

William Shakespeare



By:-
Dr. Ritu Mittal
Assistant professor
JKP(PG) College Muzaffarnagar



Life of William Shakespeare

William Shakespeare was an actor, playwright, poet, and theatre entrepreneur in London during the late Elizabethan and early Jacobean eras. He was baptised on 26 April 1564^[a] in Stratford-upon-Avon in Warwickshire, England, in the Holy Trinity Church. At the age of 18 he married Anne Hathaway with whom he had three children. He died in his home town of Stratford on 23 April 1616, aged 51. Though more is known about Shakespeare's life than those of most other Elizabethan and Jacobean writers.



Hamlet by William Shakespeare



Written by-
Shakespeare

William

Characters-
Claudius, Gertrude, Polonius

Hamlet,

Original Language- English

Genre-
Shakespearean tragedy

Setting-

Denmark



“Psychological Approach”

It is likely that social psychology has always had a more cognitive than general **psychology approach**, as it traditionally discussed internal mental states such as beliefs and desires when mainstream psychology was dominated by behaviourism.

Psychological approaches: It has become increasingly clear that psychological factors can affect the course of any physical disease process.

The **psychological approach** is a unique form of criticism in that it draws upon **psychological** theories in its interpretation of a text. Linking the **psychological** and literary worlds bring a kind of scientific aspect into literary criticism



Psychological Approach

Freudian exploration of the unconscious altered the interpretation of Hamlet, Shakespeare's seminal work. What was intended by Shakespeare to be performed on stage took a significant turn when the fictional characters were introspected and inspected in a psychoanalyst's couch. This paper is an attempt to critically map the psychoanalytic approach to Shakespeare's Hamlet as a psychopathic drama. The tangled nature of Hamlet's unconscious, his oedipal desire and the autobiographical recoiling of the impossibility of desire becomes the foundation for a psychoanalytic approach of Hamlet.

Psychoanalytic Criticism helps us to infer qualities, intentions, and repressed thoughts of characters in Hamlet because of Freud's psychological findings.

Freudian psychology allows the reader to gain a better understanding of the hidden desires of characters and the psychological reasoning for them.

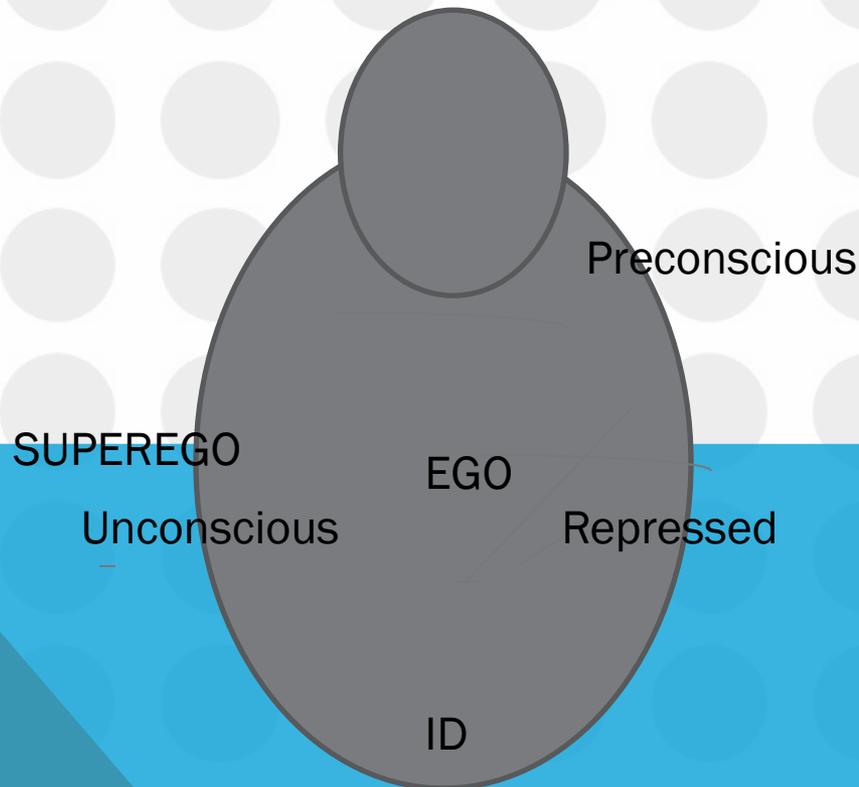


Psychoanalytic theories of Sigmund Freud

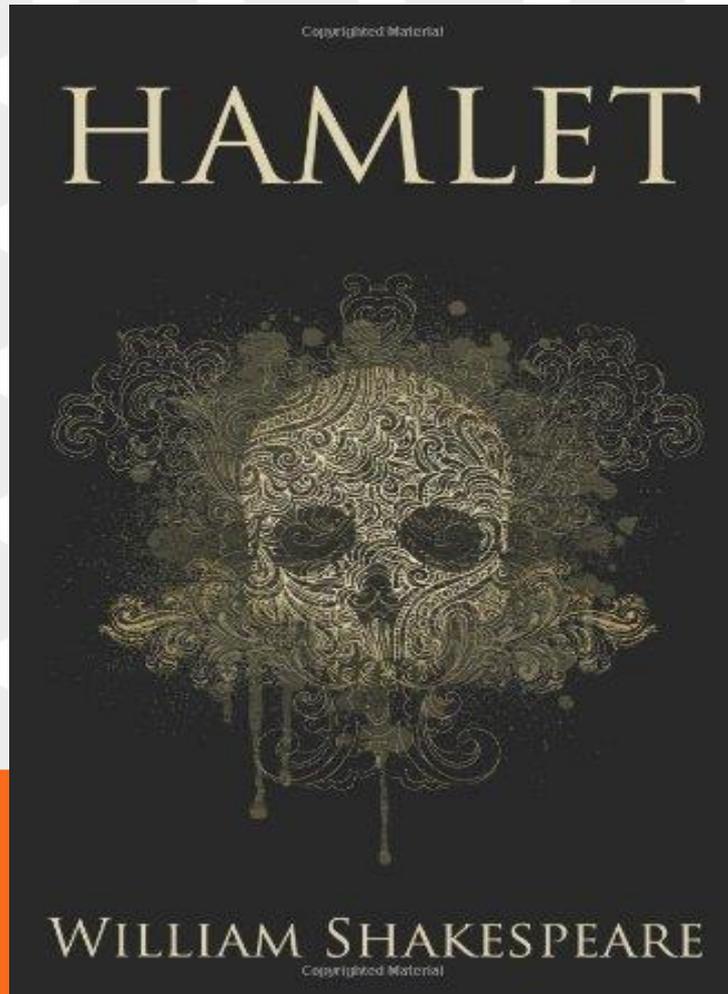
Freud's assignment of the mental processes to three psychic Zones is: the id, the ego, and the superego, He proposed a new topography of ego-conscious mind; Superego-conscience; and id- unconscious. In order to make it clear Freud gives a diagram

It helps to clarify the relationship between ego, id and superego, as well as their collective relationship to the conscious and the unconscious.

The id is completely unconscious and only small portions of the ego and the superego are conscious.



Meaning of Formalism



Formalism is a school of literary criticism and literary theory having mainly to do with structural purposes of a particular text. It is the study of a text without taking into account any outside influence. Formalism rejects notions of culture or societal influence, authorship, and content, and instead focuses on modes, genres, discourses, and forms.



Formalism applied to the Hamlet

In Hamlet we seemed various approaches but we focuses only on formalistic approach –

The Trap Metaphor in Hamlet such as:

1. The Trap Imagery.
2. The cosmological Trap.
3. “Seeming” and “Being.”
4. “Seeing” and “Knowing.”

The formalist perspective is one of the best perspectives to use in the play Hamlet, prince of Denmark. It helps a person find the hidden meaning throughout the play in multiple ways,



Formalism applied to the Hamlet

which allow a person to truly understand the play completely such way is like when Ophelia goes crazy after her father is murdered and Hamlet is sent away. She sings songs to the Queen and king of Denmark that at first glance are just songs. When looked at between the lines; however, the two songs she sings are of her father and Hamlet. The song about Hamlet talks not only about Hamlet but of her secret pregnancy with Hamlet's child. This is also mentioned before Ophelia goes crazy and Polonius, Ophelia's father is still alive, and Hamlet is just beginning to act crazy. Hamlet mentions something to Polonius about not letting his daughter out because she might be or get pregnant. Such lines and places in the play like this at first seem to be nothing at all. However, if looked at between the lines then another completely different meaning is sent across. The formalist perspective allows people to view the play in this way getting hidden meaning in it while figuring out the plot.



Cultural Studies in Hamlet

In dictionary cultural study means “ relating to the cultural of society “ It’s not proper definition of cultural because cultural can’t define because it is related to our way of living. So, we can say that “ journey of man from cave man to present day.” So, According to Horizontal Scroll “ The study of literature, music, Film, television, shopping malls, sports, events, cartoons and more. Cultural studies looks at all these things and theories that help us to understand their historical and cultural significance like Marxism, feminism, postcolonial theory, race and ethnic.

2. Cultural studies is not part of literature but it is kind of an approach to look literature. Cultural studies is Deconstructive Approach because the cultural is studied in literature and studies are always critical. So, we can say that cultural studies not only appreciate literature but also criticize literary text



Feministic Element in Hamlet

For Bloom, the greatest of the canonical authors is Shakespeare, and one of the works Bloom most celebrates in the Western canon is "Hamlet." This play, of course, has been celebrated by all kinds of critics through the ages. However, the major feminist complaint of the canon is supported by this work: that it is "generally not from the point of view of a woman" and that women's voices are virtually "ignored," to quote Brenda Cantar. "Hamlet," which supposedly fathoms the human psyche, does not reveal much at all about the two major female characters. They act either as a theatrical balance to the male characters or as a sounding board for their fine speeches and actions





Thank you