

Original Research Article

On the Essence and Uniqueness of Shakespeare's Tragedy in Hamlet

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Abstract: Hamlet, written by Shakespeare, profoundly reveals the unbearable and dark feudal society in England. Although the works ended in tragedy, they did not find an entirely feasible way of social transformation. But Hamlett's character, drama content and plot showed the advanced and unique spirit of humanism, revealing the huge gap between life and ideals. Therefore, the core content of this article is to study the characteristics of Hamlet, and then further explain its value to our society.

Keywords: Hamlet; Tragic Essence; Uniqueness

1. Introduction

Shakespeare, who was born in England, has a lot of works in his life. Among them, four tragedies and four comedies are the most famous. Hamlet, with its typical tragic expression, has profound literary and social value. The complex characters and unpredictable artistic techniques make it the most representative work of this era. Shakespeare wrote this work in the 16th and 17th centuries, a period of great structural change in the economy. British society was at an extremely important turning point. He wrote drama stories based on Denmark to reflect the situation of British society. During the reign of Elizabeth, the British society was stable and productivity developed rapidly. The autocratic system in this area began to be implemented after James I ascended the throne. The exploiting class cruelly encroached on the surplus value of the workers, and conflicts between different classes have become more and more intense. In this context, the author reveals the cruelty and darkness of the real society, demonstrates the conflict of power changes in the old and new processes, and further criticizes the backwardness of the old hierarchy.

2. The essence of Shakespeare's tragedy in Hamlet

2.1 The unyielding bigotry and fanaticism in character

Neither Shakespeare's description of the palace nor the scenes in the film have any warm decoration, like mazes or cold cellars. Children growing up in such a "home" will inevitably have potential melancholy. The seemingly harmonious interpersonal relationship in the palace is even more depressing. Although Hamlet had the opportunity to receive humanistic education at Wittenberg University, humanism made him hate the old system and confused him about the future. Therefore, the philosopher like Prince lost his faith. At the same time, his love and respect for his fighting father developed to worship. His father became a God. What a dangerous feeling! Perhaps it was this kind of paranoia and fanaticism that made Hamlet hate his mother's betrayal of the bone marrow.

Despite his melancholy, he is a natural aristocrat. He hated some ancestral customs of his country and hated being called "drunkard" by foreigners. His intellectual temperament determined that what he had was only expectation, which was depression rather than ideal motivation.

2.2 Bloody living environment

As a prince and future king, it should be our duty to rule and stabilize the country. In this sense, it was not the murder of his uncle's brother that made him take on the heavy responsibility of revenge, but fate put him to a severe test. As Charles Williams said: No one can help in this regard. He has to discover the power of his own action by himself.

Hamlet is a simple and kind-hearted prince, only his kindness can be melancholy, only his simplicity will be "tragedy". His fault is not that he did not realize the cruelty of the reality, but that the reality was crueler than he imagined. How could he think that the conceited Lyotis would collude with Claudius? How could he think that Bijian was actually a net? It is a tragedy that reason and morality encounter unparalleled despair in a world that is extremely corrupt!

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2.3 A heartbreaking passion for danger

Prince Hamlet's passion for danger is embodied in his choice between affection, love and revenge. His mother's remarriage was an important reason for Hamlet's melancholy "insanity": "she married my uncle... What an evil hurry! It's so easy to get into the bed of incest". However, Hamlet's curse on his mother is also really unbearable: "the virtuous beauty and shame have been tarnished...", "it is the evil fire that makes the bone marrow of the half old woman move foolishly, and makes the chastity become the flame of wax thrown to youth". Of course, this is the depth of love (I'm afraid this kind of love is more for the dead father than for the living mother), but just because she is a mother, what kind of fault can be tolerated for a son to say such things as "reason runs errands for lust", "keeping pigsty to flirt" and so on?

This disrespect for women undoubtedly affected Hamlet's love. In fact, he was deeply in love with Ophelia: "you can doubt the light of the stars, you can doubt the movement of the sun and the moon... Never doubt my love". However, when this love conflicts with revenge, Hamlet (determined? Or painful) chose revenge. But in fact, at the beginning, he did not put the pure love and revenge absolutely opposite, it was poignant. The poor guy did not ask about right and wrong, it was just because of his inborn ingratitude that push him to use his daughter as a tool without any hesitate. Therefore, the misunderstanding is inevitable, a pair of innocent lovers become victims. It is said that when Hamlet killed bogges, he did not think of the pain of his lover. How cruel!

3. The uniqueness of Hamlet

3.1 Unique character

The creation of each character in this work is very distinctive. The hero's personality is very unique, but also very diverse. On the one hand the hero has an indecisive and sensitive mind. On the other hand, he is brave and arbitrary. After the father was killed, the mother married the murderer, and the ministers attached themselves to the new emperor, the hero lamented that "the unfortunate me has to shoulder the heavy task of reforming heaven and earth". The times endowed Hamlet with a brave but indecisive character. "Personality reflects the social contradictions of the times, and any change in specific environment will affect the characters". As Lenin said, "people rely on the objective world in their own practice, and they rely on their own activities". Hamlet has his own unique thinking, self-motivated, and constantly pursue of dreams. He constantly seeks some effective way, but in the end, he cannot get out of the cage of reality and ideals. Hamlet's melancholy is the common feature of the intellectuals in that era. At the same time, the hero is humorous and decisive. After knowing the inside story of the ghost, he showed the wisdom of a hero after rational thinking. The seeds of revenge made Hamlet have to face his favorite Ophelia. When he was stabbed by a poisonous sword, he knew the real situation of Claudius, and did not hesitate to doubt the original intention and result of life, which proved Hamlet's determination. Hamlet's character also reflects the rationality advocated during the Renaissance.

3.2 The richness of theme plot

The three main lines of the whole story are closely intertwined and complex. Because his father was killed by his uncle Claudius, Hamlet revenged for his father; Lutz's father was killed by Hamlet, and Lutz sought revenge for his father; Hamlet's father killed the father of Fortinbras due to the war, and Fortinbras also needed revenge for his father. The plot of tragedy is arranged according to the development of Hamlet's role, which can be roughly divided into three parts. The first part is a monologue starting from the issue of life and death, explaining the causes and main characteristics of the conflict. This is an era of reversal and chaos. "Unfortunately, I have to take responsibility for changing the universe". The issue of life and death begins to "play a role in the game", which constitutes the second part of the plot. Monologue is the embodiment of Hamlet's inner contradiction. This stage becomes the turning point of the drama and pushes the plot to a climax. The third part is formed after the play inside the play. The double plots of Claudius constitute the climax of the whole drama. At the beginning and the end of the plot, "revenge for father" has its own characteristics. Hamlet hesitated and repeated in revenge, facing the test of life and death. "Father of revenge" is very simple, but "reform society" is very difficult, so Hamlet cannot simply take revenge. After his father was killed, Fortinbras made adequate preparations for his father's revenge, but finally his uncle persuaded him to give up the revenge. The image of Hamlet is the highest expression in the acts of Lutz and Fortinbras.

3.3 Open drama structure

In the structure of the drama, Hamlet adopted the open drama structure from ancient Greece and extended the activity time to two or three months. At the same time, Shakespeare adopted a multi-threading and interlaced writing methods. The first clue of the play is Hamlet's revenge for his father, which plays an important role in the story and theme. The second clue is revenge for Laertes and Fortinbras for his father. They closely focus on the main line, in the slow development of the plot, social background, living environment, secondary aspects of the main contradictions also slowly emerged. The use of parallel lines avoids "sometimes for the essence and degree of life pictures, it is necessary to give up the tension of Drama (plot) and the unity of action". The contradiction between class and class diversity also causes contradictions between diversity. In order to enhance the artistic expression, it is necessary to show the complexity of social class struggle with rich content and rich characters.

4. Conclusion

literary language is abstract, but tragedy can use drama art to express social history and culture simply and directly. The tragic elements in the drama can not only make the audience understand the emotional context of the event, but also show the author's narrative structure more clearly. Hamlet, a classic tragedy play, shows the similarities and differences between the ideal world and the real world through deep dialogue and expression. As a matter of fact, the tragedy of Hamlet makes every reader's tragedy come into being.

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