



PSYCHOLOGICAL FACETS OF LARGER-THAN-LIFE SHAKESPEAREAN CHARACTERS

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ABSTRACT

The current research paper is an attempt to emphasize and showcase the psychological treatment that Shakespeare has always been known for as all his characters always stand apart from all others in picture. Human psychology is a most concentrated factor in the tragedies or plays of Shakespeare. Shakespeare studied all the possibilities on how the cognitive thinking works. Shakespeare had the remarkable powers of psychological insight, and most importantly he diagnoses each personality type in such a manner that results in the same way that the characters and plays give the essence that it comes alive on stage. Shakespeare studies deep about the human psychology in his tragedies and plays that it could be as compelling and potent as like many years ago. So that's why Shakespeare is rightly known as myriad minded person which means many things to many people. This is the reason why Shakespeare always remains the most loved, best dramatist, most experimented, translated and transformed upon scenarist in India today. Honest attempt to study the most important tragic heroes of Shakespeare plays like Lear, Hamlet, Macbeth and indication of their psychological predicament.

Key words: Psychological observation, psyche insight, tragic heroes

Introduction

William Shakespeare is widely regarded as the greatest playwright and pre-eminent dramatist. He actually transformed European theatre by expanding belief about what could be exert through innovation in characterization plot, language and genre. The magnificence of every empire vanishes, but the shine of Shakespeare's kingdom is abiding. It will never cease to exist but will continue to have a lasting impression. That's why William Shakespeare today is known as the greatest writer of the English language. His plays always give the greatest sense of the value of human beings and most prominent themes are: appearance and reality; change; order and disorder; and conflict. Shakespeare's works as the creation of human mind because Shakespeare actually diagnoses the various human behaviors, that relentlessly linked to psychology in all his major tragedies like Hamlet, Macbeth, King Lear, Othello and The Merchant of Venice. In Hamlet's crisis is precipitated by the death of his father, the crowning of his uncle Claudius and the remarriage of her mother

(Gertrude). Hamlet is so profoundly affected by these things that he eagerly wants to know the reason of his father's death. Hamlet uses a guise of insanity to aid in his plot to take the revenge. Hamlet and his father are of similar psychological types because they both endeavor to be noble, good and loving. They both have same qualities that should be rewarded. In his first soliloquy, Hamlet was in grief because he experiences his father's luck as though it were its own. His father was a very kind man that Hamlet also aspired to be. That's why it is unbearable to Hamlet that the Claudius has gained the love, power and recognition which should be the retributive justice. His encounter with ghost intensifies Hamlet's inner conflicts. The wrong which is done to his father are greater than that Hamlet can ever imagine, and the ghost wrath feeds his already seething outrage. In such a manner Hamlet cannot help feeling indecisive, however, about being an avenger. It is matter of love and loyalty as a person and prominently manliness for him to carry out the ghost's commission and he swears to do so. But there is both in Christianity and in Hamlet's self-effacing defense system and a strong taboo against rancorous behavior. After his encounter with the ghost, Hamlet got stuck in the cross-fire of conflicts; he hates himself because of his unaggressive nature. He would like to escape the inner conflicts by dying, but suicide is a sin and the mousetrap scene releases his anger, and he becomes capable of violence.

Literature Review

As Johnson argues his characters do not belong to a particular frame of people or time but are universal. As Johnson says that, "Shakespeare above all writers, at least above all modern writers, and the poet of nature, the poet that holds up his readers a faithful mirror of manner and life"(Johnson, 1765)

Similarly, Plato in his book, *Phaedo* argues that every human being two basic points i.e. the physical body and the other one is the mind; the notion for the nature and personality for human beings(Plato,380)

According to Montaigne perception is the guiding force for action and fruit for the mind, as he argue." If that which we call evil torment, nor evil but the quality which is to change it and having any choice for it.(Montaigne,1811).

Objectives:

- Firstly, it deals with the psychological aspect of Shakespearean characters and how they embody human nature and possess human flaws.
- Secondly, this research deals with the question that how the tragedies of Shakespeare deals with the human mind and soul: presenting the inner qualities flaws, and conflict of human nature.

Results

The psychology of King Lear

The proud King demands his daughters to show off their undying love for him in order to gain their share. However, King Lear's notion of love is shallow, pompous and showy, which results in a great disadvantage to Cordelia's natural way of being. He has been made to feel that he is 'everything' and he needs his sense of importance and pride to be constantly nurtured by everyone. And prominently the role of characters is just to satisfy the needs of the king. King Lear also tells Cordelia that it would have been better if she was not even born because she cannot please her father like his other daughters have done which shows that King Lear suffers from the psychological problem that is called "Narcissus Complex" i.e. self-love. The behavior and response of Cordelia is terribly disappointing to her father because she says precisely what Lear does not want to hear. He wants to be assured that he alone counts and nothing else matters.

A psychological observation presents a contrast between the character of Cordelia and her sisters. Cordelia is portrayed as a character that is beautiful, kind, devoted as well as reasonable to her father whereas Goneril and Regan are very selfish, liars and manipulators. Lear wants his daughters to tell him who loves him the most and then he relinquishes his power and land to two of his daughters. In the Introduction of the Tragedies of King Lear. Jay Halio states:

Cordelia's refusal is thus a refusal to participate only in a show trial but in the unreasonable behaviour that Lear demands and insists upon, Although his daughter, attached to him filial devotion, she is no partner to his foolishness here or if she is, she knows it by also being insistent, demanding. Her logic nevertheless is irrefutable (Halio 32).

This refusal proves her independence of her thoughts and to make her own choices, no matter what the consequences. Cordelia, the personification of kindness and virtue, becomes a literal sacrifice to the heartlessness of an apparently unjust world. It is clear that to be truthful, is her one of the goals in life, or in any case more important to her own property or social status. So, it could be concluded that Shakespeare meant to say that no matter what methods are used, achieving goals as a woman is difficult despite their personality and despite the goal.

So far as Macbeth is concerned, G. Wilson Knight declares, "Macbeth is the most profound vision of evil, a statement of evil" (Knight 68). Kenneth Muir remarks, "It is the conflict between order and disorder that structures Macbeth" (Muir 36). The case of Macbeth is somewhat different from Lear and Hamlet. Macbeth is a type of purist person who has always endured by the values of his society. He has searched for prestige in honourable ways through faithful service to king and country. As the play opens, he is receiving all of the recognition which can be reasonably expect. Macbeth actually then contravene his own virtues by sacrificing the respect and golden opinions in order to satisfy his lust for absolute power. He actually caught in the cross fire of conflicting ideas. Lady Macbeth understands his psychology perfectly and provokes Macbeth to murder Duncan and move on the path of dream otherwise it was most unlikely that Macbeth is primarily arrogant person become like that without the nudging of his wife. After he commits the murder, Macbeth's aim is to make his new bargain work despite all its impossibilities. This is one reason why he become so merciless and parched. Having sacrificed his perpetual views, he feels that he has nothing more to lose and he is determined to ensure himself of the telluric fame for which he has paid such a terrible price. His murderous behavior is also aimed at giving him a feeling of safety because he lives in a persistent fear. He actually makes himself a hardened criminal in order to gain some peace of mind. The peace which he has achieved is, however the peace of despair as we observe him still longing for the respect, love and friendship which he once had but he knows that he can never have them again and in this psychological condition of mind towards the end of the play, he is ready for death. And after murdered King Duncan, Macbeth comes to the realization that he can no longer sleep. Also, it portrays Macbeth's true feelings, as opposed to his usual stoic nature. As a person travels down the path to revenge, emotions, flare and their minds begin to swim with feelings ranging from remorse to satisfaction. This terrible desire can cause serious issues all across the world, and will continue as long as there are people on Earth.

Conclusion

It can be said that Shakespeare delved deep into the human psychology in his tragedies which is as convincing and persuasive today as it was many years ago. He is rightly called the myriad minded person having the meaning many things to many people. John Keats also rightly said about Shakespeare that he is an expert in negative capability. Because he diagnoses every personality type in such a way that his every character is differ from each other. Another great homage to Shakespeare from the Indian shore has been paid by the famous Urdu poet Sir Mohammed Iqbal, in his poem entitled Shakespeare written in 1908, Iqbal praises Shakespeare's enlightened genius and states that nature which is so possessive about her secrets, revealed all the secrets of the human heart to Shakespeare and endow anybody else with so much love and talent to speak of her secrets with such bliss and elegance.

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