

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

After analysing the portrayal of the female protagonist of Shakespeare's *As You Like It*, I conclude that Rosalind is portrayed as a smart young woman who knows how to deal with her situation. She has an ability to take control over her own life as she resourcefully uses her trip to the Forest of Arden and gets what she wants. She knows how to take opportunities as she is able to make people fooled by her false appearance and she is able to make her plan work out perfectly. Her smartness makes her more attractive and her smart idea to disguise herself as a young man is brilliant and becomes the play's main interest.

Besides being smart, she is portrayed as an outspoken person. She expresses her opinions to other people in a free and honest way, even though it may be unpleasant for those whom she criticizes. However, those traits make her unique. She does not speak to please people around her. When she speaks out her mind, she just wants to be honest about what she considers right, for example, when she speaks about Phoebe and Silvius. Her outspoken comments somehow make her dialogue with people become intriguing and funny for the audience or the readers. Moreover, it also opens up people's way of thinking.

Rosalind is also portrayed as a persuasive person as she is able to persuade people to do or believe what she says. Becoming such a persuasive person is part of her smartness. Because she is smart enough to plan something, she certainly knows that things will happen according to her plan. Thus, it is easier for her to persuade people since she is the one who controls the situation, for instance, when she (as Ganymede) persuades Orlando that he will marry Rosalind. Her smart speeches and ideas also make her become more persuasive. Even though not all her words are necessarily true, people believe her and her unique traits also make this play become comical.

The last characteristic that I find in Rosalind is independent. Throughout the play, we can see that Rosalind is an independent person because she is able to decide on her own what she will do, where she wants to go and with whom she wants to be. In other words, she is free from outside control. She is able to take control of her own life and chooses her own destiny. Such an independent and smart woman like Rosalind may not have an opportunity to stand out during Shakespeare's time, considering that women in that era had very limited freedom of expression compared to men. It is therefore such a character like Rosalind appears only in Shakespeare's comedy, in order to avoid controversy within a patriarchal society. As a comedy, the audience at that time will consider her manners funny but at the same time it will make them realize that it is possible for a woman to be as independent as Rosalind.

I find that all the four characteristics of Rosalind support her to be a great influence to people around her. All her qualities enable her to control her own life and help her to get what she wants. Through Rosalind's characteristics,

Shakespeare makes this play become funny and interesting. In addition, in Shakespeare's time, it is considered as a funny thing for a woman to have traits like Rosalind. It is obvious that through such a character like Rosalind, Shakespeare wants to make his audience laugh. Moreover, as this is a comedy play, it has to be funny in order to entertain the audience. However, through Rosalind's characteristics, we can see that a woman is able to give a huge influence to her surroundings. But Shakespeare made a character like this in a comedy play to avoid the controversy within patriarchal society. That is why such a character like Rosalind appears in Shakespeare's comedy.

In conclusion, I think Shakespeare succeeds to entertain his audience in this play through the character like Rosalind and he also succeeds to deliver the message that women are capable of controlling their own lives and they cannot be underestimated. Rosalind's smartness to disguise herself as a young man, her outspoken nature, the way she persuades people and her independence which considered funny at that time, make this play become entertaining and able to open up people's mind at that time about women. In my opinion, this comedy play is worth analysing.