

Women's Voices in the Fiction of Shirley Hazzard

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Abstract: This research paper examines the representation of women's voices in the fiction of Shirley Hazzard, emphasizing how female consciousness, moral awareness, and emotional restraint shape her narrative vision. Hazzard's novels present women not as marginal or secondary figures but as central interpretive voices through whom ethical meaning and emotional depth emerge. The study explores how women's voices function through interior reflection, silence, memory, and moral judgment rather than through overt speech or dramatic action. By analyzing Hazzard's narrative style and characterization, particularly in *The Transit of Venus*, the paper argues that women's voices form the moral and philosophical core of her fiction. These voices challenge traditional literary stereotypes of women and offer a serious engagement with love, loss, time, and responsibility. The paper contributes to literary criticism by highlighting Hazzard's unique approach to female subjectivity and narrative authority.

Keywords: Women's voices; female subjectivity, moral consciousness; interior monologue; silence and voice; narrative authority; love and loss

