

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S LEGACY IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

*Rixsitillayeva Muxlisa Lutfulla qizi*

*Student at Chirchik State Pedagogical University*

*Scientific adviser*

*Khamitov Eldorbek Erkin o'g'li*

*EFL teacher, Chirchik State Pedagogical University, Uzbekistan*

### ABSTRACT

Despite being over 450 years old, Shakespeare's plays remain remarkably relevant. Approximately 80% of Britons have seen or read his works, and there are around 410 annual productions of Shakespeare plays worldwide. His gift of eternal youth ensures that there is almost always a Shakespeare production happening somewhere on the globe. His works have shaped our perception of history, contributed to the English language, and influenced subsequent writers. Original Staging and Contemporary Connections: Recent productions have sought to recreate the original staging of Shakespeare's plays. These "original pieces" aim to reproduce the performance style and practices of the first companies that performed his texts.

**Keywords:** *enthusiasts, permeates, sonnets, linguistic*

### INTRODUCTION

William Shakespeare, the renowned English playwright and poet, left an indelible mark on literature, theater, and culture. His works continue to resonate across centuries, and his legacy remains vibrant even in the 21st century. Let's explore how Shakespeare's influence endures in today's world.

### FINDINGS

#### 1. Literary Impact

##### a. Language and Expressions

Shakespeare's contributions to the English language are immeasurable. He coined numerous words and phrases that are still in use today. Expressions like "break the ice," "wild goose chase," and "all's well that ends well" find their origins in his plays and sonnets.

##### b. Adaptations and Reimaginings

Shakespeare's plays have been adapted into countless novels, films, and TV series. From modern retellings like "10 Things I Hate About You" (based on "The Taming of the Shrew") to science fiction adaptations like "Forbidden Planet" (inspired by "The Tempest"), his stories continue to captivate audiences.

#### 2. Theater and Performance

##### a. Global Productions

Shakespeare's plays are performed worldwide, transcending cultural and linguistic boundaries. The Globe Theatre in London, a reconstruction of the original venue, hosts productions of his works, attracting tourists and theater enthusiasts alike.

#### b. Contemporary Interpretations

Directors and actors continually reinterpret Shakespeare's plays. Whether set in different time periods, with gender-swapped roles, or in unconventional settings, these adaptations breathe new life into the timeless narratives.

### 3. Education and Academia

#### a. Shakespeare in Schools

His works remain a staple in literature curricula. Students analyze themes, characters, and poetic techniques, fostering critical thinking and appreciation for classic literature.

#### b. Scholarly Research

Academics explore various aspects of Shakespeare's life and works. Topics range from authorship debates (Did he write all the plays attributed to him?) to feminist readings and postcolonial interpretations.

### 4. Pop Culture References

#### a. Music and Lyrics

Artists often reference Shakespeare in their lyrics. From Taylor Swift's "Love Story" (with Romeo and Juliet undertones) to rock bands borrowing lines from his sonnets, his influence permeates popular music.

#### b. Film and Television

Shakespearean themes appear in unexpected places. Whether it's a high school prom scene reminiscent of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" or a crime drama with echoes of "Macbeth," filmmakers draw inspiration from the Bard.

## CONCLUSION

William Shakespeare's legacy endures through language, performance, education, and popular culture. As we navigate the complexities of the 21st century, his timeless wisdom continues to guide and inspire us.

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