

## AMBIGUITY AS TOOL IN PROPAGATION OF STORY LINE IN ENGLISH LITERATURE

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### ABSTRACT

In literature ambiguity plays major role in progression of a story/play. Most of the plays held high in development of story line, major characters in William Shakespeare's play Twelfth Night (Viola, Orsino, Olivia), King Lear (Cordelia, Goneril, and Regan) have either undergone a state of ambiguity or a state of confusion occurred. The plot has taken an unexpected *shape*. In some of the plays ambiguity leads to anti-climax, happy and unhappy endings too, such literary work went on accolade by most of the literary fraternity, among them this paper concerned with Shakespeare's execution of ambiguity as a tool for propagation of story and how other writer Bertolt Brecht and Oliver Goldsmith in *The Good Woman of Setzuan* and *She Stoops to Conquer* respectively, that in turn made their writing true in real life and imaginary feeling of introspection. Ambiguity could be a literary asset in development of story in literary world.

**KEYWORDS:** -Ambiguous, betrayed, misunderstand, mislead

### INTRODUCTION

This paper focused to illustrate how the ambiguity is executed in major plays of literature and how it helps to propagate the story line to develop into a full length story, how ambiguous situations lead to happy and unhappy endings of story. Tried to formulate how Shakespeare and Bertolt Brecht and Oliver Goldsmith executed ambiguity in their plays.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Shakespeare's King Lear-

King Lear wanted to choose heir to inherit the throne, where the King Lear and in the sub plot Gloucester were not clear about their children, they were unable to identify who is among them are sincere and reliable. In main plot Lear was been betrayed by false boosting of his two elder daughters Goneril and Regan---at the same Lear un-trust the younger daughter Cordelia who married king of France though she was faithful and affectionate to her father. in progress of the story the clouds are clear to Lear with the mistreatment of servants and his two elder daughters he realized that they showered false love to grab the kingdom, by the time it was too late ,he was been forced exile and at last he became victim to the devil conspiracy of elder daughters. He lost younger daughter Cordelia and he became heartbroken. The same thing conveyed in the sub plot of King Lear , Gloucester who was also betrayed by his son and blind to see the faithful and affectionate son. Gloucester too pays as same as Lear was gifted by his two daughters.

### William Shakespeare's Twelfth Night-

Shakespeare master piece ,in that he creates an ambiguous situation ,viola 's male clothing lead her mistaken for her bother Sebastain and vice versa---,the major play goes around misunderstanding one other and some situations individual identity kept secret. Antonio----mistakes viola for Sebastain , Sebastain is mistaken for viola, though viola is sister of Sebastain, confusion is due to violas male clothing ,she looks like her brother Sebastain,Olivia falls in love with a man who is really a woman ,the entire play goes in narrative ambiguity i.e. reader is unable to determine the real nature of a character.

Similarly

### Bertolt Brecht's The Good Woman of Setzuan

The Good Woman of Setzuan used the expression of ambiguity in his writing The good woman of Setzuan were the major character Shui TA enacts and misguides other with her dual appearance as men and woman vice-visa. Though Shui TA holds family of eight members i.e. husband , wife ,brother in law grandfather, nephew, niece and boy etc.. She managed all with her appearance in each case as trouble shooter, she handled all the obstacles in a skilled way, and even with her presence in male clothing she pleased the three gods. Bertolt Brecht well executed the entire play with single person presence on all the situations, throughout the play it was quite humors and logical. Wong, Water seller's concerns for the good lady Setzuan ,though she was a prostitute by profession ,she helps all , Wong finds the only one can host the three goods ,as in progress of story ,she even teaches good lessons to carpenter, The wife and husband who had taken advantage of Shen Te even to her husband Yang Sun. Water seller was ambiguous about her mysterious disappearance, he reports her absence to police, and at last the play ends in happy mood when the three gods came to know about her duplicity. The gods do leave the character with ambiguous ,when shui TA begs the gods to have her identity back so as she couldn't please all i.e. being alone and making everyone happy.

**Oliver Goldsmith 's She Stoops to Conquer Summary**

Tony Lumpkin was not willing to marry Constance Neville, Constance Neville was in love with Hasting . Mrs. Hardcastle's wanted Tony Lumpkin to marry Constance Neville so as to inheritance the problem is that neither Tony nor Constance loves the other, Constance has a beloved, Marlow. Tony's misguiding lives Marlow and Hastings in to his house, there Constance Neville conquers the heart of Hasting by creating ambiguous moments. At the end of the play it was a happy ending Hastings and Constance gets permission to marry.

**Conclusion**

To conclude that literary fraternity have had used ambiguity as tool to the propagation /progress of story, most of the plays with or without knowledge used ambiguous situation to extend the story, to create happy ending, to create anticlimax ,literary world should make use of ambiguity to the betterment of literature , so as the literature can be appreciated from the readers ,like Shakespeare major plays used ambiguous situation that made path to the new followers of his literature.

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