

THE DUALITY OF DESIRE: LADY MACBETH IN A PATRIARCHAL WORLD

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ABSTRACT

Undoubtedly, Shakespeare is one of the world's most influential poets and dramatists. His works resonate through time across cultures. His plays are rich with the grim realities of human conscience and have been transformed into films and live performances that continue to shape society. His plays have been dissected from countless perspectives, and every time, they have yielded different explanations or understandings of human behavior.

Shakespeare's plays are mainly male-centric. The central characters are male. The number of male characters in the plays is almost seven times that of female characters. The number of dialogs delivered by female characters is substantially low compared to their male counterparts. Despite this, it cannot be disregarded that female characters in Shakespeare's plays occupy a pivotal position. Often, the story twists, centering the lead female character. Lady Macbeth in Macbeth is such an intriguing, complex character. Macbeth has been in the researcher's dissection table for a long. Countless papers have been published on various aspects, including its themes, characters, historical context, and adaptations. However, when it comes to Lady Macbeth, the number of research papers aiming to understand her is very limited. There has been a general tendency to mark Lady Macbeth as a cruel, evil, power-haunting lady – "The fourth Witch." People generally blame Lady Macbeth for misguiding and provoking Macbeth for the crime and for being solely responsible for Macbeth's misfortune, which might not be entirely true. This paper tries to reanalyze Lady Macbeth's character from the modern perspective, adopting a feminine angle.

KEYWORDS: *Lady Macbeth, Tragedy, Women Power, Feminine Ambition*