DESIRE UNDER THE ELMS AND THE EMPEROR JONES AS PICTURES OF TRAGIC- CONFLICT BY EUGENE O'NEILL'S PLAYS IN MODERN AMERICAN DRAMA

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Abstract

This paper aims to study *The Desire Under the Elms* and *The Emperor Jones* as the pictures of conflict. The dramatist, O'Neill attempts to reveal the metaphorical expressions in the selected plays. These metaphorical expressions lead to the tragedy in modern American drama. The researchers use the qualitative method, the narrative analysis as the storytelling techniques. This study uses the conceptual metaphor theory by Lakoff and Johnson (1980-1988) to justify the metaphorical expressions in the plays of O'Neill to tackle the characters, the actions and plot in the plays mentioned above.

Research Highlights

The introduction of this paper is to tackle the tragic themes in the plays of O'Neill. This dramatist, O'Neill regards as a father and founder of modern American drama. He addresses the conflict in the family in particular and the society in general. (O'Neill, 2019; Yandell, 2017) the central focus of these plays is to show the relationship among the family. O'Neill is influenced by the contemporary literary elements and the radical changes that take place in the first decades of the twentieth century. The tragic and dramatic changes have represented the new visions of the American family. (Abbas, 2019; Jensen, 2005).

O'Neill's Desire Under the Elms is considered the story of a widower, Ephraim Cabot and his sons Simeon, Peter and Eben. This play takes place on a farmhouse in New England (America). This play starts with Simon's and Peter's enthusiastic determination to go to a gold mining in California State. The reason behind their enthusiasm is that they work on their father's farm or Gabout's farms. They leave the daunting task at the farm for a more comfortable job. In going to mining, they feel that they can obtain their liberty. O'Neill shows the character's conversation (Jordan, 2019; O'Neill, 1925; Qi, 2019).

The Emperor Jones is one of the greatest plays in modern American drama. This play shows the black-white conflict in the literature of American people. The black-white people reveals the clashes of culture. The culture of white and black people lead to conflict in modern American drama.

Research Objectives

To explain the tragedy as the picture of the conflict in O'Neill's plays as modern American drama.

Methodology

The method of this study is to use the qualitative approach, and the type of analysis is the narrative. The qualitative applies to this paper because it deals with emotion, feeling, stories, event and narration. In the same way, the researcher uses the narrative technique. The conflict theory applies to this study because it has justified the conflict and the struggle in American society. This theory has three classes the power, the course and the stratification. All these classes have separated the community into the upper and the lower levels. In *Desire Under the Elms*, the conflict is represented by the power and the domination of Ephraim Gabout the father. This character "Gabout "has enforced the oppression and bad treatment to his three sons

Results

The characters of Eben and Abbie represent the tragic representations of Desire Under the Elm: The farm needs a son and Abbie: *I need a son* (p.14). In this quotations, Gabout and Abbie lead to the tragedy of life. The farm needs a son illustrates that the farm needs a baby or son. The son will lead to conflict among the family.

Findings

All in all, the study of tragic representations as to the picture of the conflict in The Emperor Jones and The Hairy Ape. The researcher has shown these sad actions.

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Haider Ibrahim Al-Selman is a teacher of English language in high school in the ministry of Education in Iraq. I have studied B.A of English language in Thiqr University and Master of Art in B.A.M.U University in India. I am a PhD scholar of University Technology Malaysia. I am studying English literature under the supervision of Dr.Abdullah Mohd Nawawi, and Dr.Ansam Ali fulfils.

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