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## Femininity and Masculinity: A Theoretical Analysis and Its Approach to Shakespeare's *Macbeth*



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**ABSTRACT :** "Femininities" and "masculinities" describe gender identities. It refers to the degree to which persons see themselves as masculine or feminine given what it means to be a man or woman in society. Femininity and masculinity are rooted in the social (one's gender) rather than the biological (one's sex). It is important to distinguish gender identity, as presented above, from other gender-related concepts such as gender roles, which are shared expectations of behavior given one's gender. A gender stereotype consists of beliefs about the psychological traits and characteristics of, as well as the activities appropriate to, men or women.

The paper aims at understanding the concept of masculinity and femininity, gender roles and gender stereotypes. It will also look into the historical origin of the above terms, major theories that explain the development of femininity and masculinity. Further, there will be an analysis of Shakespeare's *Macbeth* from the perspective of femininity and masculinity.

**Keywords :** Masculinity, femininity, gender roles, social status, *Macbeth*