

Abstract

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A Corpus-based Feminist Stylistic Study: Female Vs. Male Playwrights

Abstract _____ This research investigates the question of whether the gender of the author affects the way he/she writes feminist plays. This is achieved through highlighting stylistic differences in female playwrights' and male playwrights' feminist play scripts. A stylistic analysis is carried out to investigate the prominent stylistic tools in six different plays: three feminist plays written by female playwrights and also three other male-written feminist plays. Then, the results from the female-written plays are compared and contrasted to those from the male-written plays. On the one hand, the three female-written plays are Rachel Crothers' *A Man's World*, Susan Glaspell's *Trifles* and Sophie Treadwell's *Machinal*. On the other hand, the three male-written plays are Ibsen's *A Doll's House*, Shaw's *Mrs. Warren's Profession* and Strindberg's *Miss Julie*. The stylistic tools employed in the study are divided into lexico-grammatical tools such as transitivity and modality and rhetorical devices like rhetorical questions, repetition and figurative language. It is a corpus-based research. The analysis is conducted using T-LAB text analysis software which is used as a research assistant in collecting and sorting out the data. This contributes to the richness of the stylistic analysis, the accuracy of the results and the overall credibility of the study. The findings and results show that both female and male feminist playwrights use the stylistic tools used in the study with no significant differences between them. Keywords: stylistics – feminism – language and gender studies – corpus linguistics – T-LAB – drama