

Tikrit University

College of Education for Humanities

English Department



Third Year - 2023-2024

Drama

(Dramatic Terms)

Compiled by:

Assist. Prof. Marwa Sami Hussein
Assist. Lecturer Batool Taleb

Drama: Is an action on a stage. It refers to a group of people performing in front of spectators. Drama is not simply literature. It is a composite art-form, a mixture of literature and visual art, speech and movements, story and spectacle.

Plays: are not written to be read, but to be watched. Thus, they have always been written for performance in a theatre, and the development of drama through the ages has always been connected with the development of the theatre.

Theatre: Is a place where plays are performed. It is a building or outdoor area in which plays and other dramatic performances are given. Similar: playhouse, auditorium, amphitheater (especially in Greek and Roman architecture) an open circular or oval building with a central space surrounded by tiers of seats for spectators, for the presentation of dramatic or sporting events.

Playwright: The writer of plays (dramatist).

Stage directions: Instructions written in the script of a play, describing the setting and indicating actions and movements of the actors. For example:

- **Act III - Scene I**
- *(Elsinore. A room in the Castle.)*
- *(Enter King, Queen, Polonius, Ophelia, Rosencrantz, Guildenstern, Lords.)*

Soliloquy and Monologue:

A speech in a play in which a character, usually alone on the stage, talks to himself or herself so that the audience knows his/her thoughts. For example, in Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, when Hamlet speaks his inner thought in his speech "To be, or not to be."

A monologue refers to a long speech delivered by a character during a conversation. It can be directed to someone else. For example, in Shakespeare's

Julius Caesar, Mark Antony addresses the crowd at Caesar's funeral with his famous "Friends, Romans, countrymen" speech.

Aside: (a literary term) A speech said by a character while there are other characters on the stage but they are not supposed to hear him/her.

Prologue: The preface or introduction to a literary work. A speech often in verse addressed to the audience by an actor at the beginning of a play.

Epilogue: A concluding part added to a literary work. A speech, usually in verse, delivered by one of the actors after the conclusion of a play.

Protagonist: The main character in a play. For example, Hamlet in Shakespeare's play *Hamlet*.

Antagonist: The character opposing the main character. For example, Claudius in Shakespeare's play *Hamlet*.

Tragic hero: A character of high repute, who, because of a tragic flaw and fate, suffers a fall from glory into suffering.

Tragic flaw: A weakness or limitation of character, resulting in the fall of the tragic hero.

Dramatis Personae: "People of Drama" in Latin; a list of the characters in a play, usually found on the first page of the script.

Blank Verse: Unrhymed iambic pentameter verse. It is the preeminent dramatic verse English (as in the plays of Christopher Marlowe and William Shakespeare).

Comic Relief: Humorous episodes in a play that is mainly tragic.

Chorus: The chorus in Greek drama is a group of actors who speak or sing together, commenting on the action. In Elizabethan drama, the chorus consisted of one actor who recites the prologue and epilogue to a play and sometimes comments on the action as in Marlowe's *Doctor Faustus*.

OR

A group of singers and dancers in the religious festivals of ancient Greece. A group of people in a play or performance who recite together. A group of singers; singing group who perform together.

Machiavellianism is a personality trait that denotes cunningness, the ability to be manipulative, and a drive to use whatever means necessary to gain power. Machiavellianism is one of the traits that forms the Dark Triad, along with narcissism and psychopathy. Nicolas Machiavelli, Italian philosopher, is deemed to be the representative par excellence of the lack of morality and ethics in politics. The theory that “the end justifies the means” encapsulates his political and moral thought. Machiavellian means a total lack of values.

What is a Machiavellian person like?

“Machiavellians are sly /sly/, deceptive, distrusting, and manipulative. They are characterized by cynical and misanthropic beliefs, cruelty, a striving for ... money, power, and status, and the use of cunning influence tactics.

What are Machiavelli's principles?

Among the principles adopted by Machiavelli:

1-leaders should always mask their true intentions, i.e. manipulating others in order to reach their goals.

2-Avoid inconsistency, and frequently “act against mercy, against faith, against humanity, against frankness, against religion, in order to preserve the state.”

3-Competing with others rather than cooperating.

4-Tempting others into wild behaviour to reach their own ends.

5-Making plans for personal benefit with no consideration of their effect on other people.

Are Machiavellians successful?

Results showed that leaders who were high in Machiavellianism were seen as being effective leaders when they displayed strong political skills.