communist one, though America was a capitalist society which provided the best social conditions for its citizens in purpose to show that its political and the economic system indicate the social prosperity. Moreover, the Berlin Wall which was a concrete barrier that divides two ideologies and systems and each works alone and also separated

two nations who were one block since previous years. Again, the American society made several efforts and gave to its people all they needed starting from the freedom of speech, good conditions and equality to present that capitalism is a good system to cope with.

On one hand, the Americans supported capitalism. On the other hand, they were afraid of this system and the negative consequences of the Cold War. A fact has caused the division of the American society. They were scared of a new war that could take place in their societies through the struggle between the pro and the anti-war. Psychologically, the citizen's minds became affected by these events and their psychology was unstable due to the fear surrounding them. In one side, it impacted people to write through imagination about life. On the other side, writing more in a scientific way by illustrating men landing on the moon.

All these important events had a great impact on Le Guin's thoughts; furthermore, the president Nixon had also another influence on her way of thinking. His political system which was based on practical ideas called Realpolitik. Overall, The Cold War had an essential impact on the way of people's thinking and pushed them to innovate more on their literary works. Indeed, Le Guin simplifies the complexity of the real life in *The Dispossessed* (1974). She used literature as a weapon to fight the difficulties that might face human in their lives and create the good social condition. Thus, it is a key to open the ambiguities of life.

The American society witnessed unstable situation which was resulted from the Vietnam War. This event developed controversy within the American citizens i.e. the American needs were illustrated in the way they interacted with the government's diction to participate in the Vietnam War. Accordingly, the American inhabitants were behaving spontaneously against the involvement in this destructive war in which brought the elements of the dystopian society. Thus, some of the Americans integrated peaceful movement in order to speak about that issue.

Meanwhile, others chose violence to solve the problem and not be involved in the Vietnam War. In other words, the American nation made efforts to change their situation through the move from sadness to happiness status and all of them either men or women and even students were against the engagement of America in this war. Hence, this kind of revolution against the government's decision concerning the Vietnam War made anarchy in the American society. Furthermore, the government also used violence to impose its decisions on its citizens, specifically, those students who strove and conflicted with the government determination about the participation in the Vietnam War. Through these activities, the government took an aggressive reaction to force them to be in this war. In addition to the presidential power enforced its citizens to fight against the enemies without rejecting their policies. Therefore, citizens started mistrusting and disbelieved in the government and its authorities. As a result, the American society was characterized at that period by chaos; that means, there was a complete disorder and confusion.

These events helped Le Guin to write her novel and also to present a nice piece of art at the same time; it is regarded as a tool to remove the opacity of life. Le Guin inspired her train of thoughts from the reality especially from this duration 1960's and 1970's. However, she used an imaginative kind of literature in order to structure *The Dispossessed* (1974) that contains hidden messages and codes to treat several issues on different sides of life.

## **2. The Cold War Marks:**

Le Guin depicts the planets of Urras and Anarres in her novel. By recreating the what people felt during the Cold war and illustrating that the planet is divided into two separated nations with a wall. A wall as the real Berlin Wall built in 1968 “There was a wall. It did not look important. It was built of uncut rocks roughly mortared” (1).

*The Dispossessed* (1974) includes some realistic models that display the influence of the historical events; as well as, the vision of Le Guin which indicates the new utopia that can be

taken from the dystopian conditions. Initially, the cold war has an important impact to draw the outlines of *The Dispossessed* (1974) and this is manifested in different signs that take place in the details of the novel.

The wall enclosed Anarres: the whole planet was inside it, a great prison camp, cut off from other worlds and other men, in quarantine. " A number of people were coming along the road towards the landing field or standing around where the road cut through the wall" (2). Hence, Le Guin gives a glance for the worlds she mentioned in her book by revealing an important image of the actual real world. Though there is a special issue which is mentioned earlier by representing that there is a tension between the worlds and even more different systems that each one embraced. In addition, it is possible to link the circumstances of the novel with the Cold War. Actually, they are represented in a direct or indirect way by showing what this war resulted in most of the countries that were divided into variant systems. Thus, Le Guin contributed to providing an image of how each society is actually affecting the whole nation i.e. to achieve the wall that separates the two. Then the wall has to be destroyed and nonexistent.

Furthermore, the pervading tone or the mood of the novel looks like the cold war real atmosphere that was distinguished by loss and ambiguity. The real spiritual influence of the cold war is reflected in the tone of the novel. Le Guin also selected famous characters, during the cold war, which had an important role and did efforts to create a relation or communication between the conflicting powers of the world. Through this image, she inspired the protagonist of the novel who has approximately the same mission in which Shevek has a theory that may help the separated planets to combine them and become one power. Moreover, the novel, in general, can be seen as corroboration of Nixon's plan of the new political system that is mentioned above. Indeed, the critical method that Le Guin adapted in her work is centered on the isolated situation that America imposed in the commercial field in which limited its trade with certain countries. He

[Shevek] felt more strongly to need that had brought him across the dry abyss from the other world, the need for communication, the wish to unbuild walls" (75).

By these particular worlds, Le Guin illustrates the necessity of communication which assists to take the appropriate decision in order to change the status of America during that period. She focuses on the principle of communication to understand the other side and know how to deal with it and breaks any tension between any two contrasting ideologies.

### **3. Vietnam War Traces:**

The Vietnam War influence on Le Guin's work is demonstrated in the theme of rebellion for freedom. *The Dispossessed* (1974) is categorized as a work which reflexes the condition of America during a certain moment.

Bedap had forced him [Shevek] to realize that he was, in fact, a revolutionary; but he felt profound that he was such by virtue of his upbringing and education as an Odonian and an Anarresti. He could not rebel against his society, because his society, properly conceived, was a revolution, a permanent one, and ongoing process. To reassert its validity and strength, he thought, one need only act, without fear of punishment and without hope of reward: act from the center of one's soul." (143)

Here Le Guin explains the purpose of revolutionaries through the use of the imaginative elements that help Le Guin to show her interpretation concerning the psychology, society and the political activities and attempts to open the closed doors meanwhile facilitate the complexity of life shows that the free action signifies power to act and speak without constraints which is a feature of utopian society. Le Guin took the details of reality and built an imaginative world

which contains the idea of antiwar similarly in America during that period. However, she emphasized the way the inhabitants rejected the war. In her vision, rebellion and revolution resulted in a change which is a symbol of the shift from bad to good or from sadness to happiness. Thus, *The Dispossessed* has different analytical faces either historically or sociologically in which the readers can understand the complexity and the role of each event in relation to its influence. Furthermore, this work embodies the capacity of Le Guin to understand her surroundings.

### **Conclusion:**

By bringing out the aspects of the different theories, this chapter has provided the historical background besides the main reasons that pushed Le Guin to write *The Dispossessed* (1974) is categorized as a work which reflexes the condition of America during a certain moment. Through the use of the imaginative elements helps Le Guin to show her interpretation concerning the psychology, society and the political activities and attempts to open the closed doors meanwhile facilitate the complexity of life. This chapter also has highlighted the direction of the novel by recounting the essential events throughout the experience of the main character Shevek during his journey.

## **Chapter Three: Reading Le Guin's Feminist Utopia and Science Fiction in *The Dispossessed***

### **Introduction:**

*The Dispossessed* (1974) is categorized as a work that reflexes the condition of America during a certain moment. The use of the imaginative elements has helped Le Guin to show her interpretation concerning the psychology, society and the political activities and has attempted to open the closed doors meanwhile facilitate the complexity of life form and content. This chapter will provide a deep analysis of the novel according to the theories aforementioned which are regarded as the key to Le Guin's purpose and thoughts developed into her novel.

### **Section One: Anarchist Ambiguous Utopia in *The Dispossessed***

The application of the elements of a new utopia and feminism show that a female writer gave a great impact on literature and have this kind of extensive details. Therefore, this shows that women have this special way of looking at any subject in a different way. Le Guin asserts that she can produce new description to the utopian world through digging deep to understand the complexity of life and touched politics, society, and psychology. *The Dispossessed* (1974) is categorized as a work which reflexes the condition of America during a certain moment. Through, the use of the imaginative elements that help Le Guin to show her interpretation concerning the psychology, society and the political activities and attempts to open the closed doors meanwhile facilitate the complexity of life.

## **1. Ambiguous Utopia Existence in The Dispossessed:**

Le Guin presents the concept utopia in her work which takes new dimensions, through her vision that is concerned with the unusual elements of utopia. It is inspired from the philosophy of others who are mentioned in the second chapter. She has practiced their theories in social and political conditions in order to show unprecedented utopia i.e. Le Guin does not talk about the perfection of society as a utopia; however, she insists on the function of it in which individuals work for change and make balance hence to live in better existence. Through Le Guin's point of view, she embraces the ambiguity of the ideal society. This is illustrated when Shevek felt himself unfitted in Anarres and also his resolution to leave his home in order to search for change, further the perfection method of social structure.

On Anarres he [Shevek] had chosen, in defiance of the expectations of his society, to do the work he was individually called to do. To do it was to rebel: to risk the self for the sake of society. (219)

However, while Shevek experienced other society, Urassti society, he could not accept and adopt the domination of the government

There is no freedom. It is a box – Urras is a box, a package, with all the beautiful wrapping of blue sky and meadows and forests and great cities. And you open the box, and what's inside it? A black cellar full of dust, and a dead man. A man whose hand was shot off because he held it out to others. I have been in Hell at last. Desart was right; it is Urras; Hell is Urras. (278)

Shevek could not forget his past and memories in Anarres. In this way, Le Guin focuses on individuals' role to work on in order to reach a better life. Even though, the social conditions are

helpless or simply dystopian ones. In other words, among the dystopian conditions, the new utopia of Le Guin takes place in which the change is the motivator of the best existence in society. In addition, the method of the imaginative worlds and their structures allow the writer to give different kinds of society which are totally conflicted in the principal source, but the protagonist faces difficulties and lives in confusion to know what are the facts or the details of the perfect society. Further, Shevek's status led him to ask about the main factor that is responsible to make utopia exist in his life i.e. he has a lack of understanding the exact things that bring him the best conditions and feels himself that he lives in an ideal society.

Indeed, he wants to know either community or individual is the creator of utopian conditions. Thus, Le Guin displays the ambiguous utopia in her work through shevek's actions and experiences which are based on the quest for a specific shape of utopia or statistic form that results in the measures of perfection and idealization in society. All these ideas are the surface image of Le Guin's *The Dispossessed* which illustrates the inappropriate expression to relate the notion of utopia with perfection i.e. when she describes Anarres and Urass through a contrasted presentation, then portrays Shevek's bewilderment to precise the utopian society and criticized both of them at first. However, the direction of the story takes another destination that is deeper in which Le Guin elaborates with a view to perform her social commentary and offer explanation according to the different theories by including her imprint in order to compose *The Dispossessed* anarchist utopia. (Matt Dauphin, 2011).

## **2. Anarchist Appearance in the Dispossessed:**

In Anarres, the anarchists are the inhabitants' beliefs in which they use it as the principle of their way of living and it is practiced and adapted by all the Anarresti. The anarchist society is obtained from Odo's philosophical thoughts that basically emphasized on the individual power in which to produce community as the best place to exist in, furthermore the authorities and its laws do not occur with the nature of Odo's beliefs, however, freedom is the essential point of her

thoughts that make all the citizens understand and perform it in their daily lives. When she illustrates the necessity of individuals and ignored the polity existence in order to give members of society the opportunity to provide their needs, i.e. in this way all of them have the spirit of responsibility which concerns the whole community, however, polity focuses on its benefits. Consequently, each member's self-interest is linked to the other and directed to the community. In different words, what is interesting to every person is likewise to the whole community.

Odo's beliefs are initially written on her own and then after her death, they became the foundation of Annares society. Through Odo's ideas, the Anarresti accept the isolation from the other planet and live in the best conditions in which all the inhabitants are able to educate and work in the favorite field, making research and invent whatever they want. Thus, equality and freedom are spread among them. However, while Shevek started to work on his project, his teacher created barriers to stop him and accused Shevek that he worked to the personal interest as a selfish attitude, which is contradicted to the Odonians principles and the tradition of the community. The non-stimulant reaction of Annaresti, therefore he moved to in order to find the person who supports him and continue the work furthermore to proof that his project is a benefit for the whole society.

Shevek is the first person who breaks the anarchist isolation and contacts the profiteers of Urass, but regrettably, he disappointed his expectations and he got back home with new understanding to his society Further discovered that the utopian conditions existed when he was striving for change to create better existence. Through these events, Le Guin shows the anarchist society, Annares, as fertile ground to make a change and founds the best achievement i.e. the anarchist statue allows the individuals to talk about their needs freely in order to live in suitable conditions in the community while utopia embodied in (Taylor Andrew Loy, 2008).

Le Guin expressed the idea of change as the key to find utopia and live in better conditions, through her vision while she illustrated the members of the community living in bad status i.e. a

dystopian society in which the particular member has the desire to change in order to create the best situation to fit in. Thus, in *The Dispossessed* structure, there is no specific shape to the notion of utopia or precise principles to the ideal society. Le Guin brings Annares and Urass in different conditions, but the main character of the novel cannot feel belonging to any one of them, however he realized that good life is existed by the desire to change and shift from bad to good position, moreover, Shevek inspired the spirit to become different in the context of society throughout the helpless geographical situation, moon, which is considered as the deterrent effect of good life and it makes him needs to change and work to get the best existence in his society. Therefore, change has been provoked by utopia i.e. the requirement to improve the social environment pushes to do efforts for transmutation and move to the best.

In the story, Shevek's main idea is the ability to find utopia and live in it, this ambition and the inner enthusiastic allow Shevek to change the setting from Annares to Urass. Thus, he understands that utopia is sourced from individuals. As a result of the individual change it affected the society in a whole and gives new appearance to the community i.e. the members of society are the essential active element in which it is being the better place to live in, and also makes each individual responsible to structure society with best conditions further Le Guin emphasized on the importance of awareness and understand the expression of utopia rather than its form. In simple words, the details of *The Dispossessed* and the deep understanding to Le Guin's thoughts that illustrates the focus on the utopian content on behalf of its shape in order to embody utopia in real society. Through Le Guin's production, *The Dispossessed*, the new utopia is exposed and took the special path that is referred to Le Guin social critics.

Again Odo's belief on anarchy as a method to show the realization of the expression of utopia in which anarchists understand the bad situation and they work on to change in order to move to the better conditions i.e. while the individuals, for instance, do strike peacefully means that they want to show the negativity or the worst thing in their society, and this appear the sign of

consciousness about their surroundings in order to bring different status that is the best, meanwhile, Odo's idea of anarchism contains scales which are not violent but peaceful because she knows that the anarchist always has new ideas to perform it(Taylor Andrew Loy 2008).

According to her idea which is based on alteration as an implement to reach a better status in reality, instead to think about the perfect world as a futuristic vision, but this situation perhaps never existed in reality at all. Furthermore, she is against Urass political system in which she interpreted the relationship between the polity and its citizens, this competitive relationship that means there is the power and weak, the despot and oppression, hence the internal power structures of their society is contributed to prevail inequality and the impression of getting without giving. Through her examination of Urassti way of living it shows that their society needs to improve attitudes and ameliorates minds in order to change their living conditions are expressed.

However, in Annares the relation is a cooperative relationship in which the individual works on the whole benefits of the community that means Annares is communal society. They lived in anarchy throughout revolution and resistance in order to change. Moreover, to understand that sometimes change is obligatory in their lives by cause of the Odonians who know that the permanent situation does not exist additionally to embodied stability, thus, they call for change rather than being imposed on i.e. Le Guin highlighted the idea of impermanence and perfection in life through her vision and she insisted on, while using it as a starting idea to expose it to *The Dispossessed* and also practicing it in the Odonian world used as a principle of change in Annares. The source of utopia in Odo's thoughts is the practice and continuation of it, by embracing the dystopian conditions and work on to remove or reduce it to have a better existence.

Indeed in Annares, equality is the principle that facilitates the conflicts between individual interests with community and in which the needs of a society is more important than the individual, that means sacrifice is part of individual role i.e. when Shevek thinks about his theory and regarded it as a personal project hence it is refused, because this project contradicts the

Odonien principles, subsequently Shevek faced dystopian conditions and also take the decision to change the planet and move to Urass. Through this event Le Guin makes Shevek interact with other people in order to develop his mind and understand the essential things in life, here, she touches the moral issue in literary context. After Shevek's voyage, his vision changed and he decided to back home with hope to change his way of thinking about utopian society, by improving his situation in Annares and do efforts in order to create the betterment position in his society. Another point, Shevek excites to gain the best conditions in Anarres through the anarchy principle which supports change all over the time.

The voyage is the key of Shevek's change during which he builds another starting point in his life in Annares. When he was in Urass the dystopian conditions and the inability to call for change or solve problems made Shevek paid attention to his anarchist society that allows the individuals to create change in beneficial to have a better existence. Although Shevek was living in Annares which contains freedom as a principle, he noticed that he wants to practice his freedom to live in the best situation in his home Annares, and this shows the awareness that Shevek acquired it when he changed the setting, thus the travel is the essential element that reflects Shevek's realization of the surroundings.

Furthermore, Shevek's journey grants him crucial element to understand Odo's beliefs such as the isolated principle that Annares is lived in which Shevek discovered the quality of separation that contributes on shaping the suitable social structure without external interference. In addition, he found the explanations of the ambiguous things that exist in Annares and represent a barrier to make Shevek interests to adopt the Odonien principles. Le Guin presents time as the main element to achieve change or move to the better status, through the past, present to the future which means that the idea perhaps existed in the past as a dream based on present and will embody and practiced in the future i.e. in *The Dispossessed*, when Shevek travelled to Urras and lived their he

remembered his life in Annares which is the past and he used the present in order to return to his home and creates better conditions there, here, is the future.

In Le Guin's utopia that is based on change, the journey takes the shape of utopia, through the journey Shevek wants to back home and change his vision concerning the principles of his society and he also helps himself to get the right scales to live in the best conditions. As Le Guin notes: "It was our purpose all along – our Syndicate, this journey of mine – to shake things up, to stir up, to break some habits, to make people ask questions. To behave like anarchists!" (309). According to the expression, Le Guin shows the importance of the voyage in Shevek's way of thinking. He declared that his life's aim is to search for and understand the complexities of his society in order to do the adjustment, hence adapts with the anarchist community through accepting the norms of their conduct.

Again, Le Guin wants to express the ambiguous utopia in order to illustrate her vision, by concerning with the elements of real life in which can help to disassemble the complexity of world existence, through alters the idea of perfection and replace it with the concept of better existence or change requirements to produce more suitable conditions. In addition, she indicates that it is necessary to make balance in humans' lives to equate between the differences of life, for instance through what is bad and good, man and woman. Le Guin inspired the composition of *The Dispossessed* which contains contrasted information in order to show that balance among the elements of society is the key to create harmonization. According to that, she said: "we keep writing dystopias instead of envisioning a better world. Maybe what we need is a balance" (Le Guin2017). The existence of the contrasting elements in life needs to understand them and then work on to make balance in order to reach the best ones.

## **Section two: Feminist Utopia Science Fiction in *The Dispossessed***

Science fiction has a specific shape and varied ways of its presentation in which allows the writer to build the realm of alternate according to the writer's imagination, so it is based on the imaginative world particularly it is located in space. *The Dispossessed*(1974) is classified as a utopian science fiction novel in which Le Guin structured her work by combining the utopian theories with temporal theory in order to form the world.

### **1. Science Fiction Touch in The Dispossessed:**

*The Dispossessed* contains the scales of this genre in which the initial element is the setting of the story. Thus, the events of the novel take shape in the space and the protagonist, Shevek, has experienced space travel that it leads him to live in different social systems on the moon Annares, here, the other aspects of science fiction appear in which the use of high technology and computer as the tools of the Annaresti daily life in addition, the idea that Le Guin emphasized it is the role of science and scientists in their society in which Shevek created a new theory that contains formula in order to change societies, meanwhile the author utilized imaginative world with the hope, fear and worries which they are real feelings, but in speculative context in order to make the novel fits into this genre.

*The Dispossessed* has a futuristic dimension however produced in another way in which Le Guin indicates to the way that it gives the better existence in society through the individuals who have the great role to create a change in their lives to move to the best. Also, she uses time in which it is the basic factor to make individual has hope for good futuristic existence (medium.com).

Overall, Le Guin practiced science fiction genre in her novel *The Dispossessed* through the benefits of its elements in which it makes her expresses the ideas in the imaginative context in

order to examine several issues political, social and females' sufferings. Accordingly to the bad situation of woman in the American society, Le Guin plays the role of a feminist activist in which she used the needs of women in real existence as the details of her work, *The Dispossessed*, and also she drew the feminist utopia on the moon Annares .

## **2. The Manifestation of Le Guin's Feminist Stand in *The Dispossessed*:**

The feminism movements were increased during 1960's and 1970's in order to get women's rights in their society, this is mentioned in the first chapter, by using different ways such as the establishment of associations or used art to call for the women's better existence in all aspects of life. Le Guin's work, *The Dispossessed*, is considered as one of the literary works that it emphasizes to improve the status of female in her community meanwhile supports the requirements of women during that period. Through *The Dispossessed*, Le Guin appears her interest to the gender issue and feminism movements in which she presents women in different positions and seeks the appropriate situation that makes them rejoice when they are treated as an active element in society.

Le Guin gave a contrasted situation for women in Annares and Urass. She illustrated the capacity of women to occupy an active role in their society. In Annares the problem of gender does not exist in which men and women have equal treatment and they are sharing the same rights in society, through ignorance of the biological differences. Further, the Odonien principle offers female a lot of opportunities and allows her to practice her rights in private as well as in public life. The anarchist community takes the shape of the feminist utopia in which it suggests itself as a solution to the problem of the capitalist system, which regards women as an object that has been possessed by men. Hence, Le Guin attempts to use her work as a guide to spread the awareness among the Americans, generally and women in particular in order to help woman requires her rights.

In Annares, again, the egalitarianism is an essential principle existed in the Odo's philosophy in which is gender equality and all the individuals are regarded a full member of the anarchist society. All the Annaresti have equal roles in their community in which is not a distinction between man and woman. Thus, the gender issue is not a debatable or controversial subject on Annares society further, when a new member has birthed on Annares there is no directory of Affiliation to family or religion orientation hence this person becomes just an Annaresti member belongs to the anarchist society. The egalitarianism also allows all the inhabitants to have the right to choose the convenient job according to their capacities and social needs i.e. woman has the same opportunity with men to ameliorate her career and practices her desire in different fields even though science and physics meanwhile, she takes responsibility towards her community.

Odo believed in women's capacity to have the same role as well as men. Through this image, Le Guin characterized females as a power in society which is able to occupy important positions in their community hence the equality between man and woman is a human right, in which should be regarded as human beings with particular qualifications. Once more, the equality on Annares has another shape in which is no marriage, however, a partner that means man and woman having a monogamy relation. Both of them are living in an equal independent position that allows them to be together or separate and also each one should not affect their careers negatively even though man or woman. Accordingly, Le Guin wants to show that husband should care about his wife's career in order to support and encourage her. In Annares, again, sexuality referred to the individuals' desire in which the equality gives man and woman the right to practice it according to their needs or choice either heterosexual or homosexual. However, the Annaresti do not see women as an object to practice men's desires or interesting to their beauty, while they look after their spirit and treat them with respect

On Anarres nothing is beautiful, nothing but the faces. The other faces, the men, and women. We have nothing but that, nothing but each other. Here you see the jewels, there you see the eyes. And in the eyes, you see the splendor, the splendor of the human spirit (10).

Overall, the quotation illustrates how the Annaresti see and treat each other through the interest on the inner essence. Furthermore, the beauty does not relate to the appearance of a person, however, the main scale is the spiritual or immaterial part of human i.e. the human soul. Hence, on Anarres, a woman has full rights to be an effective element in her society and also she is treated as a human who has beauty soul before the body. Le Guin, here, wants to declare that the American community should evaluate the individuals, women, from the spiritual side rather than the physical side, further the partner choice is based on human interior, not the exterior.

In Annaristi society normally, it gives woman the right to continue her training before born child in order to be equal with man concerning the practical field i.e. when woman has a plan about her career, she chooses either finishes her training or becomes pregnancy which means that women are free in their private life and they live without social compression, so the Annaresti women have equal opportunity likewise men's opportunity.

Another Odonien's principle, with regard to, family and women's right that it takes the shape of equality in which the parents are free to care about their child or give initially this mission to the nurseries in order to care about child in very young age, then to the matron who plays the role of the educator in which woman carry on their professional life alternately motherhood period. Thus, this idea is illustrated by shevek's experience in the novel, *The Dispossessed*, in which his parents gave the responsibility of their child, shevek, to the nurses and he lives in separation with his parents for full time i.e. he spent his childhood far from his family

because they work as engineers however, this case is optional that it refers to the parents, especially, women in order to give them the right to choose either practice their role of motherhood or their professional life, according to the first option in which the mother and the father opt to be separated with their child on account of the geographical separation or for the benefits of the community.

The Odonien's principle crystallizes in the Annaresti society, through the collective relationship that exists among the individuals on Annares in which makes equality among genders meanwhile, it spreads the sense of community and they show their anti-proletarian principles. Furthermore, Le Guin illustrates that after the mother gives birth to her child. She needs to be sure that her role of motherhood should not be a barrier to come back for her professional life i.e. she motivates women to be active in her both lives, the private and social ones meanwhile she wants to make the society realizes that women have the right to be mother and cares about her career hence, Le Guin supports the demands of the liberal feminists movement which are mentioned in the first chapter that woman wants to have the right to educate, work and to have the equal payment as well as man. And also she guides a woman to keep going for calling about her rights. Additionally, she pushes a woman to reach her goal which is to be equal to man and stop injustice women's treatment.

Le Guin gives the shape of the feminist utopia on the planet of Annares in which equality and freedom are the right of each individual who lives on. She presents Odo as an example of the women's mind that concerns about the benefits of the whole community and also appears the women's spirit of the responsible element in the structure of society. *The Dispossessed* has two manifestations the first is an artistic piece of writing in which contains the literary elements like imagination and creativity. The second is a social, political document in which Le Guin listed the demands of woman during that time and also gave the scales of utopian feminist in order to make the American society provides them to create the appropriate situation in which allows woman to

fit in, further *The Dispossessed* encourages women to work on their status by creating a change and to move to the better existence in their society. Thus, the planet Annares shows the image of the feminist utopian society.

However, the planet Urass is totally opposites of the Odonien's community principles in which this planet is controlled by the capitalist system. Le Guin, especially, used this system as a symbol that it refers to America and the details of Urass are approximately obtained from the real existence, hence the situation of women in Urass presents the women's sufferings in the American society i.e. the real status of woman in her society manifests on the planet Urass.

Again, the society of Urass gives the man the authoritative powerful position that is the head of the society. In addition, men have full rights to do whatever he wants and whenever he wants, so men are the dominant element in the Urrasti society. However, women have limited space, if not non-existed at all, in their society in which she is treated as an object that it has been owned by men in order to use it to practice their desires and to enjoy. Through this way that women is treated with, in which it is an oppressive situation embodies as the destiny of women in the Urrasti society.

The inequality that woman lives in leads her to be uneducated and has no role in her society. Women on Urass are forbidden to continue their studies and move to the university in order to stay at home and be housewives and care about their children because they have not the right to play any other role in their society, further they have no position in all aspects of life social, economic and politics even though their private life in which men have the right to educate in the university, hold job and have career. Additionally, they occupy all the fields in politics as a decider makers, science, and engineering so men in Urass have multi opportunities unlike women who are regarded as a possessed thing without soul or mind, but have the only body for sex besides to the difficulties that women face, the violence spread in the Urassti society and also the

women are sufferings from the sexual harassment. Thus, the image of the situation of a woman on Urass is complete in contrast with Annares (Celine Briot, 2015).

Le Guin used different women's situations in order to embody the reality in her work, *The Dispossessed*, in which she portrayed the status of woman in America during 1960's and 1970's on the planet Urass. through aforementioned details which show the complexity of the society towards women. Furthermore, Le Guin is interested by the women's issue and wants to make them aware of their right in the society. Due to *The Dispossessed*, the capacities of Le Guin protrude in this famous work because she produced a new utopia that it is based on her point of view with a combination of many philosophical theories in which they lead her to embody a new utopia in literature.

### **Conclusion:**

Le Guin presents her thoughts clearly in the image of a new utopia that based on ambiguity and anarchy. She emphasized the role of the individuals to create a better situation and shows the importance of the awareness that helps to open the closed doors. Furthermore, she illustrates the feminist ideas of having a better existence in one's society purpose Le Guin looms in her analyzing manner to decode life.

## General Conclusion

To sum up, this study has tried to give a general overview of feminist utopia science fiction in *The Dispossessed* (1974). As it has already been stated, women's voice started to be heard namely during the complexities of the American society through the events of 1960's and 1970's. Literature written about feminist utopia becomes a thriving field of research; female writers started to write about their issues and tried to defend their rights in order to change women's position better existence in society.

Feminism movement has shown a willingness to embody women's presence in society through periods. Hence, women's identity becomes crucial for every individual. They strive for equal rights and individualism. In fact, feminist movements were further enhanced thanks to female participation in almost all the aspects of American's affairs achievements. This is the very reason that encourages women to be aware of their necessity in society. Hence, the voice of feminism is more audible in utopian science fiction, including female writings, than anywhere else. As a result, feminist utopia emerged and flourished mainly when women believed that they are human beings before their sex as a female.

In *The Dispossessed* (1974), Le Guin has stressed the function of utopia for the whole society and women mainly in order to spread a consciousness spirit among the individuals that change is the key of a better existence in society. Le Guin through *The Dispossessed* (1974) exposes the viability of feminist utopia as a socially necessary, in which to give the importance of women's better existence as a means of social development. She also highlights the anarchy and ambiguity as for the elements of utopian social betterment.

In Fact, *The Dispossessed* (1974) is the ambiguous utopia. Le Guin has put a great emphasis on the central role of the individuals' shift towards social betterment as the key that opens the utopian's door. The use of contrasted societies in the science fiction's context served Le

Guin to illustrate her thoughts about the perfection infeasible in life, however, striving to achieve the suitable situation in society. Thus, the insistence on change improves individuals' the best condition.

Indeed, Le Guin has contributed in correcting the image of the concept utopia. The novel is a new description unlike to the ordinary appearance of utopia which based on an idealization of life, but the new one is crystallized in change. Feminist utopia, in *The Dispossessed* (1974), is presented equality, freedom and women's identity, more importantly; it shows that women are the masters of their lives; they take their lives into their own hands.

As it has been hypothesized, the novel, indeed, appears and clarifies Le Guin's capacity to analyze the American society as a female writer. Hence, when she emphasizes to show that woman has the ability to occupy high positions in her society. Further, she makes the novel as a tool to understand the complexities of life. Le Guin also has listed the demands of the feminist movement in order to give women's issues more attention, meanwhile, she proves her believes through the way that her work has structured.

Indeed, reading *The Dispossessed* is a social paradigm to re-think about the elements of utopia and the women's position in society in order to open a space for new discussions that are able to catch the main point that is the creation of change in individual's life. Actually, in the face of the emergence of these new utopia's ideas, traditional feminist utopia interpretations can remain insufficient. So, for many female writers took the responsibility to call for women's rights and gender equality as a fateful mission, but Le Guin draws the image successfully through her extended vision to understand and expose the subject of feminist utopia science fiction on her work. In *The Dispossessed*, Le Guin creates a new paradigm of utopia that benefits both the whole society better structured and women's best position in society mainly.

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## Appendices:



### A. The novelist:

Ursula Kroeber was born in 1929 in Berkeley, California, where she grew up. She is an American writer whose parents were the anthropologist Alfred Kroeber and the writer Theodora Kroeber. She went to Radcliffe College and did graduate work at Columbia University. She married Charles A. Le Guin, a historian, in Paris in 1953; they have lived in Portland, Oregon, since 1958, and have three children and four grandchildren. She writes both poetry and prose, and in various modes including realistic fiction, science fiction, fantasy, young children's books, books for young adults, screenplays, essays, verbal texts for musicians, and voice texts.

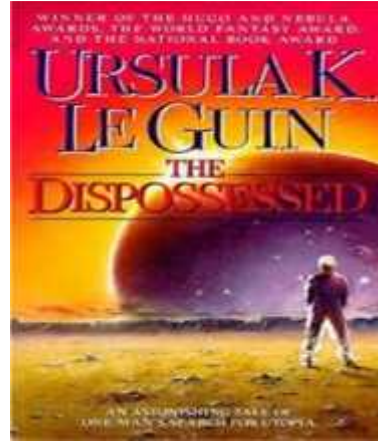
Most of Le Guin's major titles have remained continuously in print, some for over forty years. Her first major work of science fiction is *The Left Hand of Darkness* and her novel *The Dispossessed* (1974) redefines the scope and style of utopian fiction.

Le Guin has taken the risk of writing seriously and with rigorous artistic control in forms some consider sub-literary. Critical reception of her work has rewarded her courage with considerable generosity. Harold Bloom includes her among his list of classic American writers. Grace Paley, Carolyn Kizer, Gary Snyder, and John Updike have praised her work.

Many critical and academic studies of Le Guin's work have been written, including books by

Elisabeth Cummins, James Bittner, B.J. Bucknall, J. De Bolt, B. Selinger, K.R. Wayne, D.R. White, an early bibliography by Elizabeth Cummins Cogell and a continuation of the bibliography by David S. Bratman.

Le Guin leads an intensely private life, with sporadic forays into political activism and steady participation in the literary community of her city. Having taught writing workshops from Vermont to Australia, she is now retired from teaching. She limits her public appearances mostly to the West Coast.



## **B. Brief Summary of *The Dispossessed*:**

Le Guin's *The Dispossessed* is a novel about the radically different societies on two close planets. On Urras, there are multiple states, each with their own government. On Anarres, there is no government or economic system. Shevek, a physicist on Anarres, wants to break the rules of his world and travel to Urras, not only to speak with other physicists who understand and are excited by his theories, but to promote friendship between the two planets. However, when Shevek spends a little time on Urras, he discovers that utopia is not all he thought it would be. *The Dispossessed* is a novel of utopian anarchy in which he understands that he needed to be back home and create a change in his life to have better existence in his planet.