

Self-Withdrawal as Individual Liberty in Response to Gender Inequality in *Circe* by Madeline Miller

Nada Kamila Chairunisa¹✉, Rahayu Puji Haryanti²

^{1,2}Faculty of Languages and Art, Universitas Negeri Semarang, Semarang, Indonesia

Article Info	Abstract
<i>Article History:</i> Received 30 June 2025 Approved 05 July 2025 Published 31 July 2025 Keywords: Gender inequality, Individual liberty, Self-withdrawal, <i>Circe</i>, Liberal Feminism	Women are frequently controlled and subjugated as a result of gender inequality, which drives them to seek independence. In Madeline Miller's novel <i>Circe</i>, the protagonist's act of self-withdrawal represents an assertion of individual liberty in response to patriarchal oppression. This study examines how gender inequality shapes <i>Circe</i>'s decision to isolate herself and how her withdrawal becomes a form of resistance and self-empowerment, analyzed through the lens of liberal feminism as outlined by Rosemarie Tong. This research employs a qualitative descriptive method, using the novel <i>Circe</i> as the primary data source. The findings reveal that <i>Circe</i> experiences various forms of gender inequality, which drive her to withdraw and develop her own identity and abilities. Ultimately, this self-withdrawal enables her to achieve a sense of individual liberty and personal agency. In conclusion, the novel depicts self-withdrawal as a deliberate and empowering response to gender inequality, consistent with the components of liberal feminism.

© Copyright 2025

How to cite (in APA style):

Chairunisa, N. K. & Haryanti, R. P. (2025). Self-Withdrawal as Individual Liberty in Response to Gender Inequality in *Circe* by Madeline Miller. (2025). *Rainbow : Journal of Literature, Linguistics and Culture Studies*, 14, 232-239. <https://doi.org/10.15294/rainbow.v14i.29885>.

INTRODUCTION

Gender inequality is when people are treated or perceived differently based on their gender in areas such as education, work, and politics (Walby, 1989). Rooting from patriarchal structures, gender inequality is where men are in power and women are in a lower position, and this discrimination against women occurs in society, even within families (Devi et al., 2024). This includes negative stereotypes, silencing women's voices, and ignoring harm they experience (Hasan, 2019). Women still face structural obstacles and violence in school and at work, which shows that gender inequality is still a problem in modern society. Even if both genders have the same qualifications,

opportunities often favour one gender due to traditional assumptions (Ridgeway, 2011).

Men and women have different rights and opportunities as society perceives women as inferior, less capable than men (Tong, 2009), and how women are not evaluated by their true potential, thus are assessed unfairly (Jaggar, 2018). Liberal feminism becomes a response to this issue by emphasizing that every individual, regardless of gender, has equal rights to opportunities, personal freedom, and legal protection (Mohajan, 2022, p.14). Closely aligned with the premise of feminism, a social movement opposing capitalism, social injustice and patriarchy as a form of oppression against women (Raina, 2017) seeking to end male dominance over women (Kuleli, 2019).

✉ Corresponding author:

Email: nadakamila004@students.unnes.ac.id

Integrating women's individual rights into pre-existing social systems is the main focus of liberal feminism (Mohajan, 2022).

Individual freedom is the ability to make decisions without interference (Berlin, 2017), including determining one's life, expressing opinions, and setting personal boundaries. In the context of self-withdrawal, this becomes a form of achieving freedom by controlling personal space, forming self-defence, and distancing oneself from social pressure to achieve their personal liberty. Similar to the 4B movement in South Korea emerging as a response to inequality and misogyny, where women choose to isolate themselves from men rather than face discrimination. Along with self-help ideas, it is also a form of resistance against customs and failed government policies (Lee & Jeong, 2021). The urgency of this study, liberal feminism is important for demanding gender equality in institutional structures, as gender inequality remains a major issue. In literature, this approach helps us understand women's struggle to gain rights and freedom in a patriarchal system, while remaining inspirational. For if women do not advocate for themselves, there is no guarantee others will fight for their rights.

In feminist literary theory, liberal feminism continues to be utilized as a method for analysing literary works. Foley (2019) assessed Fay Weldon's novel *Praxis* (1978) as highlighting women's rights and equality, along with human rights and reform can be achieved without radicalism. Along with novels, poetry and scripts also reflect reality (Davidsen, 2018), demonstrating the relevance of liberal feminism in modern society. This movement addresses issues of gender inequality, individual freedom, and personal rights that are still relevant today.

Other works that can be reviewed through the lens of liberal feminism is *Circe* (2018), by the international bestseller, Madeline Miller (Andreeva, 2019). *Circe* focuses on the character with the same name, and is Miller's reinterpretation of Homer's *The Odyssey*. *Circe* lives in a highly patriarchal society where she experiences unfair treatment from mortals, Gods and family as she does not fit the conventions and expectations of the hierarchy. Unlike *Circe's* brothers, who are free to pursue their own lives, *Circe*, as one of the daughters of *Helios*, is expected to marry a powerful mortal. However, after being cast out, *Circe* built her identity, discovered her power, and challenged patriarchy by withdrawing from society. *Circe's*

withdrawal demonstrates the liberal feminist themes prevalent throughout the novel.

By raising the themes of gender inequality, feminism, and self-identity, *Circe* has become the subject of various studies, such as in the study by Sarwar and Fatima (2022), in which the writers highlight how the author writes *Circe's* transformation from a negative character to a strong and positive figure through Sara Mills' feminist stylistic analysis. Spacciante (2024) argues through feminist criticism that *Circe* actually reinforces power imbalances. Hovind (2022) examines *Circe* as a symbol of young women's empowerment through the lens of *The Odyssey*. Referring to previous studies, there has been no specific discussion of how *Circe* can build her self-awareness, independence through withdrawal, which are characteristics of liberal feminism.

Liberal feminism, a subset of feminism, places a strong focus on individual liberty, equal rights, and the dismantling of social norms. By asserting individual freedom without gender discrimination, liberal feminism emphasizes equality in education, employment and politics (Hackett & Haslanger, 2006). Liberal feminism, which originated in Western nations in the 17th and 18th Centuries, upholds rationality and education as the keys to gender inequality. According to Wollstonecraft (1982), women should have the same access to education as men in order to develop their moral and intellectuality (Tong, 2009). As stated by Tong (2009) the primary objective of liberal feminism is to create a society in which men and women can grow equally. Liberal feminism seeks to gradually alter political and social systems (Zhang & Rios, 2021).

In order to attain gender equality, Wollstonecraft (1982) believed that education is one of the components of liberal feminism reform as mentioned above (Tong, 2009). The next element is liberty, where every individual is a rational being with the ability to make their own judgment and pursue their own dreams, according to John Stuart Mill and Harriet Taylor Mill (1994, as cited in Tong, 2009, p.16). Women are expected to remain within the domestic sphere, Mill H. (1994, as cited in Tong, 2009) asserted that many women would choose to pursue jobs if they were allowed the freedom to do so, free from societal norms that compel them to perform domestic duties, proving that an individual's personal life can either hinder or assist their social life outside of home. John Stuart Mill and Harriet Taylor also stated that the right to vote is crucial for women, as it is one

of the ways they can voice their opinions on systems or laws that harm them (Tong, 2009, p.21). With times having changed, this goes back to how many people still do not understand the struggle of women, and even with voting rights they are still overpowered and how jobs still have a double standard for women compared to men and relates to the final components. The last element is that every woman has rights. Every woman is entitled to the same rights as men, because equality benefits not only the fortunate but all women from all backgrounds (Tong, 2009, p.27).

This study will analyze how *Circe* portrays gender inequality and patriarchal systems, as well as their effects on women. In addition, through Tong's liberal feminism, this study examines how *Circe* illustrates individual liberty through self-withdrawal. This study will reveal the significance of *Circe*'s self-withdrawal as a form of personal freedom in responding to patriarchal norms.

METHODOLOGY

This study uses a descriptive qualitative method, as it aims to analyze and describe how aspects of liberal feminism are portrayed in Madeline Miller's *Circe*. Qualitative research focuses on analytical analysis based on theory and grounded words, with the main objective of understanding people through experiences, processes, and interpretations (Aspers & Corte, 2019). The primary data source for this study is the novel *Circe* by Madeline Miller, with additional sources including journal articles, books, and other internet sources related to the topic. The researcher will identify phrases, statements, and dialogues that indicate or express signs of gender inequality or liberal feminism after reading the novel thoroughly several times which becomes the primary data. The data is then organised into indicators of gender inequality and aspects of liberal feminism. After categorisation, the data is carefully examined and interpreted as answers to the research questions posed in this study. In the next process, descriptive analysis is used to identify and understand the narrative present in the text. Descriptive analysis systematically summarizes and characterizes phenomena, answering questions about who, what, where, when, and to what extent, and serves as a crucial foundation for further research (Loeb et al., 2017). The analysis is presented under three main findings: (1) Gender inequality found in

Circe, (2) Liberal feminism in *Circe*, and (3) Self-withdrawal as individual liberty.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Gender Inequality

Gender inequality manifests in multiple ways throughout *Circe*, revealing how women are marginalized both publicly and privately. Women are often objectified, valued solely for their beauty and physical appearance, and reduced to objects meant to fulfill men's desires. Moreover, they are denied equal opportunities in areas such as education, self-agency, and the freedom to speak out. The dismissal of women's experiences further reinforce male dominance and reinforces systemic gender inequality. Through these portrayals, *Circe* illustrates that gender inequality permeates not only in public spaces but also in private spheres and interpersonal relationships, setting the stage for deeper exploration of these themes.

At the beginning of the novel, the highly patriarchal structure in ancient Greek Mythology is clearly established. Perse had just given birth to *Circe*, and she is immediately confronted with misogyny as her mother is clearly disappointed with *Circe* being a girl, indicating how women are looked down upon from the very start of their lives. However, her father shows no concern and takes note on how he would be paid quite the sum by any powerful mortal or god to be with his daughter, and to gain his power (Miller, 2018, p.8). This demonstrates how women are seen as instruments to further carry the male lineage and are under patriarchal control, as they are not recognized for their abilities. Rather, they are objectified and their worth is measured by how they are able to bear for men and gods. In chapter 5, Glaucos rejects *Circe* and chooses Scylla, as she is deemed to be the most beautiful nymph, deeming her superior compared to the other nymphs. This exemplifies the objectification of women, where a woman's value is determined solely based on her physical appearance. Women are indirectly denied their rights as individuals by men, be it a mortal or God, who limits their potential and reinforces negative gender stereotypes by elevating beauty above everything else. While women are denied as autonomous individuals of their own rights which forces them to conform to societal norms, men are granted freedom to pursue personal ambitions, further demonstrating the objectification of women directly facilitates gender inequality within the society.

Carrying the ownership of women's rights and objectifying them is a constant way of men viewing women as lower individuals. Medea tells Circe about how her father does not care about her, forbids her from using witchcraft and is told to hide it from everyone else. Medea continues to say he punished her due to the concern that she might disclose *his* secrets to her husband. This passage displays how masculine domination over knowledge serves as another way of emphasizing gender inequality. Aeëtes, Medea's father, refers to her witchcraft abilities as *his* secret, showing that her knowledge is something he owned. When women are denied the opportunity to grow on their own, or in this case also perceived as a threat, they are restricted from developing independently. Once again, this highlights the patriarchal notion of male ownership over women, exemplified by her father's belief that he holds authority over her magic and, by extension, over her autonomy. A structural imbalance is revealed, thus women are viewed as undeserving of intellectual knowledge or skill that can challenge male dominance in the hierarchy.

In patriarchal societies, men often do not view women as individuals with rights, thus violations of a women's rights and bodily autonomy does not seem like a serious offence to them in the first place. The author describes Circe's response to the severe trauma she experienced after being raped by a group of men who invaded her island. Circe's personal retaliation involved turning every male who visited her island into pigs. She always had a curiosity for mortals and looked forward to meeting them, but was hurt and betrayed. Her reaction is not only a form of self-protection, but also an expression of rage at the injustice and cruelty she has encountered. Rape is used as a tool and is a result of gender inequality to uphold structures that restrict women's equality and freedom. With women positioned as inferior to men, they are seen as weaker and treated unfairly by the patriarchal structure. The systematic imbalances within society not only reinforced the dominance of patriarchal structures, but also enables the abuse of power, allowing violations of women's rights and women's bodies. It promotes an environment where these injustices are accepted, disregarded, or rationalised, which further silences women's voices and restricts their power to oppose or regain control over their own lives.

In addition to being devalued as individuals, their experiences and hardships are dismissed as well. Everyone experiences

different forms of hardships and struggles. Odysseus is admired for the scars that covered his body that he got from battles of his past, and Circe imagines if she were mortal and had scars from all her past struggles. However, unlike Odysseus, she knows she would not be praised for scars from her struggles. Rather, she would be criticized and rejected instead of being seen as powerful and resilient. Strong women like Circe would be deemed as unworthy, especially in a patriarchal society where women are valued for their beauty. This shows that courage and suffering are only interpreted positively when experienced by men, highlighting gender inequality. In patriarchal organizations including as the one shown in Circe, women are often reduced to superficial values like obedience and beauty, and their struggles, agency, and personal power are ignored or even seen as a threat to established societal norms.

Liberal feminism in *Circe* Education

Liberal feminism asserts that women have the right to education and are equal to men. Liberal feminism acts as a means of developing their intellectual capacities, autonomy, and moral agency. Education is a fundamental component of liberal feminist thought because it empowers women to challenge restrictive roles and participate fully in society. In *Circe*, the protagonist initially faces barriers to accessing knowledge, reflecting broader gender inequalities that limit women's intellectual growth. However, through her choice to withdraw from the world, Circe gains the opportunity to educate herself, embodying the liberal feminist ideal of women pursuing knowledge and self-improvement despite societal constraints. This highlights how education functions as a crucial pathway to independence and self-realization within a liberal feminist framework.

Witchcraft is a knowledge gifted to certain immortal beings, and just like education, they need to learn to understand the use and strengthen of their knowledge. Women in witchcraft are seen as a threat to the patriarchal society, thus they are discouraged from learning and practising witchcraft. Circe had always refrained from utilizing her magic, and did not begin using them until she was exiled to the island of Aiaia. She starts exploring her powers, teaching herself and eventually develops her skills in magic. Circe compares the first time she wields her magic on Aiaia to Zeus lifting his thunderbolt for the first time, signifying the

overwhelming sense of empowerment she feels. Her self-withdrawal from the world allowed her to discover the power she always had within her, only needing the granted educational opportunity and self confidence. For once in her life, she felt power was in her hands and felt the purpose to live her everyday life, as education enhances her life.

Circe starts to grow as a person through honing and deepening her knowledge on witchcraft. With much knowledge, she looked back on her past self, as she used to be so afraid of facing the men in her life, like her father and brother. They had always been above her, determining her feelings, actions and her worth as an individual. As within the patriarchal structure, women are controlled by men, even within their interpersonal familial relationships. After discovering her witchcraft, she appears stronger than before and opposes the patriarchal powers that have long dominated her. Education not only helped her develop her intelligence, but also helped her gain self-confidence and courage. Circe asserts her autonomy on the island of Aiaia, as she no longer needed the approval of men, be it within or outside of her family.

Rights

To have rights means to be recognized as an individual, valued for one's inherent worth and potential, regardless of background, gender, or social status. Within liberal feminism, rights encompass personal freedom, autonomy, and the ability to make choices about one's own life without external constraints. In *Circe*, these principles are reflected in the protagonist's journey toward self-determination. Following her self-withdrawal to the island, Circe finally attains the rights she had long been denied, including the right to live her daily life free from oppressive social expectations, the right to pursue her own interests, and the right to shape her own destiny. This narrative highlights how liberal feminism emphasizes the importance of securing individual rights as a foundation for personal freedom and equality, setting the stage for further exploration of these themes in the text.

With every passing day on the island, Circe makes herself more comfortable, creating a home that she feels safe, protected and happy in. Aiaia has grown to be very important to Circe, not just as a place to live physically, but also her dwelling where she can determine her own independence, away from the influence of other mortals and Gods. Therefore, Circe

becomes protective of the island, and to her own individual privileges, she has the rights to protect the place. She actively guards anyone who attempts to enter the island, particularly sailors who wander by without authorization. Circe's attitude of protecting the island is not only as a defensive action, but also her way of upholding her rights and independence.

Prior to her life on the island, Circe suffered from loneliness and identity crisis before discovering a place to be by herself and follow her potential because of a social structure that did not provide her the space she needed to grow as a person and instead confined her to social expectations. However, after gaining autonomy to her rightful rights, Circe had the freedom and it became a form of resistance against the oppressive system that had previously gained control over her life. Circe reclaimed her rights as a person by claiming power over her time, body and choices. Her ownership over the island allows Circe to establish barriers with the outside world and serves as a symbol of her resilience to the abuse and neglect she endured in the past. Within liberal feminism, this personal freedom to have right not only represents the liberation from oppression, but another step to gender equality. Therefore, in addition to finding a new home, the island represents the independence and authority that Circe establishes on her own will.

Liberty

Liberty refers to the freedom of an individual to make independent decisions, pursue personal goals, and live a life unrestrained by discriminatory, gender-based social structures. Within liberal feminism, liberty is fundamental because it enables women to exercise self-determination and claim equal participation in society. In *Circe*, this notion of liberty is evident in the protagonist's journey toward autonomy and personal freedom. As Circe arrives on the island, initially fearing isolation, she ultimately embraces her withdrawal from the society that had constrained her and, for the first time, experiences true freedom. Rather than perceiving her situation as exile, Circe transforms Aiaia into her sanctuary, a space where she establishes her own authority and exercises full control over her life and environment. Through this narrative, *Circe* illustrates how liberal feminism frames liberty as essential for women to assert their individuality and agency.

Beyond her island, Circe asserts her freedom through her knowledge of witchcraft. Her powers not only serve as self-defence against danger and decide who is deemed a threat and who is permitted to enter her area, but also as a symbol of liberty and empowerment. Circe was able to hone her witchcraft skills on Aiaia through her self-withdrawal from the world, self-taught practices and personal experiences. Her freedom to practice witchcraft whenever and wherever shows her dependence from male power, and how she has the control over herself without depending on others.

Another instance in the novel that highlights Circe's liberty is her decision to forfeit immortality and become mortal, as shown in the novel. Circe had lived for centuries, and all through her life she has seen the cruelty of immortals, how they take advantage of their power as they can influence mortals easily, and have no moral limits. They have no consequences of mortality, which makes them reckless and have lost empathy over time. Circe abandoning immortality does not come from the decision of what is deemed ideal or better, rather it was a personal decision rightfully made by her for herself. Immortality means she will live on forever, mortality is avoided and agony would be one not to experience. She is aware turning mortal will give her pain and loss, and death has to be faced head on, but she is willing to go through such distress for what she considered true freedom. Additionally, she appreciated how mortals find true love and authentic contentment, and with her choosing to be mortal, she chose to love, to trust, to hurt all by her own will. This demonstrates that the ability to live in accordance with one's aspirations and values is a sign of true freedom.

Circe turning herself mortal reflects her personal liberty on achieving the core of liberal feminism, individual freedom. Her choice may merely be personal, but actions turn political as she asserts her freedom to determine the meaning of her own life without being controlled by any external voices. By entirely defying what the patriarchal society expected of women, attaining something she had long desired but once perceived beyond her reach, Circe was able to attain independence.

In the end, Circe's choice to become mortal represents the victory of all her suffering throughout her journey. With her arrival on the island becoming the start of her freedom journey, as she self-withdraw herself from the world, developed her knowledge on witchcraft, and finally achieved the longing freedom she has

been looking for all her life. Her decision to live a brief yet meaningful life, opposed to an endless but empty one is enough to see her desperation for liberty. Ultimately, Circe was tired of the unfairness of the world, and showed that true freedom is to make a choice, but still accept all the danger that it comes with.

Self-withdrawal as Individual Liberty

In the novel, gender inequality is depicted in different ways, as well as how it is enforced around the social structure around Circe. Men in her environment have specific expectations of the women, and only these standards are regarded as valid and appropriate for women to follow, which includes their physical beauty and the role of women as reproductive instruments. However, a woman is viewed as a threat if she is gifted by certain advantages that do not align with the established standard role. This gift is suppressed through prohibitions, preventing women from pursuing these abilities or broadening their skills. Women are not only restricted from growing their knowledge, but also their rights as individuals. Additionally, acts that are deemed as bravery when performed by men, women are criticized as unworthy and shameful. The widespread acceptance of double standards that perpetuate gender inequality in society is reflected in the imbalance of expectations.

What initially began as an exile intended as punishment, Circe gradually transforms the island into her home. Circe found a sense of security and strength that led her to decide to stay in the island on her own free will. The once-abandoned island evolved into a place where she could feel freedom, and not deal with the outside world. On occasions, strangers would intrude and sailors passed by, but Aiaia remained hers, and where she made the rules. Through her self-withdrawal from the world, Circe grew more powerful and began to see the world differently. She was able to set her boundaries, establish her own and in the end determine her own path of life.

Circe's choice on withdrawing from the world is not seen as weak, rather it is a deliberate attempt to defend herself from the patriarchal world. With her seclusion, Circe was able to explore her full potential, build her personal strength, and exist on her own terms. She was able to establish boundaries, uphold her integrity, and claim the rights she is entitled to as an individual by separating herself from oppressors. Self-withdrawal secured a measure of freedom that enabled Circe to move forward. Through adopting liberal feminism's

components, Circe was able to achieve the ultimate freedom she had long sought out for.

CONCLUSION

Circe by Madeline Miller depicts various forms of gender inequality, which ranged from the objectification of women, the setting of certain expectations that restricts women's roles, and the suppression of women's rights as independent individuals. These circumstances left Circe with a profound sense of powerlessness, as she was continuously subjected to the constraints and domination of a patriarchal society that denied her autonomy and voice. Nevertheless, her banishment to the deserted island gives her the opportunity to experience a newfound of freedom. Circe then made the decision to isolate herself from the world. The extent of gender inequality that Circe faced ultimately compels her to withdraw from the world, choosing isolation as a means to reclaim her agency and seek a sense of freedom beyond the constraints imposed by society.

During her self-withdrawal, Circe began a journey of self-discovery, honing her skills in witchcraft and strengthened her sense of identity and personal power. She also starts to understand the world in a new perspective. Circe was able to establish personal boundaries and determine her own path in life. By withdrawing herself from the patriarchal society, Circe asserts her individual liberty through the act of self-preservation, to achieve a certain measure of freedom from external control, that enabled her to move forward towards her personal goal and achieve ultimate freedom. Within the framework of liberal feminism, Circe's journey reflects her quest for ultimate individual liberty, educational opportunities and the acknowledgment of individual rights, all of which are essential to overcoming gender inequality within society.

REFERENCE

- Andreeva, N. (2019, July 30). 'Circe' Fantasy Drama From Rick Jaffa & Amanda Silver Based On Novel Gets HBO Max Series Order. *Deadline*.
<https://deadline.com/2019/07/circe-fantasy-drama-series-hbo-max-rick-jaffa-amanda-silver-based-on-novel-madeline-miller-1202657229/>
- Aspers, P., & Corte, U. (2019). What is Qualitative in Qualitative Research. *Qualitative Sociology*, 42, 139-160.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11133-019-9413-7>
- Berlin, I. (2017). Two Concepts of Liberty. In D. Miller (Ed.), *Liberty Reader*. Taylor & Francis Group.
- Davidson, H. M. (2018). The Literary Representation of Reality. *Res Cogitans*, 13(1), 111-134.
- Devi, C. N., Singh, K. I., & Kumar, A. R. (2024). Gender inequality and equality: A conceptual analysis. *African Journal of Biomedical Research*, 27(6S), 264-266.
<https://doi.org/10.53555/AJBR.v27i6S.5890>
- Foley, A. (2007). Fay Weldon, Liberal Feminism and the Praxis of Praxis: Research Article. *Literator: Journal of Literary Criticism, Comparative Linguistics and Literary Studies*, 28(3), 27-54.
- Hackett, E. (2006). *Theorizing Feminisms: A Reader* (E. Hackett & S. A. Haslanger, Eds.). Oxford University Press.
- Hasan, B. (2019). Gender Dan Ketidak Adilan. *Jurnal Signal*, 7(1), 46-69.
- Jaggar, A. M. (Ed.). (2018). *Living With Contradictions: Controversies In Feminist Social Ethics*. Routledge.
- Kuleli, M. (2020). Circulation of Feminist Criticism Across Cultures Through Literary Translation: The case of Bir Gün by Ayşe Kulin. In *Literary Feminisms: Convergences and Intersections* (pp. 161-197). Nobel Bilimsel Eserler.
- Lee, J., & Jeong, E. (2021). The 4B Movement: Envisioning a Feminist Future with/in a Non-reproductive Future in Korea. *Journal of Gender Studies*, 30(5), 633-644.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/09589236.2021.1929097>
- Loeb, S., Dynarski, S., McFarland, D., Morris, P., Reardon, S., & Reber, S. (2017, March). *Descriptive Analysis in Education: A Guide for Researchers*. ERIC.
<https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED573325.pdf>
- Mill, H. T. (1994). Enfranchisement of Women. In J. S. Mill, A. P. Robson, & J. M. Robson (Eds.), *Sexual Equality: A Mill-Taylor Reader* (pp. 178-203). University of Toronto Press.
- Mill, J. S., Robson, A. P., Mill, H. H. T., & Taylor, H. (1994). *Sexual Equality: Writings* (A. P. Robson & J. M. Robson, Eds.). University of Toronto Press.
- Miller, M. (2019). *Circe*. Bloomsbury Export Editions.
- Mohajan, H. (2022). An Overview on the Feminism and Its Categories. *Research and Advances in Education*, 1(3), 11-26.
- Raina, J. A. (2017). Feminism: An Overview. *International Journal of Research*, 4(13), 3372-3376.
- Ridgeway, C. L. (2011). *Framed by gender: How gender inequality persists in the modern world*. Oxford University Press.
- Sarwar, R., & Fatima, S. (2022). Madeline Miller's Circe: A Feminist Stylistic Approach. *Perennial Journal of History*, 3(2), 337-359.
<https://doi.org/10.52700/pjh.v3i2.128>
- Spacciante, V. (2024). Circe, the female hero. First-person narrative and power in Madeline Miller's Circe. *Classical Receptions Journal*, 16(4), 405-418.
<https://doi.org/10.1093/crj/clae011>
- Tong, R., & Botts, T. F. (2009). *Feminist Thought: A More Comprehensive Introduction*. Routledge.
- Walby, S. (1989). Theorising Patriarchy. *Sociology*, 23(2), 213-234.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0038038589023002004>
- Wollstonecraft, M. (1982). *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman (English Library)* (M. Brody & M. B. Kramnick, Eds.). Penguin Books.
- Zhang, Y., & Rios, K. (2022). Understanding Perceptions of Radical and Liberal Feminists: The Nuanced Roles of Warmth and Competence. *Sex Roles*, 86(3-4), 143-158.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11199-021-01257-y>