

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH-SEM-V(HONS)

CONFLICT

Conflict is the essence of drama-“no conflict,no drama”,as Bernard Shaw said.It was a study of Sophocle's “Antigone” that led the German philosopher and critic G.W.Hegel to stress the importance of moral conflict in tragedy.In “Antigone”,there is conflict between two principles-between the religious principle of giving burial to Antigone's brother and the legal principle of obeying the order of the king,Creon.The tragedy presents the internal conflict of Antigone between two duties,as well as the external conflict between Antigone and Creon.

What is important in a tragedy is this moral conflict.In “Romeo and Juliet”there is conflict between love and duty beside the external conflict between two parties.Julius Caesar suffers this conflict between friendship and patriotism.Macbeth has the Conflict between ambition and compunctious visitings.The internal

conflict gives the drama psychological depth and spiritual dimension.

In modern drama, there is also the Conflict. In Shaw's play which are comedies, two opposing view points are presented. In Galsworthy's "strife", there is the conflict between capital and labour, in "Justice" the humanitarian aspect and legal aspect are shown the in conflict.

Conflict in a drama is suggested in the exposition and developed through complications and climax. It is resolved in the end either in sadness or in joy.

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