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## ANALYSIS OF THE GOTHIC STYLE IN "HAMLET" BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

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**Abstract:** *This following research paper analyses the work of English writer William Shakespeare, namely "Hamlet". The reason why this article is created is that I want to examine this work in the field of gothic style and find several gothic literature examples of author's contribution. In the introduction part, paper presents basic characteristics of William Shakespeare's literary performance and classifies the role of gothic style in literature. In the literature review part, it finds examples and evidences that support conceited view of some researchers about "Hamlet" and gothic style. In the next stage, we can get aware of thoughtful issues by analyzing them in detail.*

**Key words:** *Gothic style, tragedy, mystery, horror, gothic elements.*

### Introduction

William Shakespeare is considered to be the best writer, playwright, actor and poet in the history of British literature. He is regarded, especially in the field of English language and the world's greatest dramatist. He produced colossal number of highly-regarded stories of human drama, sonnets which include romance and comedy that influence writers till this day. Novel which is called "Hamlet" was written in 1601. There were two main reasons why this novel was created. The first one is writer's son died because of unknown illness. The second one is the situation of Denmark in 12<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>1</sup> Because, at that time Denmark was time of fear and political uncertainty. These 2 reasons could be inspiration for Shakespeare to create this kind of great tragedy. In this work, we can see that all occasions in "Hamlet" happens within gothic ambience. There are many work of great writer which we can encounter the gothic style and it's elements. By the way, what is gothic style? We can name it as gothic fiction or gothic horror. It was created in 20<sup>th</sup> century. This style is the genre of literature and the work which includes horror, death and at times, romance. This genre depends on deep emotions and absolute horror which exist in every character of novel.

### Literature review

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<sup>1</sup> In 1602, country was controlled by Elizabeth who had not child to inherit her crown. She frightened from becoming irresponsible in her old age. At that time, fate of country was under danger as in the "Hamlet".

The novel, Hamlet stays on the top list of the best tragedies in the literature. That is why, this novel is played on the stage till now. In 1609, Hamlet was performed for the first time. Because of this kind of succession, many started to analyze and criticize this work. As an illustration, one of the good journalists, Hayley E. Tartell<sup>2</sup> created the articles about "Hamlet." In one of them, he said that In William Shakespeare's "*Hamlet*", Prince Hamlet's polysemic language empowers the body politic and endorses notions of democratization. According to Manpreet Kaur Anand, Hamlet's confused mind is a root cause of his indecision and his actions are accompanied by speculation and very much worry:

HAMLET. 'Tis heavy with him. And am I then reveng'd, To take him in the purging of his soul, When he is fit and season'd for his passage? No. Up, sword, and know thou a more horrid hent: When he is drunk, asleep, or in his rage, (3.3.84–89). We can encounter Articles about "Hamlet" in Berghahn Journals too. Author of this articles, Gary Taylor<sup>3</sup> pinpoints that this novel is best understood as an early Gothic tragedy and there is a connection between "Hamlet" and 'winter tales' about ghosts.

### Analysis and Discuss

"Hamlet" includes several kind of gothic elements. First of all, what are gothic elements. They are mystery, fear, atmosphere, nightmare, settings and so on...All of this elements are existed in this work. This novel was told especially by 4 narratives. The first one is gothic settings like Elsinore Castle, where Hamlet encounters the ghost of his father. However, this is the scene of revenge too. Because his father says that he is murdered by present king and charges prince with avenging. The next element is madness which is pervasive theme in Shakespeare's "*Hamlet*". Notably, madness is characterized by Hamlet and Ophelia in this play. There is a questions why they stay mad. In part, this gothic element is driven by the death of their fathers, but portrayed in different ways. Another similarity of this characters is that both madness end in tragedy. Romance namely, love is also vital in this gothic work. Why? After being aware of truth about father's death, Hamlet gets caught between the love toward his father and his love for Ophelia. Her love to Hamlet, his brother Laertes and his father Polonius becomes a source of her tragedy. But, it doesn't mean that love is bad thing and always tragic.<sup>4</sup> In this novel, writer wanted to say that if dynasty and king's family are not loyal to each other and so emotional, it can create large scale consequences to policy, as well as to nation.

### Conclusion

It is true that end of novel is tragic. But these deaths are nor shameful, nor heroic one. If we think logically, Hamlet achieved to his aim, namely achieves to father's vengeance but after being evidence to the death of his mom, his lover and servant. With a

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<sup>2</sup> He is founder and researcher of "Inquiries journal"

<sup>3</sup> He is a professor of Shakespearian literature at Florida State.

<sup>4</sup> We can encounter tragic love in most of Shakespeare's works.

help of this kind of novel we can come to realize that if we want to achieve our dream we should just do it without hurting someone.

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