



كلية: الآداب

القسم او الفرع: قسم اللغة الإنجليزية

المرحلة: الثالثة

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اسم المادة باللغة العربية: المسرحية

اسم المادة باللغة الإنكليزية: **Drama**

اسم المحاضرة الأولى باللغة العربية: النقد الاجتماعي في مسرحية فولبون

اسم المحاضرة الأولى باللغة الإنكليزية: **Social satire in Volpone**

## **Social Satire in Ben Jonson's "Volpone" .Article I**

Ben Jonson's play "Volpone, or The Fox" is a remarkable example of social satire in English literature. First performed in 1605, this Jacobean comedy reflects the social and moral values of its time and employs biting satire to critique the prevailing societal norms, human vices, and corruption. With its sharp wit and keen observations, Jonson's "Volpone" holds a mirror to the society of his era and offers a scathing commentary on the lust for wealth and the moral decay that accompanies it.

Social satire in Ben Jonson's "Volpone" is a prominent literary technique that satirizes and criticizes various aspects of society, particularly the moral, social, and ethical values of Jacobean England during the early 17th century. Jonson employs sharp wit and humor to critique and ridicule the vices, greed, and hypocrisy of the society of his time.

The play highlights the power of language and rhetoric in achieving one's goals. Characters employ persuasive speech, flattery, and clever wordplay to manipulate others. The mastery of language is evident in Volpone's ability to assume different personas, speak persuasively, and convince his clients of his fabricated illness. His language becomes a tool for deception, and the audience witnesses the manipulative power of words.

One of the central themes of the play is the obsession with wealth and material possessions. The characters, especially Volpone and Mosca, are driven by their insatiable greed for gold and riches. This extreme avarice is a satirical commentary on the corruption and moral decay caused by the pursuit of wealth. Throughout the play, characters engage in elaborate deceptions to achieve their selfish goals. Volpone pretends to be on his deathbed, while others disguise their true intentions. This satirizes the prevailing hypocrisy and deceit in society, where individuals often put on false facades to advance their interests.

Jonson satirizes the legal system through the character of Sir Politic Would-Be, who embodies the manipulation of the law for personal gain. The legal proceedings in the play highlight the corruption and manipulation within the legal institutions, where justice can be bought and sold. The characters in "Volpone" exhibit a lack of moral values and ethical principles. Their actions are driven solely by self-interest, regardless of the harm they cause to others. This highlights the moral decay and ethical relativism prevalent in the society of Jonson's time.

The play portrays a society with a rigid social hierarchy, where individuals are judged by their social status and wealth. The characters' interactions and the theme of disguise and role-playing satirize the absurdity of class distinctions and the superficiality of social norms. Jonson also targets religious hypocrisy, as characters like Bonario and Voltore use religion to serve their ulterior motives. This underscores the idea that religion can be exploited for personal gain and is not always a true reflection of one's moral character. Language plays a significant role in the social satire of "Volpone." Characters use clever wordplay, flattery, and rhetoric to manipulate and deceive others. This highlights the power of language to obfuscate the truth and serves as a commentary on the gullibility of society.

"Volpone" is a quintessential example of social satire. It lampoons the society of its time, particularly its obsession with wealth, the legal system, and moral decay. Jonson employs humor and exaggeration to critique the moral values and social norms of the Jacobean era. The play is characterized by its satirical elements, which include irony, caricature, and wit, all aimed at exposing the follies and foibles of the society. The play delves into fundamental aspects of human nature, such as ambition, jealousy, and the desire for status and wealth. It explores the darker aspects of human behavior, revealing how individuals can be swayed by their base desires and selfish motives. The characters in "Volpone" are driven by their innate human traits, and the play serves as a commentary on these inherent qualities.