I Feminist Social Theories

A. point of view of women

1. situation of women

2. reason for situation

3. possibility of change

4. social location

B. typology of theories.

1. difference

2. inequality

3. oppression

4. structural oppression

C. liberal feminist social theory

1. reformist

a. accepts capitalism

b. political system

c. accepts cultural values: individualism, choice, equality of opportunity

2. assumptions

a. women are fully human

b. opportunities within the system are denied

3. argument

a. economic, political arrangements unequal

b. socially constructed inequality

i. work: segregation and discrimination

ii. institutions: education, health care, home

c. inequality justified by sexist ideology

i.women’s nature

ii.

d. goal: egalitarian society

4. strategy/tactics

a. raise awareness

b. people will respond positively: innate sense of fairness

c. use the system ( law and politics)

i. law

ii. regulation

E. Radical Feminism

1. radical

a. different, unequal and oppressed

b. system of patriarchy is primary system of oppression

c. women are intentionally oppressed by men

d. “all men”

2. argument

a. patriarchy

i. primary power arrangement

ii. oldest, most pervasive, and most enduring,

iii. basis of all social organization

institutions organized to reinforce patriarchy

family ,economy, education, law etc

b. violence

i. basis of male power

ii. rule of thumb

iii. rape

iv. spousal and intimate partner abuse

v. incest

vi. female infanticide

vii. adultery: punishment

viii. witch hunts

ix. female genital mutilation

x. kitchen accidents

xi. honor murders

c. “in men’s interests”

i. satisfying sexual desire

ii. childbearing

iii. free labor

iv. status symbols

v. emotional support

d. consequences for women

i. dehumanizes women

ii. controls life chances

iii. victimized by violence

e. solutions