



# 中华女子学院

## 2008届普高本科毕业生

### 优秀论文集

(一)

教务处制

# 目 录

## 一、文学类

- 1、论哈姆雷特形象的人文性…………… (李 杨) 1
- 2、从夏洛克看犹太民族的悲剧色彩…………… (刘黄梅) 13
- 3、论《紫色》中黑人妇女自我身份的寻找与确定…………… (向 博) 27
- 4、《大地》中阿三的角色分析…………… (杨 杨) 39
- 5、响应野性的呼唤——论《野性的呼唤》的主题…………… (周 赢) 52
- 6、女性自我意识的继承与发展…………… (张丽建) 65
- 7、通过文化融合构建华裔美国人的身份——对《喜福会》中母女关系的研究  
…………… (罗 曼) 80
- 8、对比分析简·爱和凯瑟琳·恩肖的叛逆…………… (张士锦) 96
- 9、维特——寻找永恒的幸福…………… (高 艳) 110
- 10、从《百万英镑》和《两位感恩节绅士》浅析马克·吐温和欧·亨利作品  
的幽默手法…………… (温 珍) 123
- 11、从女性主义角度阐释苔丝的悲剧…………… (颜 麟) 135
- 12、浅析室内设计之自然主义风格…………… (王 达) 149
- 13、浅谈室内设计中装饰材料的表现与应用…………… (田 丹) 156
- 14、浅析科技要素在服饰中的应用…………… (石 晨) 167
- 15、浅谈《重现睡莲》整个创作过程…………… (马 可) 174
- 16、简析娱乐空间的色彩设计以“魔幻空间”为例…………… (胡晓艳) 185
- 17、谈古代盔甲武器对现代服装装饰设计的意义…………… (陈丽君) 193
- 18、云中漫步——颠倒餐厅设计及陈设品设计…………… (姚俐娟) 200
- 19、水之密语——生命之源与服装…………… (胥雪琴) 208
- 20、服装毕业设计过程的系统化与时间控制…………… (黄智慧) 216
- 21、主题旅馆空间陈设与陈设品设计分析…………… (梁 馨) 230
- 22、空间与意境的构筑——在遗忘中缅怀与 [ ] 的诠释…………… (熊颖跨) 236
- 23、生态元素在展示空间中的概念式转换…………… (戴雪娇) 249

# 论哈姆雷特形象的人文性

李 杨

**摘 要:** 人文主义思想作为文艺复兴运动所倡导的主要思想,其核心是以人为本。人自身的价值、自由、权利等被第一次放在了首要位置,从而改变了过去所倡导的神权高于一切的局面。人文主义者重视人类的本性以及自身的感受,并追求现世的自由与快乐。本文首先从剧作者莎士比亚所处的年代阐述人文主义的出现及其主要特征,然后从智慧型的思考者、为正义而战斗的勇士以及饱含爱恨情仇的王子这三个主要方面论证了哈姆雷特王子身上典型的人文主义精神。智慧、正义和爱作为人文主义精神的核心,不仅是哈姆雷特王子性格上的闪光点,也必将成为这个世界永恒的主题。

**关键词:** 哈姆雷特王子 人文主义 智慧 正义 爱与恨

**AbstractAs:** the main ideology of Renaissance, humanism centers on exploring the nature of human beings. It is the first time that man's values, freedom and rights have been put onto the primary place. What humanists care about most are both human natures and their own feelings. This thesis analyzes the emergence as well as the features of humanism, and then centers on demonstrating that Hamlet is a representative of humanists through three main aspects: a thinker with intelligence, a soldier fighting for freedom and a prince with strong love and hatred. As the key characteristics of humanism values, intelligence, justice and love can be found glittering in Prince Hamlet, and will surely become the ever-lasting theme of this world.

**Key Words:** Hamlet Humanism Intelligence Justice Love and Hatred

## 1. Introduction

Hamlet is the one of the most popular and discussed tragedy of Shakespeare's works. The greatness of the play lies in the fact that Shakespeare in it expressed his praise of the noble quality of Prince Hamlet as a representative of humanist thinkers. The theme of Shakespeare's *Hamlet* is a prince's revenge for his beloved father.

It is a tragic story of young Prince Denmark, whose father died two months before this story begins. The old King Hamlet died in a very strange way, which is said to have been bitten to death by a poisonous snake while sleeping in the garden of his castle. Prince Hamlet got back home in a hurry from Germany,

only to witness his mother's wedding ceremony of his uncle, the new king. Hamlet's once peaceful life is being completely disturbed by one event after another: his beloved father's sudden death, the hasty remarriage of his mother, as well as the appearance of the old King Hamlet's ghost suing the foul murder and asking him for revenge. Due to these, Hamlet comes up with suspicion, and decides to explore the truth. To realize this goal, he starts the difficult revenge course and launches the life and death contest with Claudius.

The role of Prince Hamlet has been enjoying great popularity ever since it came onto the stage. He is well noted for his controversial characters: indecisive and stubbornly resolute, fanciful and pragmatic, a mere babbler and also man of action, cowardly weak-minded and dauntlessly determined, etc<sup>1</sup>. Hamlet's indecisiveness is due to his too much thinking; while his resolution to revenge due to his desire for justice and strong love for his father. In brief, Hamlet is a representative of humanists during the Renaissance. Both his thoughts and actions reflects humanism values.

## **2. Humanism in England**

### **2.1 The Historical Background**

After long years of foreign and domestic wars, England enjoyed a period of peace and prosperity during the reign of Queen Elizabeth (1558-1603). By adopting a policy of tolerance, the Queen successfully maintained a balance of power between the feudal lords and the rising burghers as well as between the Protestants and the Catholics.

In the literature world of England, during the reign of Queen Elizabeth many writers appeared and proved to be talented in the literary world. Their efforts were part of an intellectual as well as a literary movement. This movement was called Renaissance and its ideal was Humanism. With the spread of the culture there appeared a number of humanist scholars who took great interest in the welfare of human beings. With their knowledge of the classics, they fought against the inertness and ignorance of the time, and against the religious fanaticism that hindered the free development of man. They worked for freedom and enlightenment. They were called "humanists". According to them it was against human nature to sacrifice the happiness of this life for an after life. They argued that man should be given full freedom to enrich their intellectual and emotional life. In religion they demanded the reformation of the church. In art and literature, instead of singing praise to God, they sang in praise of man of the pursuit of happiness in this

life. Humanism shattered the spiritual bondage of man's mind with the Roman Catholic Church and opened his eyes to "a brave new world".

Taking into account of the above reasons, England is believed to have cultivated a favorable and ready condition for the emergence of humanism.<sup>ii</sup>

## 2.2 Shakespeare's Humanism

In Shakespeare's lifetime, both the people and the newly rising bourgeoisies in England were longing for peace under a strong monarch who would unite the whole country after long years of domestic and foreign wars. The sudden awakening of national glory was inseparable with the sudden discovery of the glory that man found in himself. More important than the historical scenes of his time, Shakespeare in his plays reflects the spirit of his age, that is, renaissance humanism. Renaissance humanism generated a new interest in human experience as well as an enormous optimism about the potential scope of human understanding.

As a humanist himself, Shakespeare tried his best to voice the human aspirations for freedom and equality and against the tyranny of feudal rule and ecclesiastical domination, and in various ways he welcomed the centralized monarchs, sang the praises of exploration into one's own inner world, and satirized social vices and hypocrisy of all sorts. Shakespeare had firm belief in the nobility of human nature and in the power of love. This humanist outlook prevails in his comedies as well as in his tragedies. *Hamlet*, which was written in 1601, is one of his representative works of humanism.<sup>iii</sup>

This play reflects the political situation of Britain during 16 and 17 century. New humanism ideas are pouring into England and influences people's way of thinking. This work reflects the struggling process of the fresh bourgeois and therefore we can call this play a humanist play. The play is also a reflection of the turmoil of England at that time. Economic and social crisis began to appear at the end of the reign of Elizabeth and continued up to the English Revolution. It was in the atmosphere of a general social unrest that Shakespeare created his great tragedies including *Hamlet*.<sup>iv</sup>

## 3. Prince Hamlet: A Representative of Humanists

*Hamlet* is without question the most famous play in the English literature. The tragedy is a milestone in Shakespeare's dramatic development. The playwright achieved artistic maturity in this work through his

brilliant depiction of the hero's struggle with two opposing forces: moral integrity and the need to avenge his father's murder. Ophelia makes an appropriate comment about Hamlet in the play:

Oh, what a noble mind is here o'erthrown! The courtier's, scholar's, soldier's, eye, tongue,  
sword, Th' expectancy and rose of the fair state, the glass of fashion and the mould of form,  
Th' observ'd of all observers- quite, quite down! <sup>v</sup>

Prince Hamlet proves to be one of the humanists during the time of Renaissance. He used to be optimistic and promising. He has an unbounded love for the world, nature and man; he loves good, hates evil, and is free from medieval prejudices and superstitions, he shows a contempt for rank and wealth; he is a man of genius, highly accomplished and educated; he is a scholar, soldier, and statesman. His image reflects the versatility of the man of Renaissance. It is not until he gets the sad news of his beloved father's death that his weakness of melancholy seems to prevail. In spite of his melancholy and delay in action, Hamlet still retains his active energy. His learning, wisdom, noble nature, as well as his limitation and tragedy, all contribute to make Hamlet the representative of humanists at the turn of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries.

### **3.1 Hamlet: A Thinker with Intelligence**

During the Renaissance in Europe, knowledge became more important than ever before, and at the same time, the spiritual bondage of man's mind with God has been shattered greatly. People were thirsty for knowledge, because knowledge does well cultivate one's inner world. As a noble prince, Hamlet receives a good education and also has good manners in speeches and behaviors. He is fond of thinking, which can be revealed through either his soliloquies or his meaningful words. Hamlet is also a prince with intelligence, which can also be proved through his actions and speeches.

#### **3.1.1 Flowery Language**

Hamlet was a well-educated scholar. When he was young he lived in the opening royal palace, where he obtained a kind of humanism education. Later he studied overseas in Germany before hurrying back home for the death of his father, the old King Hamlet. Having got access to those fine and advanced education, Hamlet has developed nobility in characters as well as good manners in speeches. There always glitter the lights of intelligence in his flowery speeches, ranging from skillful conversations to his sensitive soliloquies. When he speaks, he sounds as if there's always something more important and more

meaningful between the lines. Sometimes, his words are so touching and considerate that they can warm the coldest heart in the world; while other times, his words is even sharper than the keenest dagger, leaving people mercilessly no place to hide their shame and save their dignity.

Hamlet loves Ophelia, as we can easily find the sound evidence from his remarks. Take the one at Ophelia's funeral as an example: Hamlet says,

I loved Ophelia, Forty thousand brothers  
Could not with all their quantity of love  
Make up my sum...<sup>vi</sup>

However, when confronting the vicious king Claudius, Hamlet's speeches are full of wits and irony. Even his "crazy" talks when pretending to go mad are as powerful and well-grounded as his sober tongue. For example, when Claudius inquires about the dead body of Polonius, he answers to the king:

Not where he eats, but where he is eaten, a certain convocation of public worms are e'en at him: your worm is your only emperor for diet, we fat all creatures else to fat us, and we fat ourselves for maggots. Your fat king and your lean is beggar is but variable service, twice dishes, but to one table; that's the end...<sup>vii</sup>

In addition, one of the most distinguished features of Hamlet is that there are a lot of the hero's soliloquies in it. All these soliloquies are full of philosophical meanings. One of the instances would be when Hamlet meets Fortinbras and is enlightened by Fortinbras' actions:

How all occasions do inform against me,  
And spur my dull revenge...  
How stand I then,  
Tha have a father killed, a mother stained,  
Excitements of my reason and my blood,  
And let all sleep? ...<sup>viii</sup>

Language reflects one's inner mind. Hamlet's skillful mastery of language contributes a great deal to his identity as an intellectual thinker.

### 3.1.2 Intensive Introspection

Hamlet's His idea of death is one good example to demonstrate how Hamlet's introspection works.

In the aftermath of his father's murder, Hamlet is obsessed with the idea of death, and over the course

of the play he considers death in a great many perspectives. He ponders both the spiritual aftermath of death, embodied in the ghost, and the physical remainders of the dead, such as by Yorick's skull and the decaying corpses in the cemetery. As a matter of fact, in the eyes of Hamlet the idea of death is closely tied to the themes of spirituality, truth as well as uncertainty in that death may bring answers to his deepest questions. In this way, it will end once and for all the problem of trying to determine truth in an ambiguous world. What's more, since death is both the cause and the consequence of revenge, it is also intimately tied to the theme of revenge and justice—Claudius's murder of King Hamlet initiates Hamlet's quest for revenge, and Claudius's death is the end of that quest.

The question of his own death plagues Hamlet as well, as he repeatedly contemplates whether or not suicide is a morally legitimate action in an unbearably painful world. His soliloquies is the reflection of introspection in his inner world.<sup>ix</sup> It is in his famous soliloquies that Hamlet speaks:

To be, or not to be: that is the question:  
Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer  
The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune,  
Or to take arms against a sea of troubles,  
And by opposing end them? To die: to sleep...<sup>x</sup>

Hamlet's grief and misery is such that he frequently longs for death to end his suffering, but he fears that if he commits suicide, he will be consigned to eternal suffering in hell because of the Christian religion's prohibition of suicide. Finally, Hamlet philosophically concludes that no one would choose to endure the pain of life if he or she were not afraid of what will come after death, and that it is this fear which causes complex moral considerations to interfere with the capacity for action.

Hamlet's character is not marked by will or passion, but by thoughts and sentiments. He tends to think over and over before making the final decision. Before he decides to take actions, he meditates and sometimes he gets puzzled, undecided, and self-doubting. But it is through his introspection that Hamlet is able to find answers to his own questions.<sup>xi</sup>

When Hamlet meets Fortinbras and Fortinbras' army who are going to fight for a land that isn't large enough to hold the army, he falls into introspection. Hamlet thinks highly of the spirit of Fortinbras while on the other hand he thinks about his own duty that is to revenge for his father. Prince Hamlet makes a comparison between the two of them and is enlightened to fight for his own destiny.<sup>xii</sup>

### 3.1.3 Extraordinary Insights



The world where Hamlet lives is full of tricks. Only with extraordinary insights can he find the truth around him and to a larger extent can he avoid being fooled by lies and trapped by other vicious people like King Claudius.

When Hamlet comes back to Denmark at the news of his father's death, he can't believe it as all the other people do. His uncle, Claudius, claiming himself as the king, his hasty marriage with the former queen, Gertrude, and the whole royal court's sudden changes not only bring Hamlet great agony, but also arouse Hamlet's suspicion. Meanwhile, his father's ghost comes up at night to sue Claudius foul murder to Hamlet, which reassures Hamlet's suspicion towards his father's sudden death. Therefore he manages a play within the play to prove that Claudius, the present king, was the murder of his father, the previous king. From then on, Hamlet makes his resolution to revenge for his father.

King Claudius secretly sends for two of Hamlet's fellow classmates to accompany Hamlet in order to find the real reason why Hamlet goes crazy. Hamlet is so observing and sensitive to their behaviors that at the very beginning he discovers the secret and satires his two friends directly. If Hamlet had taken them as true friends, no doubt he would have been betrayed by them and killed by the cruel king.

Hamlet knows he is in great danger when being transferred to England. He understands that he will hardly have any chance to revenge any more if sent to England, and what's more, he may get persecuted to death by the Danish king, his cruel uncle Claudius. Therefore, he makes the very right decision to open Claudius's secret letter which is written to King of England, only to find that he would be punished to death on arriving England at the request of Claudius. He intelligently changes the letter and as a result changes his destiny. In other words, he rescues his own life and also earns himself one more chance to come back to Denmark revenging on the vicious Danish king.

With such extraordinary insights, Hamlet is able to fight against the evil king Claudius, and finally manages to realize his vengeance on Claudius.

### **3.2 Hamlet: A Soldier Fighting for Justice**

Why did Hamlet have to think of this revenge again and again? It can be easily understood that human nature would lead every person to revenge on his enemy. But Hamlet's rival is the present king, who is said to be sent and authorized by God to dominate the people, and whom nobody dares to kill. If Hamlet chose not to avenge his father, he could have continued enjoying his rest luxurious life, his adorable title and fortune. But he chooses the other way to fight against the so-called inviolable power, to kill the king in any

means, because he knows deeply in his heart that he shouldn't be restricted by any feudal custom.

### 3.2.1 Desire for Justice

When he encounters the series of tragic matters, as mentioned above, he gets into melancholy. But the character of melancholy and indecision does not stay unchanged at all times. At last he jumps out of the melancholy and becomes a decisive person. He makes up his mind to seek for the justice and to revenge for his father.<sup>xiii</sup>

When first told about the foul murder and requested to revenge on Claudius by the ghost, Hamlet does not start his action at once. Instead, he waits until the right opportunity comes for him to arrange a trap. A group of actors are invited to act a play within play to testify whether Claudius is the murderer of old king Hamlet. In this way, Hamlet gets to know surely that Claudius has murdered his father.

It is very sensible for Hamlet to arrange this trap to testify the truth. On the one hand, Hamlet is very suspicious on his vicious uncle, and he expects to find the real murderer as soon as possible so that he can take his revenge. He desires to seek the justice for his beloved father. On the other hand, Hamlet has to make sure that he does not kill any innocent person. Therefore, he also gives justice to his vicious uncle Claudius by means of investigating first before taking any impulsive actions.

Another point to show Hamlet's strong desire for justice is that he gives up the chance to kill Claudius when finding that Claudius is confessing his sin to God. In this way, Hamlet wants to make sure that Claudius would go to hell after committing so many sins on the earth. Hamlet wants absolute justice, both for his beloved father and for his vicious uncle.

### 3.2.2 Efforts Made in Search of Justice

The process Hamlet takes his revenge back from Claudius is complicated and breath-taking. Apart from the actions that this thesis has mentioned above, there are still many instances showing that Hamlet makes every effort to realize the absolute justice. He makes the decision to pretend to go crazy. In this way he earns himself some more time to come up with a good plan for his revenge. In search of justice, Hamlet has to give up his love for Ophelia and deliberately hurt her with incisive and poignant speeches. During this time Hamlet is encountered by two of his former classmates, who are arranged by the king to investigate on the reason for his going crazy. Hamlet is so clever and observing that he shatters this trap of Claudius' at the very beginning. The scene of the fencing match between Leartes and Hamlet is dramatic,

because Claudius has arranged a cup of poisonous wine as well as a poisoned sword in secret in order to kill Prince Hamlet. However, the result turns out not to be as Claudius has desired. In the end, Hamlet not only is able to kill Claudius with the poisoned sword but also feeds Claudius with the poisonous wine.

After blood and tears being shed and all the main characters die in the play, Hamlet finally achieves the justice. Though he himself is killed by the poisonous sword of Leartes', he is successful in revenging for his father and realizing the final justice.

### **3.3 Hamlet: A Prince with Strong Love and Hatred**

Born as a noble prince of Denmark, Hamlet's title, reputation, fortune, rank and social status are greatly admired by all the common people. However, Hamlet cares none of these. Instead, he has his unique expansive love for the world, the nature and especially human. Being free from the denominationalism of the Middle Age, during which God's power had been widely considered as the top and inviolable authority of the world and human was considered to be submitted to the power of the lord, Hamlet is such a charming prince that he dares to love bravely and to hate those iniquitous no matter who he is.

#### **3.3.1 Love for His Father and Ophelia**

The old king Hamlet is such a wise and kind king that he is loved by all the people in the nation. His son, Hamlet, of course, loves him far more than anyone else in the world. Returning to Denmark at old king Hamlet's death, Hamlet can't stop missing his beloved father and he is filled with the feeling of agony in his heart. As a matter of fact, Hamlet is so sorrowful that he never stops wearing black clothes, even on the wedding ceremony of her mother and uncle's when everyone else is wearing shining smiles and colorful dresses.

Hamlet turns back to his mother, the queen Gertrude, because he can't accept the fact that his mother could forget old king Hamlet in such a short time and cast herself into another man's embrace. He gets angry not only because of Gertrude's shameless behavior, but because he feels offended on behalf of his father. Gertrude's remarriage to Claudius within such a short time is a kind of betrayal to old king Hamlet.

As to Hamlet's love for Ophelia, there is no denying that Hamlet loves Ophelia. His strong and pure love can be fully revealed through his words and letters. He once writes in his love letter to her:

Doubt thou the stars are fire,

Doubt that the sun doth move,

Doubt truth to be a liar,

But never doubt I love<sup>xiv</sup>

This can express his true love for Ophelia to the largest extent. However, their love is doomed to become a tragedy because of Hamlet's unique experiences. He bears on the burden to revenge for his father and at the beginning of the story makes up his mind to fulfill his duty as a filial son and search for justice. He wants to correct all the wrong-doings in this world. Because of such noble pursuit of his, Hamlet has to sacrifice his own freedom and his personal happiness. He has to bury the love for Ophelia deep into his heart and pretends to go crazy, even to his beloved Ophelia. During the conversation between Hamlet and Ophelia, with Claudius and Polonius hiding somewhere and observing his craziness, Hamlet insults Ophelia by all means. But even then, he is trying to indict his love for Ophelia as well as his intention to protect Ophelia, for he not once asks Ophelia to go to a nunnery. Hamlet claims that "We are arrant knaves all/ believe none of us/ Go thy ways to a nunnery."<sup>xv</sup> In his eyes, this world is too complicated and full of dangers, and a nunnery is the only safe place for Ophelia to live in. Though there is no happy ending with the love between Hamlet and Ophelia, this love is without doubt among the most pure and adorable love one can imagine.

### 3.3.2 Hatred for His Mother and Claudius

Hamlet is an honest, upright, virtuous and graceful young man. There is so much good innateness in him. He has his own principles and rules in life. He hates all the people and things that are vicious and iniquitous.

Firstly, it is important to note that Hamlet is extremely melancholic and discontented with the marriage between his mother Gertrude and his uncle Claudius. He is disappointed with his mother for marrying his uncle so quickly. His words often indicate his disgust with his mother's loss of virtue and he satires his mother with the most merciless speech. There is something else which makes Hamlet even sadder. His uncle, Claudius, who is a brother of the late king and nothing compared with the old king Hamlet, inherits both his throne and his wife.

Secondly, Hamlet is full of hatred towards Claudius. Claudius is a man of vicious characters. Enjoying the luxurious life everyday, Claudius is not as good and wise a king as old king Hamlet used to be. In addition, he tries to kill Hamlet by arranging some vicious traps, in order to prevent Hamlet from avenging

on him. All these reveal the ugly soul of Claudius, which activates Prince Hamlet to kill him not only for the vengeance of his father, but for the peace and prosperity of the country.<sup>xvi</sup>

#### 4. Conclusion

Hamlet's "revenge" isn't so much simply the killing of the king, as it can clean all the dirty things in the Danish court. And although he sacrifices a lot, including his own life, he succeeds. At some time, we all consider how much wrong there is in the world. In this play, Hamlet consciously chooses to say "No!" to the world's wrong. From Hamlet's thinking and action in the story with his learning, wisdom, noble nature, limitation and tragedy, we can draw a very good representative of humanists in the period of the Renaissance at the turn of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. As an intellectual thinker, Hamlet has faith in himself, and tries to explore his inner world and develop his own values. He believes that man is the center and master of this life instead of God. He is extremely noble in mind in that he loves thinking and introspection. As a soldier fighting for the justice, he devotes himself with heart and soul to the course of revenging for his father. He is both determined and intelligent to realize his vengeance. As a noble prince who is filled with strong love and hatred in his heart, Hamlet dares to love and hate: he loves all the fine things, and hates all the viciousness on the earth. It is with his profound love for his father that he is so determined to revenge on Claudius and it is with his deep hatred for Claudius that he finally gets his vengeance on Claudius.

As a representative of humanists, Hamlet fascinates so many audience and readers since the day he appears onto the stage of the literature world. With so many fine humanism values glittering in him, Hamlet will no doubt enjoy the best popularity forever.

#### Notes

1. 田民, *Shakespeare and Modern Drama: from Henrik Ibsen to Heiner Miler* (北京: 中国社会科学出版社, 2006), 155.
2. 罗经国, 《新编英国文学选读 (第二版)》 (上卷) (北京: 北京大学出版社, 2006), 66-67.
3. Ibid. 96.
4. 范存忠, 《英国文学史提纲》 (成都: 四川人民出版社, 1983), 65-69
5. William Shakespeare, *Hamlet*, trans. 朱生豪 (北京: 中国国际广播出版社, 2001), 140.
6. Ibid. 273-274.
7. Ibid. 208.
8. Ibid. 216.
9. Alex Newell, *The Soliloquies in Hamlet-the Structure Design* (Madison: Fairleigh Dickinson

University, 1991),97-100.

10. Shakespeare134.

11. James P. Driscoll, *Identity in Shakespearean Drama*(Lewisburg: Bucknell University Press, 1983), 50-52.

12. 刘献丽,《<哈姆雷特>的悲剧与人生抉择》,《文学研究》8(2007),30-31.

13. Newell75-92.

14. Shakespeare94.

15. Shakespeare140.

16. Lisa Jardine, *Reading Shakespeare Historically*(London: Routledge,1996),152.

### Bibliography

Driscoll, James. *Identity in Shakespearean Drama*. Lewisburg: Bucknell University Press,1983.

Erickson, Peter. *Rewriting Shakespeare, Rewriting Ourselves*. Berkeley: University of California Press,1991.

Jardine, Lisa. *Reading Shakespeare Historically*. London: Routledge,1996.

Lidz, Theodore. *Hamlet's Enemy-Madness and Myth in Hamlet*. Madison: International Universities Press,1975.

Mandell, Kirzner. *Literature Reading, Reacting, Writing (Fifth Edition)*. Beijing: Peking University Press, 2006.

Miloca, Robert. *Shakespeare and Classical Tragedy-the Influence of Seneca*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1992.

Newell, Alex. *The Soliloquies in Hamlet-the Structure Design*. Madison: Fairleigh Dickinson University, 1991.

Shakespeare, William. *Hamlet*. New York: Signet Classics, 1998.

Wells, Pobin. *Shakespeare's Humanism*. New York:Cambridge University Press, 2005.

Shakespeare, William. *Hamlet*. Trans. 梁实秋. 北京: 中国广播电视出版社, 2004.

Shakespeare, William. *Hamlet*. Trans. 朱生豪. 北京: 中国国际广播出版社, 2001.

陈嘉. *A History of English Literature(Volume I)*[M]. 北京: 商务印书馆, 2004.

范存刚. *History of English Literature-A Brief Outline*[M]. 成都: 四川人民出版社,1983.

梁工. *莎士比亚与圣经*[M]. 北京: 商务印书馆,2005.

刘献丽.感悟莎士比亚笔下的哈姆雷特及其悲剧美[J]《商丘职业技术学院学报》第4期,2007: 42-43

刘献丽.《哈姆雷特》的悲剧与人生抉择[J].《文学研究》第8期,2007:30-31.

李子民.从《哈姆雷特》看人性主义[J].《湖南税务高等专科学校学报》第93期,2007:38-48.

罗丽芳.哈姆雷特的性格对剧情发展的作用[J].《安徽文学》第8期,2006:33-34.

罗经国. *新编英国文学选读(上卷)* [M]. 北京:北京大学出版社,2006.

田民. *Shakespeare and Modern Drama: from Henrik Ibsen to Heiner Miler* [C]. 北京: 中国社会科学出版社,2006:381-389.

# 从夏洛克看犹太民族的悲剧色彩

刘黄梅

**摘要：**《威尼斯商人》中的夏洛克以他的凶狠残暴、贪婪吝啬成为人们心中的反面人物，而深深地植根于读者的心中，被称为“欧洲四大吝啬鬼”之一。然而，也有批评家认为他是为反基督教徒侮辱而受到迫害的悲剧人物，是“最值得尊敬的人物”。

笔者认为夏洛克的悲剧是犹太民族悲剧的一个缩影。第一，夏洛克在经济上、信仰上、社会生活中、以及女儿婚姻上所遭受的不公平、抵制和迫害正是千百年来犹太民族所遭受的不公平、抵制和迫害；第二，夏洛克面对一切遭遇所表现出的消极的忍耐、积极的反抗及反抗所遭受的失败，也反映了犹太民族反迫害的斗争史。夏洛克的一切都诠释着犹太民族那富有悲剧色彩的历史、顽强不息却又倍受压迫的生命力以及难以实现却依旧虔诚的民族信仰。

**关键词：**夏洛克 悲剧 犹太历史 歧视

**Abstract:** Shylock, a Jewish moneylender in *The Merchant of Venice*, is universally acknowledged as a selfish, cruel and merciless antagonist. In other words, some reviewers see him as an unforgivable villain, and even one of the top four European skinflints. On the other hand, some reviewers regard him as the most honorable character for his unswerving fights against the insolent Christians.

This article regards Shylock as an epitome of the Jewish people. Firstly, Shylock's sufferance in business, religion and his daughter's marriage, represents the sufferance that the Jewry nation had in the history. Secondly, Shylock's negative attitude and revenge towards persecution embody the Jews' tolerance and fighting back in the history. Shylock represents the Jews, and his experience the Jewish history. In him, we find the tragic color of the whole nation, the never faded perseverance when facing persecution and the endless piety and faithfulness to his own religion.

**Key Words:** Shylock Tragedy Jewish History Discrimination

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 The Tragic History of Jews

What is the accurate definition of Jews?

Jews denotes usually the Israelites or descendants of Jacob (Israel) in contrast to Gentile races. The creed and worship of the Jews is a system which is different from that of the Christianity and Mohammedanism, etc.

After the Jewish ancestors established the nation, the Jews had experienced 11 periods: 1.Persian Suzerainty (538-333 B.C.); 2.Greek Period (333-168 B.C.); 3. Early 4.Roman Supremacy (63 B.C.-A.D. 70); 5.Last Days of Pagan Rome (A.D. 70-320); 6.Christian Emperors and Barbarian Kings (320-628); 7.The Mohammedan Ascendancy (628-1038); 8.Era of the Crusades (1023-1300); 9.Last Part of the Middle Ages (1300-1500); 10.Modern Period (1500-1700); 11.Recent Times (since 1700).<sup>xvii</sup>

During all those periods, the Jews were defeated, controlled and even excelled by those different Kingdoms. According to *Encyclopedia of Jewish History*, the Jews had suffered from at least three massacres: the massacre in Cyprus in Persian Suzerainty, the massacre during the era of Black Death, and finally, the massacre during the Second World War. Besides, in the sixth period an attachment of the death penalty to marriages between Jews and Christians had been announced.

1948 witnessed the establishment of Israel, a country fighting for the Jews and opening its arms to the Jews outside.

### 1.2 A Brief introduction to Shylock

Shylock, a Jewish moneylender in *The Merchant of Venice*, has become one of the immortal characters. Selfish, cruel and merciless, he is even regarded as one of the top four European skinflints by some; while other reviewers considered him as the most honorable character and a great hero who fights for his religion.

The image of Shylock is set in Venice in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. A historical fact is that an act passed by the Parliament in 1522 forbade Christians in England to do the usurious business, while the Jews who were expelled from Spain were admitted to that occupation. This should be the reason that Shylock appeared as a usurer, who could make money from his own money if he could not make it from properties.

The author of this thesis holds that Shylock is a tragic character. He fights for his families, his business, as well as his religion. Shylock should never be regarded as merciless only because he is a moneylender and revenges a Christian who used to humiliate him and rob his trade chances; also he should never be regarded as selfish only because he tries to prevent his daughter from taking a risk to marry a Christian. Contrarily, Shylock is pious and faithful to his own religion and families. What's more, Shylock's sufferings in business, religion and



his daughter's marriage, represent the sufferings that the Jewry nation had in the history. On the other hand, Shylock's revenge towards persecution embodies the Jews' fighting back in the history.

Shylock is an epitome of the Jewish people.

## 2. The Inferior Status of the Jewry as Seen from Shylock

### 2.1 In Business

In Business, the Jews had suffered a lot, such as being kept away from industries and real estate business.

Shylock had suffered much in business. Since he was a Jewish usurer with no real estate or enterprises but money, he should live on his money. So the only way he could earn his life was to be a usurer and earn usurious interests. However, on the other side, Antonio, a Christian trader with enterprises, who could earn his living easily, insisted on supplying money to people without charging any interests. "How like a fawning publican he looks! I hate him for he is a Christian, but more for that in low simplicity, he lends out money gratis, and brings down the rate of usance here with us in Venice." From Shylock's words, we can figure out that what Antonio has done for free as a great kindness is a cruelty which would corner Shylock into losing money in the only business he could do.

Like Shylock, the Jews' experience has never failed to show us their inferior status in business. "Especially after the 11th century, they were forbidden from a lot of industries, such as textile, accommodation trading, agriculture and so on. If by accident they had been allowed to do them, heavy taxes were always attached."<sup>xviii</sup> Namely, they did not have the same opportunities to compete with other traders or manufactures. "Under the conquering of Rome, the Jews were forced to pay heavy taxes, citizen contribution fees, and many other fees. The Jews governed by Rome Kings were much more exploited than under many other conquerors."<sup>xix</sup> However, the decent and honorable industries belonged to everyone except the Jews; while industries, which were easy to break the law or hated by other people, belonged to the Jews. It is said that the Great exploration of coals in Europe began in the middle of the 16th century. At that time the Jews survived the big plague years ago and even led better lives. As it had been written in *Jews in Europe*, "During, the Jews lived a much happier life than before, for they had greater fortunes which would protect them from the common offenses from the government, unless they were too rich."<sup>xx</sup> However, most of the Jews like Shylock became so rich that they gained great envies from the local people, which would cause them into big troubles if they dare using the money to buy properties, such as real estate.

### 2.2 In Marriage

Shylock was a witness of the anti-Jewish miscegenation history.

We can find a lot of dialogues which implied the unequal status in the marriage between the Jews and the Christians in *The Merchant of Venice*. For example, before Jessica ran away with his father's Jewel