

洗腦

One theme in William Shakespeare's *Taming of the Shrew* is his observations on the legal status of women in the 16th century. The major characters, Petruchio and Katharine are to be married against Katharine's will, which she is not afraid to assert. Her reputation as a 'shrew'- an outspoken woman- is well known. Petruchio is unalarmed and casually claims that he will tame her and he does just that. But how does a man change an intelligent, independent and strong-willed woman into an obedient servant seemingly, overnight? The answer is quite simple. Mind control refers to a process in which a group or individual uses unethical methods of persuasion in order to manipulate others into an alignment with their own thinking, often to the victim's detriment. Petruchio's tactics were successful in usurping Katharine's control over her own thinking, behavior and decision-making. In her personal war against a patriarchal society, Katharine loses her power and is forced, through torture and brainwashing techniques, to recreate her identity as a means of survival.

Brainwashing is a Chinese term-洗腦 (xǐ nǎo) used during the Korean War as a means of transforming revolutionaries into 'right-thinking' members of the new Chinese social system, through coercive persuasion. Some of the techniques used in brainwashing are the very same that Petruchio used on Katharine in the taming process; dehumanization and humiliation, peer group pressure, change of diet, sleep deprivation, dress codes, isolation and fear (Taylor). When the play begins, Katharine shows no signs of fear but only contempt for her father who intends to sell both of his daughters to the highest bidder. Katharine stands up to her father suggesting that she is being treated like a prostitute. "I pray you, sir, is it your will to make a stale out of me amongst these mates"

(1.1 line 58). She goes on to pronounce her disdain of a marriage based on economic gain or to pave a path for her sister's availability when she responds to Hortensio's insults:

I 'faith, sir, you shall never need to fear:
 I wis it is not half way to her heart;
 But if it were, doubt not her care should be
 To comb your noddle with a three-legg'd stool
 And paint your face and use you like a fool (1.1 lines 61-65).

These lines lie in stark contrast to her lines at the end of the play in which she rebukes her sister, Bianca, and Hortensio's wife who refuse to come to their husbands, when called:

Fie, fie! unknit that threatening unkind brow,
 And dart not scornful glances from those eyes,
 To wound thy lord, thy king, thy governor (5.2 lines 40-42)

She goes on to scold the women for their disobedience in 5.2 lines 150-151 by saying: "Thy husband is thy lord, thy life, thy keeper, Thy head, thy sovereign;" She implores the women to lower their pride to the full extent that they should "place your hands below your husband's foot: In token of which duty, if he please, My hand is ready; may it do him ease" (5.2 lines 180-183).

What happened to Katharine that her tune so dramatically changes? Petruchio's methods of 'taming' Katharine are definitely effective but at what cost is she made to submit to her husband and to a patriarchal society? After she is sold into marriage to the opportunistic Petruchio, Katharine is subjected to various forms of torture until she is finally subdued. Women who refused to submit or who were too talkative could be dunked under water on a "cucking stool" or they might be fitted with a "scold's bridle", a

harness with a metal bit which caused the victim to gag, bleed or loose their teeth (Howard). Or she could have been “carted” through town in a wheel barrel as Gremio suggests as a remedy for Katharine independent nature (1.1 Line 55). The ballad, “The Merry Jest of a Shrewd and Curst Wife Lapped in Morel’s Skin for Her Good Behavior” describing a strong-willed wife who is beaten bloody by her husband and wrapped inside the salted skin of a dead horse, served as a reminder for women to submit to their husbands (Howard). Although none of these devices were necessary to tame Katharine, the threat of this type of abuse was always present. However, Petruchio’s methods of taming Katharine, though not quite so vicious, were surely as effective in demonstrating male dominance and oppression over women. Katharine was subjected to verbal, psychological and physical abuse immediately after her wedding. For example, Petruchio takes Katharine away from her home and family, against her wishes, even before the wedding feast. He displays his authority over Katharine by telling the wedding guests:

Carouse full measure to her maidenhead,
 Be mad and merry, or go hang yourselves:
 But for my bonny Kate, she must with me.
 Nay, look not big, nor stamp, nor stare, nor fret;
 I will be master of what is mine own:
 She is my goods, my chattels; she is my house,
 My household stuff, my field, my barn,
 My horse, my ox, my ass, my any thing; (3.3 lines 96-103)

First, Petruchio disregards her needs and humiliates her in front of her peers establishing that she is as low in rank as he decides. Next, he removes Katharine from her home, her

friends (if you can call them friends) and family, indeed all that is familiar to her, inducing a loss of reality by physical separation: A technique known as isolation. As she leaves, her peers laugh and ridicule her, further validating the futility of resistance. Once removed to her new husband's home in Verona, Petruchio asserts his dominance, again, against his own servants with verbal abuse, which further reinforces his dominance over all that he possesses, including Katharine. Amidst verbal assaults, the servants serve, water, platters of mutton, which he dangles in front of her but will not let her eat. Next, he takes her to her bridal chamber and privately berates her:

GRUMIO

Where is he?

CURTIS

In her chamber, making a sermon of continency to her;

And rails, and swears, and rates, that she, poor soul,

Knows not which way to stand, to look, to speak,

And sits as one new-risen from a dream (4.1 lines 162-166).

Petruchio employs loud and repetitive criticism increasing Katharine's stress. As a means of further disorienting her, Petruchio denies her food and sleep.

Thus have I politicly begun my reign,

And 'tis my hope to end successfully.

My falcon now is sharp and passing empty;

And till she stoop she must not be full-gorged,

For then she never looks upon her lure.

Another way I have to man my haggard,

To make her come and know her keeper's call,
 That is, to watch her, as we watch these kites
 That bate and beat and will not be obedient.
 She eat no meat to-day, nor none shall eat;
 Last night she slept not, nor to-night she shall not;
 As with the meat, some undeserved fault
 I'll find about the making of the bed;
 And here I'll fling the pillow, there the bolster,
 This way the coverlet, another way the sheets:
 Ay, and amid this hurly I intend
 That all is done in reverend care of her;
 And in conclusion she shall watch all night:
 And if she chance to nod I'll rail and brawl
 And with the clamour keep her still awake.
 This is a way to kill a wife with kindness; (4.1 lines 168-188)

Weakening Katharine with a loss of vital nutrients and sleep deprivation creates vulnerability, a loss of self-control and disorientation. In his book, *The CIA Doctors*, Colin Ross reports the results of research funded by the Air Force Office of Scientific Research, the Department of the Army, the Office of Naval Research and the CIA. He states that from 1950 to 1972, the CIA funded Top Secret research at many leading universities including Harvard, Yale, Cornell, Johns Hopkins and Stanford. The purpose of these experiments was to see how easily a person could be controlled. Among these research techniques: Sleep deprivation, withholding of food, and the removal of clothes

with which one identifies. In the same way that the Katharine is tempted with food she may not eat, she is psychologically abused by showing her beautiful clothing to wear when she returns to Padua, which is pruned by the tailor to look foolish (4.3 lines 50-190). Soon after, Katharine, with no recourse, submits to Petruchio's will, agreeing that the sun is the moon or the moon the sun, as he demands (4.6 lines 12-24). Finally Katharine and Petruchio return to Padua to attend the wedding banquet of Lucentio and Bianca. Hortensio and his new wife, the widow, are also there. Petruchio sets a wager among the other grooms to see whose bride is the most obedient. Katharine proves Petruchio to be the most virile of all the men.

As a woman, Katharine's only resort is to submit to male domination. Her growth is stunted by social constraints and the only transformation available to her is toward docility and subservient behavior. Through a series of brainwashing techniques, Katharine is under the control of her domineering husband and a patriarchal society. As a testament to her strength, Katharine redirects her suppressed anger and innate power to chastise her sister, Bianca and Hortensio's wife, for their disobedience. She seems content but the trauma that she is forced to endure and the life she is forced to live takes its toll on her self esteem, her identity and her humanity.

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Module 1 Assignment					
Essay Grading Rubric					
Criteria	Achievement Level				
	Unsatisfactory (0%)	Below Satisfactory (65%)	Satisfactory (75%)	Good (85%)	Excellent (100%)
Content and Development (60% Weight)	0 points Content omits most of the assignment requirements. Points are unrelated to the assignment.	3.9 points Content omits some of the assignment requirements. Points need clarity.	4.5 points Content addresses the assignment requirements, but major points need development.	5.1 points Content addresses the assignment requirements. Major points are stated clearly.	6 points Content addresses the assignment requirements. Major points are stated clearly and developed fully.
Thesis and Purpose (10% Weight)	0 points Paper lacks any main idea and purpose.	0.65 points Main idea is vague; purpose is unclear.	0.75 points Thesis statement is needed, although purpose becomes apparent.	0.85 points Thesis statement is present, and purpose is evident.	1 point Thesis statement is concise and obvious, making the purpose of the paper clear.
Organization (10% Weight)	0 points Lack of organization and structure detract from the writer's message. Introduction and conclusion are missing.	0.65 points Paragraphs are disjointed and do not transition ideas smoothly and logically. Introduction or conclusion is missing.	0.75 points Introduction and conclusion are provided but need development. Paragraph transitions need improvement.	0.85 points Introduction provides background. Paragraph transitions are logical. Conclusion provides a summary.	1 point Introduction gives background and previews major points. Paragraph transitions are logical. Conclusion summarizes points and reinforces thesis.
Mechanics (spelling, punctuation, grammar, language) (10% Weight)	0 points Frequent errors impede communication. Improper word choice or sentence structure is used.	0.65 points Frequent errors distract readers. Inconsistent word choice or sentence structure is used.	0.75 points Some typos are present but not distracting. Correct word choice and sentence structure are used.	0.85 points Prose is mostly free of errors. A variety of word choices and sentence structures is used.	1 point Writer is clearly in command of standard, written, academic English.
Paper Format (5% Weight)	0 points MLA template is not used, or format is not followed.	0.33 points MLA template is used in part, with several errors.	0.38 points MLA template is used, but some errors are evident.	0.43 points MLA template is used, with a few minor errors.	0.5 points MLA template is used, and all elements are correct.
Research Citations and Reference List	0 points No reference list or in-text citations are present.	0.33 points Reference list is present; citations are absent.	0.38 points Reference list and citations are included, but	0.43 points Reference list and citations are consistent, with	0.5 points Reference list and citations are complete,

(5% Weight)	Or, citations are present; reference list is absent.	errors or inconsistencies are evident.	few errors.	consistent, correct, and free of error.
Total Points Based on 10:				
Comments:				