



-Tikrit University\ College of Education for Women

-English Department

-Third Stage

-Elizabethan Drama

- Dramatic Devices in Shakespeare's Theatre

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Dramatic Devices

Playwrights tend to use dramatic devices to represent their ideas and make their plays more interesting to audience. The dramatic devices are so important in conveying character emotions, advancing the plot, creating suspense, and enhancing the overall theatrical experience.

- These can include the use of dialogue, stage directions.

Language, humor, aside, soliloquy, imagery,

Hamartia, tragic fall, Foreshadow

Types of Dramatic Devices

1. Dialogue

The conversation between characters which can reveal their thoughts, feelings, motivations, and relationships.

Stage Directions

Instructions in the script that guide actors' movements and behavior, and inform set design, props, lighting, and sound.

Flashback

A scene that interrupts the present action to depict an event

from the past.

Foreshadowing

The use of hints or clues to suggest events that will occur later in the plot.

Irony

A situation where the outcome is the opposite of what was expected, often used to create dramatic tension.

Monologue: A long speech by a single character, often used to express their inner thoughts or feelings.

Soliloquy: Similar to a monologue, but it's a speech where character talks to themselves or to the audience, revealing their innermost thoughts. Soliloquies are used in Hamlet to offer philosophical musings. The complex imagery that also characterizes the soliloquy further adds to the layers of the play

Aside: A speech made by an actor DIRECTLY TO THE AUDIENCE, but seemingly to himself or herself. It is always a true reflection of the character's thoughts. Its function is to reveal character

Tragic flaw: A weakness or limitation of character, resulting in the fall Tragic hero (ine): A privileged, exalted character of high repute, who, by virtue of a tragic flaw and fate, suffers a fall from glory into suffering.

Humour is offered via such characters as the gravediggers and Osric. Hamlet ridicules characters such as Rosencrantz and Guildenstern and we laugh at the ironic statements of Polonius

Word Play: Word play is used extensively in Hamlet since words are Hamlet's natural weapon. Hamlet's use of language shows him to be intelligent and witty. He is a scholar and something of a philosopher. Much of the word play is dark and springs from frustration and angst.