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## A universal appeal and influence of Shakespeare in Modern English Literature

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### Abstract

This study discusses William Shakespeare's impact on modern English literature and language. The results of this study are useful for English language study specialists who are in charge of researching Shakespeare's actual knowledge and disseminating it to contemporary culture. William Shakespeare has a strong allure for English students, English learners, English researchers, English language researchers, and English native or non-native speakers. Shakespeare is one of the most well-known and important playwrights and writers in the English language, which explains why. The English language needed to be more consistent before Shakespeare. His writings substantially contributed to standardising the English language, literature, spelling, and grammar. Shakespeare added about 1700 new terms to the language, many still in use today. Over the years, Shakespeare has significantly impacted poetry and literature. He used blank verses in a way that had never been done before and has since become the norm in poetry. Studying Shakespeare's works is a crucial component of academic learning because of the significant impact of Shakespeare's language on how we communicate today. The fact that Shakespearean languages, patterns, rhythms, and literary devices are still used in contemporary literature is a miracle and a mystery. William Shakespeare's influence can be seen in contemporary dramas, films, the English language, Eastern and Western ideas, and more. Shakespeare's works have impacted numerous renowned poets, playwrights, and novelists. Shakespeare has received numerous citations throughout the development of English literature. In both English and other languages, people frequently use his quotes. Among the most renowned playwrights in the world, William Shakespeare is often regarded as the best author of all time in the history of language and literature.

**Keywords:** Language, literature, pronunciation, Sonnet, philosophy, drama, psychology, standardisation, modernisation, stage, society, culture

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### Introduction

The study of the English language, pronunciation, literature, and practice was done for the article under discussion. The influence of William Shakespeare has been examined in this study, making it important in present times. Shakespearean ideas, thoughts, conceptions, and philosophies have greatly influenced modern English. Researchers worked on this study at various times, and the literature review revealed various results. Some of them were comparable, while others were only slightly different. However, all the researchers concluded that William Shakespeare significantly contributed to the literature and language of modern English. William Shakespeare, the greatest playwright in English literature, was born on 26 April 1564. He was an English poet, playwright, and artist often regarded as the greatest playwright in the world and the best author in England. He is called the "Bard of Avon" and the "National Poet of England." This greatest playwright produced 39 plays, 154 sonnets, two long narrative poems, and a few additional pieces, some of which bear a hazy claim to authorship. His plays have been translated into all the major languages. Stratford upon Avon is where Shakespeare was born. At the age of 18, he married Anne Hathaway.

Susanna and the twins Hamnet and Judith were the names of his three children from her. He began a successful career in London as a performer and author between 1585 and 1592. He appears to have left work at age 49 and moved to Stratford, where he died three years later. Shakespeare wrote the majority of his plays between 1589 and 1613. His early dramas, which he mostly produced as comedies and histories, are regarded as some of the best pieces ever produced in these genres. He primarily wrote tragedies until about 1608, including Hamlet, Othello, King Lear, Macbeth, and other plays regarded as some of the finest in English. Shakespeare's works have frequently been resurrected and altered through new arrangements in scholarship and performance throughout the 20th and 21st centuries. His plays are produced, researched, and reworked in various ethnic and political contexts worldwide. Modern English and Late Modern English are the two main subclasses of modern English. When Early Modern English first emerged during the Renaissance, new words were added to the language due to the development of new fields. The invention of the printing press made it simple for individuals to learn to read because books could now be produced, expanding the possibilities. Printing

made it simple to produce books using common vocabulary, phrases, idioms, and grammar. In 1604 the first dictionary was released. The difference between the early one and this one is that more words were created due to the ongoing change in the environments in which we live.

As new knowledge was being enhanced during the Industrial Revolution, the first flow of original vocabulary emerged. English was adopted worldwide because of a British Empire mandate, but each group gave the language its unique spin. This is why there are so many different vernaculars in the English language today, which is frustrating. We can tell the difference between American, British, and Australian English. For instance, “pepper” is used in British English, “bell pepper” in American English, and “capsicum” in Australian English. In addition, despite not being encouraged by the constituents, many nations utilise English as their internal lingua franca due to how quickly the language is growing. A future prediction is that if English keeps familiarising itself as it does now, it may become a universal language: a genius, William Shakespeare. In the current sense, a genius is a brilliant person or someone who excels at a particular skill. He was not a genius in that sense. He had a remarkable ability to make words come to life and was a reasoning genius. William Shakespeare’s career in central London did not begin on the stage but rather a little to the side of it.

He began by writing for reliable platforms rather than acting. He founded Chamberlain’s Men, a theatrical company, in 1594. They experienced a calamity in 1597, which ordered the Chamberlain’s Men to stop working toward permanent residence. William Shakespeare acquired a new home for himself and his family in the same year, one of Stratford’s most impressive structures. In 1613, William Shakespeare retired and returned to his hometown of Stratford. Around his retirement, a significant fire broke out at the Globe Theatre, causing it to burn down completely. A canon that was used to create effects on the stage, especially while acting out an event, caused the fire to burn during the production of a play about Henry VIII. About a month after he wrote his desire, he passed away. On 23 April 1616, William Shakespeare passed away. Nobody is certain of the cause of his death, although rumours concerning diseases that may have affected him are circulating. Many accounts claim he was unwell, while others claim he had syphilis and typhoid. However, no literature details the exact ailment. At Stratford’s Holy Trinity Church, he was buried two days later. His nearby friends read all of his writings and had them published a few years after his passing to idolise his inheritance. The United Kingdom has commemorated William Shakespeare’s four hundred and fiftieth birthday. People from all around the world have celebrated this event for a good reason. Shakespeare is the best writer because people continue to read and love his writings more than four centuries after his death. Shakespeare began writing after his plays when English constantly evolved and gained new words and phrases. Shakespeare’s use of

novel ideas, words, and phrases in his plays helped the English language gain enduring renown throughout this era of upheaval. Shakespeare needs to develop new ways to tell stories for his settings to convey their feelings fully. He occasionally did this by borrowing words from other languages. Shakespeare also developed his own techniques for being familiar with the English language at the time to tell stories in the way he desired. Prefixes and suffixes were employed to change the meaning of individual words, and nouns were transformed into verbs, verbs into adjectives, and adjectives into prefixes. If Shakespeare could not communicate the story he needed to tell, he would not be satisfied with only changing the vocabulary; instead, he would suddenly invent a noble word. In addition to giving English a fresh and noble vocabulary, Shakespeare created new expressions that had never been used before. Nowadays, many of them are accessible. The Globe Theatre in London, a modern recreation of one of the Shakespearean artistic theatres, is the usual and dependable place to see a Shakespearean play. Shakespeare’s dual existence as an English and a foreign artist (a poet and a playwright) begins with the First Folio in 1623. Ben Jonson, a co-worker, refers to “the Reader” and emphasises that “Gentle Shakespeare” is the “soul of the era,” firmly designating him as “the wonder of our theatre” in a public setting. Later, Jonson makes the opposite claim, saying that his opponent “was not of an age, but for all time.” Shakespeare’s life and work are characterised by energetic contrast, making him a hermaphrodite and perpetual shape-shifter who is difficult to nail down. He is “a guy of fire-new words,” with the terminology of 30,000 vocabularies (“equivocal,” “prodigious,” and “antipathy,” for example, obtain their first qualifications from him. However, he commands even the most basic structures, such as Henry’s crushing rebuke of Falstaff or Leontes touching Hermione’s statue in *The Winter’s Tale*—three well-known examples. Every generation will be indebted to Shakespeare for his enormous achievements. Shakespeare’s intricately multifaceted plots inspire interesting continual variations and spinoffs. Many people use Shakespeare’s extraordinary phraseology without realising it, including “a fool’s paradise,” “the game is up,” “dead as a doornail,” “more in sorrow than in a fury,” “brutal, only to be kind,” and many more. His works’ vocabulary and phrases have been used in the titles of countless books and movies. Shakespeare can ingeniously create characters out of nothing, giving “to airy nothing a local residence and a name” and launching the English language. Through *Hamlet*, *Juliet’s Nurse*, *Macbeth*, *Mistress Quickly*, *Lear*, *Othello*, *Shylock*, *Portia*, *Prospero*, and *Romeo*, he has captured our attention like no other author. For English speakers everywhere, William Shakespeare continues to be an icon. Such conclusions are predictable. He always presented his plays on the biggest platform imaginable from the outset. Shakespearean plays provide the impression that a famous author is as interested in philosophical ideas and the English countryside as in political

intrigue. With regards to his titles, such as you like it, much ado about nothing, and well that ends. Well, etc., there is some appealing, even impromptu, English. According to the Oxford Dictionary, a conspiracy theory is a plot in which a specific member of a strong union is held accountable for a situation. According to several conspiracy theories, Shakespeare might not have authored all his works alone. These accusations are in dispute because of the paucity of reliable, established information about him. As a result, it cannot be said with certainty that he employed a novelist who disagreed with him. Christopher Marlowe was one of the most significant Shakespearean opponents in the writing world. This idea is supported by the fact that both authors shared a common writing style and frequently used comparable lines and phrases. Furthermore, because the details of Marlowe's death are heavily constrained, most people tend to believe that his demise was spectacular to conceal the truth. Shakespeare's language and the kinds of ideas he produced are both novels. Many academics are turned off by this, which prevents them from learning as much as they might with more useful poets. This is not to argue that educators shouldn't consider using Shakespeare in the classroom when it makes sense. However, we must acknowledge that students in the classroom range in ability and that different abilities require different learning tools to reach their full potential. Shakespeare was a brilliant individual. He was not just brilliant in the traditional sense. A genius is a unique thinker who possesses dazzling talent to a certain degree. He was a brilliant thinker with the astounding ability to make emotions come to life. Nobody is certain if these theories are true. They are merely educated guesses made by various experts based on their unique interpretations of William Shakespeare's writings. Shakespeare is not only a national hero of England but also a key component of the American ideal, where the reflection of his famous plays captures a culture constantly searching for itself. Shakespeare's afterlife as the greatest dramatist is now as much an American as a British miracle, essential to American philosophy, etiquette, and belief, as President Bill Clinton previously acknowledged when he said, "Our engagement with Shakespeare has been long and sustained generation after generations of Americans have fallen under his spell." After Abraham Lincoln's assassination, John Wilkes Booth's brother established his sculpture in New York's Central Park to symbolise Shakespeare's significance in American culture. Shakespeare produced many poetry, prose, and plays that have stood the test of time. The use of newly created terms and coinages has contributed to the richness and vibrancy of our language today. Shakespeare is used in everyday discourse worldwide by people who do not comprehend it. If Shakespeare were not studied in institutions, future generations would miss out on the richness of language Shakespeare carries. Even when used without this objective, Shakespeare's sophisticated terminology is a coaching tool that teaches pupils how to utilise their local language more effectively than a simple textbook. Shakespeare

must be introduced to our children, and in the meantime, as fathers seem too indolent to teach their children to read, it is the school's responsibility to suggest this education. Shakespeare seems to have maintained the stage with nary a hint of regression. He just retired to Stratford, got together with old acquaintances, got wasted with some old friends, and passed away after giving his wife, Anne Hathaway, his "second-best bed." Shakespeare lost his fans' respect despite having enhanced English life, language, literature, and culture at home and abroad. His writings are like mirrors that reflect love and hate, war and peace, freedom and tyranny, sorrows and pains, but the man himself is enigmatic. The finest English literary expert passed away on 23 April 1616. He did, however, continue to hold a special place in the hearts of people worldwide.

### **Influence of William Shakespeare**

Shakespeare is regarded as history's greatest playwright. He contributed significantly to the English language, literature, poetry, theatre, etc. English may have been a more noble language in the early sixteenth century. Because it sounded harsh and demanded the superiority that foreign languages demanded, it was assumed that people from the lower social classes spoke it daily. As a result, institutions needed to endorse it. As these languages were the standard for intellectual and religious claims, Latin and Greek were taught to children in educational settings. English was not then used as a model for literature study. It was merely a street language. English was progressively changing around the middle of the 16th century. With the help of people, English was able to start developing into a reliable source of discourse. For instance, the literacy rate was rising, indicating that people were eager to learn how to read and write. English language education was cited as a sign of increasing nationalism. Additionally, speakers of this language were well-educated and had pleasant attitudes.

### **Language**

The most significant impact on English modernisation, reconstruction, standardisation, adaptations, etc., can be attributed to William Shakespeare. Shakespeare was a writer who appeared to be able to do whatever he wanted with the language, upholding orthodox, continental, and Anglo-Saxon customs in a rhythm of prose, verse, and storytelling. The dramatist of the First Folio was a voracious reader, a collector of careless trifles, and a master of innovative fusion. When the residents of his Vienna, Rome, or Athens appeared to have walked out of Cheapside or Southwark, the Stratford of his youth prowled the frontages of Verona, Syracuse, or Padua. The English language was duplicated and altered when the good language was plaited with Latin coinages.

### **Literature**

William Shakespeare greatly impacted English literature with his well-known works, which featured a rhythmic theme, music, culture, and philosophy.

Shakespeare's ability to combine the three major genres of literature—verse, poetry, and drama—is his greatest accomplishment. Dramas were frequently composed in rhymed poetry back then. On the other hand, he blended drama, poetry, and verse in his composed dramas.

While the use of poetry added more strength to language construction, the use of verse in his dramas confidently influenced the soulfulness of English. Additionally, the theatre convention expanded vocabulary and forbade the use of ambiguous language cyphers in English. These three main sections focused on a time when new words, phrases, idioms, styles, and forms were used. Because blank verse provided writers with a free-speaking cadence, it was used for composing plays. The writers could use this form to portray the reactions of a personality in a way that improved the language, even though it required a good variety of vocabulary. Shakespeare frequently used blank poetry, which greatly impacted the English language.

### **Vocabulary**

The poet William Shakespeare is credited with enhancing and extending the English language's vocabulary. He was a noble coiner, so he could pull this off. The Oxford Dictionary defines coinage as the development of a new vocabulary. Shakespeare was often skilled at converting and deriving terms from Latin. He completed it by preserving the stem from one language's prefix or suffix and the other language's stem. Examples of these words include things like "accommodation," "fixture," "pious," "generous," "educate," and so on. It is estimated that he contributed close to 600 terms to the English language by borrowing. When a language is broadened, some old words have new meanings added while others do not. In addition, new words would emerge while others would disappear. Shakespearean words like crimeless, insister, primly, demanding, and others have vanished as English has developed. The old English language began to reveal a new area of standardisation through this process.

### **Poetry**

Shakespeare produced a large number of poems, all of which remain outstanding. He is renowned for his ability to analyse, research, and communicate emotions simply. Shakespeare has authored more than 375 English-language poems. He stressed "verbal immediacy" and "shaping stress to the movement of living emotion" as two essential components of poetry. William Shakespeare's statements show the passage of time through current, relevant, and lively ideologies. His writings include "A fairy song," "A Lover's Complaint," "A Madrigal," and "All the World's a Stage," among others. In his work, Sonnet, he uses straightforward language to convey complex, sometimes contradictory perspectives toward a single feeling. William Shakespeare's famous verses in his plays and writings share the same name. However, his poetry is not nearly as well known as the characters and well-known prologues from his numerous plays.

### **Sonnet**

Shakespeare's sonnets are intriguing and significant in English poetry. Fourteen verses comprise a sonnet, most divided into quatrains and a last, concluding couplet that rhymes with an *abab, cdcd, efef, and gg*. The English sonnet is named by its rhyme patterns and shape. His Sonnet continuously changes the configurations and attributes. A total of 154 sonnets by Shakespeare were penned and published in 1609. The first series of sonnets are addressed to a young guy who is a close friend of the author's. In the second arrangement, the poet becomes fixated on a mysterious woman. Shakespeare's sonnets are thought to be a continuation of the sonnet tradition that first gained popularity in Italy under Petrarch's Rebirth in the 14th century and reached England in the 16th century. In the art form of English, a 14-line sonnet has a poetic structure. Sonnet 18's "Shall I compare thee to a summer's day" is depicted in Figure 5. Shakespeare wrote a famous sonnet titled "Shall I Compare thee to a summer's day?" in which the young man is devotedly compared to a summer day because he possesses traits superior to a summer day.

### **Standardisation of English**

The English language has undergone significant standardisation thanks to William Shakespeare. His vocabulary, idioms, grammar, and adherence to English standards went a long way in establishing English. Additionally, his writings portrayed the rules currently applied to the English language. Shakespeare's grammar has not changed, even though he lived long after English had undergone greater modernisation.

### **Phrase and Idioms**

William Shakespeare has had a significant impact on several well-known expressions as well as the literature and language of England. His influence on the English language can be heard in these expressions. He has given the English language several expressions, two of which are being in a pickle and waiting with bated breath. Shakespeare added a second instance of his word to convey jealousy, similar to the green-eyed monster. One of the famous quotes he used in his play Macbeth is "be all and end all." He used the term "Fair Drama" in the play The Tempest. Additionally, he contributed some of the practical jokes in his Scottish dramas. Shakespeare's impact on the English language can also be observed in some of the everyday expressions we use, such as A Heart of Gold from his play Henry V. Another expression that appears in The Merry Wives of Windsor and is still widely used today in English is "the world is my oyster".

### **Influence on the English Stage**

There is no proof that William Shakespeare took part in theatrical acting. However, any child raised in the West Midlands would have been aware of the various kinds of auditoriums that England lacked. Additionally, Stratford was accustomed to hosting numerous touring troupes of performers so he might have run into one of the drama companies

somewhere along the road. In opposition to the Tudor ethical dramas, the most well-known type of drama at that time, a group of authors were reforming. Tudor morality is centred on individuals who choose a good, pious life over a bad one. The main issue with these theatrical works was that they required more application to real-world situations. It serves as a reminder of how much we still care about Shakespeare. The goal of the revolt was to create a play with more logical complexity and offensively make fun of ethics. Shakespeare went overboard with these new developments because he created dramatic pieces that connected his audience with many emotions and forced them to consider and debate the fundamentals of human nature. He wanted to excel as a lyricist as well as a dramatist. His major rhyme-writing interruption occurred between 1592 and 1594 when the epidemic shut down London's theatres. He wrote a lot of plays that were played on stage during that time.

### Conclusion

Shakespeare made enormous contributions to the literature and language of modern English that are indescribable. Shakespeare made significant contributions to the English language that have influenced not just how people express themselves but also how people view the world. By creating, combining, or tracing the origins of words from other languages, William Shakespeare contributed almost 1,700 terms to the English language. He created highly interiorised, incredibly complex characters and lasting plots in his plays that have become standards in English literature and had a significant impact. Due to his fame and influence, he helped to promote the English sonnet, commonly known as the Shakespearean sonnet. He warped European theatre by enhancing expectations of what could be accomplished through innovation in categorisation and planning. Shakespeare significantly influenced writers, including Herman Melville, William Faulkner, Alfred, Lord Tennyson, and Charles Dickens. It is surprising that Shakespeare even has an impact on contemporary authors. Shakespeare was aware of people from all walks of life, and those who read his works felt utterly immersed in life's rhythms. For all these reasons, William Shakespeare continues to hold a special place in the hearts of people around the world.

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