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Analysis and Adaptation of Social Realism's Components in Two Plays of "Death of a Salesman" and "Hot Egg Tango: Emphasizing the Elements of Character and Content

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Problem Statement

Arthur Miller (1915-2005), a prominent American playwright, is a full-fledged realist writer; Because his works - especially his plays - have a deep connection to the social issues of American society.

The play "Death of a Salesman" (1949) is one of these social realist works. The work tells the story of the family life of an elderly salesman who has been devastated by US economic and capitalist policies.

Akbar Radi (1940-2008), the great contemporary playwright of Iran, is one of the writers who chose the style of realism and laid the foundation of his plays based on the most important social issues of his time.

Hot Egg Tango(1984) is one of the radio plays that deals with the social issues of its period in the style of realism, among the works of social realism. In this work, he portrays the life of an average Iranian family who are affected by unfavorable financial conditions, and the play begins with a financial crisis (asking for a rent deposit from the tenant) in the family.

The subject of the present study is the comparative analysis of the two plays "Hot Egg Tango" and "Death of a Salesman" from the perspective of social realism with emphasis on the element of personality and content; For this purpose, first the characters of the two works are analyzed and adapted; The social issues that have influenced these characters are then examined as the content of the works.

Research background

There is no doubt that Miller and Rady are two realist playwrights who have dealt extensively with social issues in their work; But so far their works have not been studied in terms of social realism. However, scholars have reflected on social issues in Rady and Miller's plays; But their work and research is not in the field of research of literary schools. Therefore, no book, treatise, article or research has been written about the comparative study of the two plays "Death of a Salesman" and "Hot Egg Tango".

Research Summary

The play "Death of a Salesman" seeks to represent the problems of American society in the Great Depression of the 1930s by telling the life story of an old salesman - who is no longer out of business because he is no longer as efficient as he used to be.

In the play "Hot Egg Tango", the author takes a fundamental look at the various aspects of the economic situation and its decisive and effective presence in the individual life of each family member, examining the characters and their attitudes and behavioral reactions to events.

In The Death of a Salesman, we encounter characters whose entire actions, behaviors, and lives are tied to the great issue of the economic crisis that has befallen American society. During this crisis and under its influence, Willy Luhmann - the main character of the play - is excluded from the circle of work and business as a burnt nut, and his life is dragged into the abyss of destruction. The economic problems of the Moses family in the "Hot Egg Tango", related to the actions, behavior and thoughts of the family; These include the second marriage of Moses, the unemployment and deprivation of the second son of the family, and the irresponsibility of the characters in general.

Research Findings

Miller's characters seek to achieve their human rights in society, and all their troubles and problems are to achieve this goal; These personalities are grappling with the great economic, social and political problems of society; But radio characters do not have socially lost rights; Rather, they only deal with their economic and family issues.

Social realism is more objectively portrayed in The Death of a Salesman; However, this issue is also reflected in Rady's play due to the reflection of the problems and dilemmas of the middle class.

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