ABSTRACT

The aim of this thesis is to examine the ways in which the female characters of two well-known works, namely William Golding’s novel The Double Tongue (1995) and Arthur Miller’s play The Crucible (1953), are exploited by male characters in pursuit of their ambitions. In spite of the works being set in different periods, they both develop the theme of male authorities abusing and misusing the inferior position of oftentimes adolescent women, bestowed on them by patriarchal society. The interpretation of both literary works is mainly based on historical and socio-cultural study of the periods as well as works of literary criticism. Abstracting the main features regarding the theme of this thesis that connect the two periods, the two literary works are compared. The theoretical part of the thesis provides the reader with a brief overview concerning the authors with a specific focus on the historical circumstances in which the works were written, and which influenced the content of the works. Second part of the theoretical section focuses on the historical and socio-cultural context in which the plots of the individual works take place. The last theoretical section discusses the position of women in the respective societies. The practical part subsequently presents illustration of the discussed phenomena using the main literary works. This part elaborates on the specific similarities and points out the discrepancies.

Key words: Colonial America; Witchcraft; Witch trials; The Ancient Greece; Divinations; Oracles; Legitimization; The supernatural; William Golding; Arthur Miller; The Double Tongue; The Crucible