



SHAKESPEARE'S LITERARY HERITAGE: INFLUENCE AND IMPACT ON MODERN ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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Abstract:

William Shakespeare, the literary genius who completely transformed English literature, is responsible for the glory of the English literary world. He has made a huge and significant contribution to English vocabulary and literature. This study sheds light on how William Shakespeare's writings shaped the English language. He clearly had an impact on the English language through the way he structured his poetry, prose, and diction. Shakespeare's enormous contribution, which is still priceless in the twenty-first century, is briefly discussed in this essay.

Centuries after his time, William Shakespeare, who is frequently considered the best playwright and poet in the English language, still has a significant impact on English literature. This study looks at how Shakespeare's writings have impacted and changed later English literature in order to investigate his lasting legacy. An outline of Shakespeare's life and work is given at the outset of the study, emphasizing his contributions to a variety of genres, including history, comedy, tragedy, and romance. Shakespeare's inventive use of language, character development, and narrative structure, which have been a model for generations of writers, is demonstrated through analytical insights into particular plays and poetry.

Keywords: Literary legacy, Influence, History, Impact

William Shakespeare is the greatest dramatist of all time. His work has been a major asset to literature, poetry, drama, and the English language. At the time, Shakespeare's works were considered works of high art. Many artists who have created ballet, opera, and paintings have drawn influence from his work. Shakespeare analysis is comparable to examining life from a range of perspectives, such as social, philosophical, political, psychological, and spiritual. His speech patterns are reflected in the rhythms of our bodies.

Many of his words are currently in use. Examples: "deafening" (deaf), "hush", "hurry" (quickly), "downstairs" (below), "gloomy" (sad), "lonely" (alone), "embrace" (hugs), "dawn" (twilight). The spelling used by Shakespeare was different from his time. Elizabethans spelled words as they were written, such as Latin and Indonesian. There is no "correct" way to spell. People write a word the way they want it to be spelled. One thing is for sure. William Shakespeare was a king of words and his work is a true repository of lexical treasure. He was a grand master of lining words, intertwining them, culling them, weighing them, toying with them, using them in unusual positions, functions and forms.

The works of Shakespeare influenced the development of the English language. For example, "Fall in love", "Love is blind", "Heart of gold", "Breaking the ice", and "Killing with kindness" are phrases that are not only familiar, but have become cliches. so often used. They are commonly spoken and understood by people of all classes and backgrounds. These phrases and thousands of others that are still used by speakers of various

languages are Shakespeare's creations. Historical records show that these expressions were first used in the plays.

At that time, English was not the model for literary studies. It's just street talk. By the mid-16th century, the condition of English was gradually changing. English began to improve to become a reputable source of conversation with everyone's help. Literacy rate increased sense of individual was enthusiastic to learned to read and wrote. Learning in English has been cited as a factor in the rise of nationalism. In addition, individuals are proficient in this language enough to be more educated with a smooth personality (Lanier, 2010).

William Shakespeare's influence can be seen in contemporary TV shows and movies, Eastern and Western philosophy, the English language, and literature. Over the years, Shakespeare's plays have also impacted other well-known poets, playwrights, and novelists. In the annals of English literature, Shakespeare is among the most referenced writers. In English and other languages, many of his quotations are utilized in daily life. The biggest effect for modernization, rebuilding, and standardization is William Shakespeare.

Influence of William Shakespeare spread out of in modern films, TV series, Eastern philosophy and Western, English language and also in literature learn. Shakespeare's works have also influenced many world-renowned novelists, playwrights and poets over the years. Shakespeare is one of the most cited authors in the history of English literature.

The evolution of the Early English language is closely related to the story of the invasions of Great Britain, from the 8th and 9th centuries, especially the Old Norse (or Old Irish)-speaking Vikings. This dialect finds certain words that are still used today, such as "take, give, and skin". Old Irish left its mark on English influencing basic grammatical rules, such as "they, them, and their" and "-s" in the third person (singular) (Edwards, 2017). Many words have been taken from the Norman language, such as "uthority", "government", "pardon", "battle", "cream", "vinegar", "anatomy", "nature", "table", and "honour". Today, non-native English speakers often have difficulty pronouncing the famous "th" sound during English class.

The Hundred Years' War (1337-1453) marked a turning point in the English language. This war between France and England sparked the need for a separate English identity, which influenced the language. During the war, all the nobles spoke French and were closely connected to the continent, many nobles having titles and lands in both. French was the language of the monarchy and the aristocracy, at the expense of English, which was spoken by the common people However, in 1362, the English Parliament recognized English as the official language of the courts. King Henry IV of England who ruled at the time used French as his mother tongue and English as his second language, but later generations began to write official documents in English (Hadfield, 2017).

From the 16th century onwards, Modern English began to develop and is still developing today. We separate Modern English into two periods: Early Modern English, which was marked by the Renaissance from 1500-1750 and Late Modern English of the 19th and 20th centuries. Today, we discuss Contemporary English, Basic English, and Business English (Blank, 2018). Early Modern English marks the structure of spelling and grammar, which allows us to understand texts written by William Shakespeare. This is indicated by the increasing presence of vowels. English continued to evolve with the influence of Latin and Greek. English writers write literary texts, while scientific research (certain medical and legal texts) is written in Latin. This is why words, such as, "maternity, atmosphere, or skeleton" are borrowed from Latin. The Greek language equally leaves its mark with words, such as, "anthropology, archaeology, and geography."

During the Renaissance, the perception of Latin was superior to that of some words, of Anglo-Saxon and Germanic origin. The growth and importance of other European countries, such as Italy during the Renaissance left its mark with words like "opera, carnival and tarot". Spanish is also not left behind because Elisabeth I spoke this language. The era of European exploration and subsequent colonialism was marked by significant trade and travel. English began to borrow words from various languages around the world, (Faye, J. C., & Diagne, 2021)

Shakespeare wrote 154 sonnets, more than 37 plays, and other poetry. Numerous themes of love, beauty, family, politics, and death are explored throughout his works, particularly in plays like *Romeo and Juliet*, *Hamlet*, and *King Lear*. Shakespeare's plays and poems include timeless and contemporary themes that speak to people's experiences. In addition to frequently addressing religious matters, he also demonstrated the intricacy of seemingly straightforward values like justice and reason. Shakespeare's brilliant ideas inspired and beautified the English language at a time when it was unknown and hardly taught.

Modern languages, such as French and Italian, have always influenced English, to the point that several writers attempted to launch a refining campaign in English, but to no avail. It wasn't until the late 18th century that the situation reversed and English took a bigger place in international business (Cheng-zhu, 2017).

He took words, phrases and idioms, changed their meanings and brought to life as an ordinary English. For this reason, Shakespeare is known as the father of the English language. Shakespeare invented, coined, and adapted an astonishing more than 1,700 words and expressions, including "heart," "square ice," "warm heart," "meaning of the past," "in distress," and "my oyster world." He contributed to the development of the English language by teaching the vocabulary, language, and poetics of other languages. Many words, both formal and informal, that are used in English today first appeared in Shakespeare's plays. The subsequent influence, however, was completely different. Shakespeare's themes, plots, music, characters, patterns, and archetypes have influenced later writers across borders and languages. Actors Lance, Marlowe, and Ben Jonson, and poets Dryden, Swift, Milton, Dickens, Thackeray, H.G. Wells, Lord Byron, Yeats, and Keats have all been inspired by Shakespeare.

The expansion of the English language was marked by the colonization and growth of the British Empire. English extended to Ireland, where half the population at the end of the 18th century still spoke Irish. Today, 98% of Irish people speak English as their mother tongue (Zimmerman, 2019).

It is impossible to overestimate William Shakespeare's impact on world literature. Writers and artists around the world have been impacted by his contributions to the English language, character development, drama, and poetic form. He freed art from the elite's grasp and made it available to everyone during his lifetime.

His quest for love is distinct. Shakespeare examines the transformational and destructive force of love in all of its forms of poetry and drama, from the passions and emotions of *Romeo and Juliet* to the tragic, gloomy *Othello*. By coining more than a thousand phrases and expressions that are still in use today, he significantly contributed to the development of the English language. Early Modern English, a linguistic development that connects Middle English and modern English, is the language used in his works. Shakespeare's use of blank verse, iambic pentameter, and creative wordplay elevates his work's poetic quality and serves as an inspiration for poets and actors. More people have read his works than any other artist, and they have been translated into all of the major languages. His observations of the human condition continue to have an impact on audiences today, and his impact on literature, theater, and the English language is incalculable.

Among his many literary classics are *Macbeth*, *King Lear*, *Twelfth Night*, and *Hamlet*. More people saw his plays than those of any other dramatist. Shakespeare's diction clearly had an impact on the English language; he created new terms to improve grammar and wrote prose and poetry. Shakespeare was among the first writers to provide a new form to the art of writing. He writes plays and poetry in a distinctive way. He left his unique mark on the use of language. He was a master in using metaphors in his writing. The following text taken from *Romeo and Juliet* (Act 3, Scene 4) is one of the examples of his writing styles:

“Look, love, what envious streaks
Do lace the severing clouds in yonder East:
Night's candles are burnt out, and jocund day
Stands tiptoe on the misty mountain tops.”

Shakespeare was a major contributor to the standardization of grammar. He brought back to life the English grammar's sparse usage of suffixes. Furthermore, succeeding works of English literature adhere to the guidelines that his writings outlined. Shakespeare's spelling has been altered by many, yet his grammar has remained unchanged. Shakespearean critic Dr. Jonathan Hope stated:

"He wrote during a transitional period for English grammar when there was a range of grammatical options open to writers. Much of the grammar he chose now seems old-fashioned but it lends poetry to commonplace words and, significantly, while his spelling is often updated, his grammar is not."

Additionally, he created countless words by changing nouns into verbs and verbs into adjectives, as well as by adding prefixes and suffixes that we still use today. He gave the English language a new definition and form. He contributed significantly to the modernization of English by coining a number of new expressions that are still used today. He created 135 brand-new English expressions that are still in use today.

In addition, he had an influence on a number of poets, including John Keats. He claimed that it not only inspired and enhanced his inventiveness but also imitated his writing style. His rhyme skillfully sculpted the sonnet. His sonnets had a lot of rhythm, and he added ten-syllable lines to make them even more so. For example, these lines from Henry V make it quite evident:

"Rush on his host, as doth the melted snow
Upon the valleys, whose low vassal seat
The Alps doth spit and void his rheum upon."

His poetic use of blank poetry has also influenced many other modern authors, like Christopher Marlow. His tragedies' soliloquies influenced other authors as well. His well-known Hamlet has seven soliloquies, which gives the play a distinctive quality. He asks the meaning of life in the well-known soliloquy "To be or not be" from Hamlet. Many other authors used this method to develop an internal struggle of character. Shakespeare was the first English poet to create a tragedy in the style of the great ancient authors. In addition, he adopted the manner of the ancient Greeks, which eventually inspired numerous authors to emulate Aristotle and Homer. Here are some phrases by Shakespeare which are commonly used today.

1. "Too much of a good thing" (*As You Like It*) - It is said that "too much of a good thing" (i.e. money, love, food) is not necessarily good for you.
2. "In a pickle" (*The Tempest*) - To be "in a pickle" is to be in trouble from which you cannot come easily.
3. "Break the ice" (*The Taming of the Shrew*) - Asking polite questions when you meet someone.
4. "Clothes make the man" (*Hamlet*) - Although not always true, this phrase implies that how a person dresses tells you something about who they are as a person.
5. "It's Greek to me" (*Julius Caesar*). When you say, "It's Greek to me", you realize that nothing is understood.
6. "Fair play" (*The Tempest*) - Looking at the games fairly i.e. showing an exact notice.
7. "All that glitters isn't gold" (*Merchant of Venice*) - We usually use this phrase after we discover the fact that something that looks good turns out to be not that great.

Shakespeare's works on English literature, emphasizing a number of important aspects of his impact. Shakespeare's plays and poetry continue to have a profound impact on the literary canon, as demonstrated by this study's examination of his inventive literary devices as well as his timeless examination of universal themes like love, ambition, and human weakness. Generations of writers have been inspired by his deep understanding of human nature and his ability to depict life's intricacies, which has enhanced the body of English literature. Shakespeare was shown to have had a significant impact on language development, particularly on modern English. Shakespeare's most well-known works all have an impact.

Shakespeare's words also have a significant impact on the English language's structure. The spelling and language patterns of early modern English enable us to comprehend William Shakespeare's writings. The growing number of vowels is a sign of this. Latin and Greek influences continued to shape English. While scientific research (certain medical and legal writings) is published in Latin, literary texts are written in English.

Readers, academics, and artists throughout the world are still inspired and challenged by his ability to portray the human experience with unmatched depth and empathy. In summary, Shakespeare is regarded as one of the greatest influence-producing authors of all time because of his diction, sonnets, and plays. Without Shakespeare, our English would not have been updated because without common expressions like "a sorry sight" and "as pure as the driven snow," there would be a gap in our daily lives.

Shakespeare's writings established a number of literary devices and styles that have influenced English literature for a long time. William Shakespeare had a huge impact on English language and literature. His unmatched work as the greatest dramatist, poet, and actor in the world has greatly contributed to the development of the subtleties of English language and literature. Shakespeare's work still astounds authors,

fans, and critics four centuries after his birth. Shakespeare's characters, stories, poetry, ideas, and works have had a lasting influence on academics, poets, playwrights, and lyricists. He is often considered the greatest philosopher and poet of the English language.

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