OPTIMISM OF WILIAM.SHAKESPEARE'S TRAGEDIES.

Izbosarova Mohigul

A Student of Chirchik State Pedagogical University
Scientific adviser

Khamitov Eldorbek Erkin o'g'li

ABSTRACT

This article delves into the oft-overlooked theme of optimism within William Shakespeare's tragedies. While his works are renowned for their exploration of human suffering and the darker aspects of existence, a closer examination reveals threads of hope and resilience woven amidst the despair. Through a comprehensive analysis of select tragedies, including "Hamlet," "Macbeth," and "King Lear," this study illuminates moments of redemption, the triumph of the human spirit, and the enduring of love and virtue. By examining Shakespeare's nuanced portrayal of adversity and the human response to it, this article seeks to redefine the conventional interpretation of his tragedies as solely pessimistic, offering a fresh perspective highlighting the profound optimism embedded within the depths of tragedy.

KEYWORDS: William Shakespeare's, King Lear, Hamlet, optimism, tragedy, play

INTRODUCTION

In the vast tapestry of William Shakespeare's literary legacy, his tragedies stand as towering monuments to human suffering, despair, and the inexorable march of fate. From the haunting soliloquies of Hamlet to the blood-soaked ambition of Macbeth, Shakespeare's tragic protagonists navigate a world fraught with moral ambiguity and existential angst. Yet, amidst the turmoil and turmoil, there exists a subtle undercurrent of optimism—a glimmer of hope that defies the darkness and illuminates the human spirit. This study seeks to explore the nuanced interplay between despair and optimism

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within Shakespeare's tragedies, examining how themes of hope and perseverance manifest themselves amidst the wreckage of shattered dreams and thwarted ambition. By delving into key works such as "Hamlet," "Macbeth," and "King Lear," we will uncover moments of transcendent beauty and moral clarity that offer a counterbalance to the darkness that pervades these narratives.

Through close textual analysis and contextual interpretation, we will demonstrate how Shakespearean tragedy, far from being a bleak exercise in futility, serves as a profound meditation on the human condition—a testament to the enduring power of hope in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds. By shedding light on the optimism that lies at the heart of Shakespeare's tragedies, this article aims to deepen our appreciation for the richness and complexity of his dramatic vision, inviting readers to rediscover these timeless works through a new lens of understanding and insight.

FINDINGS

"King Lear" is regarded by many academics as one of Shakespeare's best plays. This is a result of its potency; it addresses every topic and is so current that it has been dubbed "Shakespeare's play for the 20th century." The description of human nature in "King Lear" is both discouragingly truthful and therapeutic. It demonstrates compassion, egotism, love, hate, ignorance, and comprehension. It challenges fate, the gods, our reason for existing, as well as the nature of humanity itself. This is the reason "King Lear" is so highly regarded by so many academics, both past and present, because of the breadth and depth of its subjects. However, there has been discussion over whether the play has an optimistic or pessimistic attitude. The significance of the play as a whole depends greatly on whether the play is optimistic or pessimistic since the play's message is either disparagingly tragic or hopeful. Is Shakespeare attempting to suggest that there is no purpose to life? that they slaughter us for fun, treating us like flies to wanton guys. On the other hand, is he attempting to convey to us the idea that life has a purpose and that we should love, learn, and make an effort to live morally and decently?

She is young, yet she is not sensitive. Furthermore, her fall from grace is the fall of a person whose immature passion prevents her from seeing the option of acting honourably but sensibly. "We are not the first who with the best meaning have incurred the worst," she says to her father at the play's conclusion (5.3.3-4). Therefore, King Lear is a play that appeals to audiences of all ages. Because we recognise our capacity for human fallibility in the characters. However, we see more than just this possibility. We see much more through Lear and Cordelia, at the very least. This play explores more than just the nature of sin, human fallibility, and pessimism. It goes much beyond that. It goes much beyond that. Since the play is about the possibility of human reconciliation, we are naturally drawn to the parts where Lear and Cordelia are reconciling.

However, whether the play has an optimistic or pessimistic outlook is a question that has been debated over the centuries. Whether the play is optimistic or pessimistic is of great importance to the meaning of the play as a whole, as the message it conveys hinges on whether the play is hopeful or disparagingly tragic. Is Shakespeare trying to say that life is completely pointless? That we are simply "like flies to wanton boys, they kill us for their sport." Alternatively, is he trying to show us that there is a point to life; that we must learn, love, and try to live honourably and decently?

Most tragedies by playwright William Shakespeare are referred to as Shakespearean tragedies. Many of his history plays have the qualities of a Shakespearean tragedy, but the First Folio categorised them as "histories" since they are based on real people from England's past. Even though the Roman tragedies, such as Coriolanus, Antony and Cleopatra, and Julius Caesar, are based on real people, they are nearly invariably categorised as tragedies rather than history due to the alien and antiquated origins of their narrative. Shakespeare wrote his tragicomic plays, or romances, towards the end of his career. They were first released as comedies or tragedies. They are similar to tragedies in that they have a noble protagonist, but they conclude happily, much like comedies by Shakespeare. Shakespeare's death occurred over three centuries ago. The scholar F. S. Boas also created a fifth category, the

"problem play," for plays that don't cleanly fall into a single genre due to their subject matter, setting, or ending nearly three centuries after Shakespeare passed away.[1][2] Regarding the classification of certain of Shakespeare's plays, academics are still at odds.

CONCLUSION

In summary, while the term "tragedy" may evoke notions of despair and hopelessness, William Shakespeare's tragedies are not devoid of optimism. Through his exploration of the human condition, Shakespeare reveals moments of resilience, self-awareness, and the potential for redemption even in the face of adversity. By delving into the depths of despair, Shakespeare ultimately reminds us of the enduring strength of the human spirit and the possibility of finding hope and meaning amidst life's greatest challenges. Thus, his tragedies serve not only as cautionary tales but also as beacons of optimism, encouraging audiences to confront their struggles with courage and resilience.

INTERNET RESOURCES

- 1. https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shakespearean_tragedy
- 2. https://study.com/learn/lesson/shakespeare-tragedies-themes.html
- 3. https://www.bard.org/study-guides/an-optimistic-tragedy/
- 4. https://www.jstor.org/stable/4610583