



People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research
University of Echahid Hamma Lakhdar, Eloued
Faculty of Arts and Languages
Department of Arts and English Language

Shakespeare in Today's Literary World; Influences and Re-readings

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Submitted By:

-BEHIR Ahlam

- LEMMOUCHI Hakima

Supervisor:

* SEMMAK Samira

Board of Examiners

Chairman/President: KHELEK Embarka

University, Eloued

Supervisor: SEMMAK Samira

University, Eloued

Examiner: DAHDA Nacer

University, Eloued

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Dedication

We dedicate this modest work

To our families

To our sisters and brothers

To our friends and classmates in particular

Meimouna, Fatima, and Mebarka

Especially those who helped us complete this project successfully

To all people who loved and helped

us in one way or another.

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Abstract

The present study aims at identifying Shakespeare's role and status in today's literary world by means of examining his worldwide reputation; considering the reception of his works in the four corners of the world and their adaptations to modern theater and movie making; highlighting the influence of his literature, philosophy, even the influence of his characters and him as an actor, writer, and person; emphasizing universality of his works which overwhelmed different languages and different cultures and societies; foregrounding his popularity which over passed the world boundaries (who in the world do not know Shakespeare even by name, or who has not ever quoted the famous soliloquy "to be or not to be" in all the languages of the world). Timelessness is what our research is about, and by timelessness we mean the endless relevance to today's world. Shakespeare managed to achieve universal recognition and timelessness throughout the employment of several aspects into literature which are mainly due to his "philosophical insight" into human reality. We observe this timelessness in the themes he tackled in his plays, the avant-gardiste way of thinking of his characters, the flexibility of his works, the parallel elements between his works and the History not only of Britain but also of the whole world which seems to repeat itself. We also find this timelessness in the relevance of his work through the countless use and return of his works for inspiration by prominent writers around the world and their reverence to Shakespeare is plainly felt and sought in their works; whether these works are literary adaptations or cinematic ones, or translations.

Key words: Shakespeare, popularity, reception, universalism, timelessness, modern relevance, influence.

المخلص

تهدف الدراسة الحالية إلى تحديد دور ومكانة شكسبير في الأدب العالمي و ذلك عن طريق دراسة سمعته في العالم و بالنظر في استقبال أعماله من طرف عدة دول وتكيفها مع المسرح الحديث وصناعة الأفلام و ننشد هذا الأخير بتسليط الضوء على تأثيره كمثل وكاتب وشخص و تأثير أدبه و فلسفته و أيضا فاعلية شخصياته الأدبية و التأكيد على عالمية أعماله التي غمرت لغات و ثقافات و مجتمعات مختلفة و شعبيته التي تجاوزت حدود العالم، من الذي في العالم لا يعرف شكسبير حتى بالاسم، أو من الذي لم يقتبس مقولته الشهيرة "أكون أو لا أكون".

تتناول دراستنا أزلية ويليام شكسبير، و بالأزلية نعني أهميته اللانهائية في العالم اليوم، نجح شكسبير في تحقيق اعتراف عالمي في جميع الجوانب و ذلك يعود إلى إثرائه للأدب عبر "فلسفته " نحو البشرية ، و سبب هذه الأزلية المواضيع التي تناوله الكاتب ويليام في مسرحياته، والطريقة الطليعية للتفكير في شخصياته، ومرونة أعماله و العناصر المتوازية بين أعماله والتاريخ ليس فقط في بريطانيا بل في العالم اجمع، كما نجد هذا الخلود في مدى ملائمة أعماله من خلال الاستخدام المتعدد لأعماله وإلهامها لكتّاب بارزين في جميع أنحاء العالم، الذي تظهر بوضوح في أعمالهم. ما

إذا كانت هذه الأعمال: هي تعديلات أدبية أو سينمائية، أو ترجمات.

الكلمات المفتاحية: شكسبير، شعبية، استقبال، عالمية، خلود، علاقة حديثة، تأثير.

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Introduction

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General introduction

1. Background of the Study

The Elizabethan age witnessed a revolution in all aspects of British life. This era, later known as "the golden age" was named for the reign of Queen Elizabeth I who reigned from (1558-1603). Her age was characterized by being the age of adventure and discovery that resulted in flowering in many aspects of Art, but most significantly literature. The theatre was a major part of this revolutionary cultural advance which attracted an avid following among all classes of society from nobles to beggars.

William Shakespeare (26 April 1564 – 23 April 1616), England's national poet who has become to be known as the Bard of Avon, is widely regarded as pre-eminent dramatist, and actor. He was born and brought up in Stratford-upon-Avon, England. Despite his educational level, attending only grammar school, he wrote great plays that catapulted to the top of the literary pyramid of his days. Shakespeare has risen to the position of patron saint of English literature and drama.

Shakespeare highlights the spirit of the golden age by revolutionizing the focus of themes from religious concern to political discourse, by creating timeless characters and the greatest poetry in the history of the English language, plots, structures, and genres, as well as by adding countless words, phrases and images to the English language by creating almost 1,700 words; For example, in the tragedy of Romeo and Juliet Shakespeare had mixed romance with tragedy. Indeed, Shakespeare was the master literary inventor of his time, and even after. His creations influenced almost all other literatures around the world. In his own time, he was highly praised by two of his closest contemporaries and friends, the playwright Ben Jonson and the poet Hugh Holland, when they stated in the

prefaces to the first Folio of 1623: 'He was not of an age, but for all time!', and 'The life yet of his lines shall never out'.

For centuries, Shakespeare has been considered the writer who contributed most greatly in promoting English language and literature in the world beyond Great Britain. As already noted, many hundred words and expressions in common English usage, such as "addiction", "multitudinous", and "uncomfortable" made their first printed appearance in his plays. Countless readers and audiences, regardless of their language and culture, were, and still are, admirers of the Bard due to the aesthetic pleasure his works evoke.

Prominent writers, artists of every generation, whatever their origins, have been influenced by the literary works of the English national poet and playwright William Shakespeare. Thus, the bard's effect is not confined only to his homeland but rather managed to reach the whole world where the English language is learned or spoken. His works, particularly his plays in both original and translated versions, are dominant in the theatrical repertoire, and thus, are performed at almost everywhere in the world. Literary works mirror contemporary society, but few persist and gain universality and timelessness. Some of these are Shakespeare's works.

Little is known about Shakespeare's personal life. He is still a major subject matter of current research and studies. In fact, no other writer in the world of literature has been written about as much as the Elizabethan dramatist William Shakespeare. In today's world, the word "Shakespeare" has many signifiers that differ from one person to another across the globe. Despite the fact that Shakespeare did not travel outside of the south of England, his literary masterpieces such as Hamlet, Othello, King Lear, Macbeth, Julius Caesar, Romeo and Juliet, The Tempest, the Merchant of Venice, Richard III, and Titus Andronicus are considered to be among the greatest tragedies in the world of

literature and were his passport to different countries around the globe, influencing and entertaining the inhabitants of new times and cultures.

Diverse countries around the globe of different cultures take Shakespeare's works as their source of inspiration and insight to produce other works that tell current, up to date, stories similar to that of William Shakespeare. Thus they adapted Shakespeare to produce their own "Shakespeare" that encompasses their cultural, psychological, and personal outlooks and traditions. In other words, Shakespeare is appropriated around the world. Each country has its own "Shakespeare" as Indian, Chinese, Russian, German, French, or Arab Shakespeare. They also appropriated characters as their own as a French Hamlet, Russian Macbeth, Egyptian Lear, German Richard, Japanese Hamlet. Thus, different performances are done each year in various countries across the world, possibly more than that in Shakespeare's homeland. William Shakespeare's literary works still offer profound insights into the contemporary world, which help explain why Shakespeare is immortal and still resonate in the 21st century.

2.Aims of the Study

The present study aims at investigating Shakespeare's influence, timelessness, popularity, universal appeal and his status in today's literary world.

This paper tries to prove, on one hand, that the Elizabethan playwright's works are immortal, and on the other hand, that Shakespeare is the most read, performed, and adapted foreign writer in the world.

The purpose of this study is an attempt to provide a satisfactory explanation on how Shakespeare became the most influential playwright all over the globe; reasons behind his presence in the 21st century; and how he is viewed around the world, and reasons behind the frequent need to turn to his works.

3. Significance of the Study

William Shakespeare has received countless praise for being the most read, translated, adapted, and performed playwright around the world more than any other writer modern or ancient. Many studies have revealed that Shakespeare's literary works have profound insights into today's world. That is why the study under investigation tends to identify causes of their universal acceptance and appeal in the 21st century.

4. Statement of the Problem

1. How does William Shakespeare still resonate in and influence today's literary world?

To get an exhaustive answer to this question, sub-questions must be answered:

- Why is Shakespeare the most adapted, translated, and performed playwright in the world?
- Why does Shakespeare have a universal appeal?
- What lead different cultures to appropriate Shakespeare in particular? And do countries, with different cultural backgrounds, receive the Bard in the same way?
- Is Shakespeare still relevant today?
- Is Shakespeare an immortal writer?
- Why do the literary and artistic worlds keep returning to William Shakespeare?
- Why do prominent writers around the world still refer to Shakespeare in their works?

5. Hypotheses

Shakespeare succeeded to be a universal writer mainly due to the flexibility of his works and the illumination of human experience which happens to change little over time; this is what makes his plays have a universal appeal. Different cultures appropriated Shakespeare differently because of the similarities between Shakespeare's works and their cultural aspects as history and drama, as well as the valuable life lessons they address. The Bard cannot be obsolete because he is still adapted, studied, and

performed. He is an immortal writer because he transcends time and culture barriers. People keep turning to Shakespeare because he is a better story teller of their own stories. Prominent writers around the world refer to Shakespeare in their works due to their affection for his great masterpieces.

6. Previous Works

And the best proof of what has just been said is the amount of books and academic works devoted to Shakespeare and his works we came across while preparing for the research and which are all cited in the bibliography at the end of the research. Among these for example:

1. The Cambridge companion to Shakespeare by Margreta De Grazia and Stanley Wells 2001.(a Book)
2. Shakespeare: The Invention of Human by Harold Bloom 1998. (a book)
3. Performing Shakespeare in contemporary Taiwan by Ya-hui Huang. PhD thesis.
2. Adaptations of Hamlet in different cultural contexts: Globalizations, postmodernism, and Alter-modernism by Parviz Partovi Tazeh Kand 2013.PhD thesis.

7. Research Methodology:

To conduct this study, we opted for a descriptive and analytical method in order to investigate Shakespeare's status and influence in today's literary world. We used the descriptive method to obtain information about the current status of Shakespeare's works; with the purpose of describing what exists with respect to cultural and linguistic variables. Whereas analytical method was used in order to carry out deep analysis on the works done about Shakespeare by giving a critical accounts and reviews about the literature.

Therefore, in trying to do so, the material we found imposed that the research paper would take the following shape:

Chapter one entitled “**How Shakespeare is viewed around the world**” will be concerned with Shakespeare's popularity in the world; timelessness of his works mainly his characters

and themes; reasons behind his universalism, and how he has been received around the globe.

Chapter two, with the title “**Influences and Re-readings,**” will be devoted as the titles show to both the influences and re-readings of Shakespeare's works in different parts of the globe in addition to his relevance in the 21st century.

Finally, we close the research with a general conclusion where we set forth formally our dissertation and give a concise summary of the main and most important points of evidence; besides, some of our impressions and personal views.

Since no research is scientifically plausible unless it is supported with previous and contemporary books and researches, a comprehensive bibliography is included within our research and listed at the end of this latter.

This is how we tackled Shakespeare, his works and person. It was such a tremendous adventure that we wished we could have more time and space to get to know him more and write about him more skillfully.

Chapter One:How Shakespeare is viewed around the World

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Conclusion

Introduction

Undoubtedly, William Shakespeare managed to obtain a universal status in the world of literature. This can be seen through his legacies that still presented, adapted, and translated around the globe which did not lose their quality and status in the English literature at the national and international level. Shakespeare now is one among the unique writers who eternalized his plays by using themes and characters which are the basic topics that characterize the modern world.

In the current chapter, popularity of Shakespeare and his reception in the world will be accounted. It will focus on how he has been received in different parts of the world: Germany and Netherlands as European countries; India, Japan, and Taiwan from Asia; and the middle East. Then, this chapter will shed the light on the reasons behind Shakespeare's universalism. Finally, timelessness of the dramatist will be accounted. It will concentrate on his tragedies in particular Hamlet, and Romeo and Juliet, and the timelessness of his themes and characters.

1. Popularity of Shakespeare

1.1. Reputation in the Past

In his own time and from the beginning of his journey as an actor, playwright, and a poet, Shakespeare has gained a prestigious reputation as a British western literary icon and also, the supreme playwright and poet of the English language inside his home land and beyond. Thus, since the first folio publication, countless adaptations, translations, and performances have been performed around the globe as well as a wide range of researches emerged as a way to understand, analyze, and study Shakespeare the phenomenon. Starting from 16th to 17th, 18th, 19th, and 20th Shakespeare's reputation did not fade. Thanky (2017) asserted that "Shakespeare, unlike many preceding playwrights, set an extremely high benchmark for plays in both the modern and Elizabethan era, revolutionizing and being the

driver for many common terms and phrases we use today..."(p.362). It is true that Shakespeare is one and the only playwright all over the globe whose plays did not lose their aesthetic quality. Moreover, he stood relevant in both eras, Elizabethan age and modern day. Thus, this means that Shakespeare made a revolution in English literature that resulted in immortalizing his name as revolutionists did for their countries' independence. It is, therefore, clear that William Shakespeare invented plays which are unmatched in the English literature.

The 18th century saw a flowering in Shakespeare's reputation as the most famous poet and dramatist in the English language. Moreover, as the English language became useful at the national and international level; Shakespeare works disseminated all over the globe. It is precisely due to his fascinating poems, and also for his memorable plays as diverse as Othello, the Tempest, Hamlet, As You Like it, and Mid Summer Night's Dream and many other. It can be argued that English literature is incomplete without Shakespeare. In the light of all this, Shakespeare's plays reach to affect the whole world of literature and theatre, so his reputation has obtained a great status that time did not ruin. Although Shakespeare attended only Grammar school in Stratford Upon-Avon, he had a high art prestige that is highly employed in his works which led many researchers to question his creativity, and therefore take it as a point of criticism. Despite all of that, the Bard's immense reputation had not obsoleted. Thus, "... since Shakespeare's death, he has risen to the position of patron saint of English literature and drama. In the 1800s especially, his plays were so popular that many refused to believe that an actor from Stratford had written them."(A Brief History of the Audience, p. 3)

The controversial issue, that Shakespeare plays were only meant to be staged and not to be read, has gained a measurable interest among scholars around the world since his death. In other words, as argued that Shakespeare's tragedies, comedies, and histories were

written to be performed. So, this would mean that Shakespeare's works are just directed for audiences. By the time some of his plays were published in printed papers called "Quarto" during Shakespeare's life. This edition ,however, might contain some mistakes since it was published without Shakespeare permission. Thereafter, after his death all of his works were collected and published in one version named the First Folio in 1623. This work made by the two: John Hemings and Henry Condell as members of the playing company. Consequently, this transformational process from stage to page contributed in the diffusion of Shakespeare's plays around the world. This can also mean that the dramatist gained a higher popularity from the group of readers. As a result, these versions opened the door for Shakespearean studies, translation and adaptation in endless countries.

1.2.Popularity Around the World

When Shakespeare's works grew in popularity, they began to spread outside the Anglophone countries, and therefore reached every corner in the world. As they were introduced to Africa, Central and South America and Asia, his plays were translated and performed in new and unique ways that reflected the surrounding culture. Thus, by means of translation, assimilation, and adaptation, stage performance, and writers reverence to Shakespeare's works he has gained an international fame. Thanky (2017) declared that :

Shakespeare is still so popular because he understood the human character and its weaknesses and imperfections....Another good quality is that so many of his plays are believable and teach a moral or lesson. William Shakespeare's poetry and, particularly his plays, are still among the greatest ever, and his work is unmatched in the history of the English language. It is no wonder that students around the world are still studying and reading his works, and it is only because of the high quality of his writing that his popularity has continued.(p.362)

Although Shakespeare is an English poet and dramatist, he managed to make an apparent mark in every country all over the world. Shakespearean literature has crossed the space and time dimensions and has been dominating the world literary circle for many centuries. In the world, these artistic achievements have remained constant and never lost their status. Many scholars and researchers around the globe have wondered and, therefore, conducted researches about the issue of how a foreign dramatist like William Shakespeare succeeded to obtain a great popularity throughout the entire world. Consequently, his works are still read, performed on different cultural stages, discussed, and translated into every living language in the world. The cause of Shakespeare's popularity goes beyond his extraordinary talent and linguistic ability. Thus, the Bard's immeasurable fame is of course due to his ability to summarize and understand human nature, to create great believable stories that transcend time and culture, as well as to invent unique and complex characters that do not have any equivalent in world literature. The Shakespearean works are characterized by addressing issues that are related to human experience and life. Even though many writers tried to discuss and write about similar themes and stories, they didn't reach the level and the quality of Shakespeare's writing. This means that the works of William Shakespeare have a special taste no other writer could create as the Bard's invention. Shakespeare summarized human emotions better than any other author. These emotions will always be experienced by many people in society, and by reading Shakespeare, people will always be able to read about these emotions and reflect on them. Many scholars have found his works relatable because of the amount of emotions and relatable experiences. He included emotions everyone feels like: happiness, sadness, anger, love, friendship, and many others. His characters were also easy to relate to, especially because of their flaws. By making his pieces replete with issues that deal with human

nature, his popularity grow broader. Today, Shakespeare's plays are still taught in schools around the world and appreciated as unique masterpieces.

Now, it is clear that the Elizabethan dramatist William Shakespeare has not one home; instead, he has many homes around the world. Shakespeare can be seen in the four continents: America, Europe Asia, and Africa."...[Shakespeare] had found new homes in Icelandic and Greek, in Quebecois and Korean, in Arabic and Zulu. The complete works now appear in over thirty languages and individual texts in over eighty"(Bosman, 2009, p.286). In fact, the Shakespearean literature is not correlated with the British only but rather it is the basis of world of English literature. Shakespeare has completely intertwined with other pieces of literature. Furthermore, Shakespeare's plays are found almost everywhere in the world; for example, many different theatres, from the west and east, performed the Bard's tragedies, comedies, and histories. In addition, the literary works of the English playwright particularly his plays appeared in almost every language all over the globe in order to help the readers, who are unfamiliar with English, to understand Shakespeare. Thus, the plays can be seen in the original version and at the same time in the countries' own language. The works of Shakespeare now appeared at the national and international level either in the case of English speaking and non-English speaking countries. Too, some directors mixed many languages together with English for performing one play. Interestingly, this is can be seen as an amazing idea from the maker. It is as a way to make Shakespeare's plays hybrid and in endless languages and cultures by which the Bard of Avon boosted at the top of world literature.

2.Reception of Shakespeare Around the World

2.1.Shakespeare Worldwide

2.1.1. Europe

2.1.1.1.Germany

In addition to France which is regarded as the first country that participated in popularizing Shakespeare and led him to be well known among other European countries, Germany was the second nation in the road.

"Among all European countries, Germany seems to be the nation which most completely embraces Shakespeare as part of their own culture"(Tungtang, 2011, p.12).Germany took William Shakespeare, the English national poet, as a part of its culture heritages and baggage. Thus, it appears to be, throughout all Europe, the only European country that fully welcomed and contained the Bard. Thus, Germany took the Bard for nationalistic reasons.

Germany was not a unified nation; instead, each state was autonomous. Consequently, it was a great chance for German nationalists to build national literature that would combine all the nations together. Interestingly, Shakespeare found a home in Germany; he was regarded as German writer not British. As Bosman (2009) affirmed that German appropriated Shakespeare for "...nationalistic purposes that German writers..."(p. 286).Thus, the German writers took Shakespeare for their own needs. They believed that by performing Shakespeare's works in the German stage would unify the people. It is clear that the reception of Shakespeare in Germany was for nationalistic reasons. Kennedy (2001) noted that " Since the small German states did not constitute a modern country, they did not have a shared literature. At the same time that Shakespeare was being enshrined as the English national poet, German nationalists saw an opportunity to make him theirs as well "(p. 254).

The Germans took Shakespeare as theirs. Hortman(1998) has stated that In 1915, Gerhart Hauptmann, a German playwright, has said that Shakespeare soul "has become one with ours: and though he was born and buried in England it is in Germany that he is truly alive"(Tungtang, 2011, p. 12).

Despite the fact that the Bard was born and raised in Britain. Shakespeare, to Germans intellects, is German. That is Shakespeare, according to the Germans, has certain aspects and further genius characters that lead many of them to declare, without hesitation or fear from the British reaction, that Shakespeare is theirs. "In 1916, Ludwig Fulda declared that Shakespeare was baptized in Britain by fault, by saying that 'Our Shakespeare! ...Thus we may call him by right of spiritual conquest. And should we succeed in vanquishing England in the field, we should, I think, insert a clause into the peace treaty stipulating the formal surrender of William Shakespeare to Germany'." It has been observed that the degree of performing Shakespeare's plays and adaptations in Germany are higher than that of the Bard's homeland. Ludwig Fulda continued to affirm that Shakespeare's plays were "more frequently performed in Germany during a single year than during a whole decade in his native country"(Tungtang, 2011, p.12).

German Shakespeare has shown his ability to succeed in and further demonstrate" their cultural domestication process – turning the Englishness of Shakespeare into German Shakespeare," and that is by forming, or rather rebuilding, the concept of "cultural sovereignty".(Tungtang, 2011, p.12)

Thus, Germany has considered him as its own playwright, not an English. This country, in fact, is regarded as the second homeland of William Shakespeare. He had provided it with the basis for developing its own literary works.

2.1.1.2.Netherlands

Knowingly, the country that paved the way for other European countries to receive the literary works of William Shakespeare is France. Hence, it helped in Shakespeare's popularity despite the tension that occurred between it and Britain. So, during the 19th century Netherlands has received the literature of the Bard via the French neo-classical discourse. This is mainly due to the instability of the Dutch politics during 18th century. In

fact, Netherlands was influenced so deeply by the French as it was one of the dominant powers at that period. Thakur(2012) has noted:

Shakespeare's reception in The Netherlands, at least until the second half of the nineteenth century, was informed by French neo-classical discourse. The eighteenth century was a period of political turmoil in The Netherlands. Even culturally, the Dutch looked for inspiration towards the French. Thus, it is not a surprise that the literary and theatrical tastes of the Dutch were influenced by French aesthetics.(p.3)

Netherlands attempted to translate Shakespeare's works. In their translation, the Dutch depended on available translated works such as the French and the German for being the first pioneers of this process in Europe. Unfortunately, most of the world nations were not familiar with the English language. Thus, the Shakespearean translations were not from the First Folio or quarto. In fact, the Dutch shifted to their alternatives, the French and the German translations. This may be due to the lack of interaction with Britain. As Thakur (2012) has asserted that:

The initial Dutch translations of Shakespeare's plays were done either from French or German translations, thus twice removed from the original text. This was partly due to the Dutch translators' unfamiliarity with the English language. Ducis, for example, knew no English and depended on other French translations of Shakespeare's plays like Pierre de la Place's *Hamlet*. It was only in the mid-nineteenth century that there were attempts at direct translations from English in Dutch (Leek vi).(pp. 4-5)

It is, therefore, clear that the works of William Shakespeare has been translated in an indirect way. Despite the unfamiliarity with English language for many translators such as the Dutch, they did not stop and continued in translating the Elizabethan English texts of William Shakespeare. Previously, there was one type of translation. Thereafter, the

attempts to take the original versions as the primary source for the process of translation began as a result of the big effect of the western culture. This type of translation may be more accurate than that of the first one, because the translation that depended on other version not the original may lose some of its qualities.

2.1.2. Asia

For many years, William Shakespeare managed to enter other foreign countries in Asia. However, his entering was due to different reasons. At one hand, the Elizabethan poet and dramatist, in some parts of Asia, was introduced as a result of the imperial process of the British Empire. Indeed, it took the literary works of Shakespeare just for the sake of controlling and taking these nations. For instance, India and Hong Kong have received Shakespeare because of the British colonization. Thereafter, the British officers began in promoting the English texts. They were imposing their language and culture at the expense of the indigenous culture of the colonized people as a method to civilize them. In fact, this idea was stated in order to hide their real intentions and to achieve their goals. Thus, Shakespeare's reception was due to political purposes and therefore the citizens' response, with some exception, may be in terms of refusing this cultural hegemony. Whereas on other parts of Asia as: China, Japan, and Korea, the Bard has been received for other different purposes. They attempted to take Shakespeare as a process of imitating the western culture because it was the dominant one. So, these countries have appropriated his texts and reconstructed them for their own needs. In other words, they accepted Shakespeare in order to learn and understand the British language and style for saving their countries from any political control. Furthermore, this reception showed how the world was influenced by the literature of William Shakespeare. It is clear that one of the main reasons that made Shakespeare so popular in the world is his introduction as a part of the British political projects. Huang (2012) has mentioned that:

For some non-anglophone countries in Asia such as India and Hong Kong, Shakespeare was introduced as part of a process of British colonisation. However, there are many limitations to regarding Shakespeare's success in these countries purely in terms of colonial assimilation. In some parts of Asia, "the playwright has featured in the construction, refashioning and articulation of a diverse range of other cultures and identities too." The difference between these two positions is the former presumes that Shakespeare was passively received as part of a political strategy, while the latter acknowledges the complicity of other cultures in appropriating and, indeed, refashioning Shakespeare. (p.12)

2.1.2.1. India

During the age of imperialism, the British Empire desired to conquer India. It made trade relations with it. Thereafter, Britain showed its real intention behind this trade relationship as they founded East India Company; it shifted this relation into colonial occupation. Interestingly, they argued that their goal was just for civilization mission no more ,but in reality it was a way to achieve their political projects. Shakespeare at that time was the national English poet and dramatist in which the British masters considered him as their prestige. Thus, Shakespeare gained a high position in Indian theatres particularly in the most famous cities as Bombay and Calcutta as well as other small regions. As a result, the works of the Bard appeared in two versions: the first, in the original language for both the British people who settled there as well as for the Indian intellectuals ;and the second, in Indian various languages for those who were unfamiliar with the English language. According Bosman(2009):

.... India was becoming less a fable and more a financial opportunity. To evoke 'the spiced Indian air'(2.1.124) in the 1590s was to cite travel narratives and anticipate contracts for trade; by the decade's end the East India Company would

be founded. And as Anglo-Indian relations shifted from the commercial to the colonial, Shakespeare took a central place in the theatres of the Raj, beginning in Bombay and Calcutta and spreading into the regions, in English and indigenous languages alike.(p. 294)

As a matter of fact, the reception of William Shakespeare in the world differs from country to another. In India, the Bard has been introduced throughout political occupation. Thus, the British Empire used Shakespeare's texts as an edification process to achieve its vicious intention. Hence, the British Empire built many theatres in the Raj to attract more followership as well as to gain cultural acceptance, yet they staged the plays by themselves and prevented the Indians from both performing attending :

Shakespeare's reception in India was unlike that of the Dutch. Shakespeare was introduced to India by British officers towards the last quarter of the eighteenth century. They performed Shakespeare plays, along with those of other English playwrights, for entertainment. Although the British established many English play houses and put on Shakespeare's plays regularly, these play houses catered exclusively to English audiences.(Thakur, 2012, pp. 2- 3)

Apart from the colonial reasons, Shakespeare's appropriation was, also, due the similarity between his drama and Indian traditions, such as the topic of forbidden love, conflicts of kingship, and religious problems which are so prevalent in India as well as in Shakespeare's time. Those similarities helped Shakespeare obtain a crucial place upon the Indian theatres. The Indians disregarded the lamentable relation with the western politics, and thereafter they assimilated these English masterpieces. In his article "Shakespeare Reception in India and The Netherlands until the Early Twentieth Century", Thakur (2012) stated that "In India... Shakespeare's reception was favorable owing to various similarities that existed between the Indian dramatic tradition and Elizabethan drama "(p. 4).

As a result of the occupation, the Indians became familiar with the English language. Thus, translation appeared among the Indian intellectuals. In their translation, they depended on the original source as the Quarto and/or the First Folio of 1623. On the one hand, this process proved the high ability and talent of the Indians in translation. On the other hand, it showed the powerful influence of western culture on the subcontinent. By this way, they incorporated so deeply with the British language and culture. Due to the diversity of Indian languages, Shakespeare has been translated to almost all of them .Yet, there are some translators, the English educated Indians, who preferred to read his work in English. They believed reading his works in Hindi will decrease their prestige. In fact, their tendencies to the English versions expressed their dependencies to the British. Consequently, they loved to read in English, not in their indigenous language. Indian intellectuals have chosen the First Folio and Quarto for performing the chain of translations as a result of their inspiration and influence to the western people. Thakur (2012) mentioned that:

...most of the Indian translators who took Shakespeare for translation approached the original English texts as they had already familiarized themselves with the Bard through English productions and also with the language. So most of the translators used the original texts... ' although the English-educated Indian translators were translating the English text into Indian languages, they themselves preferred to read Shakespeare in the original as reading '...(p.5)

By the time, the adapted and translated plays disseminated India. Thus, Indian editors printed his drama in Hindi, Urdu, and Bengal which are related to Indo-Aryan languages ,and also printed them in Dravidian languages such as Tamil, Kannada and Telugu. Bosman(2009) has pointed out that "From around 1870, an efflorescence of literary adaptations and literal translations saw the printing of Shakespeare's dramas in

Indo-Aryan languages (such as Hindi or Urdu) and Dravidian languages (including Tamil, Kannada and Telugu)" (p. 294).

Even after its independence, India did not ignore Shakespeare. Many Indian directors continued in performing his plays in various theatres.

2.1.2.2. Japan

One of the main features that characterized Shakespeare more than any other writers around the world is his unique journey into the Asian theatres such as Japan. Japanese society "has received many things from foreign countries "(Kawachi, p.63) not because it is poor culturally, but it rather tries to take advantages, and finally reach its goals. Therefore, In the process of taking a place among civilized country , Japan started to adopt an important part of the western civilization. Kawachi has noted that" Since then Japan has taken her place in the sisterhood of civilized countries, adopting the most vital parts of western civilization "(p. 64).Thus, Japan from its past times till its present sought to get the western ways of culture , thoughts ,and education in order to achieve modernization which meant , and still mean westernization; that is, Japan in the Meiji era was trying to obtain modernization and at that time westernization was considered modernization. "During this period (the Meiji Restoration of 1868) , modernization meant westernization . People wanted to attain the western level of culture as soon as possible "(Kawachi, 64).Shakespeare sought to signify Englishness; people in diverse places learn not only literary aspects from Shakespeare's play but, in addition, western culture, ideology, and language. Kawashi noted that "Japanese people learned not only English dramaturgy, poetry and literature [from shakespeare's plays] but also European thought, culture and manners from his plays and poems ".Thus, William Shakespeare is, in fact, more than a dramatist , poet and a man of literature, but rather a British cultural institution.

"Thus, Shakespeare, a national hero of England became a cultural hero in Japan "declared Kawachi. In fact," Japan accepted Shakespeare as a symbol of European culture "(Kawachi, p. 69).

"Japanese Shakespeare has undergone a long process of becoming naturalized through performance, translation, and critical engagement"(Fuyuki, n.d.). Thus, process translations helped with Shakespeare's popularity, reception and appropriation in Japan. Since the first complete translation into Japanese by the great literary theorist ShoyoTsubouchi, the Japanese field of translation saw a great flourishing .Consequently, a prominent scholars and researchers have found better and easier accesses to Shakespeare works which facilitated the interpretations job for them:

The great literary theorist ShoyoTsubouchi (1859-1935) made the first translation of the complete works of Shakespeare between 1909 and 1928, and since then a cascade of new translations have poured forth from the pens of eminent Japanese scholars, translators and writers. The greatest problem facing anyone wishing to read the Bard in Japanese is choosing from so many accomplished translations, including translations into the speaking style of kabuki or the Tohoku dialect.(Flanagan, 2016)

As Germany, Spain, and Russia, Japan has found its literary improvement and its dream to establish a national literature by means of **embarrassing**, and further studying Shakespeare's dramaturgy. Tsubouchi, who his historical drama shows clearly his affection of the bard, "such as KiriHitoha ("**A Falling Leaf from a Paullonia** ") in 1894 and Maki no Kata ("Lady Maki ") in 1896." which both refer to Julius Caesar and Macbeth respectively, has "viewed Shakespeare from the standpoint of a Japanese wishing eagerly to improve the drama of his country. In 1906 he established the Bungei Kyokai (the

Association of Literature and Arts) and drew his energy into training of actors and the improvement of drama "(Kawachi, p. 66)

Shakespeare was honored by Japanese to receive a Japanese title "Sao". After the post war times, Japanese film industry was highly influenced by Shakespeare's plays like "Macbeth", "King Lear", "Hamlet", and "Romeo and Juliet":

From 1868 to the end of the Taisho Era (1912-1926), Shakespeare became so naturalized in Japan that he assumed his own Japanese name, "Sao"... In the postwar era, some of Akira Kurosawa's greatest films were influenced by Shakespeare, such as "Throne of Blood" and "Ran" which were inspired by "Macbeth" and "King Lear" respectively.(Flanagan, 2016)

Interestingly, many companies, like the Yamanote Jijosha, in Japan attempted to perform Shakespeare's plays in their own style to fit their cultural background. The Japanese performance of Shakespeare contributed to increase his reputation in the world of literature. Japan assimilated the English texts and created its own Shakespeare. According to Hamana (2016):

Numerous Japanese theatre companies, both mainstream or not, have frequently performed Shakespeare's plays. Among these, the Yamanote Jijosha, a small company based in central Tokyo...it has experimented performing Shakespearean plays (e.g. *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Macbeth*, *Titus Andronicus*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Troilus and Cressida*, etc.) in a variety of ways since 1995...(p.74)

Thus, Shakespeare, or "Sao", to Japanese is more than a prominent foreign writer who provided help in times of need, but rather a man who better understood them more than any other national or international writer in the world.

2.1.2.3. Taiwan

It was observed that Taiwan has received the Bard's works differently from India and Hong Kong which received him in the baggage of empire, thus, for political purposes, but rather an attempt to imitate the western culture. Thus, Shakespeare was not imposed culturally to Taiwanese. So, their reception method was ultimately different. Even the audiences' responses were not the same. However, some of the colonized people, if not all, would refuse to contact with these Elizabethan masterpieces as a result of the sad history between the colonized and the colonizer. Therefore, contemporary Taiwan took Shakespeare's works as a way to acquire the western culture. Huang (2012) noted that "Shakespeare in contemporary Taiwan was not a forcefully imposed culture, so adapting it to the Taiwan audience is not the same as it would be in other post-colonial countries..."(p. 138).

It was observed that one of the main reasons behind the immeasurable reception of Shakespeare in the world is that his stories are similar to the stories of real people all over the globe. Taiwan has been colonized many times by different countries. That is why it has received the Elizabethan texts due to the similar issues that are present between its lamentable political history and Shakespeare's political plays. Politically speaking, the Taiwanese people lived under tragic conditions during the occupation of the Kuomintang (KMT). Shakespeare's *Titus Andronicus* is a bloody tragedy and its themes related mainly to revenge. It seems that the events of this drama are very much like the history of Taiwan. In other words, it can be considered as a modern version of Shakespeare's *Titus Andronicus*. Clearly, the ability of William Shakespeare to portray such themes in his texts led to his reception in many countries as Taiwan. Thus, the Taiwanese have experienced all the events that Shakespeare produced for his characters in this play. Huang (2012) has asserted that:

In Shakespeare's *Titus Andronicus*, out of stubbornness Titus gives Lucius permission to mutilate Tamora's son; and it is his conservative decision to choose the elder Saturninus to be the new emperor and later to let Lucius bring the enemy (Goths) into Rome that causes the mutilation, destruction of his own nation. Similarly, in Taiwan the KMT was behind the slaughter and persecution of tens of thousands of innocent Taiwanese to assure its political power there, and it allowed hostilities to grow between Mainlanders and Taiwanese, effectively dismembering by splitting the national identity of Taiwan into two: Chinese and Taiwanese. (p.203)

This means that Shakespeare is a creator not only for his time, but he is valid for all ages and times. Indeed, his texts, in particular, the story of Titus is relevant for the people of Taiwan as it reminds them of their sad history especially during the KMT hegemony that resulted in creating differences between the individuals.

Shakespeare's *Macbeth* is one among the great stories in English literature. It reached to be performed in East Asian countries such as Taiwan. This bloody play has a great impact on the Taiwanese audiences, due to the issues that *Macbeth* contain. As a matter of fact, the drama of *Macbeth* told the story of a political leader in achieving his goals in which every country all over the world experiences such events. Thus, Shakespeare is considered to be a timeless writer because of the universal truth he portrayed in his works. Politically speaking, Taiwan has been occupied by many other countries. It has experienced sad history by leaders who are very much like *Macbeth* the man who destroyed the kingdom. Taiwanese people consider it as the original version of their political history. So, Shakespeare's play reminds the Taiwanese audiences of their lamentable history. Huang (2012) has declared that:

Macbeth is a very appropriate play for Taiwanese audiences; however the potential for it to act as a political commentary on recent history made it a dangerous play to produce as well, since Chiang Kai-shek's reign in Taiwan can be seen as a real-life parallel to Macbeth. In *Macbeth*, the word *blood* appears 30 times – as Macbeth takes power, and rules his kingdom with *blood*, in a totalitarian way. Similarly, KMT's hegemonic power in Taiwan is associated with a bloody violence that affected the entire Taiwanese population.(p. 31)

This parallelism that exists between Shakespeare's *Macbeth* and Taiwanese political history led Shakespeare to gain immeasurable fame and to be eternal dramatist around the globe.

2.2.3.Middle East

Despite his language and culture, William Shakespeare succeeded to be studied, translated, adapted, and performed in the Arabic world. In fact, this process was done because of the influence of colonialism on the Arabic intellectuals. The 19th and the 20th century were the age of colonialism. And also, the most dominant powers at that time were the British and the French empire. France colonized Algeria, Syria, and Lebanon .As a result, the Arabic people influenced by this occupation. "In the late 19th and 20th centuries, Shakespeare adaptations into Arabic blossomed. This wasn't just a conversation with the English; Arab stagings were particularly influenced by French and Soviet versions" declared Qualey (2016). So, the Arabic adaptation of the literary works of the English dramatist was due to the French effect and the soviet union. This performance helped in popularizing Shakespeare and familiarize him to all the cultures of the world.

In fact, the Arabic writers have received Shakespeare's creation numerously in the current time for different reasons that related to politics:

There are...reasons for Arab playwrights to be interested in Shakespeare, according to prominent translator and playwright Sulayman al-Bassam. He said, in a 2012 interview with *BBC*, that Shakespeare offers the Arab playwright a way to escape the censor. Shakespeare is often a way through which I can explore issues of great political moment or social moment without having to expose myself, without having to fall into the trap of "oh well you are trying to say this and therefore you should be accused of this." (Qualey, 2016, "The Arabic Shakespeares: Subversive, political")

They took these texts for commenting on certain situations that have faced them and/or the individuals who cannot speak. This can be seen as a way to express one's point of view without risks or problems with the government as Al-Bassam did via his plays of *El-Hamlet Summit* and *Richard III*. Indeed, they cannot challenge the struggles of their society directly for many reasons that may lead to destruction. Instead, the playwrights have chosen literature as an indirect method for expressing and commenting on what is happening. Thus, by this way the masterpieces of Shakespeare are still relevant in the contemporary Arabic theatres. This is mainly because Shakespeare's work is open and relate to everyone. Indeed it belongs to all times and cultures.

3. Universalism of Shakespeare

3.1. Universal Appeal of Shakespeare

It is true the idea that the Elizabethan poet and playwright has an immeasurable reputation all over the world. This idea may mean that Shakespeare belongs not only to Britain but rather to the whole globe. Due to the fact that the Bard of Avon made his work during the era of both Elizabeth I (1558-1603, called Elizabethan Age) and her successor James I (1603-1625, called Jacobean Age), his creation reached to affect all the world of literature. It transcends the boundaries of cultures that are highly received these literary

masterpieces and transplanted them into their own. Accordingly, many scholars and researchers consider him as a timeless poet and dramatist. Thanky (2017) asserted that:

Shakespeare is undoubtedly the world's most influential poet and dramatist, leading Ben Jonson to note that, "He was not of an age, but for all time!" Even today, Jonson's words still ring true. Shakespeare's skillful and psychologically-astute characterization is utterly remarkable because it was written hundreds of years before the concept of psychology was invented.(p. 358)

Obviously, this glorification of Jonson towards Shakespeare is still ringing. It is precisely because he provides relevant issues related to human psychology in the tragedy of Hamlet. Knowingly, the field of psychology is found many years after Shakespeare's drama. Consequently, these ideas and topics that the ardent writer portrayed in his works catapulted him to the top of the world of literature.

Although Shakespeare belongs to Elizabethan and Jacobean era, his legacies still resonate almost everywhere around the globe. As a matter of fact, Shakespeare's literature remains relevant for all ages without losing its aesthetic and valuable quality. It seems that the Bard of Avon is a unique poet and dramatist, he is unmatched in the English language precisely because in the world of literature there are countless poets and playwrights who are unparalleled with William Shakespeare. In other words, their writings did not travel into different cultures as the Bard's did; they did not inspire the readers; these stories did not go under countless stage performances and film adaptations. In contrast, the dramas of the artist Shakespeare have been performed, translated, and filmed into different cultural context. As a result of the elasticity of Shakespeare's plays, almost every culture all over the world has adapted them into its own culture to fit specific purposes. Thanky (2017) has noticed:

Literary works reflect contemporary society, but a few gain universality and timelessness. Some of them are Shakespeare's works. The Bard has not become obsolete because he wrote about human issues that have remained unchanged over the years.... his tales have traveled well through space and time: across cultures, across generations, across mediums. The plays and their countless transformations into dramatic movies bear witness to that universal appeal. A Russian Hamlet, a Japanese Macbeth, an Egyptian Lear, a French Romeo... Shakespeare is vast enough to engender all of that and more...(pp. 359-360)

Consequently, the literary works of William Shakespeare are open to endless interpretation so they have a universal status in the world.

3.2. Reasons behind Shakespeare's Universalism:

3.2.1. Flexibility of Shakespeare's Works

Globalization has interfered in the way Shakespeare's works have been received and appropriated in the world. Britain, Shakespeare's homeland, has become a dominant country all over the world. Thus, Shakespeare as an important cultural baggage has found its way to cultures around the globe. Since the Bard's death, immeasurable productions, performances, adaptations and inspirations have been formed from his works and ambiguous life in diverse places around the globe. The latter are evidences behind the fascination that has grown larger and larger towards him and the flexibility of his drama which Elstom (2003) sought to defend "What the Shakespeare our contemporary movement proved, if we were in any doubt, was that Shakespeare left behind a rich wardrobe of clothes, props and ideas which we could wear according to our moods and necessities"(p. 3). Shakespeare can be appropriated, adapted and assimilated throughout different cultural context without losing its artistic features and beauty. Thus, his works are open to different interpretations or re-readings which are the product of the mixture

between personal taste, cultural background, psychology, and the need to convey certain message. Shakespeare's works had shown their success to overcome, all as, language, cultural, religious, space, and time barriers."Shakespeare can be appropriated in many ways. He has the potential for adaptation to multiple cultural identities through an ongoing process of acculturation, assimilation and cultural fusion that produce new readings of his works."(González, 2012, p. 35)

The English texts of William Shakespeare are regarded as one among the great pieces in English literature. As a result, they have been adapted by countless cultures around the globe. All of these adaptations are made according to the adaptors' own cultures for the purpose of addressing specific issues. This means that the works of the Elizabethan poet and dramatist are characterized by flexibility. Thus, anyone can make his own story from the texts of the Bard. For example, the Arabic adaptation is not like the Russian one; each adaptation had its own purposes and messages portrayed for a specific audience. It is clear that Shakespeare made his texts open for everyone. However, people can see themselves in one of Shakespeare literary works because the Bard depicted universal elements that deal with the human condition. So, what made Shakespeare to gain universal appeal is the elasticity of his texts. As Kennedy (2001) noted "The wide appeal Shakespeare has enjoyed over time and space may be the result of the indeterminacy of his work rather than its universality. Or perhaps that is what universality in art ultimately means: resilience to change based on an artifact's elasticity."(p.252)

Therefore, every culture all over the globe makes its own story from Shakespeare's original texts.

3.2.2. The Illumination of the Human Condition

William Shakespeare during his lifetime produced the greatest stories that transcend time and culture. In other words, his works, in particular, his plays have travelled into European, American, Asian, and African theatres. In fact, this is mainly because of his fascinating characters and topics which are eternal. Thus, there are many scholars and researchers who consider the Shakespearean literature as powerful and wonderful pieces that are unmatched in the English language . At one hand, the Bard's characters seem in fact as real individuals. They share similar emotions, weaknesses, and thoughts which are universal truths about human being. On the other hand, all the issues and topics which Shakespeare produced in his plays as love, murder, injustice, loyalty, madness, anger the humans in the modern era are still living. This depiction of human conditions which did not change from Shakespeare's time to today, led him to be the most influential poet and dramatist. Rajput (2016) stated that:

Shakespeare's plays have fostered the protagonists like Hamlet, Othello, Macbeth, and King Lear who are controlled by their thoughts that lead them to the madness and self-destruction. The plays are full with humour, love, disloyalty, anger, deception, generosity, envy, fights and murders. He vividly depicts the categories of human conditions that are not going to change ever."(p. 255)

The literary critic Harold Bloom argued that Shakespeare has invented the human character. It can be stated that the words of this scholar are true. William Shakespeare provided everything related to the humans and their experiences regardless of their language and culture. Thus, if anyone wants to understand anything about the life of the human, Shakespeare is the main source. Indeed, he is a real institution named " learning free life lessons" that is open for everybody who lives on this planet. In every place all over the globe, without doubt people are surrounded by characters like Hamlet, Othello, Macbeth, Lady Macbeth, Lago, Desdemona, Shylock, Julius Caesar, Brutus, Antony,

Titus, King Henry, King Richard, Romeo, Juliet and so on. It is evident from the data that the literary works of Shakespeare were, in fact, telling the complete story of today's society. Bloom's book "Shakespeare: the invention of human" (as cited in Trnka, 2013) asserted that:

Shakespeare invented the human as we continue to know it' (xviii); that 'no world author rivals Shakespeare in the apparent creation of personality' (xviii); and that 'personality, in our sense, is a Shakespearean invention, and is not only Shakespeare's greatest originality but also the authentic cause of his perpetual pervasiveness.(p. 28)

All the literary works of William Shakespeare provide valuable issues that deal with the life of the human being all over the world. In fact, they are regarded as a mirror in which people see themselves in whether they are good or evil. In other words, everybody can see his /her story and personality in one of the characters of the Bard. "Shakespeare's works represent a reflection of the whole spectrum of life in all its complexity, and seemingly everyone can find a situation or character to relate to, or find models of behaviour to assimilate with"(Trnka, 2013, p. 30).

4. Timelessness of William Shakespeare

"Triumph, my Britain, thou hast one to show
To whom all scenes of Europe homage owe.
He was not of an age, but for all time"

Ben Jonson (41-50)

It is true that William Shakespeare is a timeless poet and dramatist all over the globe. In fact, he has been received by many countries around the world. Shakespeare had been translated into countless languages. In addition, he has been performed in different cultural contexts. It can be pointed out that every nation created its own Shakespeare in its

special way. William Shakespeare made an amazing tour around the globe, his work was his passport. Trnka (2013) has stated that "It can be said without exaggeration: Shakespeare is everywhere. At any given time there are performances of his plays or poems taking place somewhere in the world, in myriad styles, adaptations, genres, and locations"(p. 2).

4.1. Timelessness of Shakespeare's Works

Undoubtedly, William Shakespeare is considered to be the most influential playwright all over the globe. This can be seen through his legacies as expression and words that still resonate in today's literary world. One among them is the soliloquy of the tragedy of Hamlet "To be or, not to be, that is the question". Knowingly, this expression had a powerful effect which opened the doors to many researches. As a result, Shakespeare now is one among the unique writers in English literature, his work is still read, performed, and studied all over the world:

There is no doubt that one of the most famous quotes by William Shakespeare is "To be or, not to be, that is the question-"of his play Hamlet (1603). Today we generally think of Shakespeare as being one of the best dramatists that human kind has ever seen, mainly because of his plays and sonnets. Although he wrote his works 400 years ago, his literature is still read and discussed all over the world..." ("W. Shakespeare: his time and his relevance" para. 1)

4.1.1. Timelessness Of Shakespeare's Tragedies

The tragedies of Hamlet, Othello, King Lear, and Macbeth of the dramatist Shakespeare are unmatched and unequalled with other narratives in every literature around the world. This is of course due to the relevant lessons they address to people. They narrated the stories of characters who struggled with various problems that are paralleled with the modern society. Nowadays, in every place on the earth, there is the twin of

Hamlet, Othello, Lear, and Macbeth but with different names. These significant tragedies are needed as a way for changing the bad behaviours that are prevalent in today's world societies. Certainly, Shakespeare's tragedies are the main icon that led him to visit other foreign countries. Partovi (2013) has asserted that:

William Shakespeare himself never travelled abroad, but since their creation, his works have evolved and mutated to fit new times and different places. Shakespeare's tragedies, such as Hamlet (1600–1), Othello (1604), King Lear (1605) and Macbeth (1606) are considered to be among the greatest tragedies in literature.(p. 7)

4.1.1.1. Hamlet

It is true that the tragedy of Hamlet is related to every person around the world. It, in fact, addressed issues which all the people have experienced. In other words, Shakespeare's Hamlet is the mirror by which people see themselves regardless of their time and place. This depiction provided by the English dramatist showed that Shakespeare had the ability to understand the human character so deeply. Interestingly, Shakespeare portrayed the chaos that occurs in the human mind especially when he decides to do something. So no one can deny that William Shakespeare provided a real story, not just a literary character. Hamlet is a truly timeless character. As Partovi (2013) declared "... Hamlet can be said to attain both the timelessness of myth and the individuality of life, as well as achieving the complexity, beauty, and plurality of levels of meaning that characterise it as a true work of art (p.8). In every age and place, there is a person who has similar struggles as Hamlet of Shakespeare. This tragedy presented the complexity of the human mind and personality and how it is difficult to understand them. Shakespeare narrated the story of Hamlet of his time and at the same time, it shed a light on the story of

the 21st century individual whatever his/her name is. Shakespeare's name is engaged with the English literature.

4.1.1.2. Romeo and Juliet

Romeo and Juliet are widely regarded as one of the great stories that were produced by William Shakespeare. Obviously, this story highly discusses the issue of love that was refused due to problems between the lovers' families " Capulet" (Juliet's family) and "Montague" (Romeo's family). This love story, without doubt, remains relevant because most of the generations all over the globe have a story like Romeo and Juliet who sacrificed their lives for their love. Additionally, it travelled into countless countries to be performed on different cultural stages. And also, it had fascinated endless directors regardless of their culture and language to film it: from America (as the version of 1996), Europe, Asia, and Africa. These wide performances and film adaptations around the world show the immortality of Shakespeare's drama of Romeo and Juliet as it addresses universal truth that is related to all mankind. Plus, importantly, it becomes a symbol for young lovers. It can be claimed that Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet is a school of romanticism. Thanky (2017) has stated that:

Shakespeare is best known for writing the greatest love story of all time: *Romeo and Juliet*. Thanks to Shakespeare, the name Romeo will forever be associated with young lovers and the play has become an enduring symbol of romanticism in popular culture. This tragedy has entertained across the generations, spawned endless stage versions and film adaptations including BazLuhmann's 1996 film classic.(p. 358)

4.1.2.The Timelessness of Shakespeare's Themes and Characters:

Indeed, the Shakespearean literature is the literature that still function. At one reason, Shakespeare's plays discuss issues that are in fact related to the life of the human being in contemporary society. They are the main themes which people nowadays are

living. For example, the theme of love which the Bard portrayed in his work (as in *Romeo and Juliet*) is the main topic that is so prevalent in the 21st-century world societies. And also, headlines of newspapers, television broadcasts, radio, and even movies (American, Turkish, Indian, Korean, and Egyptian) are replete with love scenes. In addition, in modern day the crime is disseminated almost everywhere all over the globe. Generally speaking, societies now suffer from these lamentable events; people kill themselves for the sake of money, winning lover, or avenge. Politically speaking, the theme of crime is overspread among politicians of today's world. Therefore, it can be pointed out that the Shakespearean themes are characterized by longevity and immortality:

The themes in his plays always regard human experiences, feelings, fears and hopes. Some of the major themes are “love vs. hate”, “ambition and crime” and “disorder vs. God-given order”. Those themes are all timeless and people living today can identify with them. (“W. Shakespeare: his time and his relevance” para. 7)

4.1.2.1. Macbeth's Themes

Amazingly, the craft work that Shakespeare made is still ringing almost everywhere and still alive in today's world literature. *Macbeth*, the story of blood, through which Shakespeare provides topics that are in fact the sad truth of modern society. So, the most significant themes are tyranny, murder, and brutality. Politically speaking, these events are occurring numerous in every government around the world. Truly, they are universal truths of all politicians. In other words, they are eternal or timeless. This is mainly due to the fact that today's media present similar issues as in the story of *Macbeth*. It is, therefore, necessary to point out that the immortality of Shakespeare's tragedy *Macbeth* is very clear. Rajput (2016) reported that "Roman Polanski (1971) directed the movie that was the adaptation of *Macbeth*, he clearly says: "The themes of tyranny, brutality and politically

motivated murder that were dramatized by Shakespeare are timeless - reports are frequently presented in the media of instances of such atrocities'.(p. 257)

4.1.2.2. Othello's Characters

In her article "An Analysis Of Four Tragedies Of William Shakespeare In Modern World", Siddiqui (2014) observed that "The characters of the play [of Othello] are similar to characters often portrayed daily, and in the media. A character such as *Iago* [sic] plays the typical villain who is present in all texts (films, plays etc.) of today's society (p. 5083). She insists that there is a strong relation between the eras, the Elizabethan time and 21st-century. In other words, the lives of Othello, Desdemona, and Iago can be seen in a similar way in the lives of members of the current era. Furthermore, all diverse kinds of media display these similarities, for instance, the headlines of newspapers always show individuals' fates as Othello and his wife. Even the movies of today's present their protagonists and antagonists very much like those of Othello the tragedy of four hundred years ago. Consequently, this would mean that Shakespeare's characters are real individuals which can easily be observed in today's society.

Conclusion

The worldwide journey of William Shakespeare is explained in terms of his popularity, universalism, timelessness, and the ways different countries around the world received him. Although they were different in their reception of the Bard, they gave an account to Shakespeare's status in today's literary world. Shakespeare has gained an endless fame around the world throughout his works mainly his characters and themes.

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Conclusion

Introduction

More than four centuries ago, the works of William Shakespeare remain relevant. He presented many stories, characters, and themes which took him to the top of world literature. After the First Folio publication, writers started to take inspiration from Shakespeare's plots, characters, motifs, and philosophical insight. Therefore, the Bard's literary works became popular and countless adaptations from different parts of the world started to appear as a way that make Shakespeare still function today. This chapter is devoted to show both the influences and re-readings of Shakespeare's works in different parts of the globe as well as his relevance mainly his characters and themes in today's literary world.

1- The relevance of William Shakespeare

Despite the fact that William Shakespeare did his work during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, his work has a relevant status in the contemporary world literature. It is in fact a timeless literature because it travelled from age to age, from culture to culture, and from generation to generation without losing its quality. On one reason, Shakespeare, the Stratfordian dramatist, through his masterpieces provides a lot of issues and topics that deal with the human being and his experience in life. However, these ideas are eternal since they did not change from the patriarchal society to the 21st century era. This may mean that they are relevant for all ages not only of Shakespeare. In modern days, members of any society around the globe are living with issues similar to what the Bard of Avon made in his writing. Though the basic themes such as love, ambition, cruelty, loyalty, murder, and hate were prevalent in Shakespeare's time, they are overspread in current society:

There's no doubt that Shakespeare has an ample modern relevance. Many of his conceptions such as status, position and the conflict between good and evil, a clash between order and disorder and a strife between sin and retribution address human nature and environment, which are eternal or timeless. Though an absorbing opinion is that some of his recurring ideas such as ambition, loyalty, appearance, reality, guilt, and many more were amazingly contemporary for his time, they are still prevalent in our current society. However, the basic themes which we are still facing in today's world are the oppression of women, oppressive traditions, forbidden love and even homosexuality.(Siddiqui, 2014, p. 5079)

Therefore, it can be said that Shakespeare, the playwright of the golden age, has a strong relation with the modern world.

1.1.The Relevance of Shakespeare's Works

1.1.1.Macbeth Addresses Modern Society

The tragedy of Macbeth is among the great works of Shakespeare. In addition, it is very significant for today's society as stated by Siddiqui (2014) that "The importance of continuing to read Macbeth in our modern society is to educate readers on valuable lessons in life that are beneficial for all people all over the world."The significance of gaining power appropriately, and the importance of justice are a few of the many life lessons that are relevant in Shakespeare's tragedy, Macbeth. The theme of "power corrupts" is connected in Macbeth as well as in modern society.(p. 5079)

The tragedy Macbeth of William Shakespeare is now 400 years old. However, it is still read, discussed, and performed on different cultural stages around the world. It can be observed that Macbeth is immortal and indeterminate play in which it is very relevant for all generations and for all ages. This piece of literary work discusses a very significant topic which is how human ambition can overthrow his morals. It is in fact disseminated in

the current society. Unfortunately, people nowadays in order to achieve their needs can kill themselves without any hesitation and no one can deny this gloomy truth about contemporary society. Siddiqui (2014) noted that:

Macbeth is also relevant to a modern audience, as today's society has universal truths and beliefs such as, not to murder innocent people, and sometimes people go to such lengths to obtain power through ambition, that they would sacrifice their loyalty and trust to betray others in some or the other way. Shakespeare conveys a moral message to his audience by expressing the consequences that will occur from ruthless choices made in life.(pp. 5080-5081)

Nonetheless, it is highly considered that Shakespeare through Macbeth addresses the modern audiences about the results of wrong choices sometimes people take in their life.

1.1.2. Hamlet and the Modern Hero

There is an agreement that over four hundred years ago, Hamlet is still adapted, performed, and translated all over the world. Arguably, it remains very significant and immortal tragedy that passed beyond its homeland and has been received by countless countries around the globe. This can only mean that hamlet has an immeasurable status in modern society. It is mainly due to the valuable topics it discusses. So, this drama is replete of several themes such as: hesitation, revenge, killing, suicide and so on. Unfortunately, they are numerous and sadly occurring in the societies of the current era. Nowadays, suicide is overspread in the whole world. Also, the modern society struggles with the issue of murder in which all the social media as diverse as Face book, Twitter, as well as the news broadcast without excluding today's movie are discussing and sharing such themes that are paralleled to Shakespeare 's Hamlet. Moreover, all these topics that are provided by William Shakespeare in the tragedy of the prince of Denmark are the main issues of the 21st century generations due to the universal facts it addresses. It was observed that the

time did not change these truths that are related to the human life. In addition, the Elizabethan drama Hamlet provides timeless interpretation of the human mind even before the field of psychology was invented:

William Shakespeare's play *Hamlet* remains relevant in today's society. The play touches on themes such as suicide, revenge, the frailty of women, murder, fate, and destiny that are as prevalent today as they were in Shakespeare's time.... Hamlet provides some insight into modern society, as the play involves many issues which are still very relevant in today's world.... Unfortunately, humanity's flaws haven't changed; although we can describe the 21st century as a "contemporary society" it hasn't changed significantly from the patriarchal and prejudiced society in which Shakespeare set his plays.(Siddiqui, 2014, p. 5081)

Despite the fact that Hamlet is a tragedy written in the patriarchal society, it sheds a light on the members of modern world.

In the tragedy of the prince of Denmark Hamlet, Shakespeare portrayed an image of a person who struggled with internal and external forces that led him to destroy himself and others. And also, Shakespeare through the story of Hamlet addressed significant themes that deal with the system of values. Indeed, Hamlet is very much like a member of the 21st century society. It is clear that Shakespeare had the ability to describe the human character so deeply and so thoroughly. Thus, his creations are regarded as movies that show the story of the individuals of the modern society:

For Hamlet is the first hero to question the system of values that expects him to behave in a certain way. The drama of Hamlet is incredibly more profound, and akin to the modern condition where the modern hero, or anti-hero, is torn between internal and external forces and is not just confronting the classical dramatic

choices (loyalty versus honor, love versus duty).(Ismail Serageldin &Wole Soyinka, 1998, p. 9)

1.1.3.King Lear and the Modern Audiences and Society

King Lear is highly considered to be one of Shakespeare's eternal dramas. Thus, it provides several issues that deal with human nature in particular human cruelty. In fact, its ideas are universal and constant. The Bard of Avon ,William Shakespeare, portrays many topics that are as relevant in Shakespeare's time as they are in today's nations. King Lear four centuries ago from its creation, still shines its power in the modern society. It can be said without exaggeration that the tragedy of the old father Lear is a significant piece of literature that is replete with ethical lessons which are very beneficial for family relationships. "Thomas Jefferson has rightly observed: "A lively and lasting sense of filial duty is more effectually impressed on the mind of a son or daughter by reading King Lear than by all the dry volumes of ethics and divinity that were ever written"(Rajput, 2016, p. 255). In the 21st century era, there are a lot of families which are paralleled to the Fool King. Their lives are so thoroughly very much like the plot that was portrayed by Shakespeare in his tragedy of injustice king. In this story, it was observed that this King was betrayed by his two elder daughters Goneril and Regan who were searching for money and power. In doing so, they knew how to tempt this old father and King by showing how much they love him. These two villain daughters expressed their love through verbal communication, but the Fool King did not discover what they had in their heart towards him. In contrast, the young Cordelia did not know how to express what she has in her heart; so she tells the King that she loves him as daughter to her father. Similarly, in current society these ideas are so prevalent among members. Plus, today's people do not show their internal emotions between each other; instead they communicate with each other through verbal process just to fit their own needs at the extent of others. And also,

the one who expresses what he/she has in his/ her heart this person will absolutely face the same fate as Cordelias. Obviously, the Elizabethan poet and dramatist provides some insights into the contemporary society. As a matter of fact, King Lear has a strong status in modern days. Therefore, Shakespeare's King Lear addresses the modern audiences and teach them a very relevant lesson that no one can give them such lesson as King Lear did. Siddiqui (2014) pointed out that "It [King Lear] has held its appeal for modern audiences as it explores the universal ideas and timeless themes of Power and Loyalty communicated through characterization, language techniques and representations that parallel the context of the time in which they are produced"(pp. 5083-5084).

Without doubt, as many would claim the main theme of the Shakespearean tragedy King Lear which is about "power" is extremely spread in the 21st century nations:

The underlying theme of power is compatible throughout 'King Lear' and is also present in today's society. Goneril and Regan believe that by possessing Lear's kingdom they have power over everything, paralleling that of modern day society – materialism is power. Personal satisfaction and greed are the most important aspects of life of the society driven by materialism.(Siddiqui, 2014, p. 5084)

Thus, this claim is true due to the chaos of the world nowadays. This was shown through the alliance of Goneril and Regan against their father and their sister Cordelia for the purpose of taking money since they believe that money is power. In the same way, the modern generation struggles with such topics as the characters of the Elizabethan era. The writer insists that the drama of King Lear is paralleled with the tragedy of today's world. Interestingly, there are many people, especially in the field of politics and economics, have the idea of possessing power: they believe that by money they will do everything and they can take control over other people who are not like them. This is also the case of

many current countries all over the globe which seek to possess other countries whose economy is less than them.

It is unfortunately important to note that today's people are living in a materialistic world that would result in disasters as seen in King Lear. In short, if the characters' names of King Lear are replaced with the names of modern society undoubtedly the plot will be the same.

1.1.4. The Merchant of Venice

400 years ago, the literary works of Shakespeare remain relevant all over the world. One of the main features of Shakespeare's creations is the plurality of plots, themes, characters by which he is now at the top of world literature. The Merchant Of Venice is one of his greatest comedies. It provides issues that were prevalent in his time as well as in today's world. "*The Merchant of Venice* sensationalizes the issues of intolerance, religious problems, injustice and cry of mercy. The centuries old depiction of issues is still relevant on both national and international level." One of them is religious problems, and injustice. In truth, both of them are the topics of current societies across the globe and their daily struggles. Even, the different kinds of media always discuss similar themes as those of Shakespeare. For example, in the case of India, it seems that this subcontinent is a counterpart of Shakespeare's The Merchant of Venice or can be named as the Merchant of India. "If we talk in the context of India only, the new paper headlines are filled with the same disputes. Shakespeare is still appealing."(Rajput, 2016, p. 256)This is mainly because this country is full of different religions and women status is struggling with injustice. Rightly, these old depictions still resonate everywhere and confirm the universal appeal and longevity of the Elizabethan poet and dramatist, Shakespeare.

1.2.The Relevance of his Themes and Characters

1.2.1. Themes

William Shakespeare is characterized by presenting timeless themes . Thus, there is an agreement that these topics are so relevant in today's literature. Arguably, the themes of Shakespeare's drama are ringing almost everywhere around the globe. In modern day, people struggle in their lives with similar topics as those of Shakespeare. Universally, these issues as diverse as forbidden love, greed, ambition, cruelty, jealousy, injustice, power, madness, suicide, and murder...are in fact observed in Shakespeare's plays as Romeo and Juliet, Hamlet, Macbeth, Othello, King Lear, Julius Caesar, Antony and Cleopatra which are now over four and half hundred year old. In other words, the contemporary society is full of many individuals who are very much like the characters of the Elizabethan poet and playwright William Shakespeare. Consequently, it can be pointed out that the current generations contain rulers like Claudius, fathers as Lear, wives similar to Lady Macbeth, lovers parallel to Romeo and Juliet, friends like Antony and Brutus, daughters as Goneril and Regan and so on. Today's media all over the world are always showing the struggles of such members who are actually the characters of William Shakespeare but with different names:

The themes of Shakespeare's plays still concern us: guilt, shame, anxiety, trauma, distress, mental illness, psychological vulnerability, jealousy, envy, inferiority, manipulation, psychosis, greed and murder - all are sadly present in the societies we watch every night on our news channels. People have grown an insatiable appetite for money and they can go to any extent to get what they desire. Undoubtedly they talk of morality and the importance of value-based life but that is for the outer show only. Their inner voice is something else.(Siddiqui, 2014, p. 5082)

1.2.1.1. Macbeth

Certainly, in the tragedy of the ambitious leader Macbeth, the English dramatist explained how the over-ambition overthrow the human values and how it led Macbeth to the tragic flaw in addition to the destruction of the kingdom. So this English text provided significant moral for all people to avoid the mistakes that were committed by the political man, Macbeth. It absolutely will remind them of the catastrophic end of such behaviour that resulted in destroying the responsible and the others who surrounded him. It is necessary to note that the theme of the drama of Macbeth is very relevant for today's people to take it into consideration. "Indeed, for such times as ours, the particular message of Macbeth has special relevance. We need to be reminded of its basic theme that selfish egotism, shorn of any redeeming value, will destroy all that it touches."(Ismail Serageldin &Wole Soyinka, 1998, p. 48)

1.2.1.2. Othello

It was widely observed that the tragedy of Othello is one among the great masterpieces that are unparalleled in English literature. This is only due to the immortal themes it addresses and its relation with the modern era. Othello, is a tragedy that still resonate everywhere in today's world. Additionally, every stage has performed it and it was translated into a multitude of languages. Accurately, this may mean that there is something in this drama that lead it to transcend time and culture. The topics of Othello indeed are present so thoroughly in the 21st century society, the modern audiences can easily relate them to their own situations. It is highly important to claim that there are many people all over the globe are dealing daily with events such as murder, racism, sad relationships, jealousy, and political conflicts. Thus, all of them are discovered in Shakespeare's Othello. In other words, this play provides many insights into the lives of mankind who live on this planet. Everybody, regardless of their position and their culture, inevitably has

experienced one among Othello's relevant issues. In the current era, there are many Othellos, Iagos and Desdemonas as contemporary counterparts. Interestingly, there is a strong correlation between the themes of Othello and today's society and its themes can never be obsolete :

...the themes of *Othello* are still present in today's society: racism, facades, self-interest, military/war things, the nature of relationships (both physical/sexual/emotional and professional), murder, suicide, death etc. Betrayal is a key theme presented in *Othello*, and it is also still relevant to today's audiences. Racism is a significant addition presented in the play, which unfortunately still pervades contemporary society....Madness and jealousy drive the action as it thrives in the play; these destructive emotions are still alive in humanity today. The play portrays the typical scenes of love which always seem to draw in a timeless audience."(Siddiqui, 2014, pp. 5082-5083)

It seems clear that the Shakespearean literature is characterized by having countless themes that have their appeal for the 21st century society. It is clear that the works of the Bard particularly his dramas provide relevant issues and ideas that are paralleled with the modern day realities. Thus, these truths contributed for immortalizing Shakespeare over centuries. This dramatist portrays in his literary works ideas that deal with human nature which are unchanged. In other words, these themes are universal truths so the time cannot change them. The topics which Shakespeare amazingly created in his plays as diverse as justice, revenge, ambition, forbidden love, cruelty, betrayal, colonization ...are so deeply prevalent in the current societies all over the globe. It seems that the Elizabethan and Jacobean dramatist was narrating the story of many members who live in the 21st century. He provides a small epitome about the history of the modern generations: every piece from the literary works of Shakespeare narrates a story of one member. For example, the

tragedy of the Iraqi politician Saddam Hussein has similar plot of event as Julius Caesar. The main difference between them is first, in the time of depiction, and second in the characters' names. So, it is necessary to point out that the contemporary society all over the world is unfortunately a modern version of the drama of the patriarchal society. This genius writer is conversant by all aspects of life as he provides relevant ideas about politics; issues dealing with family relationships; and elements that discuss the notion of colonization; expressing the matter of love in the case of two families several years of fighting, which is overspread in the modern community; the notion of racism that is the topic of nowadays society; and about friends' betrayal, as in Julius Caesar, in which everybody across the globe has experienced the taste of this issue. Importantly, by reading the dramas of Shakespeare people can learn from the faults of the characters and avoid them. In short, Shakespeare's literature is an eternal-ethical-educational institution. Thanky(2017) stated that:

His[Shakespeare]connections of themes with modern reality make him[Shakespeare] a worthy candidate of an enduring playwright—one that expresses important aspects of life; transcending time. The prominent themes which are universally explored in the plays are justice, ambition, love, revenge etc and the connected themes are like betrayal, greed and madness. The initially explored theme is one which can be paralleled in contemporary society—the theme of justice....The enduring feature is the connection of the theme: justice, with the modern world; with contemporary society now being overrun with injustices (suggested thoroughly in King Lear – human cruelty), based on political, cultural and racial agendas. ...The connection of this theme with the modern era, is prominent in being a timeless playwright.(p. 360)

Therefore, a powerful correlation exists between today's era and the Shakespearean themes.

1.2.2. Shakespeare's Characters Address Modern Audience

Arguably, Shakespeare as an English poet and dramatist who provides unmatched characters to the English literature at the national and international level:

Shakespeare presents a plethora of compelling characters which not only share similar problems to modern day, but describe varying forms of character in the world. A noticeable factor in his plays is that the characters have the same motivations, emotions, flaws and weaknesses as members of a contemporary society – an enduring factor. Many people can see themselves as a placeholder for King Lear: the protagonist who is lied and deceived to by his daughters – a relevancy to the modern world or Julius Caesar who is deceived by his dear friends or Hamlet who is indecisive in fighting struggles of life. Furthermore, through characters such as Lear, society can both understand and avoid mistakes which were suggested in the play".(Thanky, 2017, p. 360)

In fact, the individuals of the 21st century have similar characteristics as the characters of Shakespeare. This would mean that there is a connection between them. In truth, all mankind universally have the same emotions, weaknesses, and flaws that are already portrayed by Shakespeare through his characters as Hamlet, Othello, Macbeth, Lady Macbeth, Romeo and Juliet, King Lear, and Antony and others. Certainly, the contemporary society includes fathers like Lear, husbands very much like Othello, hesitators as the prince of Denmark Hamlet. It is, therefore, clear that Shakespeare's characters present an overview about the individuals of the modern era. In addition to their importance for the audiences in understanding and learning from their mistakes.

Without doubt, the literary works of William Shakespeare are considered the great and eternal literature all over the globe. There are two sides to the timelessness of William Shakespeare in the contemporary world. At one hand, the valuable themes that transcend time and space. Such themes that are prevalent in Shakespeare's time as well as in the 21st century. On the other hand, his characters are extremely like the individuals of the modern era.. So, nowadays wherever you go absolutely you will find members as Macbeth, Othello, and Hamlet as a counterpart of Shakespeare one. The characters in Shakespeare are like you or me, even though they may be kings, queens or noblemen and women." Indeed, they have similar emotions, thought, and behaviours as of many people in today's society:

They are fallible in many ways, like Macbeth, who comes to grief because of ambition, or Hamlet, who struggles with the death of his father. One of the reasons that Shakespeare is said to be a writer of "timeless" literature is that his topics and, especially his characters, speak to a modern audience just as forcefully as they did when the Bard was writing."(Thanky, 2017, p. 361)

Equally, Shakespeare's characters and themes since they address modern audience helped him to be a timeless playwright.

1.3..Political Relevance of Shakespeare's Works

1.3.1 Macbeth

It is very important to note that the tragedy of Macbeth is considered to be one among the greatest of achievements of the English poet and playwright William Shakespeare. It is very necessary to continue to read this ambitious- themed play since it is replete with valuable life lessons. Macbeth, is the story that transcends time and space due to its relevant themes and characters. In other words, this tragedy contains many issues that are related to power and ambition. It was considered that this topic of power is prevalent in

today's world particularly in the field of politics as it was spread in Shakespeare's time, the Elizabethan era. This can mean that there is a connection between Macbeth the ambitious character and the 21st century society. In addition to that, the modern world is full of many individuals who are so thoroughly like the soldier Macbeth. Politically speaking, the plot of current politics is parallel to Shakespeare's Macbeth's plot. So the events and the struggles of nowadays politicians all over the world are already displayed in the drama of Macbeth. Importantly, there is a severe need to read the bard's story again and again because it is replete of relevant issues that are absolutely related to and occurring the contemporary politics; the current politicians are the modern version of Shakespeare's Macbeth. The main difference between them is the names of the characters. It is, therefore, significant to point out that the tragedy of Macbeth is a school for teaching valuable morals for the 21st century individuals:

The importance of continuing to read *Macbeth* in our modern society is to educate readers on valuable lessons in life. The significance of gaining power appropriately, and the importance of justice are a few of the many life lessons that are relevant in Shakespeare's tragedy, *Macbeth*. The theme of "power corrupts" is connected in *Macbeth* as well as in modern society. Politicians from all walks of life and all narratives struggle with the same theme that Macbeth did. (Siddiqui, 2014, p. 5079)

1.3.2.. King Lear

There is an agreement that one of the reasons that make Shakespeare the most influential dramatist in the world is the similarities between the plots of his plays with the political history of many nations. Most of Shakespeare's plays and, in particular, King Lear discusses the issue of power. Many scholars argue that this topic is very relevant in the field of politics as in Shakespeare's time as in the current world. This can mean that there is a connection between the two. Moreover, a comparison was made by many critics between

King Lear's plot and the political history of Russia confirms that Shakespeare is still appealing. It shows that the theme of power in the play is overspread in the 21st-century politics without excluding any nation. Plus, Russian readers will understand their country's history by reading King Lear:

Grigori Kozintsev, the Russian director's adaption of *King Lear* is known as the famous versions of Shakespeare's plays. Kozintsev clearly gives two key features that relate Shakespeare even today:

- (1) There is a connection between Shakespeare's dramatization of power and the abuses of power in contemporary politics.
- (2) The political reading of the play suggests better understanding of the Russian life pre and post Tsarist rule.(Rajput, 2016, p. 257)

1.3.3. Julius Caesar

There has been much talk about the relevance of the tragedy of Shakespeare Julius Caesar in the 21st century world. It was, in fact, considered very important to teach it to students due to the powerful issues it addresses:

Another Shakespeare scholar Marjorie Garber admits the political significance of Shakespeare's Julius Caesar...his particular play "is as likely to be taught and read today in classes on political theory, business, and "leadership" as it is in the context of Shakespeare and his literary contemporaries," adding that the play speaks "pertinently, and impertinently, to the modern and postmodern condition, to modern history, and to modern politics, rhetoric and oratory."(Rajput, 2016, p. 259).

Thus, the Bard of Avon in this tragedy portrays the current politics or in other words, he summarizes the story of modern society especially its political struggles through his

literary work. This depiction of his murder drama remains relevant. It can be argued that the current generations have sadly seen the similar tragedies to Caesar. Two of them are the tragedy of the president of Libya Maamar EL-Gaddafi and the president of Iraq Saddam Hussein."The current world political scenario is nothing but the modern version of *Julius Caesar*" (Rajput, 2016, p. 259). Unfortunately, they faced the same fates as proposed by Shakespeare four centuries ago. As a result, it addresses a variety of lessons for the modern audiences as a way to learn morals that cannot be found anywhere they go.

The tragedy of Julius Caesar is a play through which Shakespeare discusses elements that deal with politics. However, many scholars consider its significance and its reflection to the 21st century politics:

Barbara Gaines, the theatre director in Chicago talks in the context of political significance of Shakespeare's Julius Caesar. She admits; "We talked a lot about Vietnam and the Korean War. About the ancient Rome and Troy. About all of history. In addition, if there is human life on this planet in a couple of thousand years, they will be dealing with the same problems.....The names in the latter may have been Brutus and Julius Caesar and Antony, not Colin Powell and Saddam Hussein and George Bush, but the politics and power struggles are intensely familiar." (Rajput, 2016, p. 259)

It can be seen that the problems and the struggles of the plays' characters are the same as those of today's politicians. Also, they transcend time and space dimensions. Thus, all humans around the world are living under such situations as of Caesar. In fact, today's world has not names like Shakespeare's characters, but the plot is nearly the same. It is clear that the plot of events of Julius Caesar is timeless and has its political relevance in modern era.

2.Influences

2.1.The Influence of Shakespeare on Japanese Literature

20th century was the date in which Japan witnessed Shakespeare real influence . This began when Japanese writers started to take inspiration from his plots, characters, motifs, and philosophical insight. Flanagan (2016) has seen that "William Shakespeare was propelled to the status of a worldwide literary icon during the heyday of the British Empire in the late 1800s. In Japan, his influence began to be felt during the early 20th century, when authors turned to his works for inspiration."

In Japan, Shakespeare's influence has been seen throughout the product of prominent famous Japanese writers and novelist as: Naoya Shiga, Osamu Dazai, Haruki Murakami, Natsume Soseki, and Shohei Ooka. Thus, Flanagan (2016) declared that "...perhaps the most interesting — and least known — aspect of Shakespeare's pervasive influence in Japan is the impact he had on some of the classic modern works of Japanese literature, including novels and short stories by Naoya Shiga, Osamu Dazai and Shohei Ooka"(para.4).

The year 2016 (the 400 anniversary of Shakespeare's death) was a universal event, thus , the whole world celebrated the Bard's anniversary. Japan did not only celebrate the Bard's great popularity and universalism, but also it is most prominent amongst all, "Natsume Soseki" who, unsurprisingly, happened to have the same year celebration (1867-1916).He was professional in English literature especially that related to Shakespeare which was highly employed by him in each of his novels. Thus, shakespeare's works have participated in the creation of Japanese masterpieces:

This year is not only the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death, but also the centennial anniversary of the death of Natsume Soseki (1867-1916), the greatest literary figure of modern Japan. Soseki was an expert in English literature and also a leading expert in Shakespeare. When Soseki began writing his novels, his

intimate familiarity with the playwright's works revealed itself in each new novel.
(Flanagan, 2016, para.5)

Shakespeare's presence in Soseki's writing was detected by scholars throughout the analysis of his works. The Poppy is one of Soseki's novel in which he inserted a similar Shakespearean characterization. Thus, he presented the main character Fujio comparing herself to the Egyptian queen and being her modern image and version when she, herself, read from Shakespeare's "Antony and Cleopatra". Then, her brother Kono is similar to Hamlet in his philosophical thinking. So in this novel, Soseki has shown his great affection of the Bard:

Three years later, Soseki resigned his teaching jobs and began working as a professional novelist for the Asahi Shimbun. It was here that he introduced his alluring, scheming protagonist Fujio in the serialized novel "The Poppy" ("Gubijinso"). At one point, she reads aloud from Shakespeare's "Antony and Cleopatra," identifying herself as a modern-day equivalent of the Egyptian queen. Meanwhile, her introspective, philosophizing brother, Kono, is strongly linked with Hamlet. (Flanagan, 2016, para.9)

Shakespeare has effected and produced a generation of prominent writers all over the world who were deeply influenced by the Shakespearean school. Thus, writers as Soseki sought to imitate the Bard's works so that he may achieve timelessness and universalism, and that is throughout the imitation of similar universal themes that time, space and culture do not change. According to Flangan (2016):

Why did Soseki so repeatedly refer to Shakespeare? One reason is that the Japanese writer set out to measure himself against the Bard and write works that were every bit as timeless. Another reason is that Soseki wished to create characters who struggled with universal problems, like those of Shakespeare, but wished to set

them against the background not of Renaissance Europe but modern Japan.(para. 11)

Prominent Japanese writers have been influenced by Shakespeare's dramatic narrative style, thus, they have adapted it in their narrating particular events of their famous novels. Therefore, Shakespeare has produced not only 38 plays, 154 sonnets, and two long narrative poems but also countless worldwide genius literary figures and masterpieces.

2.2.Shakespeare's Influence on Russian Literature

Shakespeare's had an apparent role in establishing national literature in some countries around the world. Scholars have considered "the father of Russian literature", Alexander Pushkin, to be the best example of Shakespeare's Russian admirer who had a big adoration for the English national poet .Therefore, his literary works contained a major reference to the Bard in terms of his characterization, plot, style, and motifs. Like Germany, Russia too had to establish its own national literature whose "authors like Wilhelm Küchel becker, Alexander Pushkin, Alexander Griboyedov, and Orest Somov followed Shakespeare's sample in creating a their own national literature. In the years following the Decembrists, (...) Shakespeare's dramas and histories helped to interpret the political tragedy and its participants "(N. V. Zakharov).Thus, in the"Decembrists" Russian revolution, Pushkin created the most beloved master pieces in Russian literature the tragedy" *Boris Godunov* (1825)" which made a revolution in **Russia** in both literary and political Russia. Pozdnyakov (2015) has noted that:

The most interesting representative of the number of Russian admirers was and remains Alexander Pushkin. 'In a fateful coincidence, the Father of English literature was an important influence on the Father of Russian literature.'(John Givens) Russians refer to Pushkin as 'our everything', but Shakespeare has also captured the hearts and minds of Russian readers and authors for over two

centuries. Following the Decembrists Pushkin worked on the creation of a national literature, and succeeded in doing it more than any other. (P. 4)

The impact of Shakespeare on Russian society, or in particular the population of readers, can be seen on the literary outcomes of some prominent Russian authors who have gained an international fame like : Fyodor Dostoevsky and Alexander Pushkin. Pozdnyakov (2015) declared that "when seeing the impact of Shakespeare on Russia it may be apparent in the product of prominent of famous authors internationally"(p. 9). Shakespeare's character Hamlet has become an iconic figure amongst Russians .It inspired a number of prominent Russian in both literature, in the case of novelist and play writers, and stage directions and film making, in the case of playmakers and playwrights. It inspired in the creation of memorial master pieces as Mikhail Vrubel's painting *Hamlet and Ophelia* (1884). Thus, Shakespeare has effected not only Russian literature, but also all their cultural realm:

Apart from literature iconic character of Hamlet influenced all the cultural spheres of Russia. From a prominent production by K. Stanislavsky (1911) at Moscow Art Theatre, a triumphant performance by G. Kozintzev (1954) at Russian State Pushkin Academy Drama Theater, a controversial production by Y. Lubimov(1971) at Taganka Theatre and numerous performances of amateur and semiprofessional theatres to a superb cinematic adaptation by G. Kozintsev (1964), became also a feature of Mikhail Vrubel's painting *Hamlet and Ophelia* (1884) and a screen ballet *Hamlet* (1969) with the music of D. Shostakovich.(Pozdnyakov, 2015, pp. 9-10 list of reference)

Shakespeare had an apparent impact in the way writers formulate their pieces of works such as :the plot structure, the use of intertextuality, the characters psychology and flow, the use of supernatural, the use of poetic aspects into the works and their structure as in

poetry (following Shakespeare's style in the form of blank verse, composed in iambic pentameter .), the use of soliloquies, and so on. Thus, the best example amongst Russian authors is Fyodor Dostoevsky an international famous Russian novelist. In a thesis called Shakespeare's Plays in Russian Culture Aleksandr Pozdnyakov (2015) referred and quoted from Lev Vygotsky, a Russian psychologist, that:

Dostoevsky and Shakespeare are the very related phenomena. Reading both we feel the tragic abyss – not in the mind, but in the artistic sense. And here and there the question is fatal passions. In both we meet the full and complete picture of human passions, prevailed over the human will. No man owns them, they own him – and bear him, and drop, and raise him; and twist and throw the human will. Such is Hamlet, and Macbeth, and Lear. Such is Raskolnikov, Stavrogin, and Myshkin, and Karamazovs. All types of emotions, temperaments, deeds and crimes Dostoevsky found in Shakespeare, and studied all the varieties of human psychology in these eternal sample." he further stated in the drafts to the Demons (1871) "Shakespeare – is a prophet sent by God to announce to us the mystery of the person, of the human soul."(p. 13)

It is clear that Dostoevsky loved the way the Bard's sees human being emotion and psychology , moreover, he returned to Shakespeare in his works creation .

Apart from the compelling and influential plots, too authentic human characters, Shakespeare helped to inspire writers to create international memorable masterpieces as those of the prominent Russian writers as Pushkin and Dostoevsky.

2.3.The Influence On Indian Literature

2.3.1.Writers

In the case of India, William Shakespeare's works were so prevalent and had a high place in the country. He was mostly favoured by the educated members due to their

familiarity with English. Indeed, they believed that Shakespeare is precisely for the educated people; they considered him as the core of English literature. Shakespeare for them is a unique and unmatched model. The process of translation paved the way for them to seek their goals. It is clear that the western model had a powerful effect on the Indians which they took his texts as an example for creating their own works:

The exercise of Shakespeare translation was to introduce his plays to the non-English readers in the country [India] and Das also opines that because Shakespeare, along with other English writers, had already been taken by the growing English-educated community as the touchstone of literature, they wanted to produce literary works following Western models. Shakespeare translations, thus, also provided the Indian translators, many of whom were playwrights themselves, an opportunity to create a congenial environment where they could produce their own works by following foreign literary models.(Thakur, 2012, p. 5)

2.3.2. Bollywood

In modern society, people are living in situations as those of Shakespeare created for his characters. Kingdoms have experienced disorder, fathers have been betrayed by their sons, governments are full of corruption, imperialism, murdering politicians, the issue of suicide, madness, women's struggles, injustice, racism, and civil wars are the sad truths of people's lives in the 21st century. Thus, most cinema's productions today, unfortunately, expose scenarios that reflect the life and practices of societies that were written since over four hundred years ago by William Shakespeare.

It is obvious that William Shakespeare had a great impact on the Indian cinema. Bollywood's films discussed issues as diverse as love stories, religious problems, family relationships, kingdoms matters, women struggle. In the light of all these, it is clear that the Indian film company was impressed by the immortal work of William Shakespeare.

Therefore, Bollywood took Shakespeare's masterpieces as a basis for performing its productions. Yadav (2014) has noticed that:

... recent Bollywood productions, such as the Bollywood director Vishal Bhardwaj's movie *Maqbool* (released in 2004; based on Shakespeare's adaptation of *Macbeth*), *Omkara* (released in 2006; based on Shakespeare's adaptation of *Othello*), director Manish Tiwari's *Issaq* (released in 2012; based on Shakespeare's adaptation of *Romeo and Juliet*), the Malayalam film director VK Prakash's *Karamyogi* (released in 2012; based on Shakespeare's adaptation of *Hamlet*) have departed from the "blatant "plagiarism" of their predecessors and listed Shakespeare as the source text or inspiration. (p. 49)

Romeo and Juliet are among the great masterpieces in William Shakespeare works . In this story, Shakespeare provided relevant issues that deal almost with love in particular in the case of young lovers. Interestingly, it did not lose its aesthetic and romantic quality. This is mainly because it addressed a universal topic which is immortal. So, it is not surprising that this love story has a powerful effect on other playwrights and even filmmakers especially those of the subcontinent India. The story of *Romeo and Juliet* can be seen throughout the films that Bollywood produced. Yadav (2014) has asserted that "As the epitome of all things romantic, Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* has been a benchmark for playwrights and filmmakers alike. Bollywood too has made umpteen desi adaptations of the immortal love story over the decades. *Romeo and Juliet*, a perennially favourite inspiration of Hindi filmmakers..." (p. 52)

In modern day, the movies that people watch every day on television especially those of Bollywood, are full of topics that were already written by the dramatist Shakespeare. In truth, all these elements are doubtless the basic themes of the

contemporary society. Bollywood film productions showed the image of modern Indian life. In other words, the stories of these movies are ,in fact, the stories of real individuals.

3.Adaptations

To show passiveness is to show the same work in the same manner nothing changes. Blind imitation is to mimic without creativity or personal and cultural tastes or there is no interference or fusion in the process. The latter was not the case with Shakespeare's works. Thus, appropriating and re-writing Shakespeare's works have shown an attitude of rebellion against the norms of passive mimicry. Hence, Shakespeare has gone to change the normal characteristics of nature to touch human mind to an endless insight and inspirations. **González** declared that "...appropriating and rewriting Shakespeare is not a passive phenomenon" (p.35).

3.1.Arab Adaptation

Now the literature of William Shakespeare is found in every living language all over the world even in the Arab world. In the 21st century, exactly in 2007, the Royal Shakespeare company (RSC) staged the Shakespearean productions from different countries around the globe. Sulayman al-Bassam is one among the enthusiast Arabic directors and playwrights who participated in the RSC performance. Thereafter, many other Arabic Shakespeare adaptations were performed in this international festival. Most of these adaptations talked about the sad events that were occurring in the Arabic world especially at the time of the uprisings that appeared in most of the Arabic countries. "It was 2007 when the Royal Shakespeare Company staged its first production in Arabic, Sulayman al-Bassam's *Richard III: an Arab Tragedy*. Several Arab and Arabic Shakespeare adaptations followed at 2012 UK festivals, many of which explored nascent uprisings," declared Qualey (2016).

3.1.1. Sulayman AL-Bassam

Sulayman AL-Bassam is a prominent Anglo-Kuwaiti director who performed Shakespeare's plays with an Arabic Muslim twist in the Arabic theatres in 21st century. Interestingly, Al-Bassam in his adaptation of Shakespeare's dramas uses a unique method for seeking his goals. At first, this director updates the Elizabethan masterpieces to modern English version, because of the complexity of Shakespeare's language, with Arabic fusion. Then, Al-Bassam works on translating this works into his mother tongue ,Arabic, for stage performances. In order to make the audience understand the performance, the supertitles appear in the primary language of the spectators above the stage. Thereafter, Sulayman retranslates this Arabic version into English again for the sake of publication:

Beyond the European avant-garde, supertitles are enhancing the work of cultural translation...One example is the writing and performance of the Anglo-Kuwaiti director Sulayman Al-Bassam, who has been staging Shakespearian adaptations in Arabic and English since 2001. Al-Bassam uses an unusual layering technique: he first adapts Shakespeare's text into modern English with an Arabic twist; this version is translated into Arabic for performance; supertitles convert the Arabic into the primary language of the audience; and the Arabic script is finally turned back into English for the purposes of publication.(Bosman, 2009, p. 297)

One of the many topics and themes in which Shakespeare went so deeply with is the issue of politics throughout his powerful tragedies. Like many other Arabic countries, Egypt suffered from political pressure. Thus, the Egyptian intellectuals have adapted Shakespeare's plays to mirror their harsh situations with colonialism.

The tragedy of Julius Caesar narrated the story of betrayal and murdering man in power so that to rule (politicians assassination).Thus, Julius Caesar managed to achieve unlimited reputation in which the Egyptian President Gamal Abdel-Nasser played the role of Caesar in 1935. From this production, it can be argued that the president wanted to

show how they vanquished the British empire. Therefore, the journey of William Shakespeare in the Arab world in particular Egypt was for political use. Every Arabic adaptation reflects a certain political situation. Qualey (2016) noted that:

Overtly political adaptations began to appear on Egyptian stages around the First World War, as a way of talking back to increasing British control in the country. Although Arab Shakespeare scholar-translator Margaret Litvin points to *Hamlet* as the most popular play among Arab playwrights, there were politicised adaptations of *Lear*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Macbeth*, *Othello*, and others. Indeed, young Egyptian President Gamal Abdel-Nasser starred in a production of *Julius Caesar* in 1935. In that staging, Litvin writes, Caesar was a "vanquisher of the British.

3.1.2.Syrian Adaptation

Like Egypt, Syria , till the present day, suffers from political chaos as well as civil wars. Shakespeare amazingly succeeded to be staged in Arabic theatres in the contemporary era. One among the Arabic adaptation of Shakespeare's tragedy is the Syrian version of *Romeo and Juliet*. This theatrical creative job was made to address messages not only for the Syrian people but rather for the whole world. It reflected the sad circumstances of the country, in particular, the lives of the children. Astonishingly, director, Nawar Bulbul, performed this drama on Skype because of the war. In addition, the setting was in two places: in Jordan as a place for the Syrian refugees and Syrian city, Homs. Qualey(2016) has stated that "Shakespeare continues to be an interpretive lens on contemporary politics. In 2015, a Syrian *Romeo and Juliet* was staged on Skype between a refugee camp in Jordan and players in Homs, Syria". Despite these bad situations, the director put children as actors to perform this play. They were trying to send a message to the world to stop the wars and violence; it is enough, we want to live in peace, and we

want to love each other and to be united. The Syrian director has created from Romeo and Juliet of William Shakespeare a story that reflects the lamentable events during the regime of Bashar El-Assad of contemporary Syria. It is important to note that this adaptation is an argument about the relevance of Shakespeare in the 21st century, and indeed Shakespeare still works today.

3.2.The Chinese Adaptation of William Shakespeare

China also appropriated the Bard and took him as model for its adaptation in both cinema and theatre. The banquet is a Chinese movie that has been adopted from Shakespeare's play Hamlet. the later is fusion between Shakespeare's Hamlet plot and the Chinese culture , it is a kung Fu Hamlet, Huang in Penn state university channel (2019) stated that " it is the first time kung Fu genre has been intimately wedded to a Shakespeare play" and he further declared that "the film is informed by rich intertextual traces of different themes, ranging from Shakespearean to Japanese, such as the mask, and Chinese sources." Another Chinese film adaptation is Chicken rice war which is one of the 21st century adaptation of Romeo and Juliet that has been released in 2000. It is " a parody of Romeo and Juliet, set in contemporary Singapore involving two feuding families". Finally, Prince of Hamalayas adaptation of Hamlet (2006) by Sherwood Hu's Tebitan adaptation of Hamlet this adaptation " Set in ancient Tibet under the shadow of the Himalayas, the young prince Lhamoklodan learns of his father's mysterious death and returns to the Kingdom Jiabo. Troubled by his mother's sudden remarriage to his uncle Kulo-ngam, he swears to find the truth of his father's death. His obsession of revenge overwhelms his spirit and shadows his love to Odsaluyang. When he points his sword at the new king, Queen Nanm finally tells her beloved son, Lhamoklodan, the true identity of his uncle. In the struggle to face his destiny and fight his demons, a new king is born."

These productions proved that Shakespeare is a universal dramatist and unmatched in the history of the English literature. In other words, all of these Shakespeare performances are regarded as a recognition that the Elizabethan playwright is related not only to Britain but rather to the whole world. Shakespeare's effect is evident through the wide stage theatre performances internationally.

Conclusion

William Shakespeare is considered to be the most influential poet and dramatist around the world. He is still read, studied, adapted, and translated in every corner in the globe. His works has influenced many famous writers. It is mainly due to his fascinated and memorable characters and themes. Indeed, Shakespeare still shines his power; he does not lose his status in the English literature. Consequently, despite the time and the place of their depiction, the masterpieces of Shakespeare has left their touch in today's literary world. These unique works have their relevance in the 21st century.

General Conclusion

General Conclusion

As we conducted this paper, we set, accordingly, certain objectives that we are going to reach out. We aimed at investigating Shakespeare relevance, status and influence in today's literary world in terms of his famous plays, mainly themes, characters, and plots. Thus, with his dramatic, philosophical, and his works' flexibility managed to gain a prestigious universal appeal, timelessness, and modern relevance around the world.

-We are similar to Shakespeare's characters, thus, we live in society that is very much like that of Shakespeare's creation (we are surrounded with people who are similar to Shakespeare's one). Neither time nor space has changed the truth of humanity which, of course, is highly employed by Shakespeare.

-The importance of reading Shakespeare's works is to convey precious morals and teach valuable life lessons. Therefore, people keep turning to Shakespeare because he is capable of giving solution or rather a psychological relief. So, each person is capable to tell his own Shakespearean story.

-Shakespeare transmitted and pictured his philosophical insight and knowledge to his characters by which he presented a deep description of human being.

-Most of Shakespeare's adaptations and performances appear when there is a need to comment on social or political interest.

-Some of Shakespeare's works were banned from performances due to connotative issues they address (e.g. Titus Andronicus and The Merchant of Venice).

-In the past, especially in times of war, some of Shakespearean plays were banned to perform, because they express a highly political connotative meaning. They, rise sense awareness and rebellion against the tyrant and aggressive ruling and the issue of imperialism in its new and past shapes in kingdoms, and governmental countries and republics (Macbeth, Richard III, and Julius Caesar).

-Today's world politics is the modern version of Julius Caesar and Macbeth which makes Shakespeare present.

-Development in literary studies as the new trends in literary theories, for example feminism and post colonialism, have made a revolution in the way characters are perceived or rather analyzed. Thus, old interpretations are different from the current one (eg: as Hamlet before and after Harold Bloom's book "Shakespeare: the invention of human").

-New adaptation has shifted the interest of Shakespeare's original work to another (eg: Nawar Bulbul's Syrian adaptation of Romeo and Juliet has shifted from romance to political interest which was done to gain the world support for freedom).

- Voltaire's criticism of Shakespeare, for not respecting space and time and his division from the ancient drama norms, has strengthened his appropriation in India which has a similar drama characteristics, thus, his style is a modern method that is used to perform plays in today's world eg: Nawar Bulbul's s plays which takes place between Syria and Jordan which Bubul uses Skype as a means of communication tool between the two characters Romeo and Juliet who live in distant countries.

-Shakespeare's adaptations and literary inspirations from his works helped to fill the empty gap, understand better some ambiguous parts of his works and strengthen previous criticism. To be a subject to different interpretations is what made Shakespeare's works eternal masterpieces.

-What is new in rereadings that with the arrival of new criticism the view toward characters have changed (eg: Caliban before and after post colonialism).

-Shakespeare was highly presented at a time and absent in others. His presence or absence can be seen in the degree of adaptation, assimilation, and appropriation by certain society in particular period of time.

-Shakespeare had an apparent impact in the way writers formulate their pieces of works in: the plot structure, the use of intertextuality, the characters psychology and flow, the use of super naturals, the use of poetic aspects into the works and their structure as in poetry , the use of soliloquies, and so on .

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