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**The Impact of the Evil Character of Lady
Macbeth in Shakespeare`s Play *Macbeth***

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for a Master Degree in Literature and Civilization**

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Dedication

I thank Allah Almighty who has given me the strength and knowledge to
complete this work .

I dedicate this work to my beloved parents who have given me all their love
and care .

To my sisters and brothers,

To all people who loved me,

To my partner in the work Fatma.

Karima

I would like to thank Allah who helped me complete this work.

I dedicate this work to my parents:

To my mother who taught me the meaning of patience and endurance.

and to my father, who has given me everything during my academic
career.

To my dear brothers and sisters

To my friend Sami, who is the source of strength and trust in my life.

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Abstract

This study examines the role of women in Shakespeare's *Macbeth* in Elizabethan era . It also highlights the behavior of evil represented by this character . In order to achieve this objective, this study raised two questions: the first seeks to know why the author depicts women in Elizabethan era as submissive one, the second attempts to see how Shakespeare the power and the influence of Lady Macbeth in her husband in the play *Macbeth*. As an attempt to answer the previous questions, this study formulates two hypotheses. The first links between powerless and obedience of women to the patriarchal rules in their society. The second relates between the power and the influence of Lady Macbeth in this play. To conduct this research, we have adopted the descriptive analytical method.. The results of the study revealed that the evil displays an important role in the tragic play *Macbeth* through the female character of Lady Macbeth.

Key Words : Elizabethan Era, Evil, Influence, Lady Macbeth, Play *Macbeth*, Shakespeare.

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General

Introduction

General introduction

Background of the Study

The history of English literature has gone through several periods. One of the most important periods is Elizabethan Era. The latter refers to the reign of Elizabeth I from 1558 to 1603 which was characterized by the birth and the emergence of new ideas and intellectual thought, it is also known by an age of adventure, innovation and discoveries. The Elizabethan period represents the period of glory and Triumph in the life and the literature of English society. It is attributed to the Renaissance Age. During the history of England, this period was named the Golden Age when Drama and Poetry had been thrived. The Elizabethan era considered as the greatest period in the history of the English Literature. As an age of discovery, English literature was also influenced by the interaction of the sailors with different cultures and civilizations. Therefore, their interaction had its impact on the way people think. In this period, the English writers such as Edmund Spenser, John Lyly, Sir Philip Sidney, and William Shakespeare had been influenced by the writings of the Italian Renaissance.

The Elizabethan is also known as Shakespearean age since he wrote many works such as, Tragedies, Comedies, Tragicomedies. The actor, the playwright, and the dramatist William Shakespeare implemented those works in the English Theatre “The Globe Theatre”. In that period, women had no role in their societies due to their belonging to their father and brothers decisions, and mainly to their husbands. During the Elizabethan era, Education was limited to the women of the noble families, however, other women from other families are interested in their household. Women in that period were characterized by obedience, strength and purity, but men had more

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rights and duties than women, in addition to their authority on them. Shakespeare's women displayed a significant and great role in his works.

One of the most important works of William Shakespeare that explore the role of women is *Macbeth*. The play *Macbeth* was first performed in 1606, but it was published in the Folio in 1623. *Macbeth* is a tragic play written by the British writer William Shakespeare. It narrates the story of a courageous and loyal general to the king Duncan, after receiving the witches' prophecies telling him that he will be the king of Scotland. As Lady Macbeth heard about the predictions of the witches. She induces her husband to murder King Duncan to attain the kingship. Lady Macbeth is a strong and more ambitious woman than her husband in achieving her dream to attain the throne and become a queen of Scotland.

Aim of the Study

The aim of this study is to show how the great role of the evil character of Lady Macbeth contributed to the change of the actions of the first two acts in Shakespeare's play *Macbeth*.

Previous Studies

The play *Macbeth* has been criticized by many scholars and critics, according to Raphael Holinshed's *Chronicles of England, Scotland and Ireland* (1577), *Macbeth* is the shortest play compared to other plays of William Shakespeare. Otherwise, many critics saw that the actions of the scenes in the play *Macbeth* characterized by a kind of violence and horror. The early scholars of the play emphasize that the play *Macbeth* has a political, moral, ideological issues, and psychoanalysis to the character Macbeth and how it examines the gender roles of women and men. Other critics thought that the

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scenes of the play *Macbeth* may be supplemented to or modified from someone other than Shakespeare.

Statement of the Problem

Our dissertation examines the power and the evil of Lady Macbeth, and how she is influenced on the change of the events in the play. For this reason, there are two main questions to ask, or needs to be answered:

Research Questions

- Why did Shakespeare depict Women in Elizabethan era as a submissive women ?
- How does Shakespeare present the power and the influence of Lady Macbeth on her husband in the play *Macbeth* ?

Research Hypotheses

To answer the two main questions, the following hypotheses are formulated:

- Shakespeare portrayed women in Elizabethan era as submissive women because they were powerless and obedient to the patriarchal rules in their society.
- Shakespeare represented the power and the influence of Lady Macbeth in this play.

Research Methodology:

The method that is selected in our work is the descriptive analytical which, describes the characterization of the main character of Lady Macbeth through her actions, mental and some physical descriptions in the play.

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Structure of the Dissertation

To examine this topic, we have divided our work into three chapters. The first two chapters are theoretical. The first chapter discusses the development of the English literature in the Elizabethan era and how William Shakespeare demonstrates his work in that era. The second one is about the way Shakespeare presents women in the Elizabethan era and how he introduces the psychoanalysis of the main character of Lady Macbeth in the tragic play *Macbeth*. The third chapter is the practical part which demonstrates the character of Lady Macbeth through her actions, physical and mental descriptions, and gives an insight on the relationship between Macbeth and Lady Macbeth and finally it tackles the impact of evil character of Lady Macbeth on the work of William Shakespeare.

Chapter One:

The History of English Literature in Elizabethan Era

Chapter one: The History of English Literature in Elizabethan Era

Introduction

The development of English literature has gone over several centuries. Elizabethan age is the period that is associated with the reign of Queen Elizabeth I (1558-1603), and it is known as the golden age in the history of English literature. It is also considered as English renaissance, and a period of great flourishing in both prose and poetry ("The Elizabethan Era: Years of Grand Development"). William Shakespeare is a man of Elizabethan theatre and he considered himself as a professional man of theatre who shifted from play acting to play writing.

This chapter attempts to shed light on the history of English literature which has gone through several ages, and it examines the characteristics of Elizabethan era. In addition, it tackles the period of William Shakespeare's life, language and works such as Hamlet, Othello and Macbeth.

1. Characteristics of English Literature in Elizabethan Era

To know the beginning of English literature, we should return to the time of the ancestors of English people who settled on the European continent (Moody and Lovett). Literature has several qualities. The first quality is artistic. All art embodies the reflection and the expression of beauty and truth in the world. Suggestiveness is the second quality of literature that continued our imagination and emotions rather than intellectual suggestion. However, the third quality of literature is permanence which arises from artistic and suggestiveness.

Studying literature has only one object is to know men. This means to understand the history of the ancestors from different ages through what they did, felt, thought and believed. Literature saves people's beliefs and liberty, Thus, it is considered as an

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expression of human life. It also aims at knowing man's soul rather than his actions (Long).

2. History of English Literature in Elizabethan Era

The history of English literature is divided into three major periods which are Old English, Middle Age and Early-Modern Age. The Old English period started with the appearance of Germanic tribes who settled in England in the mid of the 5th century. The Middle Age begins with the Norman conquest of England after their triumph in Hasting battle in 1066. It was ended by William Caxton in 1476. The Early Modern Age is identified by the extension in the organization of the English vocabulary and grammar that took place in the 16th century (Hickey). Furthermore, there were other periods followed the three major ones which were Neo-Classical Age, 19th century Literature and English Literature since 1901.

2.1 The Old English Period (858-1100)

The Old English Period is known as the origin of the English literature. Before the writing of the first prose, poetry appeared much longer in this period. The richness of Old English literature makes the reader astonished and overcome the primary difficulty of language (Albert).

2.1.1 Historical Background of Old English Period

The Old English period is known as a long one which started in the 5th century. It did not end with the Norman conquest, but it continued with prose till 1150. Because the Romans left, the British population opened the inroads to the north invaders. According to British traditions, English came first as mercenaries for the protection against the

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Scots and Picts who permanently settled in the country at the end of the quarter of the fifth century (Albert 9-10).

2.1.2 Literary Features of the Old English Period

The Old English is one of the main periods of English literature. It included several features of literature, some of them are :

2.1.2.1 Pagan Origin: The poems of this period seem to have specific features which are associated with the past of pagan; such as Widdish and Beowulf. Though the Christian ideas influenced the earlier pagan, phraseology remains; and phraseology is impossible to refer to any poetry as pagan (Albert 10).

2.1.2.2 Anonymous Origin: In Old English, the poets Caedmon and Cyne-wulf signed their poems, therefore, their poems ascribed to them. While the poets who did not sign their poems, they remained anonymous origin (Albert).

2.1.2.3 The Manuscripts: The manuscripts in which the poetry is preserved are unique, and they are four: the Beowulf Ms, the genius Ms, the Exeter Book and the Vercelli Book (Albert).

2.1.3. The Language

The readers of literature usually encounter difficulties when they were reading old English literature because it is different from the modern one. Its grammar demonstrates adjectives, nouns, pronouns that differ from those in modern one. Its vocabulary is native though there has been borrowing from Latin. Concerning dialects, we can count four: Northerian, Kentish, Mercian and West Saxon (Albert 11).

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2.1.3.1 Old English Poetry

2.1.3.1.1 Beowulf

Beowulf is also called an “epic”, and it was a long narrative poem, in oral and written forms that presents the events and achievement of a heroic figure in a particular society. Beowulf and other epics studied the theme of human existence and showed their similarities and differences (Golban 40-42). It included some characteristics such as:

2.1.3.1.1.1 The poem origin: the continental Germanic is the theme of the poem. The term Beowulf refers to the king of Geatas. The original version of "pagan" is written by Christian.

2.1.3.1.1.2 Style: the style of the language is expressive, forceful, revealing and rich in economic words, which is the image of the funeral of the death of the hero. The poem Beowulf is characterized by much use of compound words, and the stylistic characteristics such as repetition and variation (Albert 10-2).

2.1.3.2 Prose

2.1.3.2.1 Alfred

He is the father of the English prose. He started his own series of translation as a sequence of depredations of the Danes due to the regrettable case of English learning. He has five main translations which are the history of the world of Orosius, Boethius Consolation of Philosophy, the Pastoral Care of Pop Gregory, Bede's Ecclesiastical History, and The Soliloquies of ST Augustine (Albert).

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2.1.3.2.2 Aelfric:

He is churchman, characterized by his "grammar". Aelfric's style demonstrates noticeable skill in transforming the sophisticated thought into narrative. His style is mainly simple, natural, and also alliterative (Albert).

2.2 The Middle English Period

2.2.1 The Norman Conquest

Because the Duke of Normandy William defeated the king of England Harold in the battle of the Hastings, the Anglo Saxon period ended and the Medieval period began. The Normans who occupied northern France were called Normandy. These people adopted the French language and its religion. They were known to be great builders of churches and castles. William The Conqueror had a great authority in France, and he ruled England with power and capacity. He introduced the system of Feudalism into England . Under this system, the land was always the property of the king, not of the tribe, and most of people were slaves under the old Anglo-Saxon system (Mititelu).

2.2.2 The Medieval Church

In the Medieval period, the religious writings were common. The church had an institution and a judicial pattern, and it had a theme that required a particular attention on the students. There was a complex relation between the crown and church which arose conflict between them in England and this conflict was settled by a compromise (Mititelu).

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2.2.3 The Medieval Literature

After the Norman conquest of England, the French dialect was the language of ruler; Latin was the language of scholars and clergy; while English was the language of servants and slaves. The difference between Old English literature and that of Middle English is that the former is uttered by single aristocratic voices to different audiences; while the latter is uttered by different voices to different audiences. Before the beginning of 13th century, English literature was not presented in literary works, but can be perceived in oral traditions. Some forms were:

2.2.3.1 Ballads: One of the popular forms of literature in Medieval period. They told about legendary characters and events.

2.2.3.2 English Lyrics Poetry This remains in the forms of anonymous writings in the 13th, 14th and 15th centuries.

Medieval Literature included famous figures such as Geoffrey Chaucer and William Caxton:

2.2.3.3 Geoffrey Chaucer

Geoffrey Chaucer is known as the Father of English Literature in the Medieval period. Chaucer was a poet who established the potential of English as a literary language. His work included three stages. First, he depended on French courtly style. Second, he produced the masterpieces *Troilus and Cryseyden* in 1380 through the influence of Dante and Boccaccio. Last, he borrowed from his Italian source. The work of Chaucer contained 23 tales written in verse. These heroic couplets were named "heroic" and were written in Iambic pentameter, which rhyme aa, bb, cc (Mititelu).

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2.2.3.4 William Caxton

William Caxton had a great influence on the preservation of English literature. He opened his own printing business in England after he had learned the printing trade in Germany. Before his death fifteen years later, he had printed *Morte d'Arthur* and the *Canterbury tales* (Mititelu).

2.3 The Early Modern Period (1500-1600)

2.3.1 The Renaissance

The Renaissance started in Italy about the middle of 14th century which, means "rebirth" or "revival" and it was marked by a wave of creative energy; and the development of the world's view became more modern than the Medieval Age (Mititelu 18). This period was the greatest progressive descent of all humanism. It gave a great value to new thoughts and knowledge. According to philosophy, renaissance ideals were focused on materialistic conception of Francis Bacon for experimental sciences. The art of Renaissance was marked by the creation of the early Modern English literature language and national culture. It had two phases; the literature of the first phase was dominated by lyrical genres of poetry, while the second phase was dominated by drama (Shevchenko 45-6).

2.3.2 Elizabethan Age

In his book entitled "A Dictionary of Literary Terms and Literary Theory", J.A Cuddon wrote that the period of Elizabeth I was also known as a period of the Elizabeth I's reign from 1558-1603. In the government, Elizabeth I supported the bureaucracy of Tudors and avoided the conflict of religious wars. Because of the prosperity of the reign

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Elizabeth, this age was called "the golden age". During the reign of Elizabeth I, creative activity and production in English literature was noticed. This period had famous writers such as Sir Philip Sidney, Marlowe, Nashe, Shakespeare and Spenser (231).

2.3.3 Jacobean Age

This age dates back to the reign of James I who was the king of Scotland from 1603 to 1625. His period witnessed tensions between the Anglican Church and Catholic opposition, while the foundation of James town in Virginia indicated the beginning of the colonial project in the New World. Jacobean period was also rich in literary activity like the Elizabethan one. The most important writers of that time were Ben Jonson, Fletcher, Shakespeare, Donne and Webster (Cuddon).

2.3.4 Caroline Age

This age dates back to the time of Charles I from 1625 to 1649. That time was marked with a civil war. In that age a large number of writers appeared such as Henry Vaughan, Thomas Carew, John Donne and others (Cuddon).

The previous periods are considered the major periods in the History of English Literature, but, there are other secondary periods :

2.4 Neo-Classical Age (1660-1798)

This period is usually taken from Dryden's maturity to Johnson's death. It had prominent English figures such as Swift, Dryden, Pope, Johnson, Goldsmith and Fielding. All of them were traditionalist and they respected the classical one,

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particularly the Romans. Literature in the Neoclassical period was regarded as an art. This period is divided into three ages (Cuddon).

2.4.1 Restoration Period

This period began from 1660 to 1700, it is known by the Restoration that occurred in the kingdom and the triumph of reason and tolerance over political and religious passion. This period produced a manner of comedy known as "Restoration Comedy"; which had richness in poetry and prose. During this period, John Milton published *"Paradise Lost and Paradise Regained,"* (Borges).

2.4.2 Augustan Literature

The Augustan Age of English Literature refers to literature with special characteristics as clarity, refinement, and so forth. The main Augustan writers were Alexander Pope, Jonathan Swift and Daniel Defoe. This age had a great contribution like "The Novel of Character", *"Pamela"* by Samuel Richardson. Augustan age derives its name from the period of Ovid and Virgil (Borges).

2.4.3 The Age of Sensibility

The Age of Sensibility is also known as the age of Johnson. During this age, literature began to emphasize on feelings and instincts rather than restraint and Judgement. From Middle ages and during this age, a growing interest of sympathy was seen in folk literature and Medieval ballads. Samuel Johnson was one of the dominant authors in this period. Some of the early novels in the English language were Henry Fielding's *Tom Jones* and Richardson's *Clarissa* (Borges).

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2.5 19th Century Literature (1799-1900)

2.5.1 The period of Romanticism

In English literature, the Romantic period started in the late of 18th century. It continued approximately to 1832. The main characteristics of the Romantic period were the strong use of feelings, nature of persons, the use of symbolism and its exploration of nature. Moreover, the romantic writings were constructed on the idea that literature should be free, imaginative and impulsive. This acquired them a kind of innovation. This period had some very well-known authors such as Jane Austen, William Wordsworth Samuel Taylor Coleridge (Borges).

25.2 The Victorian Period

The Word 'Victorian' simply refers to the historical era in England that is concurred with the reign of Queen Victoria (1837-1901). It represented the time of social, economic and religious changes. Although the Victorian age had various conflicts, it was characterized by the development in self-critical intellectual and literature (Abrams).

2.5.3 Edwardian Period

This period is attributed to the king Edward VII. It expanded from the death of Queen Victoria to the beginning of World War I (1914). During this period, the writings were based on social conditions. The most famous writers in Edwardian Period were Joseph Conrad, William Butler Yeats, Henry James and E.M. Forster (Borges).

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2.6 English Literature since 1901

At the end of nineteenth century and the early of twentieth century, Modernism and Postmodernism appeared as a literary and cultural movements. Each one has its own characteristics:

2.6.1 The Period of Modernism

Modernism came as a Reaction to the Realism Movement at the end of 19th century, and it is considered as a period of literary and cultural history. Under the influence of visual art and psychoanalysis, new narrative structures, points of view such as the stream of consciousness technique and other forms of literary expression were introduced (Klarer). The term "Modernism" is widely used to indicate new distinctive features in the concepts, forms, subjects and styles of literature and other arts. The main figures in this period were James Joyce, Virginia Woolf and T.S. Eliot (Abrams).

2.6.2 The Period of Postmodernism

Postmodernism movement is related to the critique of the dominant modernist trend of Ludwig Mies, Walter Gropius and Le Corbusier. The style of Modernists is playful and pastiche. In Literary theory, it involves a set of strategies, practices and history. Postmodernism rejected the methodological coherence in other theories such as New Criticism, Deconstruction and so forth (Castle).

3. Elizabethan Era

The ascendance of the throne was like a sunrise in the period of Elizabeth after the humiliation and rebellion of Edward and Mary. Furthermore, in this age, all doubt seemed to be dissolved from English history. Under Elizabeth administration, England

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became a great nation and English literature that reached its highest point of development (Long).

3.1 Some Characteristics of Elizabethan Age

3.1.1 The comparative religious tolerance was the most important feature of Elizabethan age, which was due to the influence of the Queen. After her accession, Elizabeth found the entire Kingdom divided against itself due to the religious War named "Thirty Years"; the southern countries were Protestants while the north part was Catholic.

3.1.2 Elizabethan age was an age of comparative social contentment. Because of the rapid increase of manufacturing, England obtained an intense wealth. This has contributed in providing new opportunities for labor, improvement in living and the new social content. These three factors assisted in creating a new activity of literature (Long).

3.2 Literature

Elizabethan period is considered as the beginning of English prose fiction as a modern kind. First, it appeared as a series of short tales mainly translated by Italian authors to the Italian name "novella". Most of these short tales are amateurish and they have only historical interest. They also gave more value to the Elizabethan dramas, especially those of Shakespeare. Originally, English prose fiction began with John Lyly in the form of morals and manners in the story of Handbook. He published a book entitled "*Euphues*" and his Anatomies of Witt was considered as a remarkable success. The word "Euphues" means the "well-bred man". Its imitation in literature flowered a series of romances by the Arcadia of Sir Philip Sidney. Spenser published a collection

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of poems named "*The Shepherd's Calendar*" which lies in the external nature of genuine feeling, particularly in the beauty of poetry and verse. Spenser measures trustic and archaic words, especially in the dialect of the North to enrich the expression. However, Spenser Faerie Queen can be considered as one of the greatest of English poems, Compared to other types, The latter is noticed to be long in volume. However, length is seen as also one of the characteristics of Elizabethan period (Huntington Fletcher).

3.2.1 Sources and Plan

The source of few poems had romantic Italian body, especially the "*Orlando Furioso of Ariosto*" which was written at the beginning of 16th century. The plan of the poem that Spenser explained to Sir Walter Raleigh in a prefatory letter is the vast epic allegory which aims to describe the Virtues that make the character of a perfect knight; ideal embodiment through the renaissance notions (Huntington Fletcher).

3.2.2 The Allegory Lack of Unity

The concept "allegory" is very sophisticated and has spacious plan which could not be understandable to most people in clear unity, even in Spenser's statement, it is confusing and hazy.

The lack of unity permeates the external story. For the sake of clarity, the first book starts abruptly in the middle. Furthermore, in his prefatory letter, Spenser had been obliged to explain that the real conception like other Arthurian romance must be a scene (Huntington Fletcher).

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3.2.3. The lack of Dramatic Reality

"*The Faerie Queen*" is a romantic allegory and it does not aim at intensifying lifelikeness. In Spenser's poem, the reader feels separated from reality through the use of magic that is respected in medieval romances to protect the characters (Huntington Fletcher).

3.2.4 The Spenserian Stanza

The poet Spenser invented a new verse called "the Spenserian Stanza". In his poem "*The faery Queen*", his Stanza consists of nine lines, eight of five feet each and last of six feet, riming a b a bb c b cc which was improved form of Ariosto's attava rima which means eight line stanza (Huntington Fletcher).

3.3 The Sonnet

The term sonnet is originated from the Italian word "sonetto", which means small lyric. It included 14 lines; each line has 10 syllables and it is written in iambic pentameter. In English, the rhyme scheme of the sonnet arranged as the following form abab-cdcd-efef-gg ("*The Sonnet*") .

4. An Overview about William Shakespeare Life and Works

4.1 Shakespeare's Life

William Shakespeare was a poet and an actor. Many writers considered him as the greatest dramatist of all time. Shakespeare is also a famous figure in the English literature and he had an influence on the development of English language. He was born in Stratford-upon-Avon in April 1564, Northwest of London. He lived in Henley Street,

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Stratford. John and Mary Shakespeare were his parents and his grandfather was Richard Shakespeare who worked as a wittower and a farmer too. In the government of Stratford, he worked as a member of the Council (1557), a constable (1558), a chamberlain (1561), an alderman (1565) and utterly high bailiff (1568). Around 157, John Shakespeare was replaced as an alderman because of his debts and the lack of responsibilities. He was also prevented from going to the church in 1592. Shakespeare was the third child of Mary and John out of eight children. He was baptized on April 26th, 1564. Shakespeare received classical education in the king's New School. Then, he was taught the basics of Latin, Greek, Italian and French. In addition, he was taught grammar, logic, speech and drama because he had been influenced by some authors such as Aesop, Caesar, Virgil and Ovid. During Elizabethan time, he became a member of Chamberlain's Men, thus, he achieved fame and success. In 1599, the Globe Theater was opened by Shakespeare's company and the first play that was performed was Julius Caesar. When he returned to his country Stratford-upon-Avon to live as a normal man, his works were persisted in the Globe Theater until it was burned in 1613. After his death on April 23rd, 1616; the first Folio of his works was published (Borges 168).

4. 2 Shakespeare's Works

The Dramatic works of Shakespeare did not remain in manuscript ,however, comedy works such as *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Love's Labor's Lost*, *The Comedy of Errors*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and his early tragedy *Romeo and Juliet* were done in the early1590s. The four great tragedies of Shakespeare were produced in the early 17th century, namely Hamlet, Othello, King Lear, and Macbeth. Shakespeare wrote over 150sonnets, which were published in 1609.Venus and Adonis (1593) and Lucrece (1594) are two Heroic narrative poems. The first permanence theater called

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"The Theater" outside London city Walls was build by actor and future Lord Chamberlain's Man and James Burbage (Borges 168-70).

4. 3 Shakespeare's Language

Language and classical references of Shakespeare were archaic though they were familiar to his modern readers, who came from all classes of society. His plays were from "highbrow" to "lowbrow". Shakespeare used clown characters for comic relief in his tragic plays, and he expanded his audience's vocabularies through his plays. Nowadays, the most common words and phrases that the writers use were coined by Shakespeare as "*In my Mind's Eye*", "*Amazement*", and "*The Milk of Human Kindness*." Shakespeare's plays were a mixture of varied words more than any other works in the English language (Borges 170).

Conclusion

The history of English literature is divided into several periods. Each one has its own characteristics. Furthermore, in English literature, Elizabethan Era, which has been named after the Queen Elizabeth I, was considered as a great era. It is also characterized by the boom and the abundance of literary production such as prose, poetry, and so forth. The most important poets and writers in this era were John Lyly, Edmund Spenser, Sir Philip Sidney and William Shakespeare. William Shakespeare is one of the greatest and most famous writers in English theater as he wrote many works like Hamlet, King Lear and Macbeth.

Chapter Two:

**The Representation of Women in Elizabethan
Era**

Introduction

William Shakespeare introduced women and their roles in all of his plays in Elizabethan Era. The representation of women in Shakespeare's plays became an interesting topic for scholars. His female characters were distinguished with some qualities such as obedience, strength, purity and so forth. During Elizabethan time, Shakespeare's heroines in tragedies and comedies displayed a significant role in play acting. William Shakespeare was an English poet, actor and playwright, he wrote many works which were considered the greatest in Western literature and in the English language. Shakespeare's plays are divided into tragedies, comedies and tragicomedies. One of the most famous tragedies of William Shakespeare was that of Macbeth. The tragic play Macbeth is the last, shortest and the bloodiest work of Shakespeare. In this play, The psychoanalysis part is clearly appeared in the character of Lady Macbeth .

This chapter attempts to show the genuine presentation of women characters in Shakespeare's writings, essentially in Elizabethan time. It is also focused on the tragic play Macbeth, moreover, indicating the psychoanalysis of Shakespeare's Lady Macbeth.

1. Women during the Elizabethan Era .

The standards of gender and sexuality appeared in Shakespeare's period in the structure of society. In Elizabethan era, and in hierarchy of sexes, men were masculine, hardworking, strong and they had authority over women; however, women in that period were important only for their duties as housewives. The women of Elizabethan era were educated and taught by the older women especially in noble families. In this period, women were considered the only sex who gave and made decisions to males and had the rights to ascend the throne (K.B 25). Despite the fact that Elizabethan women

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were compelled to a series of restrictions and limitations, they were freer than the old ones. Furthermore, Queen Elizabeth supported the idea of education for women to make them independent (Lommel20).The purity, obedience and softness were considered as the main aspects of women's education (Lommel 21).

The young women in Elizabethan era were powerless against their fathers' decisions, especially in marriage and their private lives. In this context, Lisa Jardine states that "*Publicly the absolute rights of parents over their daughter s was a commonplace*"(Lommel 30) .

In Elizabethan society, the power of patriarchal rules was dominant. In that time, the husband had the right to punish his wife, and women were not permitted to inherit. Despite the fact that there were several constraints and limitations in the patriarchal society; women had the freedom to write literature and select the appropriate subjects. Because of women's inability to act, men had significant roles in Shakespeare's plays (What was the Role of Women in Shakespeare's Time?).

The playwright and the dramatist William Shakespeare involved women in his tragic and comic plays. In the tragic plays, he demonstrated positive attitude towards the female characters, particularly in his major tragedies: Hamlet, Othello, King Lear, Macbeth, Antony and Cleopatra, and Romeo and Juliet (Das 38). Whereas in the comic plays, Shakespeare applied the device of "Cross-Dressing" which refers to the act of wearing the clothes of the opposite sex: men who wear women's clothes and women who wear the clothes of men. This appeared in the plays of As You Like It, Twelfth Night and The Merchant of Venice (HANIPH 329).

2. Some Female Characters in Selected Tragedies and Comedies of Shakespeare

2.1 The Main Female Characters in Shakespearean Tragedies

2.1.1 Hamlet

In the tragedy of Hamlet, Ophelia is the main character of the play. Shakespeare introduced her through a patriarchal perspective. In this play, Ophelia is a victim of the authority of the male forces in her life as brother, father and Hamlet. Although Hamlet falls in love with her, he uses her as a means or a tool to achieve his revenge plan. The marriage of Queen Gertrude after the death of her husband is considered as anti-patriarchal restrictions of femininity, therefore, Hamlet believes that all women are the same and not trusted - "Frailty thy name is woman". For this reason, Ophelia suffered in her relationship with him. When Hamlet saw that Ophelia was ruled by her father and brother, he loses his mind, hence, she felt that it is her mistake. In the tragic play Hamlet in act 3 of scene 1, The following quotation shows the real sorrow of Ophelia (Das 39):

“And I of ladies, most deject and wretched
That sucked honey of his music vows
O woe is me”(qtd in Das 39).

At the end of the tragedy Hamlet, Ophelia became mad because she believed that she had two guilts; she assumed that she is the responsible for her father's death and her husband's madness (Das 39)

2.1.2 Othello

The tragedy of Othello happened because of the adherence to the stereotypes of the patriarchal society. Gayle Greene stated that the tragedy of Othello was derived

from “men's misunderstandings of women and women's inability to protect themselves from society's conception of them. "The qualities of Desdemona female character were softness, obedience and passivity which differed from the qualities of male characters that appeared in forms of aggression, dominance and authority(Das 40).

Because of the harsh behaviors that were committed by Othello on Desdemona, she has chosen to escape from the reality through acting like a child. Othello's fear from the infidelity of Desdemona, he decided to kill her to erase the ideas of doubt. In the play, he says “By the world,/ I think my wife be honest, and think she is not. /I think thou art just, and then think thou art not”. Shakespeare demonstrates Desdemona as a pure and obedient character. She does not blame him for his bad thoughts of her because of her goodness and respect and love for her husband and these traits do not express Desdemona's weakness and passive. The ignorance of Desdemona of the patriarchal rules and her strong attachment to her husband's heart led to her death (Das 40-42).

2.1.3 King Lear

King Lear is also considered as one of the main tragic plays of Shakespeare, Goneril, Regan and Cordelia are the daughters of the King Lear. Cordelia is represented as a pure, obedient and loving women. She respects and participates in the patriarchal rules. Cordelia does not have the right to decide her marriage. When she fled from the palace of her father, she returned to England to protect him from the danger that was committed by her sisters. Otherwise, Goneril and Regan are represented as cruel women. They are selfish, greedy and dishonest to anyone even their sister Cordelia (HANIPH 327).

2.2 The Main Female Characters in Shakespearean Comedies

2.2.1 The Merchant of Venice

In the comedy play *The Merchant of Venice*, there are three main female characters; Portia, Jessica and Nerissa. Portia is the dominant heroine in the play over the male hero. She is intelligent. Through her speeches, she seems educated, submissive and a sympathetic woman. Also, she is seen as an obedient daughter through following the ideological norms and the patriarchal restrictions of her society like selecting her husband. Portia is obliged to follow the medieval ritual that were imposed by her father, even she is not convinced by it, respect of her father's reputation. Shakespeare in *The Merchant of Venice* represented the character of Portia in this way to make his play widespread. In comparing Portia with Desdemona in the play of *Othello*, Desdemona does not follow the decision of her father to marry. This causes pain and suffering in her life with Hamlet, whereas; Portia is more aware and full of wisdom for her future. Cross-dressing is one of the main devices that is used by Shakespeare in his comedy play "*The Merchant of the Venice*", when Portia disguises as a man to enter in the court of the universities because the women in Elizabethan time were not permitted to join the professional places. On the other hand, Jessica the other daughter escapes from the palace with her lover without being concerned with the reputation of her father. Thus, Jessica is portrayed in the play as a rebellious female of Elizabethan values. She is unlike her sister Portia by neglecting her father's decisions, and this behavior makes her father feel shame (AZAM).

2.2.2 As You Like It

In the comedy play *As You Like It*, women are portrayed as strong female characters, who do not matter about the aggression of men. They were also interested in the affairs of men. The principle female character in this play is Rosalind, who assumes that disguise is a way to gain liberty from social and cultural boundaries. In Elizabethan period, Rosalind was noticed as a powerful and intelligent woman in front of men who were fool and weak. Therefore, through these qualities, Rosalind embodies the image of actual woman (Tasmia 15). Shakespeare also used cross-dressing feature in the play, especially when Rosalind escapes with Celia and Touchstone to the Forest of Arden, by disguising as a young man to avoid the dangers during her journey. The issues of gender in Elizabethan society were significant, hence, Rosalind imitated and faked the role of gender (Tasmia 18). In the comedies of Shakespeare "the gender role" is placed, and he indicates that this feature can be implied in real life and not only in theater. when Rosalind disguises as a man in the play *As You Like It*, she is able to discover her identity, individuality and freedom from social traditions of the 16th century that were imposed on women (Tasmia 22).

3. General Overview about the Tragic Play "Macbeth"

Macbeth was a tragic play written by William Shakespeare between 1599-1606. It is also considered as one of the shortest tragedies of Shakespeare. It narrated a story about a hero named Macbeth who was courageous and strong Scottish general, he succeed in a battlefield against enemies for his country protection with his military forces. When he returned from the battle, he encountered b three witches; telling him a prophecy that he will be the king of Scotland. Their prediction influenced on Macbeth's

mind and became full of greed and ambition. Macbeth sent a letter to his wife, informed her about the prediction of the witches, she enjoyed the happy news and started plan to achieve this prediction. When he returned, he induced him to kill the king Duncan. Both Macbeth and Lady Macbeth invited the king to their castle, planning to his murderous to attain the kingship. When they murdered him, they blamed the servants about the death of the king Duncan. When the sons of Duncan heard that their father is killed, they escaped to England to protect themselves. Macbeth attained the throne and became the king of Scotland and his wife the queen. After Macbeth became the king, he killed anyone stand in his way to take his position. Duncan's son Malcolm with his armies returned from England to Scotland to fight against Macbeth to revenge for his father death and depose him .When his army succeeded to kill Macbeth, Malcolm became the king of Scotland after him. Whereas Lady Macbeth fell in hysterical state and became sleepwalker because of her guilt that led to her suicide (Firouzjaee) .

4. The Psychoanalysis of Lady Macbeth

The theory of psychoanalysis was produced by Sigmund Freud. This theory studies the subconsciousness of human issues. According to Lois Tyson, In Critical Theory Today, Freud believed that "the notion that human beings are motivated, even driven, by desires, fears, needs, and conflicts of which they are unaware." Based on this perspective, Freud applied the theory on Shakespeare's character of Lady Macbeth ("How can Sigmund Freud's Theory of Psychoanalysis be applied to Shakespeare's Lady Macbeth").

In Shakespeare's play *Macbeth*, Lady Macbeth is considered as a typical image of hysteria . Freud's school of psychology has not been interested only with fields of

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medical science, but it has been extended to various aspects of human analysis and interpretation. Furthermore, psychological theories are combined of childhood, creation of art in literature, myths, painting, poetry and folklore. Most activities and psychological theories of Freud are focused on the comprehension of the mental state or disease of Lady Macbeth, especially in Shakespeare's play *Macbeth*. Mental processes are either unconscious or conscious and they are the absolute connection to one another (CORIAT 2-5). In the tragic play *Macbeth*, Lady Macbeth is characterized by masculinity, courage and strength. These traits, originally refer to the expression of Lady Macbeth's subconsciousness (CORIAT). First, she appeared in act one of the fifth scene and after reading her husband's letter, she was dominated by fixed ideas of ascending the throne and being a queen of Scotland. The dream of obtaining sovereignty led to her decline and madness (CORIAT 39-40).

The most noticeable scene is the sleepwalking or Hysterical Somnambulism in the tragic play *Macbeth*. It represents the obvious and reasonable emergence of Lady Macbeth's past emotional experiences and complexes (CORIAT 28). Because of her great desire to become a queen, Lady Macbeth entered to a typical case of hysteria. This mainly refers to her repression of sexual motive. The scene of the sleepwalking is related to Pathological somnambulism and the entire decline of the personality of Lady Macbeth (CORIAT 28-29). In Shakespeare's play *Macbeth*, the conversation that happened between the doctor and gentle women about the state of Lady Macbeth in act 5 scene 1 was :

Doctor. You see, her eyes are open.

Gent. Aye, but their sense is shut (qtd in Coriat 23).

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In this conversation, the doctor discovers that Lady Macbeth suffers from a group of complexes because of her past repressed attacks. These complexes start with:

The first complex associates with the murder of the King Duncan and it appears clearly in the scene of washing her hands. "A little water clears us of this deed", this quotation expresses the attempt of Lady Macbeth to make her husband comfortable after committing the crime. Then, the second complex relates to Banquo's murder, and it is noticed well in the following words: "I tell you yet again, Banquo's buried; he cannot come out of his grave." This quotation demonstrates the anger of Lady Macbeth with her husband without ignoring his role in the crime. And the third complex is linked to the murder of Macduff's wife and children, demonstrating in this expression "The Thane of Fife had a wife, where is she now?" This quotation is told in the sleepwalking scene, when Lady Macbeth seeks for Macduff's wife and children to kill them ("The Hysteria of Lady Macbeth"). In addition, Rosen, Laehr, Regis, Grasset and Janet recognize the hysterical state of Lady Macbeth without giving such evident idea at systematic analysis.

Furthermore, Coriat asserted that the psychological aspect of Lady Macbeth began in the first Soliloquy "The first soliloquy is remarkable, it is her first dream of ambition, so strong and dominating, that she believes she possess what really she does not possess namely, brave. It is this imaginary wish fulfillment to be queen which later causes the hysterical dissociation." (Hussein Naranjo 17). Lady Macbeth was haunted by the idea of obtaining sovereignty and power, for this reason she became a sleepwalker.

Because of fear and terror that possessed Lady Macbeth after the death of the king Duncan, her mental dissociation is increased. From Coriat perspective, "She shrinks

from the guilty secret, and here enters the first element of mechanism which leads to her hysterical dissociation". This can also be embodied in act 2 of scene 2 in the following passage of the play:

“These deeds must not be thought

After these ways. So, it will make us mad.” (qtd in Naranjoetal17)

To sum up, the ambition of Lady Macbeth to obtain the authority and become a queen pushed her to do such a crime in the time when women had no power and reign. These terrible actions led to her mental collapse.

Conclusion

In short, this chapter showed how William Shakespeare focused on the real depiction of women and their roles in all of his writings, especially, during Elizabethan period. In addition, it showed how the female characters are distinguished from men in specific qualities such as purity, obedience and softness. This chapter merely discussed the tragic play Macbeth through emphasizing on the psychoanalysis of female character of Lady Macbeth.

Chapter Three:

The Power of the Evil Character of Lady

Macbeth in Shakespeare 's play Macbeth

Chapter Three: The Power of the Evil Character of Lady Macbeth in Shakespeare 's play Macbeth

Introduction

Shakespeare depicts Lady Macbeth as an influential and effective character in the play. She is stronger and more intelligent than her husband who is characterized by weakness, ambition and loyalty. Lady Macbeth's ambition to become the queen and her husband the king of Scotland makes her do evil deeds to achieve her dream. Furthermore, Shakespeare portrays this female character as an evil and driving force over her husband, especially in the first two acts. Throughout the play the relationship between Lady Macbeth and her husband is based on closeness, love and helpfulness. The influence of Lady Macbeth in the play Macbeth is marked through her evil crimes she committed.

This chapter attempts to give an insight about the characterization of Lady Macbeth through her actions, mental and physical descriptions. It also demonstrates the real and the strong relation between Macbeth and Lady Macbeth in the tragic play Macbeth. Finally, it ends with the portrayal of the influence of the evil side of Lady Macbeth on the play.

1.The Characterization of Lady Macbeth and The Relationship with Macbeth

1.1 The Characterization of Lady Macbeth

Lady Macbeth is the most prominent female character in Shakespeare's play. Throughout the play *Macbeth*, Shakespeare portrays the character of Lady Macbeth as cruel, powerful, ambitious , and treacherous woman more than Macbeth personality. In particular, when she reads Macbeth's letter which tells her about the prediction of the witches for becoming the king of Scotland. After this news, she embodies the dominant and the greedy wife, therefore she starts using her mind for planning evilly to seize the

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throne. In the play, Although Lady Macbeth has a feminine qualities, she wants to obtain the power of masculinity to achieve her ambition. This clearly appears in the play when she behaves as a male, especially when she accuses her husband to murder the king Duncan. In Macbeth, Act 1 of Scene 7 she says, “When you durst do it, then you were a man; and to be more than what you were, you would be so much more than the man” (30). In this passage Lady Macbeth has all control and force over her husband ,and in this scene she demonstrates to be cold, evil and more masculine than her husband to fulfill her desire to be a queen of Scotland. Although she is more masculine in her personality, she is a very feminine looking; and this clearly appears in Act 2 of Scene 2 when she hesitates to kill the king Duncan who resembles her father. She says :

Alack, I am afraid they have awaked,
And'tis not done. The attempt and not the deed
Confounds us. Hark! I laid their daggers ready;
He could not miss'em. Had he not resembled
My father as he slept, I had done't (37).

1.1.1 Physical description

In the play Macbeth, Shakespeare introduces Lady Macbeth through her physical descriptions according to the following speech:

In Shakespeare's play Macbeth, the physical descriptions are not mentioned too much, but the physicality of Lady Macbeth is personified more in the sleepwalking scene through her speech in Act 5 of Scene 1 by saying, “all the perfumes of Arabian will not sweeten this little hand. Oh, oh, oh! (115). The previous speech demonstrates her regret when she remembers the past deeds and how her hands covered by the blood of the king Duncan. This speech also reveals that Lady Macbeth says that even the perfumes of

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Macbeth cannot hide the trace of the king Duncan's death. Her physical description is found when Macbeth comments on her in Act 1 of Scene 7. He says: [b]ring forth men-children only; for thy undaunted mettle should compose /Nothing but males (31). This speech shows the reaction of Macbeth when he sees the cruel and the evil behavior that arises from the personality of his wife, telling her that these virtues fit the male and not the female sex. When he recognizes that his wife has a masculine nature, he believes that she should born only male children. In addition, in Act 1 of scene 5, after reading her husband's letter that he sent to her after his return from the battle and his meeting with the witches, he informs her about the prophecy of becoming a king which made her happy, but; in the same time Lady Macbeth worries about the inability of Macbeth to commit the crime because he has not the evil measure that requires him to be the king, and his character traits by full of human kindness. She says:

Yet do I fear thy nature;
It is too full o' the milk of human kindness
It catch the nearest way: thou wouldst be great;
Art not without ambition, but without
The illness should attend it (22) .

1.1.2 Mental description

In this play, Shakespeare introduces Lady Macbeth through her mental descriptions in the following quotation:

In this tragic play, Lady Macbeth is a female character who has ambition to gain sovereignty. The fixed ideas in her mind to ascend the throne become her obsession

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after knowing the prediction of the witches. For this reason, in Act 1 of Scene 5 she determines to recall her spirits to unsex her, searching for masculine cruelty. She says:

Come, you spirits
that tend on mortal thoughts, Unsex me here,
And fill me, from the crown to the toe top-full
Of direst cruelty! Make thick my blood;
Stop up the access and passage to remorse (23).

This Soliloquy is told by Lady Macbeth, showing her state when she read Macbeth's letter. She is dominated by fixed ideas; to attain the throne and being a queen of Scotland through rejecting her femininity to acquire a cruel and masculine power without remorse.

when Lady Macbeth and her husband planned to kill the king Duncan, Macbeth refuses to do this murder because of his human kindness and his respect to the king. She appears as treacherous woman, especially when she blames him and pushes him to commit this crime in Act 1 of Scene 7, she says the following speech:

Art thou afeard
To be the same in thine own act and valor
As thou art in desires? Wouldst thou have that
Which thou esteem' st the ornament of life,
And live a coward in thine own esteem,
Letting 'I dare not' wait upon 'I would,'
Like the poor cat i' the adage ? (29).

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This quote shows how Lady Macbeth rebukes her husband when he refuse to kill Duncan . She offends him by questioning his manhood and how he lost his desire to be the king. In addition, she describes him as coward and hopeless man because she is more ambitious than him in usurping the throne .Therefore, she describes him as the poor cat in her speech which refers to an old saying ; means to attain the position of being a king, you should commit the murder.

1.1.3 Actions of Lady Macbeth

In the play Macbeth, Shakespeare presents Lady Macbeth through her actions in the following acts:

In act 1 of scene 5, Lady Macbeth's actions started with her plan to murder the king Duncan after reading her husband's letter. This letter contains the prophecy of the witches that Macbeth will be the king of Scotland .From this moment, she begins to think about how to fulfill this prediction. At that night in the castle, Lady Macbeth and her husband determines to kill the king Duncan by drugging the guards of the king (22-25). In act 2 of scene 6, when Macbeth murders the king and because of his fear, he forgets the dagger; Lady Macbeth returns back to the king's room and hides the dagger. After they commit the crime, Macbeth becomes the king of Scotland and his wife a queen.

Furthermore, in Act 4 of Scene 1, Macbeth visits the witches again and they warn him from the thane of Fife and Macdduf. After Macbeth's return, he discovers that Macduff fled to England. Therefore, Lady Macbeth orders her soldiers to kill Lady Macduff and her children (84-92).

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1.2 The Relationship between Macbeth and Lady Macbeth

Throughout the play Macbeth, the relationship between Macbeth and Lady Macbeth is based on confidence and adherence. This simply appears when Macbeth meets the witches and tells him about the predictions of becoming a king, he directly sends a letter to his wife. When Lady Macbeth reads the letter, she enjoys the happy news for her husband to become the king and enhances her position to be a queen of Scotland.

As a significant character in the play, Lady Macbeth's wise permits her to become manipulative wife towards her husband, particularly when they plan to kill the king Duncan. When Macbeth fears to commit the murder, in act 1 of scene 7 she challenges his manhood through saying: "[w]hen you durst do it, then you were a man; [a]nd, to be more than what you were, you would Be so much more the man"(30). This challenge shows the dynamic and the strong relation between Macbeth and his wife, in addition their nature as wife and husband presents them as a complete couple. Lady Macbeth realizes that she can do the crime alone, but she understands that she needs her husband's support to attain the power she desires.

Throughout the play, Shakespeare demonstrates Macbeth and Lady Macbeth as a wife and husband who have a strong relation with each other. Both of them have and share the same interests, and this clearly appears when they plan to kill the king Duncan to achieve their evil ambition to obtain the throne. When Macbeth talks with his wife, he uses sweet words which they are mentioned in Act 1 of Scene 5, he says: "[m]y dearest love, Duncan comes here to-night" (24). This expression shows the real and the strong relation between Lady Macbeth and her husband which is characterized by love. Moreover, the strong and the deep relation between Macbeth and Lady Macbeth also

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appears when Lady Macbeth greets her life partner when he comes back from his successful battle, in Act 1 of Scene 5. She says:

Great Glamis! Worthy Cawdor!
Greater than both, by the all-hail hereafter!
Thy letters have transported me beyond
This ignorant present, and I feel now
The future in the instant (24) .

In the tragic play Macbeth, Shakespeare portrays Lady Macbeth and Macbeth as partners in the crime of killing the king Duncan, this regards apparently when Macbeth repels to return the daggers to the scene of the crime, in Act 2 of Scene 2 she denounces him by saying the following speech :

Infirm of purpose!
Give me the daggers: the sleeping and the dead
Are but as pictures: 'tis the eye of childhood
That fears a painted devil. If he do bleed,
I'll gild the faces of the grooms withal;
For it must seem their guilt (40).

The previous speech shows the state of Macbeth's horror after committing the crime, and how Lady Macbeth blames her husband by telling him "infirm of purpose." In addition, she induces him to continue what he did to achieve his ambition to be the king. She also taunts him about his fear from the dead body of the king and tells him to not fear like a child because the body is became just a picture, and she promises him to

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cover the crime. In this speech, Shakespeare embodies the idea of the gender roles between Macbeth and Lady Macbeth through the exchange of the role during the crime.

Closeness is the kind of the relationship between Lady Macbeth and her husband in the play Macbeth. In this context, Natalia Bizozowska in her essay entitled "The Idea of Ambition as a Social Process" asserts that both of them "as a man and wife, very much complement each other" (qtd in schouten 20). However, the relationship between them changed to a complex throughout the actions of the play, especially, after the murder of the king.

2. Lady Macbeth as a Dominant Evil Character in Shakespeare's Macbeth

The evil is one of the major and prominent themes that has been discussed in the tragic play Macbeth. In this play, Shakespeare embodies the nature of evil in the character of Lady Macbeth through her horrible actions that she did after reading her husband's letter, telling her about the predictions of the witches for his coming days as becoming a king of Scotland, Jean E Howard says that the play *Macbeth* is "culmination of a series of tragedies on evil" (qtd in Rahman and Tajuddin 128). The reader of the play educes that the personality of Lady Macbeth is cruel through her barbarous behaviors that she commits to achieve her ambition to be the queen of Scotland. Dr. Johnson supports the idea of cruelty of Lady Macbeth in the following quote; "Lady Macbeth is merely detested" (qtd in Bautista Naranjo 165). The reader observes her in act 1 of scene 5 when she read the letter that send by her husband, telling her about the witches prophecy to be the king of Scotland and tells her about his new title as a Thane of Cawdor. In that time, she recognizes that to achieve this prophecy, Duncan should be murdered; but the moral nature of her husband unable to do this crime. She says:

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Yet do I fear thy nature;
It is too full o'th milk of human kindness
To catch the nearest way: Thou wouldst be great;
Art not without ambition, but without
The illness should attend it (22).

This passage demonstrates how Lady Macbeth sees her husband as a man full of human moral and is unable to do the crime. She realizes that her husband ambition to be the king, but she also understand that he has no evil and cruel measure that required him to be the king. As an ambitious wife that tends to make her husband a king, she does evil deeds to achieve the witches' prediction. Lady Macbeth knows that the solution to treat his weakness is based on her role .Therefore, She addresses him to come quickly to her to pour her cruelty and evil on him. She says:

Hie thee hither,
That I may pour my spirit in thine ear;
And chastise with the valor of my tongue
And that impedes thee from the golden round,
Which fate and metaphysical aid doth seem
To have thee crown'd withal (22- 23) .

This passage demonstrates the necessity of illness and cruelty in Lady Macbeth case. She realizes that to obtain kingship, Macbeth should have ill and cruel measure. Lady Macbeth in her letter to Macbeth, she wants to chastise him with evil and cruel words to encourage him to do the crime in order to attain the throne. She also realizes that the only way to make her husband the king is to murder the king Duncan. The traits of her

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evil clearly appears when she summons her evil spirit to unsex her. She says in Act 1 of Scene 5 :

Come, you spirits
that tend on mortal thoughts, Unsex me here,
And fill me, from the crown to the toe top-full
Of direst cruelty! Make thick my blood;
Stop up the access and passage to remorse,
That no compunctious visitings of nature
Shake my fell purpose, nor keep peace between
The effect and it! Come to my women's breast,
And take my milk for gall, you murdering ministers,
Wherever in your sightless substances
You wait on nature's mischief!(23).

Unsex me speech is the most important speech in all the play. This speech mainly related to the character of Lady Macbeth when she reads the letter of her husband about the witch's prophecy. When Lady Macbeth knows that the king is coming to the castle this night, she summons her evil spirit to unsex her to achieve the witches prophecy and becomes a queen. By rejecting her femininity, she desires to gain masculine power and to be more cruel than man to kill Duncan. Since she recognizes that her husband cannot do bad things against the king due to his loyalty and his moral behavior. To fulfill her plan, she abandons the symbol of womanhood by asking the spirit and the murdering ministers to remove the milk from her breasts and make it full of gall. In this regards, Janet Adelman states, "perhaps Lady Macbeth is asking the spirits to take her milk as a gall, to nurse from her breast and find in her milk their sustaining poison...In this line Lady Macbeth focuses on the culture's fear of maternal nursery"(qtd in Sorge 5). The demonic side of Lady Macbeth also appears when she urges her husband to kill the king Duncan

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when he comes to the castle by deceiving him and behaving like a serpent under flowers. She says :

To beguile the time,
Look like the time; bear welcome in your eye,
Your hand, your tongue: look like the innocent flower,
But be the serpent under't (24).

This passage demonstrates how Lady Macbeth influenced on Macbeth to commit the crime. She advises him to behave as a welcoming man when he meets the king to avoid any problem when he murders him. She asks him to look as innocent flower, but be the serpent in order to deceive the king without suspect on him. In Act 1 of Scene 7 Lady Macbeth continues to reject her feminine side and belonging to any gender by removing her traits of motherhood to achieve her obsession and ambition to the kingship . She says :

I have given suck, and know
How tender 'tis to love the babe that milks me:
I would, while it was smiling in my face,
Have pluck'd my nipple from his boneless gums,
And dash'd the brains out, had I so sworn as you
Have done to this (30).

This passage shows how Lady Macbeth enrages when Macbeth refuses to murder the king Duncan due to his kindness. She says that even she needs to kill her infant to ascertain her ambition, she will do that. Through these ruthless words, the audience will notice that Shakespeare demonstrates this character as an image of evil motherhood.

The previous passages show the state of Lady Macbeth as an evil character; Her role and impact on the play appears through her influence on her husband Macbeth . This

Chapter Three: The Power of the Evil Character of Lady Macbeth in Shakespeare 's play Macbeth

influence starts in the Act 1 of the Scene 5, when she reads the letter of Macbeth about becoming a king through the prediction of the witches he met when he returns back from his successful battlefield. To fulfill this prediction that shows her as more ambitious than her husband, she egged Macbeth to kill the king Duncan and replace his position. When his wife succeeds to convince him to do the murder, Macbeth enters to the bloody path. Therefore, the reader of the play concludes that Lady Macbeth is the second responsible to the actions of the crime in the play and what happen in it, and also she is the responsible for her husband down fall.

Conclusion:

A conclusion , this chapter examined how William Shakespeare depicted the character of Lady Macbeth through her actions, mental and physical descriptions in the tragic play *Macbeth*. It was also shown the close relation between Lady Macbeth and her husband that appeared from the beginning of the play. This chapter indicated the influential role of the evil character of Lady Macbeth through her demonic deeds in the play to fulfill her ambition to attain the throne as a queen and her husband as a king.

General Conclusion

General Conclusion

The development of English literature had gone through several periods. Each period had its own characteristics. The Elizabethan Era mainly was related to the reign of Elizabeth I. This period witnessed a considerable number of writers such as John Lyly, Edmund Spenser and William Shakespeare. The latter one as an Elizabethan writer who focused on the depiction of women and their role in his time. Shakespeare applied his study on the female characters, particularly, Lady Macbeth in the tragic play *Macbeth*.

In the tragic play *Macbeth*, Shakespeare portrayed one of the major and prominent theme which was the evil. He apparently embodied the evil quality in the personality of Lady Macbeth through her cruelty, ruthless and assertive in her decision. This quality appeared when Lady Macbeth knew about the witches' prophecies, and this became a motive to fulfill her ambition to attain the throne.

The significance of the present study was focused on giving an insight in the evil character of Lady Macbeth in order to show how it contributed to the change of events of the play.

. Our dissertation examined the power and the evil of Lady Macbeth, and how she is influenced on the change of the events in the play For this reason, there were two main questions needed to be answered:

- Why did Shakespeare depict Women in Elizabethan era as a submissive women ?
- How does Shakespeare present the power and the influence of Lady Macbeth on her husband in the play *Macbeth* ?

General Conclusion

To answer the two main questions, the following hypotheses were formulated:

- Shakespeare portrayed women in Elizabethan era as submissive women because they were powerless and obedient to the patriarchal rules in their society.
- Shakespeare represented the power and the influence of Lady Macbeth in this play.

The method that we implemented in our research work was the descriptive analytical method. This method allowed us to get more information about the characterization of the main character of Lady Macbeth through her actions, physical and mental appearance. It also attributed the real and the strong relationship between Lady Macbeth and her husband in this tragic play with focusing on the evil side of Lady Macbeth.

From this dissertation, we conclude that Shakespeare depicted Lady Macbeth as a woman characterized by authority, power and reign, unlike Elizabethan Women who were characterized by purity, obedience and caring for their household. Moreover, in this tragic play, he portrayed Lady Macbeth as a woman who had an evil spirit; trying to obtain a high position in her society. Her impact in the play was prominent in the first two acts through her direct influence on her husband. Lady Macbeth was represented as the driving force and the dominant character over her husband, and she was also considered as an evil wife that made her husband a murderer to achieve her great ambition to gain the kingship. Her evil character led to her fall.

At the end of the conclusion, we recommend the students of Literature to read more about this play to reach new knowledge and results about the evil character of Lady Macbeth.

General Conclusion

This work had dealt with the English Literature in the Elizabethan period, which was considered as a Golden Age. During this age, Shakespeare was one of the famous writers who produced extensive works about women. He used women like Lady Macbeth in his play *Macbeth* to show how women could be evil also when they obtained the authority. Shakespeare demonstrated her as an evil woman that contributed in changing in the series of events of the play through influencing her husband.

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الملخص :

تتناول هذه الدراسة الدور الرئيسي للمرأة في مسرحية ماكبث خاصة في عصر اليزابيث. هذه الدراسة سلطت الضوء على التصرف الشرير للسيدة ماكبث المبين في السؤالين التاليين: السؤال الاول يهدف الى معرفة لماذا الكاتب المسرحي شكسبير يصور المرأة في فترة اليزابيث على انها امرأة خاضعة لقواعد المجتمع الابوي. كما يحاول الكاتب في هذا السؤال توضيح قوة وتأثير الشخصية الشريرة للسيدة ماكبث على زوجها في هذه المسرحية. كمحاولة للإجابة على الاسئلة السابقة , صاغت هذه الدراسة فرضيتين : الفرضية الاولى تربط بين خضوع وضعف المرأة لقواعد المجتمع الابوي. اما الفرضية الثانية فهي تركز على الربط بين تأثير وقوة السيدة ماكبث في هذه المسرحية. اعتمدنا في هذا البحث على الطريقة التحليلية الوصفية. من خلال هذه الدراسة نستنتج ان الشر لعب دورا مهما وفعالا في المسرحية المأساوية ماكبث من خلال شخصية السيدة ماكبث.

الكلمات المفتاحية: عصر اليزابيث , الشر , التأثير , السيدة ماكبث , مسرحية ماكبث , شكسبير.