

## ABSTRACT

### LA RE-DEFINICIÓN DE LA “MUJER ESQUIVA” EN CUATRO COMEDIAS DE DRAMATURGAS DEL SIGLO DE ORO

This thesis explores the origin of the negative connotation that has been given to women who have demonstrated any signs of subjectivity such as “la mujer esquiva” or “mujer varonil.” If a woman demonstrates the inner strength to accomplish anything without the assistance of the opposite gender she is considered an imitator of the masculine without any crediting the possibility of her own subjectivity or if she comes close to showing any leadership she is not seen as rising above her masculine counterpart. The four Golden Age plays written by women dramatist examined in this investigation demonstrate an effort to convey an image that contradicts the norms of the masculine social order that has defined female subjectivity for centuries. The female dramatists use their characters’ actions, voices, clothing, and gender to reveal the subjectivity that they possessed in which desire, valor, wit, cunning, inner strength, and free will are some of the many qualities women were believed not to embody. These dramatists also reveal feminine ideals of gender and society. The argument holds that women must not be deceived by discourses that intend to oppress the subjectivity of a woman, but instead must hold fast on to what only she can produce from within so that the truth of women’s subjectivity is known by all and not controlled by a dominant masculine discourse.

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