

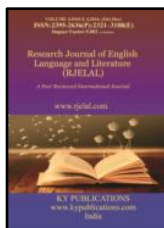


SHAKESPEARE AS AN IMPORTANT REVOLUTION IN LITERATURE

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ABSTRACT

The expression "Art of Shakespeare" has led to innumerable discussion. The band of critics maintains that there was nobody as Shakespeare, ever-green star of genre. The mysterious personality was a handsome well-shaped person, fine company, and of a ready and pleasant smooth wit. He was extremely lovable, fervent talker kind considerate, everyone realized perfectly at home in his company. The present paper throws light, how could a simple and unlettered man as Shakespeare could be an author of such wonderful plays. How his unique style his diction with wisdom has brought a revolution in English literature. In a world where the quality of the art form called "writing" is so frequently said to be hurriedly diminishing, it is essential for scholars of English literature to preserve some studies of the factual classics, such as Shakespeare.

Key words: Encouragement, Penetration, Inspiration, revolution, Importance.

Introduction

We think of Shakespeare as the top writer in the history of English language literature. But during his lifetime London was full of writers, some more highly regarded than he was. It's sometimes forgotten that Shakespeare was a great entrepreneur: he built and managed theatres and companies of actors, and that's where he made the good living he and his family enjoyed. That's because theatre was very popular during that time, and like television today, it had a voracious appetite. Consequently, a great number of talented writers worked furiously to satisfy that appetite for plays¹

Shakespeare is England's most celebrated dramatist and poet. His works have been translated into 80 languages, including Star Trek's Klingon. He helped shape the English we use today, introducing up to 300 words and dozens of well-known phrases². Shakespeare's writings have left a great impact on a large number of prominent novelists and poets over the years, and continue to influence new authors even today. His numerous of his quotations

and latest discovered words or term have passed into day after day usage in English and other languages³. His style on world literature was dubiously superior to any other writer. After 400 years of death his star has not dimmed but twinkles as brightly as on the first day. Shakespeare himself established the highest flag of genre among his contemporaries at the time when old ideas, traditions and beliefs were being challenged, when the lives of men and women were being turned upside down and old ways stood on their head. It was an age of transition, a decisive break with the mediaeval past and the beginning of a new historical period, in a word; it was an age of revolution⁴

Birth and Decease of Shakespeare: William Shakespeare was born in Stratford-upon-Avon on April 23, but according to register of Holy Trinity Church, he was baptized on April 26, 1564. Shakespeare never went to college for a degree, he left a legacy of great influence for the rest of the world. At present he is the most major, influential quoted writer in the English language because of his

diction, sonnets and dramas. He is the national poet of England and considered to be one the greatest playwrights of all time and died on April 23, 1616. Moreover, his masterpieces include: *Hamlet*, *Twelfth Night*, *Macbeth* and *King Lear*. Also, his dramas are performed more than any writer in theaters⁵.

Penetration of William Shakespeare in English Literature: There is a story that in the beginning Shakespeare had to reconcile with a very low job. "In the time of Elizabeth", informs Dr. Johnson, coaches yet uncommon, and hired coaches not at all in use, those who were too proud, too tender too idle to walk, went on horseback to any distant business or diversion. Many came on horseback and fled to London to avoid criminal prosecution, his first expedient was to wait at the door of the play house and hold the horses of those that had no servants, that they might be ready again after the performance. In this office he became so conspicuous for his care and his readiness that in short times every man, as he alighted, called for William Shakespeare scarcely any other waiter was trusted with a horse while William Shakespeare could be had." Marlowe comes with a different tale: "There is a stage tradition that this first office in the theatre was that of prompters' attendants, whose employment is to give the performers notice to be ready to enter as the business of the play requires their appearances one the stage."

Leaving all these things apart, Shakespeare began career as a writer by adapting and rewriting plays by other authors. It was the fashion of the day. The original playwright had no control over his own work. Shakespeare also took to acting in which he made his earlier reputation. His keen eyes could discern the defects in the plays of others and made improvements over them. In way, by and by, William Shakespeare started to write plays because he understood that he had the potential to be a brilliant playwright. He thoroughly enjoyed theater and realized that he could also act in them. Since he was a good actor and loved theater. He started to gaze the works of the predecessor scholars which resulted to write his first play and became a successful playwright. He adapted and refurbished old plays for his company. Love's Labour Lost,

commonly supposed to be his first play, might have been composed in 1598 when Shakespeare's name first appeared in print as its author. Critics are of the opinion unlike others it is own creation. Besides composing plays by himself he is said some time to have collaborated with others playwrights. His **Henry VI** was an adaptation of Marlow and Green's True **tragedy of Richard Duke of York and the Death of the good king Henry the sixth**. Many of his plays followed his quick succession. His success spread and this aroused the envy of others dramatist Robert Green the best known of the professionals writers of the Elizabethan Age published pamphlet- "**You trust then not, for there is an upstart crow, beautified with our feathers, but with his Tygers wrapt, in a Players hide, suppose he is a well able to Bombast out of a blank verse as the best of you; and being an absolute Johannes Factotum, is in his own conceit the only Shake-scene in a contrie.**"

After Green's death, **Henry Chattel**, the publisher of Green's derogatory Pamphlet against Shakespeare felt sorry for it and regretted in the preface to his **Kind Hearts Dream**. Such was the esteem to this effect, Shakespeare was taken in!⁶ **Shakespeare's Inspiration and Sources for Scripture:** During the all of the career William Shakespeare's works, some plots are original. It is clear that Shakespeare was as gifted borrower as well as a writer. It is impossible to mention direct link between Shakespeare's plays and real sources but few important of them are given below here.

Historical Sources

Raphael Holinshed's *Chronicles of England, Scotland, and Ireland* was possibly Shakespeare's utmost single source for historical plays, as do *Cymbeline*, *King Lear*, and *Macbeth*. The chronology, characters, and events given in the *Chronicles* are generally strong to fit the dramatic story, but Shakespeare virtually quotes Holinshed in places. Shakespeare also adopts Edward Halle's *The Union of the Two Noble and Illustrate Families of Lancaster and York* and Samuel Daniel's *The Civil Wars between the Two Houses of Lancaster and York* as source material for his plays dealing with the Wars of the Roses. To some extent, the historical plays additional show passing familiarity with the other works of English historians

such as John Stow, Richard Grafton, John Speed, and John Speed

Literary Sources: The *Decameron* of Giovanni Boccaccio, Italian writer leaves its theme for *All's Well That Ends Well*, *Cymbeline* and *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*. The poem of Arthur Brooke's *The Tragical History of Romeus and Juliet* served for Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. *Hamlet* borrows its text from Thomas Kyd's *The Spanish Tragedy* and an earlier play alluded to other sources, generally called the *Ur-Hamlet*. *The Merchant of Venice* resembles of Christopher Marlowe's *The Jew of Malta*, and *King Lear* is a direct descendant of the anonymous *True Chronicle History of King Lear*. There are various instances throughout of his career; more than half of Shakespeare's plays throw reflection earlier work by another playwright or author⁷.

Classical Sources: Chaucer (1340-1400): Jeffery Chaucer wrote his poetry in Middle English, he is regarded as one of England's finest poets. Shakespeare undoubtedly admired Chaucer works and used number of Chaucer's poems as sources of his plays. *Troilus and Criseyde* was the primary source of *Troilus and Cressida*, and the *Parliament of Fowles* was a source of Mercutio's "Queen Mab" speech in *Romeo and Juliet*. It is clear that The Knight's Tale sparked Shakespeare to craft *The Two Noble Kinsmen*. source material for *The Two Noble Kinsmen*, *Troilus and Cressida*, and *Midsummer Night's Dream*. There are even plays based on the works of other playwrights.

Plutarch (46-120AD): Plutarch was a biographer and philosopher. In 66-67, he studied philosophy and mathematics at Athens under the philosopher Ammonius. Plutarch's *Lives* was translated by Sir Thomas North in 1579 and the work grew very popular in Renaissance England. Shakespeare admired him and he used North's translation of *Parallel Lives* as the main source for *Antony and Cleopatra*, *Julius Caesar*, *Coriolanus*, *Timon of Athens*, and a small source in several other plays. It is a testament to the quality of North's translation that Shakespeare imitated whole passages from the work, making merely the least of changes.⁸

Influence and Revolution of Shakespeare on English Language: Shakespeare's time was the time in which country witnessed unheard of progress in

trade and commerce, resulting in the growth of nation wealth. It was the age of new literary inventions, discoveries, exploration and progress in fields of science and arts and scholars witnessed that there was upsurge in music, poetry, drama and other arts form. Truly, Shakespeare himself was the product of the age in which he lived and perhaps could not have flourished in the same way on any other soil. It was an age of evolution, a crucial break with the mediaeval past and the beginning of a new historical period, in a word, really, an outstanding period of English history. Following a century of bloody turmoil known as the Wars of the Roses, but this was a time of relative political, musical, pleasant harmony stability under the new rule of Queen Elizabeth⁹.

The Genius: The genius of Shakespeare is best seen in the fact that he put a new life and sprit into the English drama. The genius of the nation sprang into flowering with his works attained the name of its perfection and the contemporaries of William Shakespeare obviously, assumed him as the top is perceptible from the notice and attention he received from them. Francis Hares writes- "Shakespeare among the English - is the most excellent in both kind for the stage." Palladis Tamia (1598) by Francis Meres. Jonson in his Folio, described Shakespeare as a "star "whose "influence" would "chide or cheer" the future course of British drama. Once the Folio was available to, in the words of its editors, "the great Variety of Readers", the drama began to influence not just the theatre, but poetry more generally. It is said that Shakespeare was Milton's key precedent for the writing of *Paradise Lost* (1667) in blank verse rather than rhyme. The poets of 17th-century ,who were dedicated to rhyme, such as John Dryden, approved the power of his dramatic blank verse; as a homage to "the Divine Shakespeare", Dryden deserted rhyme in *All for Love* (1678), his reworking of the Cleopatra story.¹⁰

His Plays: Shakespeare worked upon materials and upon models already prepared but in such a way that he was never dragged-down to their level. This indeed an extraordinary feat and requires higher powers than to break out in a way which entirely new. Shakespeare's dramatic career extends over a

period about twenty years from 1588 to 1612. During this period he wrote two plays a year besides two famous poems "The Rape of Lucrece" another "Venus and Adonis" and a series of 154 sonnets. Evidently, Shakespeare's most admired work integrated his series of thirty-seven plays written between 1589 and 1613. These plays have been classified in three separate periods. Beginning in the 1590's, Shakespeare stepped in his first period; during it he wrote several historical dramas, such as Henry VI and Richard III. These plays included themes of clash over supremacy among politics.

Shakespeare completed his best comedies in 1590's which were greatly inclined by Renaissance and Italianate periods. For these plays, he generally used double plots, comedic trick, partition, reunification, erroneous identity, cohering plots, struggles for young lovers, and matrimony. A Midsummer Night's Dream, The Merchant of Venice, Much Ado About Nothing, As You Like It, and Twelfth Night are the instances. However, his emotional thoughts rapidly presented way to tragic plays that switched between light humor and terrible suspense, such as Roman plays Romeo and Juliet and Julius Caesar. Overall, he started to unite conventional and liberated styles, and his writing became further intense, erotic and lancination in particularly during dialogue.

Period from 1601 till 1608 is the time of the Dark comedies and great tragedies. **Professor Dowden** refers this stage as **out of the Depths**. It is said that he writes out of depths of his mind and heart and probes the hidden recesses of human nature. Frustration in love, treachery of few trusted friend, the death of his father and earlier of his son seems to have cast shadow over him and the plays of this period partake of the glooms and bitterness of his life. He began to create these tragedies in these violent, sorrowful stories, such as Hamlet, Othello, King Lear, Macbeth, and three Roman paly Antony and Cleopatra, Julius Caesar and Timon of Athens which are supreme creation of Shakespeare contained similar themes. Specifically, hasty errors of judgment, disloyalty, envy, mistrust, injudicious decisions, tragic flaws, and hesitation led to the dramatic downfall of Shakespeare's characters. This period reveals the full flowering of Shakespeare's

genius Cynicism and disillusionment pervade the whole atmosphere. The comedy list of this period contains three plays such as All's Well that Ends Well, Measure for Measure and Troilus and Cressida. They are the comedies in name only as they partake fully of tragic pain and intensity. They are rich in poetry but show a confused and unpleasant notion upon the mind.

In addition employing his talents a playwright, Shakespeare was an renowned poet and sonneteer throughout his writing career. His early efforts to write poetry as well His Venus and Adonis appeared 1592 and after that another composing Tarquin and Lucrece (The Rape of Lucrece) appeared in 1593-94 in which readers and critics observed the entry of a new poet who restraint and exalted high imagery. A series of 154 sonnet, appeared in 1609. Although sonnets has been mad popular in England by other sonneteer like Denial, Drayton, Spenser and Sydney yet he avoided using Italian form of sonnets and he adopted his own form consisting of three decasyllabic quatrains, each rhyming alternately and a rhyming couplet to conclude. According to critics Shakespeare unlocked his heart" they were the voice of emotions, because some love and other loyal friend had betrayed him. These unique sonnets reflected on Shakespeare's deepest thinking, worries, and passions, and they were said to mirror his soul. These remain inimitable pieces of poetry emphasizing the readers of the world to admire his contribution in English.

Most importantly, Shakespeare played an inevitable role in advancing and modernizing the English dialect, applying his cleverness to expanding language. Particularly Shakespeare used 31,534 different words. 14,376 words appeared only once and 846 were used more than 100 times. We can compute statistically his wording power, that in addition the 31,534 words that Shakespeare knew and brought them under his utilization, there were approximately 35,000 words that he knew but didn't use. Thus, we can estimate that Shakespeare knew approximately 66,534 words. 1,700 commonly used words by adding suffixes, prefixes, changing nouns into verbs, transforming verbs into nouns, combining words, or completely inventing them. Several examples included amazement,

assassination, gloomy, lonely, In his collected writings. According to a computation the well speaker of English knows between 10,000-20,000 words. Amazingly, he introduced a never-before-hear words and created numerous familiar phrases and sayings, such as "All that glitters isn't gold," "It's Greek to me," "Catch a cold," "Eat out of house and home," "Break the ice," and "Too much of a good thing." This unique discovery of wording left a great impact over all writers of England, other European countries and by-and-by of the entire world which made Shakespeare immortal for all time.¹¹

The influence of Shakespeare's accent is apparent on the English Language, as he was amongst the primary writers to provide a new structure to his writing by using a dissimilar style of writing plays and poetry. His styles had fully distorted into an exclusive, high-impact style, with extreme run on lines and powerful metaphors and similes. Surely, Shakespeare's deep works have been immortal; he also adopted simple words with using metaphors greatly in his writing. Here is an example of his writing style:

"Look, love, what envious streaks
Do lace the severing clouds in yonder East:
Night's candles are burnt out, and jocund day
Stands tiptoe on the misty mountain tops."
Shakespeare revitalized the use of suffixes in the grammar, which were scarcely in custom his time but his writing presented the rules that would be followed later in the English language.¹²

Importance of Shakespeare, Lately: Shakespeare is the most prominent playwright, poet of England and boon for entire world. Shakespeare was so well accomplished in his writing skills that he has become an undeniably significant point in the history of literature. No doubt that substantial knowledge of the works of William Shakespeare is necessary for any education of English literature to be considered complete and well rounded. His works have been instrumentally used around the world to express their feelings. His themes are still being translated around the world to make him an author. His some works have been already translated by Russian and

French. His Julius Caser and other were translated into Japanese.

There are countless situations like this in Shakespeare's plays, that can be put into the category of 'the human condition' - part of what it means to be human, something that never changes from century to century, or country to country, despite all the differences in knowledge, culture and emphasis. This is one good reason why Shakespeare's plays continue to be performed, not just in English-speaking countries, but also in translation throughout the world. Shakespeare's characters fall in love, and out of it, take a dislike to each other, betray each other, misunderstand each other, argue, fight and kill each other, are angry, sad, happy, jealous, envious, distrustful, untrustworthy, deceptive, magnanimous, forgiving... -experiencing practically every human emotion you can think of, and every human situation.

Conclusion

Nearly four centuries after the Elizabethan era, Shakespeare's work and his impressive personality is still alive in the minds of people of the world and his diction of poetry, sonnets and plays made him one of the most significant and influential writers of all time, his recent stylized works have affected profoundly and influenced the language of the present, past and future. How astonishing it is! Only a matriculated person has become a moving university of language, playwright, the master of genre, and a pin-up star among his contemporaries who illuminated the entire literary world. In the nut shell it will not be exaggerated to elucidate that England will not be ready to hand over Shakespeare even if India demands him from England in exchange of her entire wealth. Literary world will continue to salute him and the whole world tends to bow-down to Shakespeare until the doom. Shakespeare's friend Ben Jonson was quite right when he wrote— He was not of an age; but for all Time.

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