

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

Macbeth, of all Shakespeare's plays, perhaps is not so easy to follow. It is constructed in such a way that almost everything that takes place refers directly to Macbeth's rise to power and his downfall. First he appears to be a noble soldier, encouraged by the prophecy of the witches and becomes ambitious; then ponders on the idea of killing the king. This is the time when Lady Macbeth enters the scene with her extraordinary conception of ambition. The entrance of Lady Macbeth signals a shift to the whole play and especially to the growth of Macbeth's characterisation. The shift process itself is the main attention for this study because within the process, we are able to identify the motives of Lady Macbeth's ambition and how the ambition influence the growth of Macbeth's characterisation through a psychological analysis.

Using the incentive theory from the conception of motivation, we see Lady Macbeth is posed as the external stimuli or the incentives that control the growth of her husband's characterisation as he continually shifts from a potent character to a weak one and backward from the irresolute to a steady one. This external stimuli in directing and energising behaviour will certainly require the power of influence which can be defined as a one person's ability to affect the behaviour and thinking of another source of influence (Athos and Gabarro 290).

Derived from several motives that underlie her behaviour, we may conclude that Lady Macbeth's ambition is mainly focused on how she intends to confirm her self-identity both toward others and herself. She needs to establish her existence as a wife, a

woman and an individual in a world where worldly success matters most. She is aware that it is important to develop and maintain a sense of adequacy in her life as part of the implementation of her self-concept. Thus, a person's self-concept and particularly techniques for mastering her world will develop in ways that enhance or maintain feelings of adequacy.

The influence of her ambition to Macbeth's behaviour and mostly to his character development lies in her personal approach and persuasive characteristic. Included as her particular techniques to master her world, she knows perfectly well that she has a complete power over her husband. She loves her husband and is aware that she is very much loved. She sees the chance as a way to both maintain her existence as well as to prove her love to her husband. Any wicked actions are justified in order to get what she wants: she scorns him and even beg him. Either way, she is able to affect the behaviour and thinking of Macbeth. Her influence also consists of several elements which support the reinforcement such as the ability to create common goals, her personal credibility in assuring Macbeth, her charisma or force of personality over Macbeth and finally her decisiveness that is carried out in her practicality.

The outcome for *The Macbeths* is tragic death. Both may get what they have desired but since their efforts are considered wicked, they suffer from an endless insecurity that affect their entire lives. Having started her scene with ill conception of ambition, Lady Macbeth sets herself as the arranger of the evil plans and the protector of their safety. Being a part of the crime action—for murdering the King—Lady Macbeth realises she can not escape from her guilty feeling and this leads to her most probable suicidal death. Meanwhile for Macbeth, the death seems a little less

disgracing than his wife's. Starting his scene as a victorious soldier, he has shown the existing fact that he could have been respected by others. But instead of letting his fate find its way, he follows his wife's advice to take the easy way of becoming the King. His end is a heroic duel with Macduff and though he loses, he appears to be someone who is responsible with all his actions by taking the consequences as well.

The previous analysis has proven that the incentive theory from the conception of motivation is appropriate. Lady Macbeth's ambition, through her characteristics, functions as an incentive or external stimuli that direct and energise Macbeth's behaviour especially in his decision-making process. Although he has his own ambition but rather than letting himself driven by his inner desire, he is being surrendered to the external stimuli brought by Lady Macbeth.

BIBLIOGRAPHY