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Thesis Title	Victorian Anti-Victorian Women: A Study of the Non-Conforming Women in Selected Novels by Gaskell,Eliot and Hardy		
Year	٢٠٠٢		
Abstract	<p>The Victorian ideals of womanhood have always been controversial issues by anti-utilitarian imaginative writers and poets. The debate on the status of women proved to be a superheated subject in the newly emerging culture of the industrial revolution as it is now on the threshold of the 21thc.. But no matter how the Victorian concepts of sobriety, chastity, rectitude and seriousness were preserved, there were always voices which mirrored and discussed images of the nonconforming women who felt uneasy and dissatisfied with traditional Victorian ideals of womanhood. From Thackeray to Hardy including the major Victorian novelists, the nonconforming women were presented in different forms to testify to the fact that the Victorian novelists were strongly concerned with the issues of gender and feminism. Thus readers of Victorian fiction frequently come across the nonconforming women in the novels of this age of transition. The purpose of the present study is to examine and evaluate different images of nonconforming women in the fictional works of Elizabeth Gaskell, George Eliot and Thomas Hardy.</p>		