

THE COMMUNICATIVENESS OF GENDER AND IDENTITY FORMATION: THE DIALECTIC OF WOMEN'S REPRESENTATION

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ABSTRACT

This paper discusses the manipulative use of language by the patriarchy on the subversion of the identity of women as it relates to women's representation. The paper also discusses on how the power structures maintain the status quo through hegemonic and performative means. Concepts such as language, representation, feminism and patriarchy are specifically discussed. The ways through which language belittles women were extensively examined and the roles of politics and power structures play in sexism were also tackled. In concluding the discussion, the paper is of the view, that the issues that the female gender face results from the structures have been put in place by the dominant ideology and that women must reclaim and rewrite language if they seek to emancipate themselves.

KEYWORDS: *Women, Gender, Feminism, Language, Representation, Patriarchy*

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