

# Portrayal of Lady Macbeth as a Suppressed Woman in Shakespeare's Play *Macbeth*

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## Abstract

This paper is an attempt to expose the suppression of women through the character of Lady Macbeth in the Shakespeare's play "**Macbeth**". In this play Shakespeare's portrayal of Lady Macbeth stands in contrast with typical imagery of women during Jacobean time. Shakespeare presents Lady Macbeth as manipulative, ambitious, remorseful and ruthless. Lady Macbeth would do anything it takes to gain power. Shakespeare presents Lady Macbeth as a calculating lady throughout the play, by being evil, cunning and masculine. She was depicted as a duplicitous character as the play progress. This paper is explore the suppression of women character.

**Keywords:** Suppression, Ambitious, Ruthless, Remoresful, Cunning, Evil.

Literature is derived from the word Latin word 'Litera ', which means acquainted with letter. Literature is refers to the words of the creative, imaginative, including poetry, drama, fiction, nonfiction, ect. literature represents the culture and tradition of a language or a people works of literature, at their best, provide a kind of blueprint of human society.

Play is a literary form of writing for theatre, which narrates a story with elements of conflicts, tensions and actions through dialogue of the characters. The writers present their feelings, emotions and ideas through their characters and make them speak. The word play is derived from the Greek work 'Paizo' which means "to act" or "to perform". This paper deals with the suppression of woman character Lady Macbeth in Shakespeare's play "Macbeth".

William Shakespeare was a renowned English poet, playwright and actor. He was born on 06 April 1564 in Stratford upon Avon. He was used different themes. There are: appearance and reality; change, order and disorder, conflict, power, nature, love and relationship. In Macbeth play power, love and relationship play a vital role.

This paper deals with the Suppression of women character Lady Macbeth in Shakespeare's play "Macbeth". Shakespeare portrays women as major determination in men's actions, but their functions vary throughout the canon and also in distinct categories of

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B. Jeya Karthika, II M.A. English

Portrayal of Lady Macbeth as a Suppressed Woman in Shakespeare's Play *Macbeth* 212

either good or evil, victims or monsters. Men are portrayed as strong and courageous but female characters like Lady Macbeth are given a ruthless power-hungry personality.

The play begins with three witches. From the starting onwards Shakespeare picturized women as an Evil character. On a gloomy day Macbeth was returning to king's court. While returning the atmosphere suddenly changed gloomy and dark. There appeared three witches, they at the beginning of the play revealed the main theme of the play.

*Fair is Foul, and Foul is Fair. (M pg no: 15, line no: 10)*

They brought out the hidden message of the play what is good may not be good forever, and what is bad may not be bad forever. This was the first temptation of witches to Macbeth. This message was brought up to the ears of Lady Macbeth. Then she started developing a desire to become Queen of Scotland. But this wish was hidden inside her heart. Then again witches appeared before Macbeth and gave three prophecy. That prophecy made Macbeth and Lady Macbeth ambitious. Lady Macbeth was more ambitious than Macbeth and she stimulated Macbeth to kill King Duncan and attain the throne. Shakespeare depicted women as more ambition made the play as a tragedy.

Macbeth was kind-hearted and a truthful soldier to King Duncan. He was feeling guilty that how could he kill the King. But Lady Macbeth acted as fourth witch and stimulated Macbeth. She says that if she was a man, she would have boldly kill Duncan. This was a strong statement where in Shakespeare portrayed women as a bad and negative character who was main reason for the play. Macbeth took the dagger and killed Duncan. Macbeth brought the dagger but Lady Macbeth to save Macbeth she gave the dagger in the hands of soldier who were sleeping.

After killing King Duncan Macbeth feels a lot about his guilt Lady Macbeth tried to console him but he was not in mind to get consoled easily. On one fine day there was a feast held there at that time Macbeth has visualized a hallucination of ghost Duncan. He was totally upset and continuously thinking about the death of Duncan. This made Lady Macbeth to slowly affected by psychology. Her mind started to think about Macbeth behaviour. Then she got affected by Sleepwalking disease. It reveals how she was affectionate to her husband. Finally, she dies so throughout this play Shakespeare depicted women as negative character.

*O, never shall sun that morrow see.*

*Your face, my Thane, is as a book where men may read matters.*

*Bear welcome in your eye, your hand, your tounge; look like the innocent flower, but be the serpent under it.*

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Portrayal of Lady Macbeth as a Suppressed Woman in Shakespeare's Play *Macbeth* 213

*He that's coming must be provided for; and you shall put this night's great business into my dispatch.* (M pg no: 28, line no: 60 to 68)

Through this line Lady Macbeth character was portrayed as a Fiend. Duncan was invited to feast in Macbeth house. Lady Macbeth pretended as if she was innocent lady. But she was most venomous serpent. This article spots light on the major theme of how women were portrayed as a negative role in literature.

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### Work Cited

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