

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S TRAGEDY "HAMLET" IN UZBEK CULTURAL AND LITERARY THOUGHT

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Abstract: This article scientifically examines the ideological-artistic content and philosophical layers of William Shakespeare's tragedy Hamlet, which is widely considered the pinnacle of world dramaturgy. The study analyzes the conflicts between human freedom, the crisis of social justice, and state governance. It reveals the tragic nature of the Prince of Denmark, Hamlet—specifically his spiritual anguish caught between personal revenge and the restoration of global justice—as well as the compositional structure and system of dramatic conflict within the play. Furthermore, the artistic expression of the problem of life and death, human nature, and the concepts of betrayal and loyalty are evaluated from a philosophical-aesthetic perspective.

Keywords: Hamlet, Kingdom of Denmark, Elsinore Castle, ghost (spirit), Claudius, Ophelia, "To be or not to be", revenge, trap, justice, betrayal and loyalty, poisoned sword.

The works of the great English playwright and poet William Shakespeare are such wonders of the world that humanity never tires of marveling at them. Although history moves forward with firm strides and lifestyles change, the creative output of this writer, who lived and created centuries before us, remains as essential to people as water and air. For this reason, his works have continued to fascinate enthusiasts of world literature and theatrical art for more than four centuries. As Doctor of Philological Sciences Ibrohim Haqqul noted: "William Shakespeare was a king of literature who conquered the world without leading an army. Shakespeare won the affection of almost every nation and ethnic group existing in the world. There is probably no language in the world in which Shakespeare's characters have not spoken. Shakespeare's genius is the highest scale of culture". William Shakespeare was born in the town of Stratford. He was the third child of a well-to-do, large family. His father, John Shakespeare, also served as the bailiff (mayor) of Stratford. William was well-brought-up in the family and studied with great passion at school. At the age of 23, Shakespeare moved to London. There, he joined a theatrical company. He initially worked in the troupe managed by James Burbage and later functioned at the "Globe"

Theatre. In the initial stage of his career, Shakespeare wrote poems, narrative poems, comedies, and historical chronicles. He penned a series of dramas such as "Richard II", "Richard I", "King John", "Henry IV", and "Henry V", as well as comedies that bring joy and cheerfulness to the heart, titled "A Midsummer Night's Dream", "The Merchant of Venice", and "As You Like It". William Shakespeare's masterpiece "Hamlet" continues to thrill readers to this day. "Hamlet" is the pinnacle of Shakespeare's creativity. The tragedy of "Hamlet" is the first work created in the second period of Shakespeare's career. This play is the highest example of the tragedy genre in the artistic heritage created by humanity, and at the same time, the ultimate peak of Shakespeare's work. In the words of Belinsky: "Hamlet is the brightest diamond set in the middle of the radiant crown on the head of the king of dramatic poets".

On one hand, Hamlet acts with a sense of personal revenge, while on the other hand, he is highly meditative and constantly preoccupied with himself. Hamlet deeply contemplates not only himself, his family, his beloved, the people around him, and the cruel social system he lives in, but also the entire world and the essence of human nature. He is a very intelligent and perceptive prince. While Hamlet is alone in his chamber, Horatio comes to him, offers his condolences, and tells him that his father's ghost has been wandering the castle at night. Hearing this, Hamlet is struck by intense anxiety. He resolves to stand guard together with them at night. Marcellus, Horatio, and Hamlet wait for the ghost of the deceased king, and the king's ghost appears, beckoning Hamlet with gestures. The ghost reveals that his death was not of natural causes, but that his own brother, driven by the desire for the throne, poured poison into his ear and murdered him. For this, he demands that Hamlet take revenge on his uncle. This is where the plot takes a sharp turn. Upon hearing this, Hamlet nearly loses his mind. He falls into a distressed state... In his fury, when Hamlet states that he will take revenge not only on his uncle but also on his mother, his father's ghost tells him not to harm his mother. For he says that her own torment of conscience and its heavy burden will be enough for the queen. Hamlet promises his father to take revenge on his uncle. Yet, he does not rush to execute this revenge. Otherwise, he is a prince, and the people of Denmark love him so dearly. However, it is his mother who restrains him from taking immediate revenge. He expects his uncle to confess to the murder he committed, but the uncle continues to live as if nothing happened. Hamlet is not a simple and hasty avenger; he was a philosopher who reflected deeply. Since blind butchery was alien to him, he delays his revenge, contemplating the consequences of his every step, and the essence of life and death. In this process, he is so distressed by the baseness of humankind that he is forced to renounce even his luminous love, Ophelia. Because at

a time when Denmark had turned into a prison, love possessed neither joy nor meaning. To decisively prove his uncle's guilt, Hamlet stages a special play with the help of travelling actors who arrive at the castle. Unable to endure seeing the scene of his father's murder on stage, King Claudius exposes himself. Following this, events swiftly take a tragic turn. In his mother's chamber, thinking it is the king, Hamlet accidentally kills the counselor Polonius, who was spying from behind the curtain. A chain of tragedies ensues from this death: the innocent Ophelia, driven mad by the grief over her father and the strange behavior of her beloved, drowns in a river and perishes. In these instances, Shakespeare demonstrates the cruelty of the world, showing that within the vortex of systemic evil and injustice, the most pure, innocent souls are the first to fall victim. In the final act, Claudius exploits the grief of Ophelia's brother, Laertes, and instigates him against Hamlet. A fraudulent knightly duel is arranged in the palace using poisoned swords and a cup containing poison. During the final battle, Queen Gertrude accidentally drinks the poisoned wine prepared for her son and dies. In the heat of the clash, both Hamlet and Laertes are wounded by that very poisoned sword. Knowing his death is near, after Laertes exposes all the treachery, Hamlet kills the murderer Claudius with his final breath and strength. He begs his loyal friend Horatio to tell his pure name and the bitter truth of the palace to the future, and then passes away. His final exclamation covers existence in eternal silence "The rest is silence..."

As a result of observations, it becomes clear that through the character of Hamlet, the creator intended to reveal that death cannot always be the solution to a problem—on the contrary, it complicates it further—and that in any situation, one must preserve pride, honor, and dignity immaculately without letting a single speck stain them; and we would not be mistaken to say that he successfully achieved this.

Although Shakespeare drew the material for the tragedy from literary sources prior to his time, particularly from the chronicle of Saxo Grammaticus (early 13th century), a Dane, he nevertheless created a true English national tragedy, expressing sublime humanist ideas through profound philosophical and artistic generalizations. The prominent literary scholar Berdiali Imomov writes in his book "Tragedy and Character": "As is known from the nature of the genre (tragedy) and its mythological characteristics, tragedy in this play or stage performance is not just a collection of corpses whose lives are cut short, but it lies within the processes of reaching such states, in the: agonizingly painful torments in the hearts of characters, and in the roasting of the personages' psychological experiences." In the tragedy Hamlet, the protagonist fights against an enemy made powerful by his state authority.

Furthermore, the history of how the play Hamlet, considered the pinnacle of world dramaturgy, entered the Uzbek language and became the property of our national

spirituality is also very fascinating. The most outstanding writers of their time labored over the text of this great work. In particular, the person who first beautifully introduced this play to the Uzbek reader through the Russian language was our great writer Abdulhamid Cho'lpon (1934). Later, in 1948, a new translation belonging to the pen of Maqsdud Shayxzoda saw the light of day, and it gained well-deserved fame among theatre professionals and the public. On the eve of national independence, namely in 1991, the translator Jamol Kamol successfully translated the play into the Uzbek language directly from English—from the original itself. This work, cherished by several generations of Uzbek readers, has been republished repeatedly over the years; among these, the third volume of the Selected Works of 1983. We can conclude about the work as follows: Shakespeare is a writer famous for his art of diction, and by analyzing his works from a psycholinguistic perspective, we can reveal his ability to establish a connection between mind and language. Shakespeare's tragedies are distinguished by their emotional spirit and by the protagonists' struggle with their own inner world. In particular, the author's tragedy Hamlet stands out for its internal monologues and emotional speeches. In this work, the writer aimed to reveal that loyalty, devotion, and justice are the most important paramount laws of life, and that human beings remain alive only through these virtues. The protagonist of the work, Hamlet, is depicted as a contemplative young man weary of the vile realities of this life, as a man of intellect, a possessor of humanitarian ideas, and a person of honor. For this reason, he cannot easily digest the baseness committed by his mother. Furthermore, Hamlet is personified not as someone wrapped up merely in his own troubles, but as a man of thought who constantly attempts to identify the reasons why human beings seek a pretext to live despite any level of hardship and injustice throughout their lives.

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