

### A Contrastive Analysis of "Romeo and Juliet" and "Real Men Keep their Words"

**Mukhtar Mukhtari**

Kabul University, Faculty of Languages & Literature, English Department

#### Article Information

**Received:** October 13, 2022

**Accepted:** October 22, 2022

**Published:** October 28, 2022

**Keywords:** Love, Sacrifice, family barriers, the superior man.

#### ABSTRACT

*Nowadays it is obvious that every language has a specific kind of literature, and that language has kept it alive throughout the history. For instance, Persian Literature refers to more than 1000 years or even more, as well as English Literature refers to Anglo-saxon Period. In addition, there are some literary works translated variety of languages which have been so popular in the world so far.*

#### 1. Introduction

A good example is an English literary work "Romeo and Juliet" by Whilliam Skakespear, whom people all around the world know and like his such a good romantic story (play). Moreover, Persian Language also has had love stories which are popular in the world, such as "Layli and Majnoon" and "Khisrow Shirin" by unknown authors. Furthermore, there is another short story entitlaed "The Real Men Keep Their Words" by Akram Osman from Afghanistan. It is written in Persian Language and translated in other Languages recently.

#### 2. Research Objective

This paper tends to prove that the short story "The Real Men Keep Their Words" by Dr. Akram Osman and the play "Romeo and Juliet" by Whilliam Shakspear have some closest similarities which may cause Dr. Osman get as popular as Whilliam Shakespear in the world centuries later, and the story is getting popularr as the other famous love stories; however, this story needs to be published in all coutries around the world so as to be read by the people who can judge it.

#### Research Questions

1. What are the similarities and differences between "Romeo and Juliet" by William Shakespear and "Real Men Keep their words" by Akram Osman, concidering the theme and the style of language?
2. As Jonson a shakespeare's contemporary writer who had written a poem praising him that he was the supreme to all Roman, Greek and English dramatists and believed that Shakespear would be "not of an age, but for all time, so Would Akram Osman be the supreme to all Afghan writers and "not of an age, but for all time"?

### 3. Literature Review

In literature review, a little bit information about Whilliam Shakespear's and Akram Osamn's birth and education based on other papers and books is given. Beside this, "The Real Men Keep their Words" is compared and contrasted with "Romeo and Juliet" although one is short story and the another one is play.

#### 3. 1. Willam Shakespear

Holt et al. (2008) Whilliam Shakespear was baptized on April 26, 1564 in the parish church of Warwickshire, which was a flourishing and historiacal town in Stratford-on-Avon where he was born. He was the son of John Shakespear. He was energetic and his job was making glove in the governmental own. His mother was from prominent family whose name was Mary Arden. Probably he went to king's new school for seven years. He learned somehow English Language there as students had to translate works from Latin to English and from English to Latin.

Holt (2008) He is so famous in the world today because he has more than 36 considerable plays and more than 150 poems. Over centuries, fancies, legends and theories are stated about Whilliam Shakespear's literary works due to their deep effects on human race.

#### 3. 2. Akram Osman

Sakhi (2011) notes that Dr. Akram Osman is born in Herat, in 1937. After graduating school, he took his bachelor's degree in Law and Political Science from Law and Political Science Faculty of Kabul University. In addition to his this, he took his Master's degree and *doctoral* degree from Faculty of Law and Political Science of Tehran University, in 1971.

Behzhan (2008) states that Akram Osman's first short story refers to late 1950s. Also, he has written and published more than 80 short stories till 2008. Probably he is the one of the best writers in writing short stories.

#### 3. 3. Romeo and Juliet

G. Lipson and S. Lipson (2007, as cited in Katawazai, 2018, p. 271) declares that Romeo and Juliet is seemed very apealing for young people among all 37 Whilliam Shakespear's plays although it is written centries ago, remaining fresh yet. It shows the couple's family enemy and their strong love which shows a strong sense of identification of today's teenagers.

#### 3.4. Real Men Keep their Words

Sakhi (2011) believes that the collection of short stories entitled "Real Men Keep their Words" shows Akram Osman's exceptional power in writing. "RealMen Keep their Words" is as the other best short stories in Afghanistan Literature history. The stories are written in everyday language of Afghan people, which represents Afghan culture. The beautiness of this collections is the usage of Afghan idioms and expressions which are so sweet. This collections refreshes the exhausted hearts, cures Afghan reader's soul and makes them happy. He adds that this collection makes the readers think they are in that nice Kabul City, which the stories are taken place because it is about old Kabul and the people who were living in that period. Akram focuses on the culture of ancient Kabulian and ancient Kabul city nicely (Sakhi, 2011, p.97).

### 4. Similarities

These two literary works share similarities in the theme they carry for the readers. These similarities are love, family barriers and sacrifice. Akram Osman has written his short story professionally which is as intersting as Whilliam Shakespear's story (play).

#### 4. 1. Love and Hate

As Romeo and Juliet is considered as one of the world's greatest love stories, but there is a big amount of hate as well in it. It means that it is the art of William Shakespeare who mixed up the

happiness and sadness equally till the end of the plot or the events chained after one another. So for this reason, love and hate go similarly till the end of the play (Katawazai, 2018, p. ).

"By using the jewelry names at the beginning of the story, Dr Osman paves the way for Sher and Tahira's love; "turquoise rings" (3), "pearly white teeth" ( 3), silver white blanket" ( 4). He describes Tahera from Sher's point of view. Sher compares Tahera's teeth to pearl, her turquoise rings to blue sky and says that her teeth are better than the whiteness of snow, and the color of her turquoise ring is clearer than the blue sky. It is true that love makes human beings blind, but this blindness is better than good sighted eyes that see everything ugly and bad" (Sakhi, 2011, p. 9).

#### **4. 2. Social Barriers**

Romeo and Juliet face many obstacles toward reaching one another's true love, and till the last breath, they tried their best for reaching to the destination. It means that sometimes, traditional and family barriers can stand toward you and if you are not confident on the love and the goals you created for yourself, it will be always possible for your love to be lost. Actually, the play of Romeo and Juliet is an indicator of how individual can stand for his/her legal rights to achieve that in their life (Katawazai, 2018, p. ).

Tahera's father takes Sher's love with his bloodied hands and sacrifices it. Tahera's father, "who was about to slaughter the sacrificial sheep", does the same with Sher's love' Sher's love is sacrificed like the innocent sheep in the hands of Tahera's father (Sakhi, 2011, pp. 10 -11).

Although Tahera's father is strongly against Sher's marriage with his daughter, but Sher does not give up. He quotes a poem to express his great ambition and his emphatic decision to seek Tahera's love. "The lover does not fear death/ For love does not fear mountains or the prison/ The heart of the lover is like a hungry wolf/ It does not fear the yells and shouts of the shepherd."(13) He continues to love Tahera and dream about her (Sakhi, 2011, p. 11).

#### **4. 3. Sacrifice**

Morris (1985, as cited in Katawaza, 2018, p. 272) states that "Capulet proceeds with his plan to marry Juliet to Paris. Friar Lawrence tries to prevent this by supplying Juliet with a drug which will make her appear dead for forty- two hours; meanwhile he will send for Romeo to rescue her. The messenger is delayed; Romeo learns only that Juliet is dead, and determines to die with her. The mourning Paris tries to prevent Romeo breaking into Juliet's tomb, and is slain. Romeo poisons himself, and the waking Juliet, finding him dead, stabs herself with his dagger. The Montague and Capulet parents are reconciled, but to no purpose, for all the younger generation are dead" (p. 272).

When Sher wins the wrestling contest over Mahmud, Tahera's brother and when Mahmud calls Sher as his brother, Sher is shocked. He does not know what to do with brotherhood and love. He is double-minded and confused. Should he choose brotherhood or love? Finally, he decides to be faithful to his brotherhood pledge. He stands by his word and sacrifices his love for the sake of brotherhood, but still he cannot forget Tahera. He likes to fly kites. Flying kites shows that his love is still alive, but he controls it (Sakhi, 2011, p.11).

#### **5. Differences**

"Romeo and Juliet" is a play, but "The Real Men Keep Their Words" is a short story. Also, the first one is an English literary work, but second one is Persian Literary work. In addition, "Romeo and Juliet" kill themselves at the end of the play; however, Sher and Tahera are alive in "The Real Men Keep Their Words" at the end of Short story, but it is clear that when a couple gets separated, it is as if they are dead. The most important thing that these two writers present in their works is sacrifice. Shakespear presents true love by sacrificing his life, and Osman shows

true love by sacrificing that real men keep their words. Both writer's points have high value in their own cultures.

Another difference is that that Dr. Osman presents the taste of defeat that makes humans pessimist. After Sher failed to reach Tahera, he joined the Sufis and mystics who are in love with God, and those who do not believe in human stability. Sher thinks that this world passes like the blink of an eye. He becomes very pessimistic about life and says that “,Everybody is going to die.” Sher does not have anything else to lose, so he does not care about this world, and he is not afraid of dying. He has already died. Osman tries to express his own ideas “this world is passing away, it is not worth all its sorrows.”(16). He states that this world is not eternal and nothing is stable. When someone is in a bad condition, everything seems ugly and pale. He/she starts to be pessimistic. He is shown as a person who sees the world dark and with no hope for the future ( Sakhi, 2011, p. 13).

However, Whilliam Shakespear shows the consequences of the two young lover's families who experience after their death. It shows that rigour has really bad consequences in real life, and family should not be rigour.

## 6. Conclusion

The two literary works are very similar, especially the theme these two have; Love, sacrifice and Family barriers. This great job of Dr. Akram Osman represents his competent in writing short stories. Even this short story has its own movie in Persian Language which shows this short story is different than other contemporary short stories or literary works. As Holt et al. (2007) states that Jonson was shakespear's contemporary writer who had written a poem praising him that he was the supreme to all Roman, Greek and English dramatists. Jonson had belived that Shakespear would be "not of an age, but for all time." (p. 272). Now Jonson's predict is a fact, and all people accept Shakespear the superior man in the world. This paper concludes that Akram Osman is superior to all Afghan people and Persian speakers, and he would be accpeted as "not of an age, but for all time" one day.

## References

1. Faridullah Bezhan (2008) A Contemporary Writer from Afghanistan: Akram Osman and His Short Stories, British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies. p. 21-36. 35(1). DOI: 10.1080/13530190801890212
2. Holt, Rinehart & Winston (2007). Elements of Literature (Pennsylvania edition). Orlando: A Harcourt Education Company.
3. Katawazai, R. (2018). A Critical Analysis of William Shakespeare's: Romeo and Juliet. p. 270- 278. 8 (10). Rterived from: ISSN 2250-3153
4. Maroof Sakhi (2011) CRITICISM AND APPRECIATION OF REAL MEN KEEP THEIR WORD BY DR. AKRAM OSMAN. SELCUK ÜNİVERSİTESİ: SOSYAL BİLİMLER ENSTİTÜSÜ