

Análisis de Hamlet

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Resumen

En este artículo analizamos el popular personaje de Shakespeare, Hamlet. La obra en general cuenta la historia de la Familia Real Danesa, cuya imagen se marca por el asesinato del padre de Hamlet por su propio hermano, quien después se casa con la madre de Hamlet. Hamlet finge que está loco para vengar la muerte de su padre. A través de la obra, podemos analizar dos temas principales: la venganza de Hamlet y la determinación de Hamlet para vengar la muerte de su padre en las manos de Hamlet. Todos estos aspectos serán apoyados por medio de citas del texto.

Palabras clave: Literatura, Proyecto Literario, Shakespeare.

Title: Analysis on Hamlet.

Abstract

In this article we will focus on analysing Shakespeare's Hamlet. The play tells the tale of the Danish Royal family, marked by the murder of Hamlet's father by his own brother, who then marries Hamlet's mother. Hamlet feigns madness to avenge his father's death. Through the play we can see two principal topics: Hamlet's revenge and Laertes' determination to avenge his father's death at Hamlet's hands. All these aspects will be supported by means of quotations from the text.

Keywords: Literature, Literary project, Shakespeare.

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This essay will be devoted to explain the reasons why Hamlet delays his revenge, taking into account the opinions of some critics. In the same way, I will analyze the possibility of revenge against the figure of the monarch from the religious and political perspective.

After reading the play, I realized that, as A.C Bradley explains, Hamlet is characterized by a profound "melancholy", which is provoked by his father's murder and the hasty remarriage of his mother with King Claudius. In other words, he is too obsessed with reflection and reason, he is all the time doubting. These psychological traits constitute the cause of his delay. Hamlet is melancholic at the start of the play. Gertrude, in seeking the cause of Hamlet's madness, names the cause of his melancholy, saying:

*"I doubt it is no other but the main:
His father's death,
and our o'erhasty marriage" (2.2. 56-57).*

It is clear, that he does not fit in the medieval age where he belongs to, when honour and revenge was not questioned. His depressive state of mind and lack of ambition causes his inaction. In other words, this inevitable state of feelings is completely adverse to any kind of decided action. Hamlet's actions along the play are hardly characteristic of depression and have an excessive reason and understanding. At the beginning of the play we also see that he has very clear to take action against King Claudius:

*"Unhand me, gentlemen.
By heaven,
I'll make a ghost of him that lets me!" (1.4. 84-86)*

But his actions became only thoughts. He does not want to do that because if he kills the king Claudius he will be damned. In the play, thought is verbalized through words. He is all the time hesitating and in doubt. Hamlet hesitates so much because he is “considering the result and significance of his actions”, according to Northrop.

The impossibility of Hamlet to take revenge against the king anticipates the wishes of common people of judging and condemning tyrannical and legitimate authority: this is another possible cause of the delay. That is to say, the fact that Hamlet being a prince could not avenge his father’s death because King Claudius was the supreme authority, a good king, and people would never believe him.

Moreover, from the orthodox point of view, revenge was not lawful. According to Christianity there was not acceptable for a man to take revenge. There was a kind of law to follow, did not mean that everyone obeyed. Hamlet is forbidden to take revenge. He is in a different position because he cannot rebel against the supreme authority of the king.

On the other hand, revenge could be accepted from the political perspective. The problem is that Hamlet wanted to take revenge within religious authority. Therefore, the only possibility is resort to madness, playing a subversive role. And the end, taking revenge cost him his own death because it was impossible the fall of a king who was strong.

In conclusion, there are many readings about the different causes of Hamlet’s delay. In mi opinion, the depression and melancholy of the main character which impede his action, is the most attractive interpretation of the play. However, we can attribute also a political understanding of his delay: an exploration of illegitimate power being presented as legitimate.

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