
HUMOUR AND SATIRE W.SHAKESPARE'S COMEDIES

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ABSTRACT: This article will discuss a brief summary of the information learned about the humorous scenes as well as satire in his works. The plays exploration of love, deception, and self-discovery are infused with wit and irony, highlighting Shakespeare's ability to use humor as a tool for social commentary.

Keywords: Humour, satire, poet, comedy, talent.

INTRODUCTION

William Shakespeare is widely regarded as one of the greatest playwrights in history, known for his masterful tragedies and insightful dramas. However, Shakespeare's comedies also showcase his exceptional talent for humor and satire. Through clever wordplay, witty banter, and sharp observations, Shakespeare's comedies entertain audiences while also offering commentary on society and human nature.

Shakespeare's comedies often employ satire to poke fun at societal norms and conventions. In "The Taming of the Shrew," for example, the character Petruchio attempts to "tame" his headstrong wife Katherine through a series of outlandish antics. The play challenges traditional gender roles and explores the complexities of marriage in a humorous and thought-provoking way.

FINDINGS

One of Shakespeare's most beloved comedies, "A Midsummer Night's Dream," is a prime example of his skill in blending humor with deeper themes. The play features a fantastical world of fairies and magic, where love potions and mistaken identities lead to hilarious misunderstandings. The character of Bottom, a bumbling weaver turned into an ass by the mischievous Puck, provides comic relief with his absurd antics. Through the lens of comedy, Shakespeare explores the complexities of love, desire, and the irrationality of human behavior.

In "Twelfth Night," Shakespeare employs humor and satire to examine themes of gender identity and social class. The character of Viola, who disguises herself as a man named Cesario, navigates a web of romantic entanglements that result in comedic misunderstandings. The play's exploration of love, deception, and self-discovery is infused with wit and irony, highlighting Shakespeare's ability to use humor as a tool for social commentary.

Another notable comedy by Shakespeare is "The Taming of the Shrew," a controversial play that challenges traditional gender roles and power dynamics. The central relationship between Petruchio and Katherine is characterized by witty repartee and physical comedy, as Petruchio attempts to "tame" Katherine through unconventional methods. Shakespeare's use of satire in this play critiques societal expectations of women and marriage, while also highlighting the absurdity of trying to control another person.

Several of Shakespeare's comedies, such as *Measure for Measure* and *All's Well That Ends Well*, have an unusual tone with a difficult mix of humor and tragedy which has led them to be classified as problem plays. It is not clear whether the uneven nature of these dramas is due to an imperfect understanding of Elizabethan humor and society, a fault on Shakespeare's part, or a deliberate attempt by him to blend styles and subvert the audience's expectations.

Many of Shakespeare's comedies, while humorous, also deal with profound cultural concerns and character issues. What's more, he seldom provides easy answers. Often, questions raised are simply left for his audience to ponder. Read Shakespeare's Comedies For Yourself. In the end, the only way to fully appreciate Shakespeare's comedies is to read them for yourself. Therefore, simply go through the brief summaries I provide. Then, follow the links at the bottom of each description to download a copy of the play itself.

Humour In Shakespeare Shakespeare wrote many plays during his lifetime. Some of his plays have similar comedic characteristics and then other plays are the exact opposite of comedy. Shakespeare wrote tragedies, romance, history, comedy and problem plays all with great success. During the performance of these plays there was no scenery so great time was taken when developing the characters and the plot so the plays would be entertaining. *A Midsummers Night's Dream* and *Much Ado About Nothing* are just two of the comedies Shakespeare wrote. These two plays have many things in common where as *Measure for Measure* is a problem play with a totally different tone.

Shakespeare comedies are generally identifiable as plays full of fun, irony and dazzling wordplay. Shakespeare comedy plays also abound in disguises, mistaken. ... Want to know more about Shakespeare comedies? Then read on... Traditionally Shakespeare play types are categorised as Comedy, History, Roman and Tragedy, with some additional categories proposed over the years. Shakespeare comedies (or rather the plays of Shakespeare that are usually categorised as comedies) are generally identifiable as plays full of fun, irony and dazzling wordplay. They also abound in disguises and mistaken identities, with very convoluted plots that are difficult to follow with very contrived endings

CONCLUSION

The theme of humour and satire in Shakespeare's comedies are a testament to his skill as a playwright and his ability to blend humor with deeper themes and social commentary. Whether it's the slapstick humor of *"The Comedy of Errors"* or the romantic entanglements of *"Much Ado About Nothing,"* Shakespeare's comedies continue to delight audiences with their wit and charm.

In conclusion, throughout his comedies, Shakespeare demonstrates a keen understanding of human nature and a sharp wit that transcends time. His use of humor and satire serves not only to entertain audiences but also to provoke thought and reflection on the complexities of life. By infusing his comedies with laughter and insight, Shakespeare creates works that continue to resonate with audiences around the world.

REFERENCES

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