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Drama\ Second stage\ First course\

Introductory Lecture.(1)

-Definition of Drama in general. Types of drama. The elements of drama.

Drama: The form of composition designed for performance in the theater, it indicates action by using language.

There are three kind of drama, which are comedy, tragedy and tragicomedy.

The elements of drama are characters, action, ideas, voice movement, atmosphere, audience, dramatic tension...etc.

-The Definition of One-act Play and Full-length play\ The difference between the two.

One-act play is the structure and technique of the one-actor that distinguishes it from the longer one. A one-act play is usually concerned with one single incident and one single dramatic situation with a definite aim.

Characteristic of one-act play:

1-The playwright is not restricted by time and diction.

2-His characters and events or situations are easy to understand.

3-The language is concise, terse and condensed. His "dialogue" is subtle.

4-This kind of play has denied the unnecessary details, ambiguous incidents, bombastic speeches, lengthy digressions, superfluous statements, complicated plots.

5-There is no hasty dialogue or swift comments.

6-The one-actor is written in verse, in prose, in dialect, in no language at all, or in that strangely disturbing pseudo-language which shows the failure of modern Man to communicate at all.

&& The differences between the one-act play and full length play:

1-The one-act play deals with more probable situations and credible people and its themes are truer to life and commoner than to the full-length play.

2-The common themes of one-act play are everyday events, contemporary life and culture. It seldom deals with remote themes unless they have been modernized or written to suit special purpose. Whereas the full length play may deal with complex themes.

3-The one -act play deals with one single incident and one single dramatic situation with a definite aim. Whereas the full-length play deals with more than one events, and situation with a variety of aims.

4- The character of one act play is depicted as if he\she in their natural and human conduct with almost nothing exaggerated or superhuman about her\him.

5-The dramatist of one-act play gives the readers essence of dramatic communication. The dramatist of full-length play gives the readers many details.

6-The one-act play has limited time and the dramatist has no desire to elaborate world of illusion to develop. The full-length has unlimited time and the dramatist yearns to elaborate world of illusion.

7- The climax and denouement in the one-act play should not be complicated. The denouement in the one-act play follows the climax closer than that of the full-length play.

-The full-length play has considerable lapse of time and action between the climax and the denouement.

8-The one-act play concentrates on exposition while the full-length play does not concentrate on the exposition as it enjoys a long space of time.

9- The one-act play performs without break and in a short time while the full-length play performed in longer time with one or more intermission.

10-One-act play has performed by amateur and non-professional players in university, school or experimental theatre. The full-length play has performed by the professional actors and in commercial theatre.

Abrams & Humphry (2012). Glossary of Literary Terms, Tenth edition, <Wadsworth Cengage Learning.

Twaij & Alsoudani. (1986) One Act Plays, University of Baghdad Press.