

Shakespeare's Versification

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YOUVA

Dr. V. B. Srinastana
Asso. Prof., Dept of English
RMC, SSM, VRSU, ARA

BAI English
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Shakespeare has made numerous innovations in thematic pattern, structural organization and versification and elevated English drama to the high pedestal. He realized that the existing form of versification was not capable enough to carry out variegated ideas. He introduced blank verse to meet the challenges posed to the metrical compositions. Although the university poets were responsible for introducing blank verse in English drama but this metrical form was brought to high material in the dramas of Shakespeare. With the introduction of blank verse he successfully managed to bring home his ideas in a pleasant manner. This form of versification was so popular that it was readily accepted by his successors to communicate his ideas to the audience through his poetic form. In the 18th century, however it was replaced by couplet but it was no longer thrown into oblivion. It still

continued to remain the most acceptable mode of expression though Shakespeare's extraordinary commitment to handle his ideas successfully.

Shakespeare also made innovations in the writing of Sonnets. He dragged far away from the Petrarchan form of Sonnet in which 14 lines were divided into octave and sestet consisting of 8 and 6 lines respectively. Shakespeare on the contrary prepared it by three quatrains consisting of 4 lines each which was finally concluded by a couplet of 2 lines. In the quatrains he discussed the problem and hastened to provide the solution to the problem he is locked through the couplets. Actually Shakespearean sonnet later on became very popular with a large number of poets were dragged towards it accepting it as the most sought after mode of expression. Later on Milton introduced a new form of sonnet, Miltonic sonnet which failed to catch the attention of the poets because of serious imitation later to it.