

# *Shakespeare as a dramatist*

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Shakespeare has contributed immensely to the repertoire of English drama. He has elevated English drama to high pedestal by virtue of his exceptional dramatic craftsmanship setting it free from the conventional form of drama which characterized pre-Shakespearean drama. He wrote drama to amuse people. He was of the opinion that the spectators were looking for a dramatic composition in which there were plenty of opportunity for enjoyment. He did not use drama as a platform to display his scholarship as we notice in the case of his contemporary Ben Jonson who deliberately used tough and complex words to ensure his authority over English language. Unlike Jonson he did not receive formal education. He had to work as a page boy to earn his livelihood whose duty was to draw the curtain after the completion of each act and scene in the drama

Shakespeare wrote in all 36 dramas within the span of 24 years from 1588 to 1612.. This period was marked by the reign period of Queen Elizabeth who restored the old glory of England by virtue of her able leadership. Peace and tranquillity in society was restored. England enjoyed friendly relation with neighbouring countries. Trade relation picked up gradually which reported

phenomenal growth .Economy of the country further strengthened which saw its heyday and restored prosperity to society. This period also witnessed the impact of renaissance, a cultural and intellectual movement originating in Italy first in the writings of Petrarch and Boccaccio and finally travelled to England via France. This movement raised a protest against the medieval concept that man was subservient to the wishes of fate and destiny. It heralded the era of the triumph of human potentiality. Man no longer remained subservient to the wishes of the destiny rather he was treated as the maker of his destiny. He is considered as the incarnation of God and is capable of achieving whatever he desires. Sky is the limit for the modern man. This concept of new man finds expression in the dramas of Shakespeare. Miranda ,the heroin of his drama The Tempest uses the word brave new world in utter surprise after having a look at Ferdinand, The son of King Prospero. This is the reason why there is a difference between classical and romantic drama. Shakespeare practised romantic drama since he didn`t have faith in the principles of three unities. Besides this, hero or Protagonist is not made victim to the circumstances or chance as we notice in classical drama. He is confident enough to forge out a way out of complete mess. .Tragedy is caused to them not by the conspiracy hatched by the supernatural forces rather they undergo suffering due to the shortcomings or lacunae latent in their own personality which is clearly evident in the case of Shakespearean heroes like Hamlet, Othello, Macbeth and King Lear. Shakespeare practiced almost all forms of drama which included the comedy, tragedy darker comedy, tragic-comedy and historical dramas but his popularity rests on his tragedies written towards the fag end of his dramatic career.