JELTEC: Journal of English Language Teaching, Literature and Culture

E-ISSN: 2963-3842

# William Shakespeare and Modern English: To What Extent the Influence of Him in Modern English

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Received: 17 January 2022; Accepted: 12 March 2022; Published: 25 March 2022

#### Abstract

Shakespeare's works at that time considered a work of high art. The influence of his work has been a source of inspiration for many artists to create paintings, operas and ballet performances. Studying Shakespeare is like studying life from multiple perspectives: psychological, political, philosophical, social, spiritual. The rhythms he uses in his words are reflected in the rhythms of our bodies. Known as the greatest English-language writer in history, and earning him the nickname of England's national poet, William Shakespeare is the author with the most-played theatrical work to date. More than four centuries since his death, William Shakespeare is still one of the greatest English playwrights. The tens of thousands of people who throng to see Shakespeare's plays will be able to hear the 1700 words created by Shakespeare. Many of his words are currently in use. Examples: "deafening" (deaf)," hush", "hurry" (quickly), " downstairs" (below), " gloomy" (sad), "lonely" (alone), "embrace" (hugs), "dawn" (twilight). The spelling used by Shakespeare was different from his time. Elizabethans spelled words as they were written, such as Latin and Indonesian. There is no "correct" way to spell. People write a word the way they want it to be spelled.

Keywords: William Shakespeare; Modern English; Influence; Early Modern English

### INTRODUCTION

Known as the greatest English-language writer in history, and earning him the nickname of England's national poet, William Shakespeare is the author with the most-played theatrical work to date (Rorintulus, 2018). More than four centuries since his death, William Shakespeare is still one of the greatest English playwrights. He seemed not only owned by Queen Elizabeth, the place where he was born, but also the whole world (Ackroyd, 2010). His works have inspired artists everywhere. Shakespeare was born into a fairly well-off family, though not rich. His father, John Shakespeare, had served as mayor of Stratford. However, his family, like many in England at the time, was believed to be illiterate (Potter, 2012). This, of course, contradicts his proficiency in English which is contained in his plays.

Studying Shakespeare is like studying life from multiple perspectives: psychological, political, philosophical, social, spiritual. The rhythms he uses in his words are reflected in the rhythms of our bodies. Playing Shakespeare's theatrical roles on stage makes one realize how deep one must inhale so that one's voice can be heard all the way to the end of the room. William Shakespeare wrote for twenty-five years, making thirty-six to thirty-nine works known today (Wuntu, 2015). The topics covered range from comic book romances to civil wars, from domestic games to political legitimacy that have taken the world by storm (Packer, 2004).

Shakespeare's works at that time considered a work of high art. The influence of his work has been a source of inspiration for many artists to create paintings, operas and ballet performances (Demmen, 2020). At that time, new public schools began in England. Previously, almost all children did not know how to read and write, they only practiced a skill or farmed. Shakespeare traveled to one of these new public schools. He practiced Latin, which was the language of all educated people, no matter what country they came from. From London to Lisbon, from Alexandria to Constantinople, from Tunis to Jerusalem, all educated people spoke Latin and their mother tongue. All important documents, whether state, church, or trade documents, were written in Latin.

Shakespeare also studied the works of writers and philosophers from Ancient Greece and Rome. More than a century has passed since Johannes Gutenberg introduced printing to Europe in 1452. Shakespeare and other Englishmen who could read and could afford to purchase books became close to stories from places such as Italy, France, Asia Minor, and North Africa (Tumoka et al, 2021). Some of these stories form the basis of Shakespeare's greatest stories. For example, Apuleius' The Golden Ass, an ancient story from North Africa, may be the story that inspired Dreams in Mid-Season. Shakespeare borrowed the story for Romeo and Juliet from another English writer, getting it from a French writer, who translated it from a 16th-century story by Luigi da Porta of Italy who swore it was based on a true story (Delabastita, 2017).

Within the world of Shakespeare, there are generally accepted arrangements. Almost everyone in England is Christian. At the bottom of the hierarchy were the workers, above them the peasants and merchants, then the priests and guards, then up again the knights, landlords, archbishops, and viceroys (Row-Heyveld, 2018). The monarchy reigns at the top of the social order. In England, the monarch is Queen Elizabeth I (who was succeeded by her nephew, James I). The class system in Shakespeare's time may have had arrangements, but they were not static. People start to think about themselves. Shakespeare lived in the Renaissance which means "rebirth" which occurred in the 15th to 17th centuries in Europe.

The works of Shakespeare influenced the development of the English language. For Indonesians today, for example, "Fall in love", "Love is blind", "Heart

of gold", "Breaking the ice", and "Killing with kindness" are phrases that are not only familiar, but have become cliches. so often used. They are commonly spoken and understood by people of all classes and backgrounds. These phrases and thousands of others that are still used by speakers of various languages are Shakespeare's creations. Historical records show that these expressions were first used in the plays.

Based on the explanation above, in this research, the researcher wants to study further about the role and impact of Shakespeare himself on the development of English, especially in early modern English. For readers, creative writers, literary critics, and historians the more you study Shakespeare's figures and works, the more doors will open to new approaches.

#### **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

William Shakespeare is the greatest playwright of all times. He has made great contributions to the English language, literature, poetry, drama, etc. It is somehow seen as a language spoken on a daily basis by the poorer classes because it sounds rough and demands the superiority demanded by foreign languages. (Hoenselaars & Hoenselaars, 2012). Therefore, it has not been approved in organizations. Children learn Latin and Greek in educational institutions because these languages are the default languages for academic and religious statements.

At that time, English was not the model for literary studies. It's just street talk. By the mid-16th century, the condition of English was gradually changing. English began to improve to become a reputable source of conversation with everyone's help. Literacy rate increased sense of individual was enthusiastic to learned to read and wrote. Learning in English has been cited as a factor in the rise of nationalism. In addition, individuals are proficient in this language enough to be more educated with a smooth personality (Lanier, 2010).

Influence of William Shakespeare spread out of in modern films, TV series, Eastern philosophy and Western, English language and also in literature learn. Shakespeare's works have also influenced many world-renowned novelists, playwrights and poets over the years. Shakespeare is one of the most cited authors in the history of English literature. Many of his quotes are used in everyday life in English and other languages. William Shakespeare regarded by many as the greatest writers of all times in history of languages and literature is among the world's leading playwrights gender.

William Shakespeare has the greatest influence on the modernization, reconstruction, standardization and adaptation of English. Shakespeare was a writer who seemed to be able to handle language at will, representing Anglo-Saxon, Continental and Orthodox traditions in prose, poetry and storytelling rhythms (Holderness, 2008). The playwright of the first folio is a literary magpie, a snapper of

flippant trifles, a master of creative fusion. The Stratford of his childhood roamed the façades of Verona, Syracuse or Padua in arrears, just as his citizens of Vienna, Rome or Athens gave the impression of walking straight out of Greece Purside or Southwark. English is copied and reinvented as good jargon is intertwined with Latin influences (Stanivukovic, 2007).

William Shakespeare was a poet who improved and expanded his English vocabulary. He can do this because his coins are expensive. According to Oxford Dictionaries, coinage is the creation of a new vocabulary. Generally, Shakespeare was an expert at extracting words from Latin and converting them. He does this by retaining stems belonging to one language and prefixes or suffixes of other languages (Swärdh, 2003). The images of these words are housing, institution, religion, generosity, education, etc. He is believed to have learned nearly 600 English words through borrowing. Extending a language means that some old words have other meanings and other meanings.

#### **METHOD**

The methodology of this research used the literature review where the research is based on the existing research conducted by previous researchers. The study of literature occupies a very important place in research. Although people distinguish between Library research and other types of research, those require a bibliography. In addition, there are also those who try to distinguish between library research and field research. There is an inherent difference between library research and field research, the main difference being that is the purpose, function or location of the study of the literature in each of the studies.

Field research, library search as the first step to prepare a research framework with the aim of obtaining similar research information, deepens the theoretical study, while the library search is more than just fulfilling the functions that were named for the acquisition of research data. Assertiveness Library Research limits its activities to library materials without the need for field research Zed (2008). The subject of this research were books, articles from journals, proceedings and some sources related to Code Mixing in the EFL classroom, and these would be classified based on the content prepared in the results and discussions.

#### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The European Renaissance revived classical learning. At that time there was a revival movement of interest in art, music, and architecture. An old and stagnant world suddenly turned alive and vibrant (Hiscock, A., & Wilcox, 2017). Although almost everyone believed that the properties of the sun, moon, stars, and planets influenced their destiny, some people began to change the way they thought about themselves and the world they lived in. They began to understand that power and

government positions were created by humans, not made by God since birth. They realize that Christianity is not the only religion in the world (Wantah et al, 2021). And because many of them are beginning to be able to read, many also do not want to live in the social class in which they were born. Many Renaissance adventurers took advantage of their own way of earning sustenance and developing their lives. Shakespeare was one of those people.

In the early 1590s, William Shakespeare established himself as a playwright and actor in London. In addition, he also has members of the playhouse where he and his friends play (Rorintulus, 2020). It was probably his source of income. Shakespeare married Anne Hathaway, who was eight years his senior, on November 28, 1582 at Temple Grafton, near Stratford. Anne was three months pregnant at the time (Murphy, 2019). Together they had three children: Susanna, and twins Hamnet and Judith. His wife and three children lived in Stratford, and most likely Shakespeare traveled to visit them once a year. In 1596 Hamnet died. Due to the similarity of names, many people think that this inspired him to write The Tragical History of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark.

Shakespeare became a very famous, very popular, and very rich theater man. Queen Elizabeth I was very fond of his works; so did King James I, his successor. During the reign of James I, Shakespeare and company were known as "The King's People" because King James I was their special visitor. Shakespeare and the Kings' Men played at the royal court, at the Globe theater and their playhouse, and the Blackfriars theater. In order to earn more money, they also toured the UK, especially during the British epidemic.

The people of Elizabeth's day did not see performing or playwright as honorable work. Elizabethan theaters were multi-storied wooden structures. Spectators sit on all three sides or stand in the middle of the floor. The center of the theater opened the roof because at that time there was no artificial lighting. Thousands of people crammed into the theater for an afternoon show. The audience was screaming behind the actors. The Globe Theater is a crowded, noisy, and crowded place.

The tens of thousands of people who throng to see Shakespeare's plays will be able to hear the 1700 words created by Shakespeare. Many of his words are currently in use. Examples: "deafening" (deaf)," hush", "hurry" (quickly), "downstairs" (below), "gloomy" (sad), "lonely" (alone), "embrace" (hugs), "dawn" (twilight). The spelling used by Shakespeare was different from his time. Elizabethans spelled words as they were written, such as Latin and Indonesian. There is no "correct" way to spell. People write a word the way they want it to be spelled. If you want to write "me" (me) but want to emphasize the word, then the word will be written "mee". If the author wanted the word to be read like someone screaming from the roof of a house, then the word would be written "Meee".

In Shakespeare's texts you will find the word "stayed" (stayed) spelled "stay'd", because Shakespeare wanted to pronounce the word for one syllable (read: 'steid') like the English spelling now, not two syllables (read: 'stei-ed'). Modern English uses a lot of writing from the past but by using a new spelling. For example, the word "knight" was spelled the same way it was written (read: 'k-ni-ght' 4 syllables). In an oral culture such as Shakespeare's time, people paid attention to the details of intonation, tone of voice, and the sounds made when they spoke, so the spoken language was richer in ancient times than it is today (Polat, 2017).

William Shakespeare wrote for twenty-five years, creating thirty-six to thirty-nine works recognized today. The topics covered range from comic romances to civil wars, from domestic games to political events that have shaken the world. But the three things that underlie all of his work are the questions: What is its use in life? How do we live? What should we do?. Shakespeare's plays negotiate a deep understanding of these questions. That is why literature scholars study his works, politicians quote him, philosophers find new ways of thinking from reading and rereading his works. Studying Shakespeare is like studying life from many points of view: psychological, political, philosophical, social, spiritual. The rhythms he uses in his words are reflected in the rhythms of our bodies. Playing Shakespeare's theatrical roles on stage makes one realize how deep one must inhale in order for one's voice to reach the other end of the room.

Shakespeare quit writing in 1611 and died a few years later in 1616. Until his death he remained married to Anne (Makalew et al 2022). His tombstone reads: "Blest be the man who cast these stones, and cursed be he that moves my bones." (English: "Blessed is he who sets these stones, and cursed is he who moves my bones.") Shakespeare wrote about the very human condition. He understands what almost everyone wants: to love others, and be loved by others; eat, drink and sleep in peace; to live in the midst of a big world and have benefits in life. Shakespeare also understood that humans have flaws that are sometimes far removed from their honorable (or dishonorable) plans. Shakespeare is a genius who shows us who we really are.

Harold Bloom, American literary critic and Yale University Professor of Humanities, places Shakespeare in a very high position. In an interview with Susannah Carson of the San Francisco Chronicle, she said, "We all, each of us, go through some sort of mix of Shakespearean roles." For Shakespeare's work to create characters with the layers and complex personalities of real humans, Bloom testifies: "There is no God but God, and his name is William Shakespeare." (Hawkins, 2019).

The evolution of the Early English language is closely related to the story of the invasions of Great Britain, from the 8th and 9th centuries, especially the Old Norse (or Old Irish)-speaking Vikings. This dialect finds certain words that are still used today, such as "take, give, and skin". Old Irish left its mark on English by

influencing basic grammatical rules, such as "they, them, and their" and "-s" in the third person (singular) (Edwards, 2017). Many words have been taken from the Norman language, such as "uthority", "government", "pardon", "battle", "cream", "vinegar", "anatomy", "nature", "table", and "honour". Today, non-native English speakers often have difficulty pronouncing the famous "th" sound during English class. However, it was the scribe Norman who introduced this diagram (a combination of 2 letters, such as "ch, sh and gh", and the letter "w") into English (Dimmock, 2017).

The Hundred Years' War (1337-1453) marked a turning point in the English language. This war between France and England sparked the need for a separate English identity, which influenced the language. During the war, all the nobles spoke French and were closely connected to the continent, many nobles having titles and lands in both. French was the language of the monarchy and the aristocracy, at the expense of English, which was spoken by the common people (Barber, R. (2019). However, in 1362, the English Parliament recognized English as the official language of the courts. King Henry IV of England who ruled at the time used French as his mother tongue and English as his second language, but later generations began to write official documents in English (Hadfield, 2017).

From the 16th century onwards, Modern English began to develop and is still developing today (Wuntu. 2020). We separate Modern English into two periods: Early Modern English, which was marked by the Renaissance from 1500-1750 and Late Modern English of the 19th and 20th centuries. Today, we discuss Contemporary English, Basic English, and Business English (Blank, 2018). Early Modern English marks the structure of spelling and grammar, which allows us to understand texts written by William Shakespeare. This is indicated by the increasing presence of vowels. English continued to evolve with the influence of Latin and Greek. English writers write literary texts, while scientific research (certain medical and legal texts) is written in Latin. This is why words, such as, "maternity, atmosphere, or skeleton" are borrowed from Latin. The Greek language equally leaves its mark with words, such as, "anthropology, archaeology, and geography." (Bakhtiyorovich, 2020).

During the Renaissance, the perception of Latin was superior to that of some words, of Anglo-Saxon and Germanic origin. The growth and importance of other European countries, such as Italy during the Renaissance left its mark with words like "opera, carnival and tarot". Spanish is also not left behind because Elisabeth I spoke this language. The era of European exploration and subsequent colonialism was marked by significant trade and travel. English began to borrow words from various languages around the world, (Faye, J. C., & Diagne, 2021):

1. Dutch words like, "yacht or wagon"

- 2. Arabic words like, "admiral, alembic, cotton, elixir, alcohol, algebra, and apricot"
- 3. Hindi words like, "curry" or "arsenic"
- 4. Persian words like, "bazaar" and
- 5. Turkish words like, "coffee and caviar"
- 6. Native American words like, "canoe, lama, manioc, tobacco, and chocolate"

Modern languages, such as French and Italian, have always influenced English, to the point that several writers attempted to launch a refining campaign in English, but to no avail. It wasn't until the late 18th century that the situation reversed and English took a bigger place in international business (Cheng-zhu, 2017). The expansion of the English language was marked by the colonization and growth of the British Empire. English extended to Ireland, where half the population at the end of the 18th century still spoke Irish. Today, 98% of Irish people speak English as their mother tongue (Zimmerman, 2019).

In North America (Canada and United States of America), the English language witnessed a marked expansion throughout the colonization. British English evolved into American English, with different pronunciations and a different lexicon. We can see this difference in Anglophone media, film and literature (Onthoni et al, 2022). The colonization of South Africa and Australia led to the introduction of English, by convicts borrowing some words from the native languages, such as "boomerang, kangaroo and wombat"

#### **CONCLUSION**

Based on the findings above, it was found that the influence of Shakespeare was very large on the development of language especially Modern English. Shakespeare's influence comes from each of his most famous works. In addition, every phrase of Shakespeare greatly affects the pattern of the English language. Early Modern English marks the structure of spelling and grammar, which allows us to understand texts written by William Shakespeare. This is indicated by the increasing presence of vowels. English continued to evolve with the influence of Latin and Greek. English writers write literary texts, while scientific research (certain medical and legal texts) is written in Latin. This is why words, such as, "maternity, atmosphere, or skeleton" are borrowed from Latin. The Greek language equally leaves its mark with words, such as, "anthropology, archaeology, and geography."

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