

ՄՇԱԿՈՒԹԱԲԱՆԱԿԱՆ

Vahe Arsenyan

PhD in Philology, Associate professor

Institute of Literature named after M. Abeghyan of the NAS RA

Yerevan State University

vahearsen@yahoo.com

ORCID ID: 0009-0005-9897-4771

Amalya Soghomonyan

PhD in Philology, Assistant

Yerevan State University

a.soghomonyan@ysu.am

ORCID ID: 0009-0007-8819-1102

DOI: 10.54503/1829-0116-2025.2-293

POWER AND AMBITION IN SHAKESPEARE'S TRAGEDIES*

Keywords: *power, ambition, tragedy, dominance, force, authority, superego.*

The subject of our research is “The Themes of Power and Ambition in Shakespeare’s Tragedies”. Shakespeare’s tragedies are a profound exploration of the darker aspects of human nature, delving into themes like ambition, power, betrayal, and the inevitable consequences of human flaws. These plays often center on a tragic hero, a character of high status who possesses a fatal flaw that leads to their downfall. This flaw, whether it be ambition, jealousy, or hubris, sets the stage for the unraveling of both the character and those around them.

By analyzing key texts and theoretical perspectives, this article aims to uncover the underlying dynamics of power and ambition, exploring their role in shaping character, driving conflict, and ultimately, determining the course of history. Through this exploration, we gain a deeper understanding of how these forces continue to influence our world today, reminding us of the timeless struggle between aspiration and morality.

* Հոդվածն ընդունվել է տպագրության 30.05.2025 թ.:

Ուղարկվել է գրախոսության 30.06.2025 թ.:

Վահե Արսենյան

*Բանասիրական գիտությունների թեկնածու, դոցենտ
ԳԱԱ Մ. Արեղյանի անվան գրականության ինստիտուտ
Երևանի պետական համալսարան
vahearsen@yahoo.com
ORCID ID: 0009-0005-9897-4771*

Ամայա Սողոմոնյան

*Բանասիրական գիտությունների թեկնածու, ասիստենտ
Երևանի պետական համալսարան
a.soghomonian@ysu.am
ORCID ID: 0009-0007-8819-1102
DOI:*

**ԻՇԽԱՆՈՒԹՅՈՒՆՆ ՈՒ ՓԱՌԱՍԻՐՈՒԹՅՈՒՆԸ ՇԵՔՍՊԻՐԻ
ՈՂԲԵՐԳՈՒԹՅՈՒՆՆԵՐՈՒՄ**

Բանալի բառեր - իշխանություն, փառասիրություն, ողբերգություն, գերիշխանություն, ուժ, հեղինակություն, սուպերէզո:

Սույն հոդվածի շրջանակներում մենք ուսումնասիրել ենք Շեքսպիրի ողբերգություններում ուժի և փառասիրության թեման: Շեքսպիրի ողբերգությունները մարդկային բնույթի մութ կողմերի մանրամասն ուսումնասիրություններ են, որոնք շոշափում են այնպիսի թեմաներ, ինչպիսիք են փառասիրությունը, իշխանությունը, դավաճանությունը և մարդկային թերությունների անխուսափելի հետևանքները: Այս պիեսների կենտրոնում հաճախ գտնվում է ողբերգական հերոսը՝ բարձր կարգավիճակ ունեցող կերպարը, որն ունի ճակատագրական թերություն, որը և հանգեցնում է նրա անկմանը: Այս թերությունը, լինի դա փառասիրություն, նախանձ, թե գոռոգություն, հիմք է դառնում ինչպես կերպարի, այնպես էլ վերջինիս միջավայրի քայքայման համար: Հիմնական տեքստերը և տեսական մոտեցումները վերլուծելով՝ սույն հոդվածը նպատակ ունի բացահայտել ուժի և փառասիրության հիմքում ընկած դինամիկան՝ ուսումնասիրելով դրանց դերը բնավորության ձևավորման, հակամարտությունների զարգացման և, ի վերջո, պատմության ընթացքը որոշելու գործում: Սույն ուսումնասիրության միջոցով մենք ավելի խորը պատկերացում ենք կազմում այն մասին, թե ինչպես են այս ուժերը շարունակում ազդել մեր աշխարհի վրա այսօր՝ հիշեցնելով մեզ ձգտումների և բարոյականության միջև հավերժական պայքարի մասին:

Ваге Арсенян
Кандидат филологических наук, доцент
Института литературы им. М. Абеяна НАН РА
Ереванский государственный университет
vahearsen@yahoo.com
ORCID ID: 0009-0005-9897-4771

Амалия Согомонян
Кандидат филологических наук
Ереванский государственный университет
a.soghomonyan@ysu.am
ORCID ID: 0009-0007-8819-1102

ВЛАСТЬ И АМБИЦИИ В ТРАГЕДИЯХ ШЕКСПИРА

Ключевые слова: власть, амбиции, трагедия, господство, сила, авторитет, суперэго.

Предметом нашего исследования является тема власти и амбиций в трагедиях Шекспира. Трагедии Шекспира представляют собой подробное изучение темных сторон человеческой природы, затрагивая такие темы, как амбиции, власть, предательство и неизбежные последствия человеческих изъянов. В центре этих пьес часто оказывается трагический герой – персонаж высокого положения, обладающий роковым изъяном, ведущим к его падению. Этот изъян, будь то амбиции, ревность или высокомерие, подготавливает почву для распада как самого персонажа, так и его окружения. Анализируя ключевые тексты и теоретические подходы, целью статьи является раскрытие глубинной динамики власти и амбиций, исследуя их роль в формировании характера, развитии конфликтов и, в конечном счете, определении хода истории. Благодаря этому исследованию мы получаем более глубокое понимание того, как эти силы продолжают влиять на наш мир сегодня, напоминая нам о вечной борьбе между устремлениями и моралью.

Introduction

The concepts of power and ambition are closely linked and have played a central role in shaping human society. Power, defined as the ability to influence others through various means, manifests itself in many forms, ranging from personal influence to state authority. It involves leadership, subordination and the dynamic interplay of dominance and subordination in different contexts. Historically, power has been fundamental to social organization, evolving from the rudimentary authority of tribal leaders to the sophisticated and formal structures of modern state governance.

Ambition, the driving force behind the desire for power, represents the natural human desire to achieve and excel (Zweig, Abrams 1991). Rooted in our instinctive desire to achieve, ambition drives individual and collective progress. It motivates individuals to strive for success, recognition and fulfilment, often driving societal progress and innovation.

Philosophers and psychologists, from the ancient Greeks to contemporary thinkers such as Freud and Jung, have explored the nuances of power and ambition. Freud's

psychoanalytic theory and Jung's analytical psychology offer profound insights into the psychological foundations of ambition, highlighting its complex interplay with human drives, social norms and ethical considerations (Mitchell, Black 1995).

In essence, power and ambition are dual forces that have driven human progress and development. They have catalyzed monumental achievements, but also led to conflicts and ethical dilemmas. Understanding these issues is critical to understanding the broader dynamics of human behavior and societal development.

Power

Power is the ability to influence people and groups through various means. Power is about leadership and subordination. There are different types of power, depending on where it is used and how it is used. There are also different types of power depending on who has the most influence. Some types of power are collective, while others are personal. Some types of power are open, while others are closed.

In a broad sense, power is about influencing people. In a narrow sense, it is about domination and subordination. It is a set of powers that give the right to make decisions that are binding on subordinates.

The foundation of power is social inequality, which means that some people are in charge of others. This also means there is a risk of people abusing their power, which is why it is important to define and limit the amount of power that is held. Power has been around since the very beginning of human society, and it will probably always be a part of it. The first forms of leadership were the fathers of families, community leaders and tribal leaders. They were responsible for regulating relations between people and keeping things stable. As society developed, the structure of power became more complex and new types of power emerged. Today, the most developed and formalized type of power is state power.

In any case, there are three main sources of power: force, law and authority. Force is physical or spiritual influence on people. Law is the rules that govern our society. Authority is society's assessment of an individual's qualities.

Often, power relies on all three sources at once to some extent. To give an example, state power is based primarily on the law. However, there are times when it has to use force to make people follow the rules of law. This is where security forces (like the police and the army) come in. On top of that, if state power is based on authority, this makes it even stronger.

There are different types of power: personal power is about influencing specific people. For instance, the director of a small company has personal power. This means he can only influence his employees, and the number of people in that circle is limited.

Then there is public power. This is power in relation to a potentially uncertain (impersonal) circle of people. The President of country has power over all citizens, as well as anyone who lives in that country, whether temporarily or permanently.

In any society, the most important thing is political power. This is the right, ability and opportunity to influence how society is managed, to defend and implement certain political views, attitudes and goals. A few things make political power different from other types of power. It is public. This power affects everyone in the country, as well as anyone who lives here temporarily.

Philosophers have always been interested in understanding the principles of management. The word “*power*” was first used by the ancient Greeks. The people who lived in these cities needed to figure out how to get along with each other and work together to achieve common goals. Therefore, power came to be seen as a violent act that expresses the interests and will of particular individuals and has the effect of controlling how people behave.

There are many different ideas about why power itself came about. This shows that each of them only has a piece of power, which interacts with each other in the real process of its genesis. Therefore, if we look at power from a biological point of view, we can see it as a way of controlling human aggression that is built into our early instincts as social beings. Aggression is seen as a way of protecting ourselves from other species, including animals and humans. Nietzsche saw power as being about having the will and ability to assert yourself. Freud thought that power makes some people want to submit and others want to take power. They come from the structure of the unconscious, which is shaped by social conditions from early childhood, sexual repression, education that encourages fear, helpfulness and obedience. Marxists also link the origin of power to social pressure, but in the economic sphere. They see the main reason in socio-economic inequality and the split of society into warring classes, and in the need to ensure social cohesion in conditions of increasing social differentiation and struggle.

Ambition

Ambition goes with power hand in hand. It is the leading force of power. Everyone has their own goals that they are trying to reach. It is human nature to want to have all the good things in life and to be strong enough to overcome the bad. The desire to attract good and repel bad drives families, societies and nations. Throughout history, people’s ambitions have changed, and this has been the driving force behind the progress of societies, nations and the world as a whole.

Ambition is the desire to achieve something, whether that is a promotion, recognition, power, or simply to accomplish something. The word “*ambition*” comes from “*ambicioun*”, which means wanting money, wealth or power in general. Ambition is an instinct. It does not matter who you are or what your age is, we all have ambition in one form or another. We set our goals and try to achieve them because we are ambitious. Sometimes trying to reach our goals is risky, but it is only through this that we discover our talents and become more mature.

What makes people successful? There are three main reasons. First, they need to have a clear ambition, a goal, and a destination in mind. Ambition is important because it gives them a sense of purpose. The goal is the essence of the ambition, helping them to be organized and follow a plan to achieve it. In addition, achieving the goal is the destination.

Different philosophers gave the definition of ambition. According to Sigmund Freud, ambition can be understood through the lens of his psychoanalytic theory, particularly in the context of the id, ego, and superego (Mitchell, Black 1995).

ID is the basic, instinctive part of the mind that works on the pleasure principle, seeking immediate satisfaction of desires without considering the consequences. From

the perspective of the id, ambition might show up as a never-ending drive to achieve goals that give you a sense of purpose, such as power, success, or recognition.

The ego comes from the id and works on the reality principle. It aims to meet the needs of the id in a way that is both realistic and socially acceptable. When we look at ambition through the lens of the ego, it becomes clear that it's about setting achievable goals and working towards them in a way that takes into account the constraints and norms of the external world.

The superego is made up of the moral standards and values that we learn from our parents and others in society. The superego can make us think about ambition in a way that goes beyond just satisfying our own desires. It can also make us consider whether our goals fit in with ethical and moral principles. It could mean striving for excellence, success or achievement in a way that is socially responsible.

Freud's theory is that ambition comes from the basic drives of the id, but it is shaped and moderated by the ego and superego as people grow up and mature (Mitchell, Black 1995). Therefore, ambition is a complex psychological thing that brings together personal goals, social expectations and ethical considerations.

Carl Jung, a prominent figure in psychology and a contemporary of Freud, had a slightly different view on ambition compared to Freud's psychoanalytic theory. If you want to understand Jung's ideas, you can look at them through the lens of his analytical psychology. In particular, you can focus on the concepts of the self, the collective unconscious, and individuation.

Jung believed in the process of individuation, which is about bringing together the conscious and unconscious aspects of the psyche to create a balanced and complete personality. Jung saw ambition as a natural drive to develop and fulfil potential, which contributes to self-realization and personal growth.

Jung's idea of the collective unconscious suggests that it includes shared universal symbols and archetypes that affect human behavior and aspirations. Jung believed that ambition can be influenced by images from our collective unconscious, such as the hero, the wise old person, or the great mother. These archetypes can motivate people to aim high, master their skills, or seek spiritual fulfilment.

Jung also introduced the idea of the persona that is the mask or social role we show to the world and the shadow that is the unconscious aspects of our personality. In Jungian terms, ambition could mean exploring and combining both the persona (the socially acceptable goals and roles we pursue) and the shadow (the hidden desires, potential, or aspects of ourselves we may be unaware of).

To sum up, Jung saw ambition as more than just a result of basic drives (as Freud might say, it is down to the id). He believed it was part of a bigger journey towards understanding yourself, achieving what you want and reaching your potential. In Jungian psychology, ambition is closely connected to the process of becoming your own person and combining unconscious possibilities with conscious goals and aspirations.

So what are ambition and power? They are two strong concepts. Ambition and power have driven this gigantic progress of humanity. On the one hand, they are great catalysts for development and progress. It was ambition and power that drove man to discover new territories, to make many scientific discoveries, to build advanced cities

and eventually to discover the universe. On the other hand, they can be a source of jealousy and evil. Ambition and power are the cause of all wars, and these two strong emotions drive the leaders of countries to occupy more land and extend their power to others. Ambition and power can make a man commit crimes. But they can also make a person successful, powerful and respected. Indeed, ambition and power are two powerful forces that accompany humanity on its journey of development.

Power and ambition can be good or bad for society. Power is essential for society to function. It affects how people and groups interact, from a teacher to a country leader. Power in society must be checked to prevent abuse and ensure good governance.

Ambition is the desire to achieve and excel. It makes people set goals, try to succeed and do more than they thought they could. The ideas of Freud and Jung show how ambition, personal desires, social rules and ethics all affect each other.

Power and ambition have led to great achievements and changes in society. They have led to exploration, innovation and progress, but also conflict, ethical issues and social problems. Understanding these themes is important for understanding human behavior and societal evolution. In conclusion, power and ambition have shaped human history. They are important for progress but must be managed to avoid harm. As we navigate modern society, a balanced approach to power and ambition, guided by values and social justice, will be essential for sustainable and fair growth.

William Shakespeare's tragedies explore the darker aspects of human nature, with themes of ambition and power standing at the forefront of his works (Watson 1960). In plays such as "*Macbeth*", "*Hamlet*", and "*King Lear*", Shakespeare delves into the complexities of ambition and the destructive power it can wield when left unchecked. Through the tragic heroes of these plays, Shakespeare examines the consequences of an insatiable desire for power and its impact on both individuals and society.

In "*Macbeth*", the titular character's ambition, spurred by prophecy and his wife's manipulation, leads him down a path of tyranny, madness, and ultimately his downfall. "*Hamlet*", on the other hand, presents a different perspective on power, focusing on the prince's struggle with inaction and the moral implications of his pursuit of vengeance. Meanwhile, "*The King Lear*" explores the consequences of a ruler's relinquishment of power and the familial and societal chaos that ensues (Bloom 1998).

While ambition in "*Hamlet*" is more introspective and philosophical, with the titular character grappling with existential questions and the consequences of action, "*Macbeth*" portrays a more visceral and direct approach to ambition, where unchecked desire for power results in a spiral of violence and tyranny.

These three plays not only depict the destructive consequences of ambition and the pursuit of power but also reflect the moral and ethical dilemmas faced by individuals in positions of authority. As "*Hamlet*" navigates the political intrigue of the Danish court, and "*Macbeth*" succumbs to his darker impulses, Shakespeare uses their journeys to explore the corrupting influence of power and the inevitable downfall that follows when ambition overrides morality.

In this comparative analysis, we will examine how Shakespeare presents these themes in "*Hamlet*", "*The King Lear*" and "*Macbeth*", focusing on the motivations of the protagonists, the consequences of their actions, and the broader implications of power and ambition within the plays. Through this exploration, we will gain a deeper

understanding of the timeless relevance of these themes and their impact on human behavior and society.

Power and Ambition in “Macbeth”

A theme is a message that runs through a play or story. In *Macbeth*, Shakespeare uses a number of themes to tell his story of the tragic hero.

William Shakespeare's “*Macbeth*” is one of the most famous and studied plays. It is a tragedy about ambition, power, and the bad effects of too much ambition. Shakespeare uses interesting characters and good writing to show what it is like to be human.

Ambition is a fundamental human trait. It is the desire to achieve power or fame (Morley 2016). William Shakespeare shows how a king can lose his power through arrogance and human weakness in one of his most famous plays. Shakespeare shows how *Macbeth* changes. Shakespeare shows the changes in *Macbeth* through detail. Before he kills King Duncan, *Macbeth* is torn between ambition and conscience. His (Duncan's) fate is sealed (Shakespeare 1994).

In Scene, one of one, *Macbeth* knows what he should do. Shakespeare shows us that *Macbeth* was initially afraid of Banquo. But as he gets involved in the murder of his friends, he supports him. He does not leave any evidence. *Macbeth* is afraid of experiencing the same pain as before. He thinks he has fixed things. His problems got worse. He was indirectly involved in the murder of his best friend and the father of the future king.

“*Macbeth*” is about a man who kills for power (Bate 2009). Lady *Macbeth* is the first to suggest killing Duncan, and she encourages her husband to do it. She does not think about it, but she wants power. But as the play goes on, *Macbeth* becomes more determined to keep his crown. He kills Banquo's son to make sure his family does not bother him. His ambition is destructive. Shakespeare shows that *Macbeth*'s ambition is in him from the start. It could have been stopped without the witches and Lady *Macbeth*.

Macbeth is about an ambitious man. The sisters' prophecies spur *Macbeth* and Lady *Macbeth* to fulfill their desires, but the witches never act on them. *Macbeth* and his wife try to satisfy their deepest wishes. A good general, *Macbeth* will become a murderous, paranoid psychopath because of ambition. Lady *Macbeth* is sad as she starts to act on her secret thoughts. *Macbeth* and Lady *Macbeth* both want to be strong and perfect, even if it means sacrificing their morals. *Macbeth* shows that ambition can take over a person's life, even if they are a great leader. *Macbeth* says that unchecked ambition can turn into a beast that kills anyone who gets in its way.

In Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, *Macbeth* is driven by ambition and it leads to his downfall. *Macbeth* is a hero who falls prey to his ambition. The protagonist tries to resist his human urges at first, but he ultimately commits a crime against his country and friend. *Macbeth*'s first crime was against his country.

Macbeth was a great loyal soldier, giving all he had for his country. It soon becomes clear that the witches predict *Macbeth*'s future. They say, "All hail *Macbeth*, who will rule here." *Macbeth*'s second crime was treason against his relatives. *Macbeth*'s biggest crime was one against himself. *Macbeth* was struggling with his

inner demons. Macbeth wanted to be in charge and avoided arguments. Like any tragedy, Macbeth was the victim of his ambition.

How is Power presented in “Macbeth”? Shakespeare shows how power affects people in Macbeth and Lady Macbeth. Lady Macbeth challenges Macbeth’s manhood, saying “*When you durst do it, then you were a man.*” Lady Macbeth uses clever manipulation to push Macbeth to kill King Duncan. She gets what she wants: becoming king and queen. Lady Macbeth controls Macbeth's actions, but her power comes from her words. In today's context, power is the ability to influence others or events. Today, it is seen through ruthless tycoons, politicians, or cult leaders. In Macbeth, power is seen as a tool to strengthen the system. At the beginning of the play, the monarch followed Christian values and was seen as legitimate. However, this is disrupted when Macbeth kills King Duncan, becoming King. This upsets the system of the “*Divine Right*”. This is then restored when Malcolm takes his rightful place as king, showing that the monarch was not the problem.

In the play, Macbeth kills the king to become king. However, Macbeth is unable to rule well. He wanted power and could not handle it. Macbeth's obsession with power drives him to madness. He was not meant to be king. When Macbeth is king, he does not use his power wisely.

Macbeth was a good person but his personality changed. Evil is bad. A good example of evil is Macbeth’s transformation. He was a hero at the start of the play but became evil. Although Lady Macbeth convinced Macbeth to kill Duncan, the Three Witches made it possible. The Three Witches have the ultimate power. If the Three Witches had not told Macbeth about his future, things may have been different. The Three Witches met with Macbeth and told him he would become king.

They tell Banquo that he will not be king, but his descendants will. The witches disappear, and Macbeth asks for more information. If Lady Macbeth had not known about the prophecies, she would not have expected Macbeth to kill Duncan.

Two messengers tell Macbeth he is now Thane of Cawdor. This made Macbeth think about becoming king. Macbeth was afraid of killing King Duncan. He was afraid of being killed if he killed the king. Nevertheless, ambition was greater than decency, so he killed him. Ambition can ruin a person’s life. We can see this in this tragic play.

In “Macbeth”, many different people have power. Men are often more outwardly powerful than women. Lady Macbeth had more power over Macbeth than he had over her.

On the other hand, the Three Witches made Macbeth into a tyrant. They also led him to his downfall. How did they do this? They made Macbeth feel over-confident.

In other words, the Three Witches were able to bring Macbeth into power, but in contrast to this, they were also able to take him out of it. The only way that they were able to take him out of it was by deceit.

While Macbeth was in power, he had power over the common people’s lives. He used this power ruthlessly. “*Send out your horses, skirr the country round: Hang those that talk of fear. Give me mine armor*”. He had power over these common people, even though it was only for a short time. Shakespeare suggests that the more power a person had, the more corrupt they become. Shakespeare wanted to show the readers that Macbeth changed from a good man to a murderer.

The Three Witches and Lady Macbeth had the most power over Macbeth's life. The more power Macbeth had, the more corrupt he became. Power is the best thing for a person with Macbeth's characteristics, but it has a downside. After he kills Banquo, he starts seeing Banquo's ghost and goes insane. Macbeth's personality changes from loyal and brave to powerful king to insane. At the end of the play, he suffers because he knows his life could have been different. He was not a monster, but he cannot accept his evil (Kuiper 2013).

Ambition and power are central to the story of Macbeth. They cause the hero's downfall and show how people can be corrupted. Shakespeare shows how ambition and power can corrupt us. His work reminds us that ambition and morality must be kept in balance, or terrible things can happen.

Power and Ambition in "The King Lear"

In Shakespeare's "King Lear", the themes of ambition and power are central, driving both the plot and the tragic downfall of several characters. The play explores the complexities of human ambition, the corrupting influence of power, and the consequences of unchecked desire. Ambition is most clearly seen in the characters of Goneril, Regan and Edmund. Power in *King Lear* is depicted as both alluring and dangerous. The play analyzes the desire for power and its impact on relationships and morality.

Goneril and Regan. These daughters of Lear want to take over the kingdom. They pretend to love and be loyal to their father, but betray him once they gain power. Their ambition makes them do bad things, like treating Lear badly and competing with each other, which leads to them both dying. Their ambition makes them ignore the consequences of their actions, which leads to their deaths. Goneril and Regan become tyrants and abuse their power. They use their power to dominate and destroy others, including their father. Power corrupts them and they become crueler and disregard human life.

Why are these characters so angry, selfish and evil? Goneril and Regan thought Lear loved Cordelia the most. Maybe they feel unappreciated or unloved, which makes them angry. It does not justify their actions, but it might explain why they rejected their father. Maybe they feel he did not love them when they were young, so why should they care for him now? Ambition makes them act unnaturally.

Edmund and Edgar's conflict is mainly about power and ambition. Edmund is the illegitimate son of Gloucester. Not everyone likes illegitimate children. Edmund wants more money and power, but he is younger than Edgar and an illegitimate child. People look down on Edmund because he cannot inherit Gloucester's money. He is angry. He wants Edgar to die. Angry about being a bastard, he wants to become king. He tricks people, including his father. Like Goneril and Regan, Edmund's ambition is self-destructive. It leads to his downfall. Edmund will betray anyone to gain power. His misuse of power in his family and the kingdom shows how ambition can be destructive.

In "King Lear", the characters' desire for power causes chaos and tragedy (Shakespeare 1994). The play shows the dangers of ambition and the corrupting nature of power. Lear's journey shows how human authority can be destroyed by ambition. Goneril, Regan and Edmund are examples of this.

As we can see, the ambition of the Elizabethan era affects psychology. This makes people do risky things to fulfill their desires, including in the story of King Lear. Obviously, people have good and bad qualities. What they do and how they act depends on whether they are good or bad. Shakespeare's King Lear shows how human psychology has not changed. People are still ambitious and driven by passion and desire. King Lear's daughters, Goneril and Regan, made their father, King Lear go crazy, crushed him and left him breathless with their cruel and evil behavior.

King Lear shows that ambition and power can lead to ruin. The play shows that ambition without morals leads to disaster.

Power and Ambition in “Hamlet”

In “Hamlet”, ambition and power drive the characters and shape the tragedy. Shakespeare shows how ambition and power affect people. The play shows how ambition and power can cause problems in people's lives and in politics. Shakespeare looks at how ambition, power, morality and desire affect each other.

In Hamlet, ambition is often about power, revenge and personal gain. Power in Hamlet is both attractive and dangerous, leading to corruption and moral decay.

Claudius is driven by ambition. He kills his brother King Hamlet and marries Queen Gertrude to get the throne (Shakespeare 1994). Claudius's ambition leads to corruption, deceit and manipulation as he tries to stay in power. His ambition leads to his downfall, as it causes many characters to be killed. Claudius rose to power through treachery and murder. Claudius's rise to power shows how power can corrupt. Once in power, Claudius keeps control by deceiving and manipulating those around him. He is immoral and corrupt. He uses his power for personal gain, not for the common good.

Hamlet's ambition is more complex. He wants revenge on Claudius because he feels he has a duty to. Hamlet is a thinker who doubts himself. This makes him hesitate and do nothing. His struggle to avenge his father's murder is a central theme. He grapples with the moral implications of revenge and the consequences of his actions. Hamlet is conflicted about power. He is the rightful king but does not want to be. He is too moral to take action. Hamlet's struggle with power and revenge is central to his character.

Laertes wants to avenge his father Polonius's death and his sister Ophelia's suffering. Laertes is quick to act on his ambition, driven by passion and duty. However, Claudius manipulates Laertes into a deadly confrontation with Hamlet. Laertes's ambition leads to tragedy and destruction.

Power and ambition influence the characters in Hamlet. Power struggles create a toxic atmosphere of intrigue and betrayal in the Danish court. Claudius seized the throne through treachery and now uses his power to suppress dissent and control people through fear and manipulation.

In Hamlet, Shakespeare looks at how power affects the mind. Hamlet is torn between doing the right thing and wanting revenge. He struggles with the moral implications of power. He thinks about what it is like to have power and how it can make you do bad things. Hamlet's struggles with ambition are reflected in his thoughts about death, life, and the meaning of existence. The weight of power makes him think about what he is doing and whether it is right or not.

Furthermore, Hamlet shows the personal costs of ambition and power. The characters' ambition leads to tragedy. Ophelia is caught up in political power plays and becomes mentally unstable as a result. Ambition affects not just individuals, but families and relationships too.

In Hamlet, ambition leads to deceit, betrayal and death. The play shows how ambition and power can corrupt people. Claudius wants power and kills King Hamlet, starting a chain of events that cause tragedy. His rule is corrupt and leads to the destruction of the kingdom. Hamlet is torn between ambition and power, which leads to his death. He cannot decide what to do because he is thinking about power, revenge and morality. This leads to his own tragic end and the deaths of others. Laertes wants revenge but is manipulated by Claudius. His ambition leads to his death. His ambition makes him ignore the results of his actions, which leads to a tragic fight with Hamlet.

In "Hamlet", Shakespeare shows how ambition can be destructive and how power can lead to moral problems. The play shows the dangers of unchecked ambition and the corrupting influence of power. It shows how these can lead to the downfall of individuals and the breakdown of society.

"Hamlet" makes us think about ambition and power and how they affect people. Shakespeare shows us that ambition can make us weak and that it can cause problems when we act without thinking. The play shows us that ambition and power are still relevant and complex today. It makes us think about our own lives.

In conclusion, Shakespeare's tragedies, particularly Macbeth, Hamlet and King Lear, offer a profound exploration of the themes of power and ambition. These plays illustrate the destructive consequences of unchecked ambition and the corrupting influence of power on individuals and society. Through the tragic downfalls of Macbeth, Hamlet and Lear, Shakespeare shows how the pursuit of power often leads to moral decay, chaos and ultimate ruin. Each character's journey serves as a timeless reminder of the dangers of allowing ambition to override ethics, and the inevitable downfall that follows when power is abused. Shakespeare's nuanced portrayal of these themes continues to resonate, offering valuable insights into human nature and the complexities of leadership, ambition and morality.

Conclusion

To conclude this analysis on the themes of power and ambition in Shakespeare's tragedies, it is evident that Shakespeare masterfully explores the complex and often-destructive nature of these forces. His tragic heroes, such as Macbeth, King Lear, and Hamlet, embody the consequences of unchecked ambition and the corrupting influence of power. Through their journeys, Shakespeare delves into the depths of human flaws, illustrating how the pursuit of power can lead to personal downfall and widespread chaos.

Shakespeare's works, written over four distinct periods, reflect a remarkable evolution in style and thematic depth. His early experiments with form and genre laid the foundation for his later masterpieces, which continue to be celebrated for their profound insights into human nature. The enduring appeal of his plays and sonnets lies not only in their linguistic brilliance but also in their exploration of timeless themes such as love, power, ambition, and mortality.

Power and ambition have led to great achievements and changes in society. They have led to exploration, innovation and progress, but also conflict, ethical issues and

social problems. Understanding these themes is important for understanding human behavior and societal evolution. In conclusion, power and ambition have shaped human history. They are important for progress but must be managed to avoid harm. As we navigate modern society, a balanced approach to power and ambition, guided by values and social justice, will be essential for sustainable and fair growth.

Shakespeare's tragedies, particularly “Macbeth”, “Hamlet” and “King Lear”, offer a profound exploration of the themes of power and ambition. These plays illustrate the destructive consequences of unchecked ambition and the corrupting influence of power on individuals and society. Through the tragic downfalls of Macbeth, Hamlet and Lear, Shakespeare shows how the pursuit of power often leads to moral decay, chaos and ultimate ruin. Each character's journey serves as a timeless reminder of the dangers of allowing ambition to override ethics, and the inevitable downfall that follows when power is abused. Shakespeare's nuanced portrayal of these themes continues to resonate, offering valuable insights into human nature and the complexities of leadership, ambition and morality.

The tragedies highlight the moral dilemmas and ethical boundaries that characters must navigate, revealing the inherent conflict between personal desires and the greater good. Shakespeare's portrayal of ambition and power not only reflects the socio-political landscape of his time but also offers timeless insights into human behavior and societal structures. His works remind us of the enduring relevance of these themes, as they continue to shape our understanding of leadership, morality, and the consequences of our actions.

Ultimately, Shakespeare's exploration of power and ambition serves as a cautionary tale, urging readers and audiences to reflect on the dangers of overreaching ambition and the inevitable consequences that follow when power is misused. Through the tragic fates of his characters, Shakespeare offers a profound commentary on the human condition, one that remains as relevant today as it was in his time.

References

1. **Ben Jonson and Fletcher**, Soul of the Age, Random House, 2009.
2. **Connie Zweig and Jeremiah Abrams**, Meeting the Shadow: The Hidden Power of the Darker Side of Human Nature, Tarcher Perigee, 1991.
3. **Curtis Brown Watson**, Shakespeare and the Renaissance Concept of Honor, Princeton University Press, 1960.
4. **Harold Bloom**, Shakespeare: The Invention of the Time, Penguin Putnam INC, 1998.
5. **John Morley**, English Men of Letters, Britannica Educational Publishing, 2016.
6. **Jonatan Bate**, Soul of The Age, Random House, 2009.
7. **Kathleen Kuiper**, The Life and Time of William Shakespeare, Britannica Educational Publishing, 2013.
8. **Oxford School Shakespeare**, Hamlet, Oxford University Press, 1994.
9. **Oxford School Shakespeare**, King Lear, Oxford University Press, 1994.
10. **Oxford School Shakespeare**, Macbeth. Oxford University Press, 1994.
11. **Stephan A. Mitchell and Margaret J. Black**, Freud and Beyond, Basic Books, 1995.

Վահե Արսենյան – բանասիրական գիտությունների թեկնածու, դոցենտ, բանաստեղծ, թարգմանիչ, գրականագետ, Հայաստանի գրողների միության անդամ:

Հեղինակ է բազմաթիվ գրական և մշակութային հոդվածների և ուսումնասիրությունների, վիդեոդասախոսությունների, մենագրության, ուսումնամեթոդական աշխատանքների: Նրա ստեղծագործությունները թարգմանվել են անգլերեն, ֆրանսերեն, գերմաներեն, ռուսերեն, հոլանդերեն, ռումիներեն, վրացերեն, տաջիկերեն և այլ լեզուներով: Գիտական հետաքրքրությունների շրջանակը՝ համաշխարհային գրականություն, պոեզիայի տեսություն:

ORCID ID: 0009-0005-9897-4771
vahearsen@yahoo.com

Vahe Arsenyan – PhD in Philology, Associate Professor, poet, translator, literary critic, member of the Writers' Union of Armenia. Author of numerous literary and cultural articles and studies, video lectures, monographs, educational and methodological works. His works have been translated into English, French, German, Russian, Dutch, Romanian, Georgian, Tajik and other languages. Scope of scientific interests: world literature, theory of poetry.

ORCID ID: 0009-0005-9897-4771
vahearsen@yahoo.com

Ваге Арсенян – кандидат филологических наук, доцент, поэт, переводчик, литературовед, член Союза писателей Армении. Автор многочисленных литературоведческих и культурологических статей и исследований, видеолекций, монографий, учебно-методических работ. Его произведения переведены на английский, французский, немецкий, русский, голландский, румынский, грузинский, таджикский и другие языки. Сфера научных интересов: мировая литература, теория поэзии.

ORCID ID: 0009-0005-9897-4771
vahearsen@yahoo.com

Ամալյա Սողոմոնյան – բանասիրական գիտությունների թեկնածու, թարգմանիչ, գրականագետ: Գիտական հետաքրքրությունների շրջանակը՝ լեզվաբանություն, համաշխարհային գրականություն, վտարանդիական գրականություն: Հեղինակ է ավելի քան քսան գիտական հոդվածների, վիդեոդասախոսությունների, մենագրության:

ORCID ID: 0009-0007-8819-1102
a.soghomonyan@ysu.am

Amalya Soghomonyan – PhD in Philology, translator, literary critic. Her scientific interests include linguistics, world literature, and emigrant literature. She is author of more than twenty scientific articles, video lectures, and a monograph.

ORCID ID: 0009-0007-8819-1102
a.soghomonyan@ysu.am

Амалия Согомонян – кандидат филологических наук, переводчик, литературовед. Сфера научных интересов: языкознание, мировая и эмигрантская литература. Автор более двадцати научных статей, видеолекций и монографии.

ORCID ID: 0009-0007-8819-1102
a.soghomonyan@ysu.am