

**Al-Zaytoonah University of
Jordan
Deanship of Graduate
Studies**



جامعة الزيتونة الأردنية
عمادة الدراسات العليا

The Misrepresentation of Female Characters in *Fifty Shades* Trilogy

By

Maimouneh Mohammad Khair Maharmeh

Supervisor

Prof. Ibrahim Abu Shihab

Co-supervisor

Prof. Sura Khrais

Abstract

This thesis examines E. L. James' *Fifty Shades* trilogy under the umbrella of Feminism. The questions raised in the thesis reflect that female characters in the three novels are misrepresented. This thesis aims to apply Liberal Feminism, Psychoanalytic Feminism, and Social Feminism on the three literary works. To do so, the researcher has examined representations of liberal women, motherhood, dominant-submissive relationships, masculinity, and patriarchal society. Findings show that E. L. James trilogy presents distorted and destructive images of females under the guise of sexual exploration and gender liberation. The novels justify physical and sexual abuse by romanticizing domestic violence and rape culture and

justifying both as males' normal needs and desires. Accordingly, the thesis clarifies those misrepresentations and identifies areas of women victimization for future studies to draw upon.

Keywords: *Fifty Shades*, feminism, misrepresentation, female sexuality, erotic fiction, sexual violence