SHAKESPEARE’S VIEWS ON WOMEN
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Abstract
This paper concentrates on women’s use of language to investigate how Shakespeare views women. It first reviews the literature on the topic, and shows how women use language in terms of linguistic behaviour, linguistic strategies and functions of speech. Afterward, it analyses the data collected through devising an analytical framework applied on 24 characters (12 female and 12 males) from 4 of Shakespeare’s plays, namely Macbeth, King Lear, A Midsummer Night’s Dream and The Merry Wives of Windsor. The findings reveal that factors such as gender and social class are essential in studying Shakespeare’s view of women. The paper concludes that Shakespeare depicts women as less educated, less confident, less brave, more cooperative, more suppressed, and more submissive than men; however, they are showing some strength to rebel and change their condition in a patriarchal society.

Keywords: Shakespeare, women, portrayal, language, linguistics, behaviour.