

The role of women and men in today's society has drastically changed since the Elizabethan Era. Modernisations of Shakespeare's work allow one to delve deeper into the gender roles of the time and ponder how the world has changed. By adapting *The Taming of the Shrew*, written by William Shakespeare, into the film *10 Things I Hate About You*, directed by Gil Junger, society is enabled to observe how the values of each gender have transformed over time, in particular the autonomy that women have obtained and the emotional freedom of expression that men have today. This is explored through the character Katherine and her adaptation counterpart Kat, and the behaviour of Petruchio in comparison to Mr Stratford.

Gender roles are explored in both *The Taming of the Shrew* and *10 Things I Hate About You*, revealing how women in today's society have gained opportunities and independence. Petruchio attempts to tame Katherine into the traditionally submissive role of a wife. He has full control over her food, clothing, and sleep, as well as other basic necessities, and denies them from her, in what he makes out to be reverent care. Katherine is dehumanised on many occasions, one of which being when Petruchio says "I will be master of what is mine own. She is my goods, my chattels; she is my house ... my horse, my ox, my ass, my anything;". The way Petruchio uses possessive language, referring to Katherine as 'my', further reflects the objectification of women who belong to men. In describing her this way, Petruchio also likens Katherine to domestic animals and possessions in order to associate her with the desirable qualities of a wife; that is: obedience, voicelessness, and usefulness. By comparison, the modernised Kat is far more empowered. She has freedom of expression and agency over what she does and where she goes, unrestricted by her family and relationships. She is a strong feminist and speaks up about the dominance of the male gender in society, saying "I guess, in this society, being male and an a**hole makes you worthy of our time." Kat's use of sarcasm, together with explicit colloquial language, is intended to mock the male gender. Her ability to do so without fear of repercussions, and her unrestricted expression of wit and intelligence, demonstrates the changing values of women in society. The women in *10 Things I Hate About You* have a powerful sense of independence and empowerment and have autonomy to do as they wish. Women today are no longer hindered by their husbands or the traditional role of submissive wife, unlike Elizabethan Era women, who were only considered as property, rather than an individual human being. Katherine has no independence and is expected to be nothing more than a domestic, obedient wife, while Kat has liberty to express herself and live life the way she wants to. The value of women in society has thus changed tremendously, as women are far more empowered today. Society can benefit from understanding the shifting role of women as it enriches their knowledge of the growing opportunities women have today. Thus, the adaptation of *The Taming of the Shrew* into *10 Things I Hate About You* explores the changing values of women in society.

The role of the male gender is examined in both *The Taming of the Shrew* and *10 Things I Hate About You*, illuminating the emotional freedom men have now in comparison to the Elizabethan Era. The men within *The Taming of the Shrew* are obligated to be dominant and commanding of their households. Petruchio says, "Draw forth thy weapon, we are beset with thieves. Rescue thy mistress if thou be a man". He implements symbolism, suggesting that violence is representative of masculinity, reflecting that the two are intrinsically linked and demonstrating that men were expected to exhibit violent and aggressive traits. Furthermore, Petruchio displays the traits of manliness that society expected, including

courage and bravery, without the stereotypically fickle emotions. Mr Stratford of *10 Things I Hate About You* is far more tender towards the members of his household and freely expresses his emotions. He admits his sadness that Kat is becoming independent, saying "it means we've become spectators ... you've had me on the bench for years". He utilises an extended metaphor to compare his lack of influence in Kat's life to watching a baseball game. In doing so, he relinquishes his power as head of the family and expresses his love for Kat. Throughout the scene, Mr Stratford is slumped over with his head bowed, refraining from making eye contact. His posture reinforces the idea of resignation as it opposes the power associated with standing tall, evidence of the emotion he is bearing to the world. The dominance and violent masculinity of males in *The Taming of the Shrew* has been modernised in *10 Things I Hate About You* to present a loving father who is able to freely express emotion without being viewed as unmanly. Men are no longer required to be heroic and self-reliant to be a valued member of their family and society. The concept of weakness associated with emotion in men is not a notion that remains today, as demonstrated by Mr Stratford and the emotion he communicates to Kat. His display of love puts him on equal ground with Kat, while Petruchio continues to be aggressive in an attempt to be masculine and prove dominance over his family, reflecting the changing of values attributed to men since the Elizabethan Era. Thus, one is given insight into the evolving notion of manliness, and the constraints society once placed on the traits a man could exhibit. Society is enabled to understand that men do not need to be dominant or withhold their emotions in order to be respected. Therefore, the shifting values of the male gender are revealed in *10 Things I Hate About You*, the modern adaptation of *The Taming of the Shrew*.

In conclusion, the adaptation of Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew* into the modern-day text *10 Things I Hate About You* inevitably explores the evolution of values society associates with each gender. Women have gained agency, demonstrated by Katherine of *The Taming of the Shrew*, as she is under the complete control of Petruchio, and her modern counterpart Kat, who has dictation of her actions and words. The emotional freedom of expression that men have today is illustrated by Mr Stratford displaying his love for Kat, in comparison to Petruchio, who bears none of the stereotypically weak emotions and defines his masculinity through violence and aggression. Modernisation enables society to reflect on what defines each gender and gain an extensive understanding of how the values present in older literature have since evolved.