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What is the Function that Madness or Insanity as a Psychological, Social and Medical Problem Serves in art, Especially in Shakespeare's King Lear

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ABSTRACT

According to Urban Lofgren *King Lear* is a tragedy by William Shakespeare which written in 1603 and 1606. It is based on Lear of Britain. He becomes retired and decides to divide his kingdom between his three daughters, the two of them who are the eldest ones show themselves in love with their father although they were not. The youngest one Cordelia says her emotions honestly to her father, but her father based on the surface of their love, decides to give all his properties to two of them and ignore the Cordelia as a daughter. Metaphorically speaking, Lear is blind to the fact that Goneril and Regan say false love and emotions in order to get rid of their father and gain more power. He has not realized what to do as a king of a big empire. Some believe that he is a madman from the beginning of the play with these childish decision and behavior. This is King Lear in a dark situation.

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Introduction

He has nothing for himself, no family, no friends, no authority, no kingdom, no home and all reasons is his madly decision. Every person in this horrible situation become mad, for Lear as a king, suffering this irrational situations is impossible. In this study I want to describe the different aspects of King Lear madness and bring some information that show whether this madness is a real insanity or just a sudden behavior that happen for Lear. I hope at the end of this study, the readers can have a proper theory and get main points of this research. Shakespeare's *King Lear* has a central and important theme which is madness. According to this play, madness is sanity for King Lear. In fact madness in reason and reason in madness is a aptitude statement for king Lear behavior through this play. There are many reasons to describe the effects of Lear's behavior before, during and after his madness, to show what happens when he starts to believe his daughter's tricks and false love. When he ignore the true love of Cordelia (his faithful daughter). When he decides to drift his empire a part based on his emotions and daughters behavior. Lear's madness is based on many elements such as disorder and hidden wisdom in which Lear's blindness goes away and sees the reality of his life. He goes to his real madness by Edgar's feigned insanity and discovers many points about himself during a storm in nature and in his mind. We can find different types of madness in this play, real, feigned and professional madness. As critical of Shakespeare's work says, "Throughout the play Shakespeare also uses a background of bizarre weather conditions to emphasis the theme of madness." It also says that Lear's madness become worse when he decides to face the reality and true emotions and he tries to keep his sanity. He obsessed with justice. "I am a man; more sinn'd against, than sinning." (Act three scenes two, Lear). We can get this point that Lear becomes wise during this madness. In act three scenes two, Lear ignore by his

daughters and they throw him out in the violent storm, it shows the cruel nature of daughters. Lear starts to learn the process of his life, now he sees his horrible situation. He says "Here I stand, your slave, a poor, infirm, despised old man" he sees the injustice of the situation. In the storm, he is without any protection and that moment he sees he is going to be mad "my wits begin to turn". He also starts to see other's position and situation as well. He turns to fool and asks "How dost, my boy? Art cold?" (According to the writer of King Lear change)

Since Shakespeare is a well-known poet and play writer of England, I decided to work on his great play named, *King Lear*. I consider Lear's madness during the play and go among reasons of his mad behavior and discuss the Lear's inner turmoil and feeling toward the people around himself during in sanity. A big revolution in which Lear fined himself alone and unsafe that show the lack of his authority in his own empire. His authority as a king has encouraged him to be unreal man but madness changes him to be wise. He thinks that by dividing his kingdom, he becomes freer and his responsibility in old ages becomes less. But this decide, just forces him to be nothing. According to critical writers in Yorkntes web site, other renaissance dramatists use mad scenes for comic effect but Shakespeare use madness in a serious way in King Lear. Norman Maclean says, "History of the story of King Lear is a history of art, the history of men's literary affection." He says "the story fortunately there is a part that by assent is its most tragic region, the region where suffering takes on such dimension that Shakespeare could find no better word than "madness" to contain it. It brings readers to have both tragic art and tragic artist." At the end of act II, storm happens for Lear, he experience a new kind of madness, he has an external causes for his madness, he tries his best not to get mad but when he sees the Edgar's mad behavior, he becomes worse.

These scene show the confliction of past Lear with the Lear through madness, the one who just think about his self with the one who is able to see others problems and suffering.

Methodology

Usually a literature based research methodology has often been referred to literature review which can be used in the process of empirical research. There are two types of reviews: 1. systematic overview and traditional review or comprehensive.

Whatever I am going to do with the research about Shakespeare's King Lear is the traditional review not based on one specific method but based on the design of studies to ensure that the quality of the research is demonstrable from the beginning to the end.

By posing the research questions I'll overview the literature to support my studies. My purpose is to prove whatever is in the subject and confirm the research question. The methods for collecting data I'll get the fool of searching and getting data from the research papers by the topic, I'm interested in, and I'll use the qualitative papers and articles, the critical surveys and approaches.

I am planning to use a combination of critique framework as to extract data. I'll study the theories based on evidences. But there are some shortcomings in the last steps. I have to know that evidences are true or not. I have to organize and analyze the knowledge. That means I'll find academic reasons, I'll begin with the recent articles. Because the Knowledge I get by research should be socially constructed. I'll find ways to find answers to my research questions.

The participants for this study are going to be the writers, psychologists, literary critics. I am the going to ask them to write their opinion online about Shakespeare about English literature and about madness. I'll note the opinion in three categories, one with heading of English literature the after with Shakespeare and the third madness.

I'll just be able to record their talking them listen to the tapes and write the percentage of people agreed on one common answer.

The percentage would be demonstrated by a table. Some of the people I intend to talk to may not respond to my study. The websites will give me additional information for analysis. Journal – articles will be guides to search and classify the studies the internet search engines will be another source of data. I'll construct a table of key terms and correlate them with the sources.

I'll watch the play performed in one of Shakespeare's Festivals, then analyze the plot, the themes and study guides sponsored by one of the famous universities of England. Then I have to come to a final decision about if a student wants to successfully study Shakespeare, what he should do consequently I'll be able to strongly analyze the questions and find answers for the topic of my research.

Research Question.

In order to consider the functions of madness we have to deal with some of the questions as follow:

1. What does the storm symbolize in King Lear?
2. What is the relationship between madness and blindness in the play?
3. What is the function of the "fool"?
4. is there any relationship between old age and insanity?
5. How does the rational thought affect the future of Kingdom?

6. Are the issues of equality and free-will versing the obedience and proud discussed in the light of our modern-day society?

Hypothesis

In order to come to a hypothesis about Shakespeare's King Lear, I'd like to see through the romantic comedy and tragedies of the great playwright and investigate the changes (if there are any) in 300 years and new adaptations difference. The historical context and cultural context have a uniqueness. As the study moves and close readings are done Nahum Tate adapted an Appositional new and different model of the tragedies. That was a work influenced by political climate of Restoration period.

Than at the beginning of 20th century some writers expressed the contradictory feelings against the values that Shakespeare Conveys.

The themes like nostalgia, insisted on during King Lear's story, were discussed in western culture debate of Late 20th century.

The negotiations between aesthetics and subjectivity took place. Then the new stage acts started to entail a change. But none of them could sustain the balance between old adaptations and the new ones. The feminist articulated that Shakespeare's women are not quite the innocent victims of men.

They are active makers and active destroyers of their destinies. Some critics like vagal tried to replace the original audience' opinion by a perspective paid more attention to love sexuality, family, violence and women's independence.

Therefore according to the following reasons, I hypothesized that Shakespeare's King Lear Is still 90 percented being adapted in today's life with the logic revealed in in words:

1. As for Lear, being a woman is tied to the body and a biological reproductive capacity.
2. The strained relationships of father and children.
3. Women's silence, public humiliations jealousy and death in Shakespeare's story on the women.
4. Not known sec of the foal, man or woman not important.
5. The writers or thinkers like Shakespeare's appearing as founders of the culture or carrier of civilization rules.
6. Children's competing for the parent's affection and attention and the worst examples of parenting.
7. The human feelings being timeless not past not present not future, always the same.
8. Still relevant appreciated values of family, power, reality, parenthood.
8. The universal tragedy of old age.
9. The gap between generations.
10. Accepting the responsibility of your mistakes and not blaming the others.
11. Good children and bad children.
12. The moral judgments.
13. The victims of religions.

So I also hypothesized that King Lear as an analysis of human behavior is adapted to the contemporary situations created nowadays to be the symbolic challenges of people today.

If Shakespeare's had written King Lear recently, we would have seen the analyzation of controversial social and political issues illustrated in the paly.

Significance of prior research

2. A. William Shakespeare's

1. Biography: W. Shakespeare, often called the English notional poet, is widely considered the greatest dramatist of all time.

Synopsis: William Shakespeare was baptised on April 26, 1564. The personal history of him is somewhat mysterious. Though no birth records exist church records indicate that he was baptised at Holy Trinity Church in Stratford-upon-Avon which was a market town with a country road near Avon River. William was the third child of John Shakespeare, a leather merchant. William had two older sisters and three young brothers. Although William's father was a successful merchant and a mayor, in the late 1570s, records show that John's fortune declined. There are not many records regarding William's education. Shakespeare guessed that he most attended King's new school at the town. William Shakespeare married Ann Hathaway on Nov. 28, 1582, in Canterbury Province. William was 18 and Ann was 26. Their first child Susanna born on 1583. Two years later on 1585, twins were born. After the birth of twins, no records exist of W. Shakespeare's life for seven years, "Lost years".

By 1592, there is evidence William earned a Living as an actor and a playwright in London and possibly had several plays produced.

There was an article in a publication on Sept. 20, 1592, written by Robert Greene who talked about Shakespeare as a high rank playwright. By the early 1590s, documents show that William was a managing member of an acting company. By 1597, William had written 43 plays and 17 of them were published. Then William and his partners built their own theatre on the south of Thames River. The improvement of Shakespeare's financial situation gave him the time to write his plays uninterrupted. His early style was conventional of the day. However Shakespeare was very innovative. He adapted the traditional style to his own purposes and wrote the free flow of words, unrhymed or blank verse. Shakespeare's first plays were histories like the other writers he wrote plays justifying Tudor dynasty.

Shakespeare also wrote several comedies and witty Romances: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Merchant of Venice*, *As you like it*, *Nachdo nothing*.

After 1600, He wrote the tragedies *Hamlet*, *King Lear*, *Othello* and *Macbeth*.

In final period, he wrote tragicomedies like the winter's tale, *The tempest* William Shakespeare died on his birthday April 23, 1616.

The writing style of William Shakespeare

Some of the most famous lines in the history of literature come from the writings of William Shakespeare and some of the most famous literary devices come from Shakespeare. He wrote drama, romantic sonnets, comedy. He produced historical plays but his true was tragedies and dark dramas. He sometimes exaggerated metaphors. He wrote Iambic pentameter that had ten syllable per line. He used the language beautifully to tell a good story. When writing *Romeo and Juliet* he changed his traditional style to a more self-expressing style.

Monologue was the style that the writer used to reveal the character's thought to the audience of his plays like "*Hamlet*"

A-3- Characters

Shakespeare wrote about characters who seemed real. He made sympathetic characters even though they did terrible things in his plays. He wrote for every type of person, nobles and lower class. The majority of his plays fall in to three categories:

Tragedies: generally involve a lot of death and named after main character: *Romeo and Juliet*, *Macbeth*, *King Lear*, *Hamlet*.

Comedies: *Twelfth night*, *Midsummer Night's Dream*. In Elizabethan Times the word "comedy" meant "light hearted" and his comedies generally have a happy ending

Histories: all based on the lives of English Kings. Richard II, Henry IV.

A-4- Shakespeare influence on literature

Shakespeare has created three-dimensional complicated characters who are very human with positive and negative attributes. The characters are constantly questioning the inner world and other world. He connects the plots together He writes beautiful poetry. Some of his poems and quotes are in common use in society. He wrote love stories and great stories related to Human interest, He had a limitless talent He wrote unbiased. He has written the best lyrical literary works. The choice of material and themes have been true for his time and in modern times.

A-5- Shakespeare as a psychologist

Debs Barker in his article named Fellowship of mind writes about Shakespeare that by going to see the theatres of *Hamlet* or as you like it, He realized that Shakespeare is a human behavior observer. He studies the depth of human conditions conscious and unconscious. Shakespeare's work appeared at the birth of modern psychology. Sigmund Freud observed directly the works of Shakespeare. Freud called him "the greatest poet". Leo Tolstoy said "I remember the astonishment I felt when I first read Shakespeare." William drew the characterizations from the observation around him. In his plays there is anger and betrayal misdirection, treachery and death, there is bravery and loyalty, fun, love and there is madness.

A-6- the qualities of speech and literary elements by Shakespeare

Shakespeare, the Bard, regularly uses double extenders (word games), metaphors and allusions. For example in *Hamlet* when Polonius wants to know where is Claudius. Body hidden, *Hamlet* says that it is not about what Polonius eats, but what eats Polonius another example of word game and double meaning is in *Hamlet* he says "I'm searching or at". Namely cloudius.

Shakespeare uses many implied metaphors and allusions and fore shadowing's in his plays.

Personification is a literary device that is the projection of characteristic, that normally belong to human, onto non-human objects, animals, gods, or forces of nature. The characteristics can be emotions, feelings or motives describing a human condition. Personification has been a part of storytelling for thousands of years. In *Midsummer Night's Dream* Shakespeare uses concept of the moon as character. Apostrophe is commonly known as a punctuation mark, also it can be used as a literary device when the speaker breaks off from addressing on and instead addressed the third on which can be present or absent in the scene. Apostrophe has been a part of storytelling since Greek drama.

On example of Apostrophe in Shakespeare's literature from *Romeo and Juliet*:

Juliet: yea, noise? Then I'll be brief, this is thy sheath, there rust, and let me die.

Hamlet: Alas, poor Yorick! I know him, Horatio, a fellow of in finite

In *King Lear*, there is a whole talk about literature vision and metaphorical blindness, especially when the father "sees" his children who they really are. Kent advises Lear "see better, Lear". We can say the root of all Lear's problems is his Lack of good judgment. "His blindness".

Gloucester is equally "blind". He cannot recognize which one of his sons is "good" or which one is really "bad". The literal blindness is symbolic of his inability to "see" the truth about his children.

Typically Kings wear Crown. In King Lear Shakespeare associates crowns with loss of power. The "fool" in King Lear makes a joke about the King's crown after Lear decided to give his Kingdom to his evil daughters. That means King is losing his crown (meaning ahead or state of mind that is lost). There are a lot of reference to the sick bodies and disease body parts in King Lear. When Lear says Regan to go out of palace, he insists that she is more like a "disease" that's in flesh and blood.

In Shakespeare's time, the human body was often used as a metaphor of a kingdom. When Lear imagined that his body is diseased that means that his kingdom is not doing so well. In Act III of King Lear, Lear rushes from a fight with his daughters into a raging thunderstorm and lightning is pretty much what's going on Lear's psychological state.

We can also argue that storm parallels Britain's fall into political chaos. In Macbeth storms are associated with rebellion against King Duncan. We could say that powerful storm in which Lear gets caught is dramatic demonstration of the fact that all humans, even Kings are vulnerable to Overpower natural forces.

There is one word "nothing" and nothingness or emptiness throughout Shakespeare's plays when Cordelia replies to his father's question "nothing" Lear can't believe what is he hearing. "Nothing will come out nothing". (In other word you'll get absolutely nothing from me unless you say how much you love me).

When the Fool tells Lear he is "nothing" without his crown and power.

Nakedness is also another subject touched by Shakespeare to convey the idea of nakedness versus clothing. Edgar disguises himself as "poor Tom". He chooses to be a "naked beggar. Lear takes off his Kingly clothes to feel cool and air on his skin. Lear tells "is man no more than this?" he strips down to his birthday suit. The rich and opulent clothing is just trying to hide man's true, defenseless nature.

There is a lot of talk in the play about old men being like "babes again".

Lear wants to retire and "shake all cares and business from our age". It seems that Lear is ready to Kick back and enjoy his golden years in one Act Lear is unable to walk upright, crawls like a baby. The image suggests that growing old is lot being an infant again, which means there are no responsibilities.

Shakespeare on tragedies always end in death, but usually with some promise of continuity. At the end of King Lear, Edgar stabs his brother Edmund, Conneril Poisons her sister Regan, Gloucester has a heart attack and dies, Cordelia is murdered by Edmond's henchman, and Lear dies of a broken heart.

King Lear's tone reflects that it is a dark play. The powerful language of Lear cursing the entire social world and universe the language of madness against human abuse of justice is brilliant.

King Lear like Shakespeare's other plays is written in a combination of verse (poetry) and prose (how we talk every day).

King Lear is like a very lengthy poem, beautiful and difficult.

2-A-Z- the philosophical questions related and projected in King Lear and the theme of suffering.

King Lear inspires many philosophical questions, the most important among them is the existence of a- Divine Justice. In Elizabethton ear this was important because at that time religion played a significant role in life of people. The religious leaders told people they have to answer some higher authority for their deeds and they expressed some hope that good would be rewarded. But throughout King Lear.

The honorable characters doing good, suffered from terrible loss. Many of good characters die and the evil characters also die but their punishment is by the laws of olive justice.

Lear makes several poor choices and misjudgments and his madness seems a painful excessive punishment. Gloucester also suffers. His eyes plucking shows a kind of lacking of divine justice.

Both King Lear and Gloucester endure physical and mental suffering as a punishment for their judgment. But before dying they are reunited with their children earlier rejected. In Act V of King Lear, Edmond and Edgar start a duel. There are several battles between good and evil in Christian tradition as divine justice. And Edgar's defeating Edmond is the concept of good winning evil. The death of evil characters in King Lear gives a kind of notion that gods eventually order the chaos in family and in country. But some characters deserve death and some are victims of evil arouse the question "why this things happen?"

It could be answered that human beings must live as if that divine justice exists.

b- The Neglect of natural law- the conflict of main theme between man's law and nature's law is kind of synonym with moral power always associated with divine justice. Eventually Lear and Gloucester recognize that they have violated natural law and their children have betrayed him. The law of evil people in the play is man-made and focuses on the individual not the good of community. The tragedy of King Lear tells the story of neglecting the natural order and unnatural betrayal parent and child. The Hasty Judgments based on emotions destroys the natural relationships of father and daughter.

Lear loves Cordelia and wants to divide the kingdom and give her the largest share. But Cordelia fails to mat his father's expectations of excessive flattery and confessions of love so there exists a competition between daughters. And disaster begins and carries them to graves. The same conflict is between Edgar and Edmond Gloucester's sons.

Clucester says he loves both of his sons equally, but the society does not regard them equally one is legitimate and the other illegitimate. So Edmund is not recognized his father's heir. Edmund plans to destroy his father to gain legitimacy and that is the result of his father's preference, rejecting natural law and accepting man-made law. Then the other son Edgar betrays his father. Edmund is the natural child of his father but man's neglects it.

At the end of the play Coneril one of Lear's daughters poisons her sister and kills herself unnatural competition for power and love.

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