

RESEARCH ARTICLE**UNDERSTANDING HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS: A STUDY ON
SELECT PLAYS OF SHAKESPEARE**

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Article Received: 15/10/2024; Article Accepted: 22/11/2024; Published Online: 25/11/2024

Abstract

The study of human relationship in the writings of Shakespeare develops a retrospection and self-evaluation of one's own relationship with others. At some point we identify with one or other characters in his writings. His approaches to human relationships educate every human being to examine his own self in order to understand the different levels of human life. The attitude towards life and the broad relationship with human life affects all other relationships and shapes the way people appraise their relationship with others.

Keywords: bond, father-son, father-daughter, husband-wife and romantic relationship.

Humans have a tendency to have their decisions more on their feelings and intuitions than on their cognitive thinking. Literature has an impact on use and makes us understand people from all walks of life. Particularly, in narratives, people are moved to feel empathy and gain fresh insights into their own and other people's lives. This paper particularly aims on the family relationships and romantic relationships.

Shakespeare had portrayed relationship between husband and wife in the play Othello. The power of words influences characters into committing a terrible sin, which ultimately leads to the tragic deaths. Shakespeare shows how Iago manipulates human relationships that lead each character to face destructive relationship. Implying that a woman would always be viewed with less trustworthy than a male, regardless of how strong their relationship may be.

"O banish me, my lord, but kill me not!

Kill me tomorrow, let me live tonight.

But half an hour!

But while I say one prayer!"

Desdemona begged her husband and tried explaining the fact but in vain. Without bothering her words, the suspiciousness makes Othello to kill his lovely wife pitilessly. The words of Iago outwitted their true love. This shows how jealousy can ruin lives even with the most circumstantial

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evidence of guilt. The concept of love has been identified as one of the most misconceived elements in human relationships in the play *Romeo and Juliet*. It is imperative noting that love can be identified as the actions towards other people which are based on compassion. Their love is portrayed by images of light and dark and is juxtaposed against death. The lovers are “fortune’s fools”. This dependency on fate and powers lend their love a sense of being something heavenly, ‘hanging in the stars’.

Their love is too passionate and powerful to remain in their world, ruled by family hate and violence. Here Romeo’s and Juliet’s love is blind. Their first meeting is love at first sight. Despite both of them admitting that they love each other, their love is heavily depended on their sight and the appearance of other person. Light and dark often played in terms of light and day. Because Romeo’s first description of Juliet is that “she doth teach the torches to burn bright”. To Romeo, Juliet, the “fair sun” will be forever associated with light. If it is dark both can spend time each other for longer. Light reveals and exposes the truth and realities of relationship. They are forced to separate light and dark can never coexist and symbolizing their love as that show how it can never survive in the reality.

Twelfth Night begins with the sentence “if music be the food of love, play on.” Orsino compares slow music's qualities to those of love. It sounds nice until its excess makes it uninteresting. The drama proceeds in a similar manner. Everything is first filled with sentiments, but over time, the true nature of things starts to become clear to us. The idea of love is present in almost every one of Shakespeare's plays. His play conjures forth the vibrancy of a romantic universe. While learning about Orsino's passion for Olivia and his constant attempts to win her over, we also learn about the complexities of such an encounter, which teaches us how foolish we can occasionally act when we are in love. The kind of love shown in the drama is courtly love. Courtly love was prevalent in the Elizabethan era. Orsino, Olivia, and Viola's love triangle exposes the conceited notions of love. All of them subconsciously desire something different from what they idealize. Orsino worships Olivia out of deference to social convention. All three of Orsino, Olivia, and Viola experience love at first sight. Orsino says in the first scene that “when mine eyes did see Olivia first, methought she purg’d the air of pestilence; that instant was I turned into a hart, and my desires, like fell and cruel hounds, e’er since pursue me.” The drama also depicts love as something that depresses people. Because it is shown as a disease, love is frequently called “plague,” “pestilence,” or other similar terms throughout the play. Characters become distressed and act erratically as a result. For the sake of treating, they began to treat emotions. Because of this, the protagonists in this drama appear to have fallen in love conceptually rather than emotionally. It is a significant thematic issue in this drama. Typically unique bonds form between fathers and daughters. When a father is responsible for raising a daughter alone this relationship is stronger. One of the main conditions according to which a daughter is going to be protected in the future is the strong assuredness that a daughter is in good and loving hands. One of the primary circumstances as per which a girl will be safe guarded in what's in

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store is serious areas of strength for the girl is in great and cherishing hands, safeguarded like under the dad's consideration. Perusing the play *The Storm* by William Shakespeare, clearly a similar circumstance is going on among Prospero, Miranda and Ferdinand. Taking consideration for a daughter, Prospero is ready to create the fake problems and put the intentions of loving Ferdinand under question just to make sure that the man is ready to fight for his daughter and to win in this battle in the play *Tempest*. Trying to make sure that Miranda will be protected and secured, Prospero is keen on satisfying her at the island. In any case, he was unable to foresee the presence of Ferdinand who ruined every one of the fantasies of the dad. Each father believes their little girls should be cheerful, nonetheless, simultaneously, many fathers are sure that their children will be close to them constantly.

We can see the same bonding between father and daughter in the play *King Lear*. The main conflict Natural order leads all the plot and causes the tragedy that brings most of the cast to their death is the desire of the king to test this natural order. It is the natural for father to love his children and expects for them to return the love. He put the test for each his daughters; each of them has to prove her love to her father. He always expects that his desire to be flattered and praised. Goneril and Regan, two older children, might be perceived as being conceited and deceitful while maintaining a perfect picture of familial affection while actually caring nothing about others' sentiments. The younger one, Cordelia, in sweet and loving but unable to publically show her father how much she loves him. King decided to step down from the throne and divided his kingdom evenly among his three daughters. King Lear asked each of his daughters that how much they loved him. Goneril and Regan responded to his test with flattery, telling him that they loved him so much than their husbands but Cordelia said,

"Obey you, love you, and most honor you.

Half my love with him, half my care and duty.

Sure I shall never marry like my sisters,

To love my father all".

As a rejection of Cordelia's reply, Lear saying that she will now be 'a stranger to my heart and me' and he divided his kingdom between Goneril and Regan, giving each an equal share. At last, two elder daughters had deceived their father's love and hope and not taken care of their father, but the youngest one who stood beside her father and supported. By the time Lear finally realized who Cordelia is, and who has shown real affection, love and respect for the words of Lear.

As far as relation between father and son concerned. In *Hamlet* father and son relationship includes the stories of two young men Laertes and Hamlet. Both had love and respect for their fathers. They respect their fathers in a such a way that they are ready to anything for the murders of their fathers. The tragic relations are formed between father and son in *Hamlet*. Hamlet had taken harsh decisions to take revenge of his father's death. Laertes and his father Pollonius had loyalty in their relations. Polonius has beautifully guided his son every time how to react and how to even

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behave with others. In this play, ghost insisted Hamlet to take revenge on Claudius but actual flaw was that he had procrastinated the words of ghost every time. As a result, unknowingly he stabbed Polonius as thinking that was Cladius.

The marvelous works of William Shakespeare emphasizes the study of human relationships and its significance forever. One cannot imagine a world without human relationships. The word 'emotional intelligence' is one of the thrust areas of this century. Without human relationships a person cannot go through life. A person needs to communicate with someone. The study of human relations is important in personal and professional life. The complex web of human relationships is to be understood by every human being to live a happy life.

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