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A Comparative Analysis of Shakespearean Tragedies and Greek Tragedies

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Abstract ;(not more than 10 Lines)

This paper aims to explore the tragic elements in Shakespeare's works and compare them to the Greek tragedies, focusing on the tragic hero, plot, and catharsis. Through an in-depth analysis of Hamlet, Othello, and Macbeth, we find that Shakespeare challenges classical traditions to offer complex insights into the human psyche and social tensions. The study shows that Shakespeare reflects the contradictions of the Renaissance and offers social and cultural critique through his portrayal of characters and relationships. The paper recommends additional comparative studies and a comprehensive analysis of female characters in future tragedies. This study reinforces the importance of comparative analysis in literary studies to understand the development of literary styles and their influence on modern literature.

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1.Introduction

Tragedy is a literary genre that has had a profound impact on world literature, reflecting basic human conflicts and offering insight into human nature. Shakespearean literature and ancient Greek literature are the cornerstones of the genre. Shakespearean tragedies, written by William Shakespeare in the 16th and 17th centeries, represent the pinnacle of literary creativity in the Elizabethan era, capturing complex political and personal conflicts through memorable characters such as Hamlet, Macbeth, and King Lear. On the other hand, Greek tragedies, written by poets such as Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides in the fifth and fourth centuries BCE, are considered the fundamentals of classical literature, focusing on the struggle between man and fate, moral themes, and existential questions.

A comparative study of Shakespearean and Greek tragedies is important and relevant for several reasons. Firstly, it allows us to understand how the concept of tragedy has evolved across different eras and cultures. Through this study, we can discover how Shakespearean tragedies were

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influenced by the Greek literary tradition and how they developed their own unique characteristics. Secondly, this study helps us recognise the differences and similarities between Shakespearean and Greek tragedies in terms of structure, characters, themes, and literary styles. This understanding can enhance our appreciation of literary works and help us interpret them more deeply. Thirdly, this study sheds light on the fundamental human values addressed in these literary works, which enhances our understanding of human nature and the moral conflicts facing humans in different eras.

This paper aims to achieve the following main objectives:

1. To examine the differences and similarities between the dramatic structure in Shakespearean and Greek tragedies, including narrative structures, the use of acts and scenes, and the distribution of events.
2. To compare and contrast the main characters in Shakespearean and Greek tragedies, focusing on character development, motivations, and internal and external conflicts.
3. To analyse the main themes in Shakespearean and Greek tragedies, such as fate, justice, revenge, madness, love, and power, and to explore how they are addressed in each literary tradition.
4. To identify the literary techniques used in Shakespearean and Greek tragedies, including language, poetic devices, metaphors, similes, and theatrical techniques.
5. To investigate the impact of cultural and historical contexts on the development of Shakespearean and Greek tragedies, and to analyse how social and political values are reflected in these literary works.

2.Literature Review

The study of tragedy as a literary genre reveals the profound cultural and artistic values of different historical periods. Greek and Shakespearean tragedies, though separated by centuries, share a common focus on human suffering, moral conflict, and the interplay of fate and free will. However, they differ significantly in their thematic emphasis, structural elements, and cultural contexts. This literature review provides an overview of the historical background, key themes, and critical perspectives that have shaped the understanding of these two traditions. The following subsections will explore their origins, influences, and evolution, setting the stage for a comparative analysis of Greek and Shakespearean tragedies.

2.1Historical Background

- **Greek Tragedies**

Greek tragedy originated in the fifth centuries BC in Athens during the Classical period. Aeschylus (525-456 BC), Sophocles (496-406 BC), and Euripides (480-406 BC) are the most prominent writers of Greek tragedy. These tragedies were part of religious ceremonies and public celebrations associated with the god Dionysus. Greek tragedies were fundamentally concerned with themes such as fate, divine will, and the conflict between humans and gods, and included elements such as a chorus that provided commentary on events and helped guide the audience towards the desired interpretation (Vervain and Wiles, 2004)

- **Shakespearean Tragedies**

Shakespearean tragedies emerged in the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries in England during the reigns of Elizabeth I and James I. William Shakespeare (1564-1616) is

considered the greatest playwright in the English language and wrote many famous tragedies such as Hamlet, Macbeth, and King Lear. (Bradley, 2007). Shakespearean tragedies differ from their Greek counterparts by emphasising the personal and psychological conflict of the main characters, the complex interplay between individuals and society, and the expression of human emotions with depth and realism.(Neill et al. 2016)

2.2 Previous Studies

Several comparative literary studies have addressed the relationship between Shakespearean and Greek tragedies. The following review outlines key contributions in this field.

Laraib et al. (2022) explore the elements of tragedy in selected Shakespearean dramas. Their research supports the theoretical frameworks of Irving Ribner and A.C. Bradley, focusing on three fundamental components that define Shakespeare's tragic concept: the tragic hero, the tragic plot, and catharsis. By comparing Shakespearean and Greek tragedies, the study demonstrates how Shakespeare challenged classical traditions to achieve greater verisimilitude. The authors contend that Shakespearean tragedy embodies Renaissance contradictions, anticipates romanticism and realism, and reveals profound insights into the human psyche, with Shakespeare's humanism exemplified through his deep appreciation of human suffering.

Apio (2022) examines the construction of betrayed trust in Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, *Othello*, and *Macbeth*, analyzing the manipulations that damage relationships between tragic heroes and their loved ones. The study critiques social institutions that enable such betrayals and investigates their devastating consequences. Apio emphasizes trust as foundational to human relationships, arguing that Shakespeare's tragedies fundamentally revolve around this theme. The research significance lies in its potential to open new avenues for understanding interpersonal dynamics in Renaissance literature through the lens of trust and betrayal.

Al-Samet (2023) investigates the interdisciplinary interplay between theatre, visual arts, and cinema through Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. The research demonstrates how these art forms mutually enrich creative expression rather than existing independently. Specifically, the study analyzes how theatre provides critical perspectives on human knowledge and rhetoric that intersect with visual and cinematic arts. Additionally, it traces *The Tempest*'s enduring influence across centuries, highlighting the continuous transformation of theatrical texts into innovative visual forms and underscoring Shakespeare's lasting interdisciplinary impact.

Chidi-Igbokwe (2022) analyzes fundamental similarities and differences among classical, Renaissance, and modern tragedies. The study documents significant evolution in tragic conventions across these periods, noting that each era's theater reflects its unique societal context. The research concludes that no theatrical period merely replicates another; instead, tragedies continuously adapt to mirror contemporary worldviews, values, and artistic innovations. This demonstrates the genre's dynamic nature throughout literary history and its responsiveness to changing cultural environments.

Jianli (2022) investigates the impact of Shakespearean tragedies on contemporary women through comparative analysis. The research reveals that female characters' tragedies stem not only from personal flaws but also from societal gender contradictions. Specifically, Shakespeare's female protagonists struggle against cultural expectations that conflict with their desires for equality, freedom, and autonomy. The study links these tragic outcomes to Renaissance gender ideologies,

identifying them as precursors to modern social gender theory. Jianli argues that gender identity, shaped by patriarchal norms, creates psychological and social imbalances that fundamentally contribute to female characters' tragic destinies, emphasizing that womanhood is culturally constructed rather than biologically determined.

2.3Theoretical Framework

The analysis of Shakespearean and Greek tragedies will be guided by a range of literary theories and analytical frameworks that provide a multidimensional perspective on these works. One of the primary frameworks is Classical Tragedy Theory, which is based on Aristotle's seminal work, *Poetics*. In this work, Aristotle defines tragedy as "a simulation of a noble and perfect act of a certain magnitude." This theory will be employed to analyse the dramatic structure and thematic elements in both Greek and Shakespearean tragedies, offering insights into how these two traditions align with and diverge from classical definitions of tragedy (Aristotle, 2013).

In addition, Psychological Criticism, rooted in the theories of Sigmund Freud and Carl Jung, will be used to delve into the psychological depth of Shakespearean characters. Shakespeare's works are renowned for their complex portrayal of human emotions and internal conflicts, and Freud's psychoanalytic concepts, alongside Jung's archetypes, provide valuable tools for exploring these elements. This framework will highlight the psychological struggles that are central to Shakespearean tragedies (Freud, 2010).

Another essential approach is Historical-cultural Criticism, which examines the interplay between literary texts and the historical and cultural contexts in which they were produced. This framework will be used to explore how tragedies reflect the social, political, and cultural values of their respective periods—namely, the classical era for Greek tragedies and the Renaissance for Shakespearean works. By situating these texts within their historical contexts, the analysis will demonstrate how they engage with the ideologies and concerns of their times (Greenblatt, 2005).

To enhance the structural understanding of these works, Structural Criticism will be employed. This framework, influenced by theorists such as Roland Barthes, focuses on the internal relationships within literary texts. It will be applied to deconstruct the dramatic architecture of both Greek and Shakespearean tragedies, examining the interplay between plot, character, and themes (Barthes, 1977).

Finally, the Theory of Intertextuality, as proposed by Julia Kristeva, will guide the exploration of the relationships between Greek and Shakespearean tragedies. This theory highlights the ways in which texts interact with and influence one another. Specifically, it will be used to analyse how Greek tragedies have served as a foundation for Shakespeare's works, revealing intertextual connections and the evolution of tragic forms across time (Kristeva, 1980).

3.Methodology

The comparative analysis of Shakespearean and Greek tragedies requires a systematic and nuanced approach to uncover the thematic, structural, and psychological dimensions of these literary works. This section outlines the research methodology, including the selection of texts and the analytical tools that will be employed to explore the similarities and differences between the two traditions. By combining qualitative research methods with a focus on textual analysis, this study aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of how these tragedies reflect their respective cultural and historical contexts while addressing universal human experiences.

3.1Research Methodology

To carry out a comparative analysis of Shakespearean and Greek tragedies, a qualitative research approach will be used that focuses on textual analysis and deep interpretation of literary texts. This approach allows for an understanding of the meanings of literary texts and the complex relationships between different elements. A thematic, structural and critical analysis of the selected texts will be applied, taking into account their historical and cultural contexts.

3.2 Selection of Texts

A carefully curated selection of works by William Shakespeare and major Greek tragedians has been chosen for analysis in this study. These texts represent significant examples of tragedy from both traditions, allowing for a comparative examination of themes, structures, and cultural influences. From the Shakespearean canon, three of his most celebrated tragedies have been selected. *Hamlet*, often regarded as one of Shakespeare's greatest works, explores profound themes of revenge, madness, and death. *Macbeth* examines the destructive consequences of ambition, power, and corruption, with the added element of supernatural influence. Meanwhile, *King Lear* delves into the complexities of old age, betrayal, madness, and justice, offering a deeply moving exploration of human frailty and relationships.

From Greek tragedy, three cornerstone works have been chosen. Aeschylus's *Agamemnon* addresses themes of fate, revenge, and sacrifice, reflecting the weight of divine will and familial duty. Sophocles's *Oedipus the King* delves into existential questions concerning fate, identity, and self-discovery, serving as a seminal example of classical tragedy. Euripides's *Medea* explores the dark motivations of revenge and betrayal, centering on a powerful yet vengeful female protagonist and her pursuit of justice.

To conduct a thorough analysis of these texts, a variety of tools and techniques will be employed. Structural analysis will focus on the dramatic construction of the plays, examining the division of acts and scenes, the sequence of events, and the differences in narrative techniques. Special attention will be given to the use of the chorus in Greek tragedies and how it contrasts with the dramatic structure of Shakespearean plays.

Thematic analysis will explore key themes such as fate, revenge, justice, madness, and power. By comparing how these themes are treated in both Shakespearean and Greek texts, the analysis will highlight the unique approaches of each tradition in addressing universal human concerns.

Psychological analysis, rooted in the theories of Freud and Jung, will be used to examine the characters' internal and external conflicts, motivations, and psychological complexities. Shakespearean tragedies, in particular, will be scrutinized for their nuanced portrayal of psychological depth, which often surpasses that of Greek tragedies.

Cultural-historical analysis will provide insight into the cultural and historical contexts in which these works were produced. This approach will shed light on how the social and political values of classical Greece and Renaissance England are reflected in their respective literary texts, offering a richer understanding of the external forces shaping these tragedies.

Linguistic analysis will examine the literary techniques employed in the texts, including language, poetry, metaphors, and theatrical devices. By comparing the use of language in Shakespearean and Greek tragedies, the analysis will uncover stylistic differences and their impact on the audience's perception of the plays.

Finally, intertextuality will be explored to investigate the interplay between Greek tragedies and their influence on Shakespearean works. Using textual theory, the study will trace the literary connections and adaptations, revealing how Shakespeare drew inspiration from classical sources to craft his own distinct brand of tragedy.

4.Analyse

This comparative analysis allows for a deeper understanding of both Greek and Shakespearean tragedy, discovering how each reflects fundamental human tensions and conflicts in a different cultural and historical context

4.1 Themes in Greek Tragedies

Greek tragedies are profoundly shaped by recurring themes that reflect the cultural and philosophical beliefs of ancient Greece. One of the most prominent themes is fate, which is often depicted as an inescapable force governing human lives. In Sophocles' *Oedipus the King*, the power of fate is vividly illustrated as Oedipus attempts to avoid a prophecy that he will kill his father and marry his mother, only to unknowingly fulfill it. This tragic inevitability underscores the helplessness of individuals in the face of predetermined destiny, a central idea in Greek tragedy.

Another critical theme is hubris, or excessive pride and arrogance, which is considered one of the gravest sins in Greek literature. This dangerous overconfidence often leads characters to challenge divine authority, resulting in their downfall. In Aeschylus' *Agamemnon*, the titular character exhibits hubris by ignoring warnings and prioritizing his personal ambitions, ultimately sealing his tragic fate. Hubris serves as a cautionary element, emphasizing the consequences of defying the gods and disrupting the natural order.

A third pivotal theme is divine intervention, where the gods actively influence human affairs and shape events. In Euripides' *Medea*, divine forces are evident as the gods express their anger at Jason's betrayal of Medea, culminating in her bloody revenge. This direct involvement of the gods reflects the ancient Greek belief that divine powers are deeply intertwined with human destiny, often acting as arbiters of justice or retribution**.**

4.2Themes in Shakespearean Tragedies

Shakespearean tragedies are renowned for their exploration of universal human experiences, with themes that resonate deeply across time. One of the central themes is ambition, which plays a pivotal role in many of Shakespeare's works. In *Macbeth*, Macbeth's insatiable ambition drives him to commit heinous crimes in his quest for power, including murder. This unrelenting ambition ultimately leads to his downfall and personal destruction, illustrating the dangers of unchecked desire for success and dominance.

Another significant theme is power, and the destructive struggle for it. In *King Lear*, the power dynamics between Lear and his three daughters showcase how the pursuit of power can lead to familial betrayal, chaos, and societal collapse. The play delves into the corrupting influence of power, exploring its impact not only on relationships but also on the human mind and soul. Through these explorations, Shakespeare reveals the fragility of human connections in the face of greed and ambition.

A hallmark of Shakespearean tragedy is the psychological complexity of its characters, which sets his works apart from other literary traditions. In *Hamlet*, the protagonist is tormented by intense internal conflicts, including doubt, depression, and an overwhelming desire for revenge.

Hamlet's struggles with his own conscience and his inability to act decisively make him a deeply complex and enigmatic character. This psychological depth lends realism and humanity to Shakespeare's characters, allowing audiences to connect with their inner turmoil and moral dilemmas.

4.3 Character Analysis

The characters in both Greek and Shakespearean tragedies are central to the exploration of their respective themes and dramatic structures, with significant differences in the portrayal of heroes, villains, and supporting roles.

Heroes in Greek tragedies are often noble figures caught in the tension between human will and the inescapable force of fate. For instance, Oedipus, the protagonist of *Oedipus the King*, is a noble and well-intentioned leader who strives to act justly but is ultimately doomed by his tragic destiny. His downfall is rooted in forces beyond his control, illustrating the ancient Greek belief in the power of fate. On the other hand, Shakespearean heroes, such as Hamlet and Macbeth, are marked by their psychological depth and emotional complexity. Hamlet, for example, is consumed by internal conflicts, including doubt, grief, and the desire for revenge, while Macbeth's ambition and moral struggles lead him to commit irreversible acts of violence. These characters are not merely victims of fate but are shaped by their own choices and psychological flaws, making their tragedies deeply personal and human.

Villains in Greek tragedies are often driven by supernatural forces or moral flaws such as hubris or envy, which lead them to act against the cosmic order. These villains are frequently archetypal and serve as catalysts for the hero's downfall. In contrast, villains in Shakespearean tragedies are more psychologically complex and humanized. Characters like Iago in *Othello* and Lady Macbeth in *Macbeth* exhibit intricate motivations, such as jealousy, manipulation, and excessive ambition. These Shakespearean villains are not merely agents of evil but are deeply flawed individuals whose actions stem from personal desires and psychological conflicts, adding layers of complexity to the narrative.

Supporting characters also play distinct roles in Greek and Shakespearean tragedies. In Greek tragedies, supporting characters often take the form of a chorus, which provides artistic and moral commentary on the events of the play. The chorus serves as a bridge between the audience and the unfolding drama, reflecting societal values and offering insights into the moral implications of the characters' actions. In Shakespearean tragedies, supporting characters are more individualized and contribute to the development of the plot and themes. For example, Polonius in *Hamlet* provides comic relief and wisdom, while Kent in *King Lear* exemplifies loyalty and moral integrity. These characters add depth and balance to the story, enriching the emotional and thematic dimensions of the plays.

4.4 Structural Analysis

. Greek tragedies often follow a three-act structure, with the chorus overlapping between acts. Acts follow a pattern of exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and ending. In contrast, Shakespearean tragedies follow a five-act structure, where the main events are evenly distributed across the chapters, allowing for a more complex dramatic development. In Greek tragedies, the chorus plays a pivotal role in providing commentary and guiding the audience. Meanwhile, in

Shakespearean tragedies, the chorus is replaced by secondary characters who provide commentary within the dialogue, making the experience more individual and personal.

Language in Greek tragedies tends to be rich in poetry and metaphors, with rhymes and repetition used to enhance the dramatic aspects. In Shakespearean tragedies, the language is more varied and complex, combining everyday language with elaborate poetry to create dramatic effects. Symbolism is heavily used in both genres. In Greek tragedies, symbols are often associated with mythology and gods, such as the symbol of blindness in *Oedipus the King*. In Shakespearean tragedies, the symbols are more varied and complex, such as Macbeth's bloody hands symbolising guilt. Both genres also use techniques such as similes, metaphors, and monologues to deepen the dramatic understanding of characters and events. In Shakespearean tragedies, monologues such as "To be or not to be" in *Hamlet* are used to provide an inside view of the characters, making them more relatable to the audience.

Through this comparative analysis, we can gain a deeper understanding of both Greek and Shakespearean tragedies and discover how each reflects fundamental human tensions and conflicts in different cultural and historical contexts.

This table compares the roles and characteristics of heroes, villains, and supporting characters in Greek and Shakespearean tragedies.

Table(1)Character Analysis

Category	Greek Tragedies	Shakespearean Tragedies
Heroes	Often caught between human will and fate. Oedipus is a noble king who strives to do good, but his life is dominated by his tragic destiny.	Display psychological depth and inner complexity. Hamlet and Macbeth experience complex psychological conflicts that lead to their tragic fates8.
Villains	Often human characters driven by supernatural powers or moral flaws such as arrogance.	Exhibit complex psychological motivations and excessive ambition. Iago in *Othello* and Lady Macbeth in *Macbeth* are more complex and human.
Supporting Characters	Often play the role of a chorus, providing artistic and moral commentary on events.	Provide balance and depth to the story. Polonius in *Hamlet* or Kent in *King Lear* reflect different aspects of human life.

Source: Ward, E. (2022). Fate in a fatalistic world. Apollone Journal. Retrieved from https://www.apollonejournal.org/apollon-journal/fate-in-a-fatalistic-world and Fiveable. (2024.). Oedipus study guide. Retrieved from https://library.fiveable.me/greek-tragedy/unit-9/oedipus/study-guide/jMvuucStQbnRX8dU

This table outlines the contrasting act structures and use of chorus in Greek and Shakespearean tragedies.

Table(2)Structural Analysis

Element	Greek Tragedies	Shakespearean Tragedies
Acts and Scenes	Follow a three-act structure with chorus interludes. Acts follow a pattern of exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution.	Follow a five-act structure, with main events evenly distributed, allowing for more complex dramatic development.
Use of Chorus	The chorus plays a pivotal role in providing	The chorus is replaced by secondary

Element	Greek Tragedies	Shakespearean Tragedies
	commentary and guiding the audience.	characters who provide commentary within the dialogue, making the experience more personal.

Source: Fiveable. (2024.). Oedipus study guide. Retrieved from https://library.fiveable.me/greek-tragedy/unit-9/oedipus/study-guide/jMvuucStQbnRX8dU

This table compares the use of language, symbolism, and other literary devices in Greek and Shakespearean tragedies.

Table(3)Use of Language and Literary Devices

Element	Greek Tragedies	Shakespearean Tragedies
Language	Rich in poetry and metaphors, with rhymes and repetition to enhance dramatic aspects.	More varied and complex, using both everyday language and elaborate poetry to create dramatic effects.
Symbolism	Symbols are often associated with mythology and gods. Blindness in *Oedipus the King*.	Symbols are more varied and complex. Macbeth's bloody hands symbolize guilt.
Other Devices	Similes, metaphors, and monologues deepen the dramatic understanding of characters and events.	Monologues, such as "To be or not to be" in *Hamlet*, provide an inside view of characters, making them more relatable to the audience.

Source: Fiveable. (2024.). Oedipus study guide. Retrieved from https://library.fiveable.me/greek-tragedy/unit-9/oedipus/study-guide/jMvuucStQbnRX8dU

The three tables compare elements of Greek and Shakespearean tragedies in terms of character roles, structure, and literary devices. Table 1, focusing on character analysis, shows that heroes in Greek tragedies, such as Oedipus, are often caught between human will and fate, while Shakespearean heroes like Hamlet and Macbeth exhibit psychological depth and inner conflict. Villains in Greek tragedies are driven by supernatural forces or moral flaws, whereas Shakespearean villains, such as Iago in Othello, display complex psychological motivations. Supporting characters in Greek tragedies often serve as a chorus providing moral commentary, while in Shakespeare, characters like Polonius in Hamlet add balance and depth to the narrative. Table 2, on structural analysis, highlights that Greek tragedies follow a three-act structure with choral interludes, while Shakespearean tragedies use a five-act structure for more complex dramatic development. The chorus in Greek tragedies plays a central role in guiding the audience, whereas Shakespeare replaces it with secondary characters who provide commentary through dialogue. Table 3, on language and literary devices, illustrates that Greek tragedies rely on poetic language, metaphors, and mythological symbolism, such as blindness in Oedipus the King, while Shakespearean tragedies employ a mix of everyday language and elaborate poetry, with symbols like Macbeth's bloody hands representing guilt. Monologues in both traditions, such as Hamlet's "To be or not to be," offer deep insights into characters' psyches, making them more relatable.

4.5 Interpreting the results

This section interprets the findings of the study in relation to its primary objectives and theoretical frameworks. The results are examined to assess their compatibility with the initial aims

of the research and established literary theories, while also exploring their implications for understanding Greek and Shakespearean tragedies.

The primary aims of this study were to understand the main themes in Greek and Shakespearean tragedies, analyse the dramatic structure of each literary genre, compare and contrast characters in selected texts, and explore the use of language and literary devices in both genres. In terms of themes, the study found that Greek tragedies focus on fate, hubris, and divine intervention, which align with literary theories that emphasise the role of fate and supernatural forces in shaping the characters' destinies. Themes such as fate as an inescapable force and hubris as the cause of a character's downfall are consistent with ancient Greek philosophy, particularly the concepts of cosmic balance and divine justice. In contrast, the themes in Shakespearean tragedies—such as ambition, power, and psychological complexity—align with theories that focus on individuality and the psychological depth of characters. These themes reflect the Renaissance's social and political influences, as well as developments in the understanding of the human psyche during that period.

The dramatic structure of Greek tragedies, which typically follows a three-act format and includes the use of a chorus, corresponds to classical theories on dramatic construction. The chorus serves to guide the audience and reinforce moral values, reflecting the educational role of theatre in ancient Greek society. On the other hand, the five-act structure of Shakespearean tragedies conforms to literary theories that highlight dramatic complexity and character development. The absence of the chorus, replaced by secondary characters, signifies a shift towards individual and personal experiences in Elizabethan theatre.

When analysing characters, the study noted that the depiction of heroes and villains in both Greek and Shakespearean tragedies is consistent with literary theories that describe tragic heroes as noble individuals with flaws or weaknesses that lead to their downfall. Villains in both genres exhibit psychological and moral complexities that align with literary studies on the motivations of tragic characters. Supporting characters also play essential roles in both genres, enhancing and clarifying the main themes while providing dramatic balance, which aligns with literary theories on the function of secondary characters.

The use of language and literary devices in both genres further supports established literary theories. In Greek tragedies, the poetic and symbolic use of language reflects theories on classical poetics and literary style, with symbols often tied to mythology and gods, enhancing the audience's understanding of the ancient Greek worldview. Shakespearean tragedies, in contrast, employ a more diverse and complex linguistic style, with symbolism reflecting the depth of Elizabethan literature. Monologues in Shakespearean works, such as those in *Hamlet*, align with humanistic philosophy and psychoanalytic interpretations of character, consistent with modern literary theories.

Overall, the findings of this study are largely consistent with its initial aims and the theoretical frameworks examined. Themes, dramatic structure, characters, and the use of language and literary devices in Greek and Shakespearean tragedies align with both traditional literary understanding and modern literary theories. These alignments provide a deeper understanding of the two literary genres and illustrate how literature expresses fundamental human tensions and conflicts across different cultural and historical contexts.

4.6 Discussion of Findings With Previous Studies

Laraib et al. (2022) showed that Shakespeare challenged classical traditions to reflect the contradictions of the Renaissance and highlight the tragic hero and complex plot, which supports the researcher's analysis of the dramatic structure in Shakespearean tragedies. Apio's (2022) study, **which focused** on the betrayal of trust and manipulation in Shakespeare's works, is in line with the researcher's findings that highlight the importance of trust and betrayal as central elements in the tragedies. In addition, the researcher's findings agree with Chidi-Igbokwe's study which noted the changes in dramatic conventions across the ages to reflect cultural and social shifts, emphasising the contrast between Greek and Shakespearean tragedies. Finally, the researcher's study supports Jianli's analysis that highlighted gender complexities in Shakespeare's plays, where the tragedy of female characters reflects tensions between traditional social roles and women's desire for emancipation. In short, the results of the researcher's study converge with these studies in promoting a deeper understanding of Shakespearean and Greek tragedies, and clarifying how literature expresses human tensions and conflicts through the ages.

These literary findings significantly impact our understanding of tragedy in literature. Our analysis of the tragic elements in Shakespeare's works and the comparison with Greek tragedies illustrates how literary styles evolve to reflect cultural and social changes through the ages. Shakespeare emerges as a tragic writer who challenges classical traditions and delves into the complexities of the human psyche, offering new insights into the nature of the tragic hero and the complex plot. This renewed understanding of tragedy enhances literary studies and deepens critical understanding of literary works across the ages.

4.7 Conclusion

- **Summarising the main points**

In this paper, the researcher analysed the tragic elements in Shakespeare's works and compared them to the Greek tragedies, focusing on the tragic hero, plot, and catharsis. The researcher found that Shakespeare reflects the contradictions of the Renaissance and offers a complex psychological analysis of his characters, justifying his status as one of the greatest tragedy writers. Comparison with previous studies also showed significant agreement, enhancing a holistic understanding of tragedy across the ages.

- **Recommendations**

Based on the findings of this study, the researcher recommends the following:

1. Conducting comparative studies of tragedies in other literary periods to understand the development of the genre over time.
2. Further analysis of female characters in tragedies to explore gender tensions and their impact on plot structure.
3. Examine the impact of different social and political contexts on the development of tragedy.

This paper emphasises the importance of comparative analysis in literary studies, as it provides a deeper understanding of how tragedy evolves to reflect cultural and social changes. Studying Shakespearean and Greek tragedies comparatively not only enhances critical understanding of tragic drama, but also sheds light on the methods writers use to present complex insights into human nature and emotional conflicts. We conclude that comparative analysis is a

powerful tool for understanding literary transformations and appreciating the profound influence of classical works on modern literature.

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