

**Aggressive, wicked and Powerful Female Characters in Shakespeare's
*Macbeth (1606), King Lear (1608) and Taming of the Shrew (1594):
Feminist Perspective***

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Abstract

Feminist theory focuses on gender inequality, male-female discrimination, and the Elizabethan image of women standing for women's subordination to their fathers and spouses; they are considered as inferior and dependent on men. Women, on the other hand, are portrayed as incredibly strong and independent in Shakespeare's selected plays.

This thesis looks at how feminist theory can be applied to three Shakespearean plays: *Macbeth*, *King Lear*, and *Taming of the Shrew*. Through the roles of the selected female characters in the plays, these plays demonstrate the hidden force of feminism (Lady Macbeth in *Macbeth*, Katherine in *Taming of the Shrew* and Goneril and Regan in *King Lear*).

These female characters are very strong for being able to stand on their own without needing any help or protection from men in the society in a period of time that was known for the oppression and weakness of women. These characters carry a large amount of power, aggressiveness, and wickedness that cannot be deterred, and this is very clear in their actions and conversations, as well as in Feminist theory, which will be used to analyze the plays.

This thesis offers an analysis of the female characters in the selected plays through the feminist theory, highlighting the most violent and powerful situations for these characters and demonstrating their power, aggressiveness, and wickedness in a period of time that were not popular with such qualities.

Keywords: Feminist, power, wickedness, aggressiveness.