

LIFE AND LITERARY CAREER OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

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Abstract. *This study explores William Shakespeare's life, his earlier literary works, and the appearing of Shakespearean tragedy. Drawing on Shakespeare's finest tragedies which represented culture, psychological depth, tragic conflict, and universal human themes. He is bright representative of English drama conveying his finest tragic novels. By analyzing tragedies such as Hamlet, Othello, Makbeth, and King Lear, the research remarks Shakespeare's creative contribution to dramatic structure and characterization. His works remarkably influenced to the world literature and drama.*

Key words: *Shakespearean tragedy, drama, plays, comedy, tragedy, theatre, hero, character.*

Shakespeare was born in 1564 in Stratford-upon-Avon, a small town in the middle of the English countryside. His father John Shakespeare was a glover and public servant with social ambitions, as suggested by his marriage to Mary Arden, the daughter of a well-to-do farmer. John Shakespeare enrolled his son in the King's New School in Stratford at the age of 7. In grammar school, Shakespeare would have been treated with intensive training in Latin.

The grammar schools of Shakespeare's time were solely focused on drills, memorization, and imitation. Although this education would not have been creative, Shakespeare's education and education in Ovid's Latin poetry impacted him greatly.

In late 1580, Shakespeare had come to London, but theater with plays being staged in structures erected solely for this end in London had barely gotten underway. Moreover, approximately during this time, theater arts were becoming increasingly in demand, with performances attracting spectators from both the laboring class and those of a higher strata.

With this increasing demand for theater performances, competition among theater companies grew apace, and in reality, this theater environment in which Shakespeare found himself increasingly threatened this stability with uncertainty, ruthlessness, and danger. To sustain this interest, companies were required to stage a continually rotating menu of six different plays each week. Not only did this place extraordinary demands on actors, but it also required playwrights to write quickly and prolifically, often in collaboration with actors and with each other. Shakespeare proved a gifted and prolific writer who could write an average of two complete plays every year, even while working as an actor himself. Many of his earliest works were history plays, such as the Henry VI trilogy.

Shakespeare brought to the stage for the first time epic dramas from England's past, and crowds flocked to see them. In addition to the early history plays, Shakespeare also produced his most gruesome revenge tragedy, Titus Andronicus, as well as several buoyant comedies, including The Taming of the Shrew, The Comedy of Errors, and Love's Labour's Lost. These plays had an immediate, enthusiastic audience that crossed the spectrum of class.

By the 1590s the theater was flourishing, and Shakespeare's early success depended on London's increasingly literate audiences.

During the ten-year period from approximately 1595 to 1605, Shakespeare's art continued to ripen, enabling him to craft some of the finest plays in the English language.

Between 1595 and 1600 Shakespeare faced numerous difficulties. While he composed two important tragedies during this time, *Romeo and Juliet* and *Julius Caesar*, more remarkable is that this period of extraordinary hardship provided several of Shakespeare's brightest comedies, including *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Much Ado About Nothing* and *As You Like It*. He also composed the weirdly ambiguous comedy *The Merchant of Venice* during this time. Between 1600 and 1605 Shakespeare continued to create comedies, including three of his very finest: *Twelfth Night*, *Measure for Measure* and *All's Well That Ends Well*.

Arguably overshadowing these, however, are Shakespeare's monumental achievements in tragedy. In an amazing display of creative production, Shakespeare crafted seven major tragedies, including most especially *Hamlet*, *Othello*, *King Lear* and *Macbeth*.

Critics think that Shakespearean tragedies showcase the ultimate level of Shakespeare's craftsmanship. *Hamlet* remains one of Shakespeare's most studied characters, with a focus on 'To be or not to be,' a soliloquy in which he says, "To be or not to be; that is the question," which has perhaps had the most analysis among all other speeches in *Hamlet*. While *Hamlet* is a very introverted character with a tragic flaw of procrastination, *Othello* and *Lear* make hasty decisions in a split second. The tragic error, in most Shakespearean tragedies, is a catastrophic miscalculation or flaw in judgment, which leads to chaos in the universe established by these tragic heroes and resulting in their downfall. *Othello* is a tragedy where *Othello's* jealousy is heightened by *Iago* to the level where *Othello* ends up killing an innocent woman whom he loves.

Lear's tragic flaw in *King Lear* is when he gives up all his authority, leading to a series of tragic events which include blinding and torturing *Earl Gloucester* and killing *Cordelia*, *Lear's* youngest daughter. *Lear*, in this tragedy, believes "The play offers neither its good characters nor its audience any relief from its cruelty," according to a critic named *Frank Kermode*. In *Macbeth* tragedy, which is Shakespeare's most compact tragedy, an uncontrollable ambition leads *Macbeth* and *Lady Macbeth* to commit murder and take over the throne until they realize their own guilt and tragedy, leading both of them to a tragic end. In this tragedy, Shakespeare incorporates elements of superstition into this tragic narrative. His other major Tragedies towards the end include *Coriolanus* and *Anthony and Cleopatra*, two of which were very successful in terms of poetry among all other Shakespeare's tragic victories.

A Shakespearean tragedy is a play written by William Shakespeare himself, or a play written in the style of Shakespeare by a different author. A Shakespearean tragedy has got its own specific features, which distinguish it from other kinds of tragedies.

There are several elements of Shakespearean tragedy:

1. A tragic hero. It is an important element in the Shakespearean tragedy. Tragic heroes they are kings, prince, military generals which will be in the high position and towering personality in their state. A character may be male or female or both and they should suffer an inevitable fate and face death in the end.

2. Conflict between good and evil. Most of them deal with supremacy of evil and surpass of good. Struggle of good and evil in the world. Good is open and freely visible to all while evil often disguised. Good will defeat with evil and by suffering terribly he falls.

3. Hamartia. It is Greek word of sin or error. It represents heroes tragic flaw and usually falls from a high position and leads to his death.

4. Tragic waste. The hero dies with his opponent, the good is destroyed with an evil. This is considered as a waste of goodness. Neither them wins and failure together.

5. Conflict. There are 2 types of conflict external and internal. Every hero faces with the external conflict there must be addressed. Internal conflict is confusion in the mind of tragic hero, he can not make a right decision and results his ultimate failure.

6. Pent-up emotions. Shakespearean tragedy helps the reader to feel and release emotions like identifying themselves as a characters and take their pain personally.

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