

THE ANTAGONIST'S BAD CONDUCT DEPICTED IN WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S *HAMLET*

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Abstract

This research focused on the antagonist's bad conduct of the play Hamlet written by William Shakespeare. The main analysis consists of several points. They were betrayal, greediness, and murder. It analyzed how the antagonist tries to satisfy what he wants. This research intends to highlight the people's way of thinking in considering the way that they use to fulfill their desire. To fulfill their desire, they should use the good ways and consider the negative impact that will be happen for themselves and their surrounding people. They should be able to control their copious desire otherwise they can be a greedy man. On the contrary the antagonist as the character that is discussed in this research has used the bad ways and did not think about the negative impact that will happen. So that, this antagonist's bad conduct has brought the great disaster for himself and his surrounding people. Finally, through this analysis, the researchers hope that this research will be useful for the readers in considering the way that they use to get their desire.

Keywords: antagonist, conduct, betrayal, greediness, murder

1. Introduction

William Shakespeare is the English dramatist and poet, who are generally considered to be the greatest of authors in any language ancient or modern. Throughout the world, Shakespeare's plays are performed more frequently than those of any other playwright. William Shakespeare was born about the 23 April 1564 in the village of Stratford-on-avon in the country of Warwickshire. He was christened on April 26, 1564 in Holly Trinity Church in Stratford. He was the third child of the eight children, four boys and four girls of John and Mary Arden Shakespeare.

The bad conduct is the behavior of the antagonist that causes suffering for many people. It is caused by many things such as, greediness, hatred, jealousy, ambition, economy, and the bad real life. Many people in the world use all of ways to fulfill their desire. It includes using the wrong ways. Sometimes, they do not care, although the way, which they use, is wrong to get their desire and it takes the negative impact without being realized by them.

It is true that everyone is free to use many ways in getting their desire, but it should be remembered too that they have to use the good way, because all of our behavior as not apart from the normal and religious values where we live. These values are a limitation and a guide to our behavior and we have to obey it. So that we can live peaceful and contiguous with another people and there are no people that suffer because of their bad conducts. The researchers think this subject matter is quite significant to be analyzed as a good lesson for

the readers in remembering the same matter always happens in our life nowadays, although it is depicted in the different moments and conditions.

There are some characters of the play "Hamlet", such as King Claudius, Prince Hamlet, Ghost of Hamlet, Queen Gertrude Polonius, Laertes, Ophelia and Horatio. In this research, the researchers focused on the character of King Claudius as an Antagonist. Accidentally, this matter also is taken from the play Hamlet that is written by a famous playwright, William Shakespeare.

1.1 Statement of the Problem

According to the background of the study, the statement of the problem as following are:

- 1) What is the general description of Hamlet as the antagonist in Shakespeare's Hamlet, Prince of Denmark?
- 2) What are conflicts experienced by Hamlet in Shakespeare's Hamlet, Prince of Denmark?

1. Literature Review

2.1 Antagonist's Bad Conduct

The bad conduct is the behavior of the antagonist that causes suffering for many people. It is caused by many things such as, greediness, hatred, jealousy, ambition, economy, and the bad real life. Many people in the world use all of ways to fulfill their desire. It includes using the wrong ways. Sometimes, they do not care, although the way, which they use, is wrong to get their desire and it takes the negative impact without being realized by them.

2.1.1 Betrayal

Sometimes human being is very ambitious to fulfill his desire. They do not realize what they have done to another people and they use all of ways to getting their desire. Theoretically, any kind of relational transgression may be appraised by relationship partners as a betrayal, depending on the extent to which relational expectations and trust have been violated. In general, however, the most commonly reported acts of explicit betrayal involve sexual and emotional infidelity, lies, and deception (Fitness & Mathews, 1998; Hansson, Jones, & Fletcher, 1990; Jones & Burdette, 1994). Whether or not an act of betrayal involves lies, deception, or infidelity, one important aspect of the experience that intensifies its severity and painfulness is humiliation, or the perception that one has been shamed and treated with disrespect, especially in public (Gaylin, 1984; Metts, 1994). A number of studies have examined the role of humiliation in exacerbating interpersonal conflict in different contexts. For example, Jones and Gallois (1989) found that not belittling or humiliating one's partner was one of the most important endorsed rules for handling marital conflict constructively. Similarly, Fitness and Fletcher (1993) found that being mocked or publicly shamed by one's spouse evoked strong feelings of hatred for him or her, and several researchers have noted the link between perceived humiliation and physical violence in marital and dating relationships (e.g., Dutton & Browning, 1988; Foo & Margolin, 1995; Lansky, 1987).

2.1.2 Greediness

Robertson (2013) states greed can be defined as the selfish desire to possess wealth, substances, objects, people, power, status, appreciation or attention far beyond what is

required for basic human comfort. Greed is the direct outcome of dissatisfaction, emptiness, and discontentment. To fill this emptiness and discontentment, the greedy individual then acts in ways to acquire more resources, admiration and power, often at the cost of the happiness of other individuals. Greed therefore has the ability to cause profound human suffering. (Fromm, 1939) famously stated 'Greed is a bottomless pit which exhausts the person in an endless effort to satisfy the need without ever reaching satisfaction'. Nikelly (2006) states greed has a strong correlation with fear, guilt and pain caused by psychological imbalances during childhood development.

Every man has the instinct to get what he or she wants. It is important to keep our prosperity life. Jeevan (2015) states that "all individuals are inherently motivated to seek pleasure and avoid pain without exception in all situation". From this quotation, we know it is natural for human being to seek happiness and avoid unhappiness. But this instinct will be the great disaster if we cannot control our desire because, the people who is dominated by the instinct to get, consciously or unconsciously will be greedy man.

In this play, Shakespeare portrays the antagonist of this play as a greedy man. He has killed his own brother, the late king of Denmark in order to seize the throne and subsequently married Gertrude, the Queen of Denmark.

2.1.3 Murder

Murder is one of the most serious crime problems. Usually, murder is classified as a crime against the person. It is committed by a single individual to another single individual. It is an action that violates the sacred customs, laws and, values where we live. In this analysis, one of antagonist's bad conducts is discussed, as a problem that always happens in our life nowadays. It is the murder. Claudius as the antagonist of the play has killed his own brother. The murder has the aim, that he wants to seize the throne and subsequently married Gertrude, the Queen of Denmark. So to reach for the aim, Claudius kills his own brother with poison. The next quotation explains that:

Gibbons (1987: 256) states Murder and assaults actually depart markedly from the popular image of activities carried on by clever, scheming individuals using complex techniques to kill or assault. It means that the murderer always a good planning and use the complex techniques but the murderer does the improper action to reach from this purpose. In this case, Claudius also has used the bad to get what he wants.

For the evolutionary psychologist Buss (2005) states killing is a core element of human nature because in evolutionary terms it serves a purpose. Specifically, it is advantageous to reproduction. It is an adaptive strategy. Murder, therefore, is inherently logical. The mind is designed to murder. The gains for killing, argues Buss, are: the killer has not been killed and therefore can reproduce; augmenting his (and it usually is a man) own survival and the death of a reproductive rival, he can have sex with the dead man's mate, and take his property; it scares the hell out of any would-be antagonist; he is immediately converted into a sexually attractive partner for admiring females; he has displayed another attribute that these doting but vulnerable women need, protection from predatorial males (presumably, also from dinosaurs and other marauding beasties).

2. Research Method

Method of research is an important element in every scientific research. It shows the way how the researcher organizes a research. Method of the research consists of study design, data collection, and data analysis as described below.

3.1 Study Design

When defining a research question/topic, a researcher may decide to focus on particular type of study. Thus, this study focused on qualitative research. Qualitative research was used to explore and understand people's belief, experience, attitudes, behavior, and interactions. It generates non – numerical data. This research was typically conducted using smaller number of participants as the investigation usually contitutes a lot more detailed – oriented.

Qualitative research method is a method used to describe facts qualitatively. Qualitatively, researchers aim to gather an in – depth understanding of human behavior (Creswell, 2009).

This research used literary study in which the data were taken from books, especially those that contribute to the variables discussed in research. The main data in thie research were obtained from the play “ Hamlet “ written by Shakespeare. Some other data were taken from another books, and internet website.

3.2 Data Collection

In the collection of the data needed, the writer of this thesis conducted some steps that can be described through some point below.

1. Collecting the important data related to the subject matter by underlining and marking them.
2. Making a note of related data.
3. Searching for any theory related to the subject matter from books or websites.

3.3 Data Analysis

In the analysis of the data needed, some procedures were important to do. According to Patton (1990: 103), data analysis is the process to organize data in a pattern, category, and into analysis. In this research, there are some procedures used to analyze the data. The procedures are as follows :

1. Analyzing the data taken from the novel and ellaborating them.
2. Revealing the answer related to the problem of the study.
3. Editing and organizing the data and the result of the study.
4. Making conclusion of the data analysis.

3. Result and Discussion

This research focused on the antagonist's bad conduct of the play Hamlet written by William Shakespeare. The main analysis consists of several points. They were betrayal, greediness, and murder. It analyzed how the antagonist tries to satisfy this copious desire in getting what he wants. This research intends to highlight the people's way of thinking in considering the way that they use to fulfill their desire. All of this bad conduct is discussed as follow.

4.1 Antagonist's Bad Conduct

The bad conduct is the behavior of the antagonist that causes suffering for many people. It is caused by many things such as, greediness, hatred, jealousy, ambition, economy, and the bad real life. Many people in the world use all of ways to fulfill their desire. It included using the wrong ways. Sometimes, they do not care, although the way, which they use, is wrong to get their desire and it takes the negative impact without being realized by them.

4.1.1 Betrayal

Sometimes human being is very ambitious to fulfill his desire. They do not realize what they have done to another people and they use all of ways to getting their desire. Lambroso (1972) states criminal did not develop close friendship and were likely to betray companions and accomplices. It meant that the people in getting their desire rarely develop the close friendship but they are inclined to betray their friend, relative, and colleague.

In this play, Claudius as the antagonist of the play has betrayed his surrounding people to fulfill his desire. He has killed his own brother to seize the throne of the kingdom and subsequently married Gertrude, the wife of the king Hamlet. It can be described in this below quotation when the ghost of Hamlet appears several times to speak to his son, Hamlet.

Ghost: I find thee apt; And duller should thou be than the fat weed
That roots itself in ease on Lethe wharf,
wouldst thou not stir in this.
Now, Hamlet, hear. It's given out that, sleeping in mine orchard.
A serpent stung me; so the whole ear of Denmark
is by a forged process of my death
ranklyabus'd, but know thou noble youth,
the serpent that did sting thay father's life
nowwears his crown. (*Act I, Scene v, lines 36-45*)

From the quotation above, the ghost of Hamlet tells to his son that his uncle has killed him cruelly. In this case, we can see that Claudius hasn't only betrayed hiw own brother but he also has lied whole of Dane.

King : Though yet of Hamlet our dear brother;s death
The memory be green, and that is us befitted
To bear our hearts in grief, and our whole kingdom
To be contracted in one brow of woe,
Yet so far hath discretion fought with nature
That we with wisest sorrow think on him
Together with remembrance of ourselves.
Therefore our sometime sister, now our queen,
The imperial jointress of this warlike state,
Have we, as' twere with a defeated joy,
With one auspicious one dropping eye,
With mirth in funeral and with dirge in marriage,
In equal scale weighing delight and dole,
Taken to woife; nor we have we herein barr'd
Your better wisdoms, which have freely gone

With this affair long. For all, our thanks. (*Act, Scene ii, lines 1-16*)

From the quotation above, it described that the antagonist of this play has betrayed the queen too. The queen is not known about the murder of the former husband, until Claudius succeeds to make her as his wife, in the short time.

The antagonist get married the queen only to get the crown because if he cannot make the queen as his wife, the throne will fall in Hamlet's hand as the son of the late King. So, in less than two months after the death of his own brother, Claudius gets married Gertrude.

Hamlet's father asks him to take revenge against this evil murder because Claudius has taken his life, crown and his queen. But Hamlet doubts whether the spirit he has seen is really or it may be the devil that has taken his father's shape only to use his weakness and unhappiness in doing murder. Then he decides to get more certain proof.

4.1.2 Greediness

Greed can be defined as the selfish desire to possess wealth, substances, objects, people, power, status, appreciation or attention far beyond what is required for basic human comfort (Robertson, 2013). Greed is the direct outcome of dissatisfaction, emptiness, and discontentment.

Every man has the instinct to get what he or she wants. It is important to keep our prosperity life. Jeevan (2015) states that "all individuals are inherently motivated to seek pleasure and avoid pain without exception in all situation". From this quotation, we know it is natural for human being to seek happiness and avoid unhappiness. But this instinct will be the great disaster if we cannot control our desire because, the people who is dominated by the instinct to get, consciously or unconsciously will be greedy man.

In this play, Shakespeare portrays the antagonist of this play as a greedy man. He has killed his own brother, the late king of Denmark in order to seize the throne and subsequently married Gertrude, the Queen of Denmark. It can be described in this following quotation when Claudius regrets his bad conduct.

King: O, my offence is rank, it smells to heaven;
It hath the primal eldest curse upon' t,
A brother's murder. Pray can I not,
Though inclination be as sharp as will.
My stronger guilt defeats my strong intent
And, like a man to double business bound,
I stand in pause where I shall first begin,
And both neglects. What is this cursed hand
Were thicker than it self with brother's blood,
Is there not rain enough in the sweet heavens
To wash it white as now? Whereto servers merchy
But to confront the visage of offence?
And what's in prayer but this twofold force,
To be forestalled are we come to fall,
Or pardon'd being down? Then I'll look up;
My fault is past. But, O, what from of prayer
Can server my turn? "Forgive me my foul murder"?

That cannot be; since I am still possess'd
Of those effects for which I did the murder,
My crown, mine own ambition, and my queen.
(Act III, Scene iii, lines 39-58)

From the above quotation, Claudius has taken the possession of another people fraudulently. He is not hesitant to kill his own brother. And he also uses the unreasonable way. He wants to have the power and position. Finally he takes the throne from the people that deserve it.

Greediness is a dangerous attitude because it can inflict a loss upon another people. Moreover, it will bring the great disaster without we are realized. The greedy man will do anything to get what he wants and he is not care what will happen. In this case, Claudius also has inflicted a loss upon his surrounding people and brings the great disaster for himself. It can be seen in the next quotation.

Fortin: This quarry cries on havoc. O proud Death,
What feast is toward in thine eternal cell,
That thou so many princes at a shot
So bloodily has struck?
(Act V, Scene ii, lines 364-367)

From the quotation above, many people have suffered because the bad conduct of antagonist. Hamlet and his mother are died, Laertes is too but he has lost the people whom he loves beforehand. They are his father and sister. Likewise, Claudius is dead because his bad conducts.

4.1.3 Murder

Murder is one of the most serious crime problems. Usually, murder is classified as a crime against the person. It is committed by a single individual to another single individual. It is an action that violates the sacred customs, laws and, values where we live. In this analysis, one of antagonist's bad conducts is discussed, as a problem that always happens in our life nowadays. It is the murder. Claudius as the antagonist of the play has killed his own brother. The murder has the aim, that he wants to seize the throne and subsequently married Gertrude, the Queen of Denmark. So to reach for the aim, Claudius kills his own brother with poison.

In this case, Claudius also has used the bad way to get what he wants. In the same manner as, here is the next quotation.

Ghost: Sleeping within nine orchard
My custom always in the afternoon,
Upon my secure hour thy uncle stole,
With juice of cursed hebenon in a vial,
And in the porches of nine ears did pour,
The laperous distilment; whose effect
Holds such an enmity with blood of man
That swift as quicksilver it courses through

The natural gates and alleys of the body,
And curd, like eager droppings into milk,
The thin and wholesome blood. So did it mine,
And a most instant tetter barked about,
Most lazar-like, with vile and loathsome crust,
All my smooth body.
Thus was I, sleeping, by a brother's hand
Of life, of crown, and queen, at once dispatch'd;
Cut of even in the blossoms of my sin,
Unhousel'd, disappointed, unanel'd,
No reckoning made, but sent to my account
With all my imperfections on my head.
(Act V, Scene V, lines 65-85)

From the quotation above, Claudius is able to kill his own brother for the sake of getting what he wants. He takes something which is not belong to his property and he also uses the unreasonable way. It means that he has done an act that violates the sacred customs, laws and values where he lives.

Lartes tells Hamlet that he is the unfaithful frier. His life also going away with the wound which Hamlet had given him and he does not want to bring his son until the end of his life. Finally he tells Hamlet about the poisoned point and he has not an hour to live for no medicine can cure him. And he also tells that the King who has planned this wicked dees. Then he begs Hamlet's forgiveness and he is dead. It can be seen in the following quotation.

Laert: It is here Hamlet. Hamlet, thou art slain.
No medicine in the world can do thee good,
In thee there is not half an hour of life.
The treacherous instrument is in thy hand,
Unbated and envenom'd. The foul practice
Hath turn'd itself on me. Lo, here I lie,
Never to rise again. Thy mother's poison'd.
I can no more: The King, the King's to blame.
(Act V, Scene ii, lines 307-314)

It can conluded that finally the wickedness which is always hidden will uncover too. However, the antagonist tries to hide his bad conduct, It found out by another people. There is no place for the people whon do the wicked deed. Morover, it has disturbed the life of another people.

Now, Hamlet has known that his death is near and there is still some poison which is left upon the sword. Hamlet suddenly pushes the point of the sword to Claudius' heart. Finally he has completed his promise to his father;s spirit to take revenge his wicked murder. Then, Hamlet feels his breath will stop and his life is going away from him.

Hamlet: Heaven make thee free of it! I follow thee.
I am dead, Horatio. Wretched queen, adieu!
You that look pale and tremble at this chance,

That are but mutes or audience to this act,
Had I but time_ as this fell sergeant, Death,
Is strict in his arrest_ O, I could tell you_
But let it be. Horatio, I am dead;
Thou liv'st. Report me and my cause aright
To the unsatisfied.
(Act V, Scene ij, lines 327-335)

We realized that the antagonist's bad conduct has brought the negative impact on his surrounding people. Many people have suffered because his bad conducts. And he also has brought the great disaster for himself without he realizes.

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