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THE NOTION OF "FRIENDSHIP" IN WESTERN CULTURE AND ITS INTERPRETATION IN THE TRAGEDIES OF SHAKESPEARE

Annotation

This article represents how the concept of "friendship" is interpreted in English speaking countries. Also, it gives some definitions to the word "friendship" and presents types of it among people and its role in people's life. Moreover, in this article its interpretation in the tragedies of Shakespeare.

Key words: Sympathy, spiritual closeness, mutual affection, brotherhood, companionship, voluntary participation, cognitive decline, reciprocity.

ПОНЯТИЕ "ДРУЖБА" В ЗАПАДНОЙ КУЛЬТУРЕ И ЕЕ ИНТЕРПРЕТАЦИЯ В ТРАГЕДИЯХ ШЕКСПИРА

Аннотация

В данной статье представлена интерпретация понятия "дружба в англоязычных странах. Также даны некоторые определения слову «дружба» и её виды и роль в сообществе людей. В статье говорится о понятии и интерпретации данного слова в трагедиях Шекспира.

Ключевые слова: Симпатия, духовная близость, взаимная привязанность, братство, товарищество, добровольное участие, когнитивный спад, взаимность.

G'ARB MADANIYATIDA "DO'STLIK" TUSHUNCHASI VA UNING SHEKSPIR TRAGEDIYALARIDA TALQINI

Annotatsiya

Mazkur maqola "do'stlik" tushunchasini g'arb madaniyatida qanday talqin qilinganligini izohlar va misollar orqali ko'rsatib beradi. Bundan tashqari "do'stlik" so'zi nima ma'noni anglatishi va qanday turlari borligi haqida ham ma'lumot beradi.

Kalit so'zlar: Hamdardlik, ma'naviy yaqinlik, o'zaro mehr, birodarlik, hamrohlik, ixtiyoriy qatnashish, kognitiv pasayish, o'zaro munosabat.

Introduction. What is the interpretation of friendship? In all parts of the world, the concept "friendship" is regarded as an important relationship in a person's life span and it means a state of enduring affection, esteem, intimacy, and trust between two people. Moreover, it is a basic need of human survival. Without friendship, living a happy, healthy life would be impossible. It is commonly known that the concept of friendship is frequently accepted by many people as a personal stable relationship between people based on sympathy, respect, common interests, spiritual closeness, mutual affection and understanding.

In some western societies, the concept of a friend sounds relatively broad: someone that you know well and like; or someone that is not your enemy and you do not hate. It is believed that the concept of a friend is something firm and not dissolvable; a loose "easy come, easy go" western style of friendship applies more to outside groups; these groups could include people we do not know well or have no reason to know. Real friendship requires a sense of passion and effort; seeking friendship only for personal benefit or for a "feeling" of freshness. Therefore, amongst friends, there exists a bond. In line with this idea, the Xinhua Dictionary defines "friend" as; a classmate, a kindred spirit, or particularly a lover.

A friendship needs to be maintained and nourished; people that seldom connect cannot be expected to maintain a sense of closeness. It is for this reason that people of collective cultures may appear entrenched in their respective groups.

Comparatively, a lot of time is spent maintaining existing friendships; this contributes to the longevity of relationships.

Literature review. According to psychologist and friendship expert Dr Suzanne Degges-White in Northern Illinois University "Friendships are relationships that involve two very critical dimensions – interdependence and voluntary participation". In addition, she points that friendship is a complex process and experience. Apart from these thoughts, she highlights the following further explanations. A) "True friendships are hallmarked by each member's desire to engage with the other – it's about mutual interest in one another's experiences and thoughts, as well as a sense of 'belongingness' and connection". B) "Friendships require reciprocity – of admiration, respect, trust, and emotional and instrumental support". [1]

From William Shakespeare point of view "friendship" is an affectionate companionship, but just as frequently he used 'friends' when he meant 'family'. For example, in his historical novel "Henry VI" the concept of friendship is interpreted like "Thy friendship makes us fresh" [2]. The meaning of this statement is that making friends with new people is one of life's greatest pleasures. In context, this line is spoken between a King and a Duke, which is unlikely to happen to most of us, but we can always form friendships with people who were once strangers.

Research Methodology. Somerset Maugham collected all his thoughts about friendship and he included those thoughts into his book.

"There are two kinds of friendship. The first is a friendship of animal attraction; you like your friend not for any particular qualities or gifts, but simply because you are drawn to him. "C'est mon ami parce que je l'aime; je l'aime parce que c'est mon ami." It is unreasoning and unreasonable; and by the irony of things it is probable that you will have this feeling for someone quite unworthy of it. This kind of friendship, though sex has no active part in it, is really akin to love: it arises in the same way, and it is not improbable that it declines in the same way. The second kind of friendship is intellectual. You are attracted by the gifts of your new acquaintance. His ideas are unfamiliar; he has seen sides of life of which you are ignorant; his experience is impressive. However, every well has a bottom and finally your friend will come to the end of what he has to tell you.

It is believed that friendship is important all around the world and in many cases it is linked to culture, health and well-being. In the current study, we examined how is the concept "friendship" interpreted in the western culture.

While there are cultural similarities in the concept of friendship in different societies, there are also cultural differences in the meaning and function of friendship [3]. The definition of friendship varies further within societies and according to gender. It seems that only in modern Western societies close friends is a personal relationship mostly free from societal influence. The question can be raised whether the notion of emotional intimacy, that is so characteristic especially for adolescent friendships in Western cultures, is typical for other types of societies as well.

Analysis and results. Monika Keller, Max Planck Institute for Human Development for Human Development, Berlin, and her colleagues studied the development of expectations in parent-child and friendship relations in cultural context. They did their research on the same age groups from childhood (7 and 9 years) to adolescence (12 and 15 years) and young adulthood (19 years) were interviewed individually in different Western societies. They assessed friendship conceptions in general and in reasoning about a morally relevant friendship dilemma that could be interpreted in different ways. Western participants in this research emphasized predominantly on interaction qualities and promise keeping and, in particular, in late adolescence on relationship intimacy [4]. From this research we presented our ideas about the conception of friendship which differs from the by their age, gender and place. It can be special moral relationship which children can understand and share emotionally the perspective of another person. Adolescence in particular is seen as an important phase in which a moral self is established [5]

Bonnie Vengrow, a journalist based in NYC, writes about friendship in her article "The importance of friends as you age". Based on this article, people who are in golden years may face some difficulties in making friends. As to her ideas "forging new friendships during your golden years may require a little extra effort. As you get older, common life changes such as the loss of a spouse, loss of hearing or vision, retirement, and issues with health and mobility can take their toll on your social life and, by extension, your well-being. Loneliness has been linked to a higher risk of cognitive decline, dementia and depression. It also has been linked to heart disease, stroke and blood pressure. In fact, one 2015 study famously concluded that a lack of social connections was as damaging to a person's health as smoking 15 cigarettes a day". From this article we can conclude that friendship seems crucial even people are retired and in an old age.

The relation of friendship still keeps the importance among people no matter what age.

Some form of friendship is present in nearly all cultures and countries [6], but friendships are perceived and constructed differently across cultures [7]. While some cultures employ a looser definition of friendship, others are stricter in the ways they define friendship [8]. Based on how people define friendship, there is accompanying variance in how many friends people have and what people expect from friends. For instance, a cross-national study in friendship found that Americans were more likely to have more friends and differentiate between friends; Ghanaians were more cautious toward friends and having a large group of friends [9]. Likewise, people's understanding of intimacy in friendship varies across cultures [10]. Compared to Chinese adolescents, Western adolescents emphasize more on relationship intimacy and quality interactions in their friendships [11]. In addition, friendships are more stable and fixed in some societies and more flexible and relationships of choice in other societies. In the latter case, relationships can change more rapidly as people have the freedom to voluntarily choose relationships (i.e., higher relational mobility). As a result, people tend to trust strangers more and are more proactive in maintaining friends, self-disclosing, and provide more support [12]. These behaviors are characteristic of friendships in individualistic cultures, as individualistic cultures possess higher relational mobility [13].

Whenever Shakespeare mentions friends or discusses friendships, he's not just referring to acquaintances. Friends and family are interchangeable concepts for Shakespeare, but heartwarming, friendly quotes can still be found in Shakespeare plays regardless. Here's some of our top quotes about friendship found in Shakespeare plays.

In Shakespeare's play "King Lear", the concept of "friendship" is interpreted by the character of Kent. He is the main character in this tragedy, who serves the king wholeheartedly and advises the king in a wise manner.

At the onset of the play, King Lear enters to a fanfare of trumpets, followed by his two sons-in-law — Albany and Cornwall — and his three daughters — Goneril, Regan, and Cordelia. Lear announces that he has divided his kingdom into three shares to be given to his daughters as determined by their declarations of love for him. Goneril, as the eldest, speaks first. She tells her father that her love for him is boundless. Regan, as the middle child, speaks next. Her love, she says, is even greater than Goneril's.

Finally, it is Cordelia's turn to express the depth of her love for her royal father. But when queried by Lear, Cordelia replies that she loves him as a daughter should love a father, no more and no less. She reminds her father that she also will owe devotion to a husband when she marries, and therefore cannot honestly tender all her love toward her father. Lear sees Cordelia's reply as rejection; in turn, he disowns Cordelia, saying that she will now be "a stranger to my heart and me" (I.1.114). King Lear then divides his kingdom between Goneril and Regan, giving each an equal share.

Kent interferes by asking Lear to reconsider his rash action. Lear is not swayed, and in anger, he banishes Kent for defending Cordelia and for confronting the king.

Unfortunately, King, who was used to words of praise, would not recognize the truth. The King Lear is angry with his youngest daughter's answer and banishes her. In such a situation, Kent says to the King:

When majesty falls to folly. Reserve thy state,
And in thy best consideration check
This hideous rashness. Answer my life my
judgment,
Thy youngest daughter does not love thee least,
Nor are those empty-hearted whose low sounds
Reverb no hollowness. (Act 1, S 1)

The meaning of these words is that it would be better to control of yourself if you get angry.

Kent's interference on Cordelia's behalf leads to another outburst from Lear. Like Cordelia, Kent is honest with the king, providing a voice of reason. Kent sees Lear making a mistake and tells him so. The depth of Lear's anger toward Kent suggests excessive pride — Lear cannot be wrong. Cordelia's answer injures Lear's pride; he needs her excessive protestations of love to justify giving her the choicer parcel of land. Lear's intense anger toward Kent also suggests the fragility of the king's emotional state. Shakespeare wrote not only about the relationship between parents and children but also friendship and loyalty.

One of the most famous plays of Shakespeare is Hamlet. In this tragedy Shakespeare presents both the relationship among family members and the concept of friendship. For example, Horatio is the only person in the play

that Hamlet trusts. He is the only person who knows for certain that Hamlet's madness is an act, the one person Hamlet confides in personally, and the one whom bids Hamlet goodnight upon his death. Considering his conflicts with his family, Horatio is the only "family" Hamlet has. He understands that Horatio is very rational and thoughtful, yet not overly pensive like himself. In this way, Hamlet relies on Horatio, making the friendship interestingly.

Conclusion/Recommendations. Based on the following points, we can conclude that friendship is a social and psychological concept. It represents a form of relationship between people based on mutual respect, liking, common interests, closeness, mutual understanding. Friendship as a form of human communication is close to the concepts of kinship, friendship, brotherhood, but from a psychological point of view, it differs from them in its feeling.

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