

Abstract

This thesis deals with women's images in the chosen novels by the Austrian writer Elfriede Jelinek. The focus lies on exploring women's sexuality and identities in *Die Klavierspielerin* (The Piano Teacher), *Lust* (Lust) and *Die Liebhaberinnen* (Women as Lovers). As for the methodology, I draw on feminist literary criticism and gender studies, primarily Elaine Showalter's and Judith Butler's theories. The development of female protagonists is comprehended as formed through patriarchy – it will be analyzed, and the individual results will be compared in order to get to the general issue about depiction of patriarchy and toxic masculinity in Jelinek's work.

Key words: feminism, gender, women's sexuality, self-determination, Elfriede Jelinek