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## **Transformation of Women from Silent Lambs to Rational Nightingales in Shakespeare's Play "Taming of the Shrew" and its Modern Re-Writing "Vinegar Girl"**

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**Abstract:** Throughout the centuries, every individual living in society takes certain bias and beliefs into centre. These beliefs determine the way they treat each other and play a crucial role in daily life. Gender as a notion affects general perception of women's role at this point. In this study, the subject matter of gender inequality and discrimination will be handled in Shakespeare's well-known play "Taming Of The Shrew" and its modern interpretation named "Vinegar Girl" in terms of representation of women according to social codes. Thus, the difference between sex and gender will be firstly examined in a detailed way. As a debated matter, gender is a social construct whereas sex is based on biological level. Then, the universality of Shakespeare's plays are still there since the social regulations and codes have validity in the modern world. In this sense, no matter how many years have passed, the characters in the novel of "Vinegar Girl" present the issue of discrimination and inequality between women and men on social level. The aim of this study is to highlight accepted role of women in society through various discourses, acts and behaviours. For this reason, descriptive research method which describes the features of phenomenon will be used to get necessary information about stated problem. Furthermore, the discussions about women's perception as gender roles and transformation of them as individuals having a voice on their own in "Vinegar Girl" by a female author will be handled and presented to the reader by comparing this contemporary version to Shakespeare's specific play.

**Keywords:** Gender, Inequality, Sex, Feminism, Shakespeare

### **Introduction**

The accepted belief that gender shapes everything related to society constitutes the core of social order. The mentality of patriarchal system in this sense lies in gender inequality. From the very early years, women and men as two groups are treated differently in many ways according to patriarchal order. The patriarchal understanding which puts the father's authority into centre determines hierarchical relationship between women and men. Although being powerful and superior are directly linked with being men in societies where patriarchal system reigns, this perception not only affects women but men in a negative way as well. Because, there are certain roles and duties which are expected to perform for two sexes in the stated system. The women and men who can't perform these responsibilities and duties are labelled as the 'other', 'marginalized' or 'wild' on social order. Considering all these expectations and distributed roles, it can be said that the problematic issues about gender inequality and discrimination go back to the early ages in history. In this sense, Shakespeare's specific play "The Taming of the Shrew" and its modern re-writing "Vinegar Girl" by Anne play a crucial role in reflecting the inequality and unfair attitudes between genders in society despite the huge gap of time difference in which two literary works are published.

At this point, literary works have an essential role in drawing a picture of society in which they are produced. This study aims to present the characters in terms of their position and their expected roles in the patriarchal system in Shakespeare's "Taming of The Shrew" and its re-writing "Vinegar Girl". Furthermore, the changes including gender issues and general perception of women after four hundred years will be handled. In

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Shakespeare's play, it is clearly observed the gender discrimination, humiliating acts towards women as a reflection of social order of that time. At this point, in 16<sup>th</sup> century which is known as the Renaissance, women were described through a male starting from their birth to every stage of life. In other words, the relations of the sexes were reconstructed to one of female dependency and male domination (Kelly 20). Women maintained a life of second-class individuals since their status were inferior to men in every layer of society. Men had authority over all institutions including marriage, education, culture, religion, the economy and legal system. Male dominance as a result of patriarchal order determined the fate of of that time.

In her book, with help of contract theory, Pateman discusses the imbalance between two sexes which supports feminine oppression as well (Pateman, 1988, p. 16). As a British feminist, she deals with issues related to systemic gender inequality which continues in modern world. By applying to 'feminist storytelling' she illustrates how contracts affect womanhood in various ways such as sexual exploitation, harassment through the most basis of society, marriage. She asserts that the institution of marriage is seen as a way to help women integrate into society. It is a kind of contract which puts women into an unequal position. Marriage regards them as natural subordinate and provides men to mistreat their women since they gain possession of them. In Shakespeare's time as well as his works, general perception of women's role in marriage are rendered in that way. In later lines, this study will focus on Shakespeare's period. Before that, it can be concluded that despite the gap of time, many things about view of women in recent years are still valid. So, she gets help from social contract theory to discuss the problematic issues about women position and definition in different aspects. According to social contract theory, law and political order are not natural, but have been created by humans. Because the ultimate power is mostly attributed to men, it is them deciding in which way the rules function. In this sense, via all social rules including legal, political, and moral and the economic ones, women's submissive and docile role is rationally justified. From Tyrrel's perspective, the greatest victory that a woman wins is being mentioned by men to the lowest degree (Tyrrel, 1999, pp. 37-51). So, a woman is expected to keep her voice down and do her duties as a wife, mother or daughter.

Shakespeare is one of the playwrights who has achieved to go beyond his time since he tackles universal subject matters such as gender roles, women's relation to men in terms of social regulation through his works. His plays mostly deal with issues of being woman in patriarchal society. The difficulties they encounter as well as involving domestic and social roles which are imposed on women are displayed to the reader. He maintained his life during the reign of Queen Elizabeth. The figure who rules England is a woman but the dominant mentality still advocates the existence of patriarchal order. Elizabethan England was an example of male's superiority with legal system which confined women to certain areas, mostly domestic ones. They were not allowed to have education which meant they couldn't get economic independency. Apart from this, women were deprived of rights such as voting or buying property on their own. On a larger scale, there is a division between duties which are expected from men and women. This distinction causes to develop a perception about women's and men's nature. From this view of point, we face a fragile and weak woman figure both emotionally as well as physically who can't sustain her life on her own and needs a male figure. All a woman can do is bringing children up, cleaning, cooking and some craftworks. On the contrary, a strong man figure with rationality and having potential to gain his money in terms of economy comes to foreground (Bora, 2012, pp. 178-179). So, a woman's whole life is restricted to her house and doing some errands. In addition to legal restrictions, Elizabethan women were responsible for some social duties and roles which were expected from them. The burden of being a mother and a wife is the thing that victimizes them since the strict social duties were not applied to men in the same way. In the oppressive nature of marriage, it was women who were exposed to ill-treatment and emotional manipulation by their husbands (Allen, 1974, p. 136). That's why it can be said that Elizabethan era encouraged women to be silent, submissive and obedient to powerful male figure whether it was their husband or their father.

As a reflection of its time, literary works were shaped according to society's patriarchal structure. Witnessing the strict regulations of Elizabeth's reign, William Shakespeare mostly deals with the institution of marriage and the conditions, mostly financial ones under which women are condemned to marry. Without taking their consent, women, at a very early age, are married to the men whom their father demands. Marriage results in the husband's authority over his wife. In his play, "The Taming of the Shrew", Shakespeare presents woman's status within marriage as underlying sex when Petruchio mentions his wife as "my goods, my chattels... my ox, my ass, my anything" (Act III, scene II). As it is seen in Petruchio's depiction of his wife, the more power male authority figures have, the more they ruin women's lives by mistreating them in both public and private sphere.

Unlike Shakespeare's play, Anne Tyler presents new generation women by rewriting their usual role as a wife, daughter on social order. As a female author, she gives a detailed depiction of women and emphasizes the

discriminative acts, difficulties they have to experience because of their position in modern society from a woman's point of view.

This study, in this sense, will focus on changes about representation of women by having a closer look into main characters in two literary works. That's why; it will touch similarities as well as differences between Shakespeare's women and Anne Tyler's new generation women by comparing their behaviour and attitude under the pressure of patriarchal system. Considering the changing conditions after four hundred years, the readers witness the transformation of women from the natural subordinate to powerful, rational individuals in every aspect. But before this radical change, in the next section, we will firstly handle the notion of ideology since gender relation is directly linked with it.

### **Gender in Invisible Relation to Ideology**

According to Oxford Language Dictionary, gender is in accordance with male or female sex mainly considering social or cultural differences rather than biological ones, or refers to other identities that do not conform to established ideas of male and female (Oxforddictionary.com). So, it can be said that gender reflects features which are attributed to men and women that are constructed socially. These socially constructed values change from society to society over years. Gender not only determines distinctions between sexes but also states unequal power relations between them as Fatmagül Berktaş has noted (Berktaş, 2016, p. 16). In this study, inequality resulted from being superior or inferior in terms of power. So, this inequality lies in daughter-father relationships as well as husband- wife relationships. In his work named, *Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses*, he confirms this notion by saying that the individuals act according to doctrines imposed on them rather than free will (Althusser, 2014, p. 256). Through social codes and gender roles, the individual internalizes the societal expectations consciously or unconsciously and behave in that way. He will be labelled as marginalized if he doesn't accept them as something normal. Thus, all of us, as a member of society, start to live a life which the society assigns. Even we shape our lives through experiences and our characters, we should take the approval of society in our choices, or we will have to be responsible for the bad results of our acts (Irzik & Parla, 2017, p.105).

In *The Taming of the Shrew*, the accepted values about gender roles and societal expectations are presented to the readers. The submissiveness of women and their silence are exemplified through two women characters, Katherina and her sister, Bianca in the play. Katherina who is famous for her being shrew in Padua is embodiment of untamed, wild, angry and assertive woman. She tends to insult or even attack whoever makes her angry. Baptista who holds power as a father wants to get rid of her daughter, Katherina. The reason why she is so wild, stubborn, rude and aggressive is totally opposite to the submissive role of conventional woman in society. In order to solve this matter, he decides to get her elder daughter married firstly. He expresses his decision with these words: "Before I have a husband for the elder, that is, not to bestow my youngest daughter" (22). Katherina doesn't conform to any expectations as a woman and daughter on social level. That's why the male figure who is powerful in patriarchal system doesn't want her. Through ideology of the specific time, individuals perform expected roles and duties which are attributed to them. So, ideology is the one that shapes which roles are for females and males in this sense. Women are expected to be keep their voices down, docile and obedient to male dominance which is the father before marriage. So, Katherina as a disobedient and ill-tempered girl is marginalized in both public and private sphere.

In Shakespeare's comedy the unconventional type of woman presented to the readers through Katherina is domesticated by getting help of a husband, Petruchio. So, this perspective supports the idea that society, normalizing dominance of patriarchy, needs another male figure to get rid of unwanted problems. In Act 1, the readers witness that Katherina's identification having all negative connotations by other male figures. From Tranio's perspective, she is depicted as "stark mad" or headstrong (23). In contrast to Katherina's personal traits, her younger sister, Bianca is described with her silence and docile behaviour by Lucentio (23). Another speech which serves to certain ideology is given to the readers through Baptista's mentioning his younger daughter as a "good Bianca". So, it proves that Baptista consciously or unconsciously serves to patriarchal order. Nearly all male characters praise Bianca for her submissive, silent, kind nature while curses Katherina for her rude, rebellious traits and scolding tongue which clash with patriarchal society. Baptista's ultimate decision to get Katherina married firstly is criticized by other male figures. They regard this decision as a punishment for beautiful and submissive Bianca. She is punished because of "this fiend of hell" according to Gremio (24). Thus, Hortensio and Gremio plan to find a husband for her. According to them, it is nearly impossible for a husband to put up with Katherina. At this point, Hortensio says that maybe, there is a man who accepts her as a wife just for her money (25). As a woman Katherina is so untamed and furious that the basis of marriage is just

for money rather than love in this sense. This supports the general idea that the institution of marriage is based on economic reasons and needs as well as the representation of women in Elizabethan Era. Gremio disagrees that by saying he prefers being whipped to getting married to her (26).

As a result of general perception of ideal woman in society, all good connotations such as beautiful like the daughter of Agenor and silent as a lamb are used for Bianca (27). Every suitor is ready to struggle for her love. In continuing scene, Hortensio welcomes his friend Petruchio, the most suitable man for Katherina. He wants to marry for money and he thinks that he can even cope with a cursed and ill-tempered woman if she has much money. Hortensio describes Katherina as shrewd. Adding to negative connotations, he expresses that he will marry to her just for sake of gold (34). When Petruchio introduces himself, Baphista warns him against unhappy words by emphasizing Katherina's sharp-tongued nature (48). In accordance with her wild nature, from the very first moment when Petruchio has a dialogue with Katherina, a quarrel and dispute take place mostly between them. While he is wooing her, Petruchio normalizes the humiliating way towards women in patriarchal society with these words: "Women are made to bear and so are you" (51). He tries to persuade Katherina into marriage and in doing this; he unconsciously serves to the general perception of women in the dominant ideology. So, the male characters support distributed gender roles by maintaining social arrangements. Thus, this play focuses on common beliefs about genders. All these beliefs can be named as gender ideology as well (Kellner, 2007: 19). As a male force, he expresses his intent fearlessly which is expected from males in this system. He asserts that he is here to tame her. His duty is to turn Katherina from a wild, untamed girl to domestic one like other household girls (55). The fact that woman has no voice on her own appears in the decision of marriage. Petruchio is the one who decides to marry ignoring Katherina's acceptance and at this point, taking Baptista's consent will be enough. This proves that within patriarchal order, initially father figure then a husband gains possession over woman.

In Act three, when the day of marriage comes, Petruchio isn't seen. No matter how reluctant Katherina is to get married, as a young woman, she feels irritated with Petruchio's reckless attitude. The fact that if Petruchio bothers and comes for his wedding shows that it is the man who decides in what way this special event goes (67). Woman isn't equal to man even on wedding day. After getting married, Petruchio hurries to leave the event without having bridal dinner. As an official bride, Katherina wants to attend the after wedding ceremony, but again it is male force who holds the power and his word is accepted three times over a woman's. Petruchio is indifferent to have joyful times under the name of bridal dinner, so they leave (76). These scenes verify the accepted perception of gender roles between men and women on social order. That's why it can be said that a literary work displays the features and the general ideology of its time. It is men who benefit from the ideology that males are superior to females, so they should dominate us. And this mentality is still valid today (Hooks, 2016, p. 9). In accordance to this mentality, Petruchio's perspective towards women is taken into consideration by another man, Hortensio in the play as well. From the very scene, Bianca who is depicted as ideal by her physical appearance and silent behaviour meets the readers in a different way towards the end of the play. Hortensio abandons Bianca because of her improper behaviours towards another suitor. This shows the fact that nothing is as it seems actually. While Bianca seems to be mostly beloved by all male figures due to her submissive nature expected from women in society, the readers witness the reality behind this. After being disappointed, Hortensio decides to "tame" a shrew like Petruchio (89). A different result appears then. Once again, man's duty to domesticate a woman comes to foreground.

In the last act, the transformation or the success in taming Katherina is presented the readers. All characters gather and take a feast. Petruchio makes an assertion with other men about their wives. He expresses that her wife has changed a lot since they are married. Furthermore, he asserts that his wife is the most obedient wife among others (122). When each man asks for his wife in turn, no one comes except Katherina. This proves that Petruchio as a male figure has achieved to turn her into a docile and obedient woman. The play ends with the speech by Katherina who is an ideal woman now. She renders women's duties as a wife towards their husbands (127). This speech clearly illustrates the radical change which happens in her nature. Whereas she rebels against all accepted societal rules at the beginning of the play, now she turns into an obedient maid who serves to her "governor" (127). She accepts the gender role which makes women weak, silent and submissive. This transformation in itself actually reflects the mentality of Elizabethan period. So, it can be concluded that Shakespeare's play conforms to the ideology which affects gender roles.

On the other hand, Anne Tyler's *Vinegar Girl* presents to the readers an alternative way of living for women. While displaying that it is possible to turn gender roles upside and down through characters in the novel, this study uses the feminist theory, another ideological approach. In the next section, the aim of this study is to give detailed information about the feminist theory and how it works in modern world. *Vinegar Girl* retells the story of *The Taming of the Shrew* under the changing social conditions. As an updated version, the plot takes place in

Baltimore. Considering the way gender roles are distributed in Shakespeare's play, Anne Tyler, via characters, deals with problematic issues about perception of women in modern world. In Shakespeare's world, women are silenced in various spheres and ignored by society. While re-writing the story of *The Taming of the Shrew*, Anne Tyler make the main characters change at some certain points. The main reason is that the modern time differs from 16<sup>th</sup> century. Depending on distinctions of societal expectations and gender relations, this work will enable the readers to have a closer look into the world of characters. In the next section, we will focus on the method of this study and the feminist theory which deals with the social process of gender issues and what to do about them.

## Method

Written by a female author Anne Tyler, the novel "Vinegar Girl" was published in 2016. It is the third of "Hogarth Shakespeare" project in which contemporary authors rewrite Shakespeare's some plays. This study aims to analyse gender inequality via Kate Battista who suffers from the constrained circumstances in *Vinegar Girl* by Anne Tyler. The author as a female uses feminist theory to illustrate how women and men are treated differently and have significantly distinctive lives because of the gendered social order. The descriptive research method is applied to the texts and the data was provided by reading the novel many times, taking notes about the stated problem, describes the features of phenomenon and categorizing crucial data in this sense.

This study results in some findings; Kate Battista searches for a way to resist to societal expectations which are imposed on her and she resists to them at certain points. She tries to cope with the gender role as a daughter and woman without losing her identity. In contrast with "The Taming of the Shrew" which was written at the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the novel by Anne Tyler softens the strict rules of Elizabethan Era at some points. So, in the light of feminist theory and Jacques Derrida's deconstruction theory, this study will present to the readers how gender discrimination works and in which way the major social institutions support this artificial system of gender relation. With the help of deconstruction theory, it is aimed to subvert the relations between males and females based on harsh and clear distinctions. Derrida believes that as a result of hierarchy between binary oppositions such as mind and body, men and women, superior and inferior, the group of people that are attributed to the first terms are praised whereas the second group of people carrying the features of their opposites are treated in a different way. In Western thought, because of this categorization, women are regarded as natural subordinate. Woman is the "other" of men (Eagleton, 2017, pp. 158-159). Feminism and deconstruction allow us to rethink about what is politic and discover that there can be another life behind identity politics (Elam, 1994, p. 3).

In "The Taming of the Shrew" as this study focuses on the earlier section, all males' speech and attitudes show that male dominance comes foreground. On the other hand, women are identified as objects rather than individuals who are dependent on men. Before marriage, it is father and within marriage, this dominant figure becomes the husband. At this point, thanks to deconstruction theory, the part which clearly reflects the existing ideology of patriarchal order in Shakespeare's play is updated considering the changing circumstances and gender equality. Deconstruction questions binary oppositions and hierarchy that Western thought puts forward. Derrida rejects the idea which justly focuses on the central meaning. He believes that not only the central meaning but also the marginalized one should be taken into consideration. At this point, deconstruction theory comes about. Thus, he criticizes the accepted Western philosophy by emphasizing other possibilities and meanings rather than the existence of centred, specific ones.

A center vanishes the other possibilities in every field including within a text. By applying to binary oppositions, Derrida highlights the center and its opposite, the marginalized or the other. In other words, men versus women or good versus evil are examples of this binary opposition. Instead of separating them from each other, Derrida advocates that each term is identified with its opposite. In this sense, men take central role by leaving women another choice as secluded or marginalized, but, women's existence as opposites cannot be ignored. That's why in rewriting process, women play a crucial role turning the usual order upside and down.

Finally, a work from a new perspective appears which proves that other meanings are possible in the retold version of work. So, thanks to deconstruction theory, the dominant ideology which distributes certain roles to women by restricting them to certain fields mostly in private spheres is replaced by other possibilities. In dominant ideology, women are expected to be docile, obedient, silent and submissive. In this regard, women have opportunities to get rid of constrained circumstances via retelling a story from the other's perspective. Thus, as the second group, the marginalized gets an opportunity to have a voice herself. Adding to gender roles, culture is redefined from women's perspective as well (Hirsch & Smith, 2002, p. 3). In this sense, from feminist

point of view, it is possible to present a different kind of life and criticize the reigning ideology on social level. Anne Tyler's rewriting version of Shakespeare's play "The Taming of the Shrew" enables the readers to have a closer look into the women's struggle throughout the novel. Via main character, Kate Battista who has to take a role nurtures the conventional womanhood in this sense. At the end of the novel, the readers witness the transformation of this woman since she raises her voice against male dominant order and its expectations as a daughter and woman. In the next section, this study will focus a feminist analysis of "Vinegar Girl".

### **A Feminist Analysis of *Vinegar Girl***

In the earlier sections, we have discussed gender inequality, the distributed gender roles and how gender distinctions function in society. Throughout many ages, the major social institutions as well as religions legitimate the social arrangements which produce inequality and discrimination justifying them as right and proper. Thus, from religious point of view, male supremacy is again valid where individuals worship a supreme being that is male. The gendered social order constrains the behaviours of gender deviants through punishment and legal ostracism. Its power is so effective that that people act in gendered ways based on their positions within the gender structure without question. Injustice and discriminative acts are observed in paid work as well. Most women do the same work but they earn less than men in the same positions.

Furthermore, women still continue to do the most of the domestic work. Considering unequal circumstances which women are exposed to in male dominant society, feminist theory deals with the emergence of these social processes and issues about the way they operate. On basis, these are the subject matters of feminist theories. What to do about them is the aim of feminist politics. It criticizes patriarchal system that makes men dominant and women subordinate. When we learn our place as a member of gendered social order, we do gender and participate in its construction. And the accepted beliefs and constructions maintain the gendered social order. Gender equality, feminists argue, ends up with women becoming like men. In this sense, they believe that making women and men equal necessitates social solutions rather than individual attempts. Thanks to re-writing process and change of social order, women surpass beyond their gendered identity by leaving the role of underlying sex behind and get a powerful, rational role. In the earlier sections, the study has discussed the distributed gender roles and how gender distinctions function in society. So, here, we will analyse Anne Tyler's novel *Vinegar Girl* in frame of feminist approach. In re-writing of Shakespeare's play, the main characters as Kate Battista, Pyotr Shcherbakov, Bernice (Bunny) Battista and Dr. Louis Battista are presented to the readers. The name of novel derives from the word which Pyotr uses for Kate, "vinegar girl". The opposites describing Katherina and Bianca in "The Taming of the Shrew" are evident in its re-writing as well.

Anne Tyler is an American author who was born in Minnesota in 1941 and grew up in North Carolina. She spent the most of her years away from people as isolated and secluded. As a resident in Baltimore, she chooses this place in her writings. In her novel, she puts Baltimore into centre as well. In the beginning, Kate is portrayed as a young woman who has duties such as preparing sandwiches for her father, running house and doing errands (2). As a conventional woman type, Kate is responsible for her little sister Bernice as well. She takes role of daughter and a kind of mother for Bernice since their mother has passed away. As far as feminist considerations are concerned in the novel, Kate's characteristic features and her relationship with other men, mostly her father play a crucial role in illustrating general perception of women from different point of views. Dr. Battista's depiction of Kate reflects usual patriarchal mentality. When she is introduced to Pyotr, Dr. Battista describes her "domestic" (10). He praises her with societal expectations. The fact that he wants to marry Kate to Pyotr is based on business. Pyotr isn't American and his visa is about to expire and needs renewed. It is possible through a marriage to an American. In this regard, not to lose his assistant, Dr. Battista tries to convince her daughter to this marriage. Father Battista cares about his work more than Kate. She says that her father likes his mice more than them (44). Initially, the readers think that they will meet the same strict hierarchical distinctions between men and women. But throughout novel, we witness behaviours and dialogues different from what we expect.

In contrast to original play, when Pyotr meets Kate, he is attracted by her outspoken nature (7). Not only her unusual behaviours but also her physical appearance, long hair attracts him (37). In Shakespeare's play, Petruchio even makes Kate starve to death to pacify her. On the other hand, we meet a male, Pyotr who offers help Kate to wash the dishes after dinner (65). This is unexpected since all works related to house are associated with women in history. Whereas Petruchio mistreats Katherina, Pyotr doesn't attempt to change her. On the contrary, he appreciates her outspoken attitude and likes the way Kate acts. He regards her as an independent girl who can choose any man for marriage (99). Realizing his mistake, he comes home to apologize to Kate since he and Dr. Louis make a marriage arrangement without her consent (98). This situation can be expressed

with feminist theory and changing patriarchal ideology. Through the end of novel, after getting married, Pyotr even asks Kate if she wishes to go back to university or continuing gardening in their new home (182) Anne Tyler as a female, gives equal voice to all characters whereas Shakespeare puts forward male dominance in accordance with patriarchal order. At first sight, though Kate is described as a conventional woman with excessive duties and responsibilities towards her family, this portrayal changes throughout novel. Kates decides to stop doing the duties related to other members of family by leaving Bernice's dirty clothes on floor (85). Similarly, when father asks her to do taxes, Kate raises her voice by saying that "you should do your own taxes" (88). In contrast to original play, her sister supports Kate in re-writing version with these words: "Go, Katherine" (88). This proves that changing ideology doesn't make women a rival to each other. On the contrary, woman solidarity which can be expressed with feminist theory is evident.

## Conclusion

This study focuses on analysing gender inequality, perception of women, gender differences and certain societal expectations as a result of patriarchal ideology in relation to the notion of gender which is a social construct. With social and legal rules, the distributed gender roles are normalized in society. It determines the way of life every individual maintains. These two works carry the traces of ideology of their time as well. In this sense, the examples of gender inequality, discriminative attitudes towards a special group, mostly women, are presented to the readers via the characters in selected works.

To sum up, the close readings of two works present the general perception of women, gender roles and the attempts to provide gender equality are illustrated through feminist theory as well as how changing social order affect the lives of women on larger scale.

## Scientific Ethics Declaration

The author declares that the scientific ethical and legal responsibility of this article published in EPESS journal belongs to the author.

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