

HUMOR AND SATIRE IN W. SHAKESPEARE'S COMEDIES*Erkinov Adham Anvar o'g'li**Student of Chirchik State Pedagogical University***ABSTRACT**

This article provides a comprehensive overview of the various forms of humor and satire found in William Shakespeare's comedies. It examines the significance of these elements in entertaining audiences, providing social commentary, and shaping the development of comedy as a literary and theatrical form. The article is supported by references to Shakespeare's original works and scholarly analyses of his comedic techniques.

Keywords: Humor, satire, Shakespearean comedy, verbal humor, situational humor, character humor, social satire, political satire, parody, Burlesque

INTRODUCTION

William Shakespeare's comedies are renowned for their wit, humor, and social commentary. Through the use of puns, wordplay, and exaggerated characters, Shakespeare deftly employs humor to entertain and provide satirical insights into human nature and society. This article will explore the various forms of humor and satire found in Shakespeare's comedies, examining their significance and impact.

FINDINGS

Verbal Humor: Shakespeare's comedies abound with verbal humor, including puns, malapropisms, and verbal misunderstandings. These witty exchanges create laughter while also revealing the absurdities and follies of characters. For instance, in "Twelfth Night," Malvolio's pompous speeches are mocked through Feste's quick-witted responses.

Situational Humor:

Shakespeare also employs situational humor, creating comical situations that arise from mistaken identities, farcical mishaps, and romantic misunderstandings. In "The Comedy of Errors," identical twins cause a series of chaotic events that lead to mistaken arrests and humorous confrontations.

Character Humor: Shakespeare's characters often embody exaggerated traits or eccentricities that arouse laughter. These include foolish servants, pedantic professors, and pompous knights. In "As You Like It," Touchstone the jester constantly satirizes the court's artificiality and self-importance.

Social humor:

Shakespeare's comedies frequently offer satirical critiques of social norms and institutions. For example, in "The Taming of the Shrew," the play explores the power

dynamics between genders, highlighting the subjugation of women in Elizabethan society.

Political Satire:

Some comedies also contain political satire, indirectly mocking current events or the ruling class. In "Measure for Measure," Shakespeare critiques the corruption and hypocrisy of Vienna's government through the character of Angelo, a puritanical judge who succumbs to his own desires.

Parody and Burlesque:

Shakespeare occasionally employs parody and burlesque, creating exaggerated versions of existing stories or genres. In "The Merry Wives of Windsor," he parodies the chivalric romance, presenting a comic take on the noble knights and virtuous ladies of traditional romances.

Cathartic Release:

Humor in Shakespeare's comedies provides a cathartic release for audiences, allowing them to laugh at the absurdities and imperfections of life. By exploring the follies of human nature, humor helps to defuse tension and provide a sense of relief.

Social Commentary:

Satire in Shakespeare's comedies serves as a form of social commentary, critiquing societal norms and highlighting the vices and shortcomings of humanity. Through humor, Shakespeare exposes the hypocrisy, corruption, and injustice that exist in society.

Cultural Legacy:

Shakespeare's comedic techniques have had a lasting impact on Western literature and theater. His use of puns, wordplay, and satirical elements has influenced countless playwrights and comedians, shaping the development of comedy as a literary and theatrical form.

CONCLUSION

Humor and satire are essential elements in William Shakespeare's comedies, enhancing their entertainment value while offering insightful commentary on human nature and society. Through his skillful use of verbal humor, situational comedy, character humor, and satirical elements, Shakespeare creates laughter-filled plays that simultaneously challenge our assumptions and provide a cathartic release. His comedies continue to captivate audiences today, serving as a testament to his enduring wit and satirical brilliance.

REFERENCES

1. Shakespeare, William. *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare**. Edited by Stanley Wells and Gary Taylor. Oxford University Press, 2005.
2. Bergeron, David M. *Shakespeare's Comedies: Solus Rex et Poete**. Routledge, 2002.
3. Halio, Jay L. *The Humor of Shakespeare**. University Press of Kentucky, 1995.