

The Clash of Security and Menace: A Case of Pinter's The Room

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Abstract

Literature and the themes it conveys has always been the source of inspiration and learning across the globe. The intellectuals have tried to pinpoint the characteristics of the time and era in a way that can be alluring to the researchers and readers who have tendency to get to meaning through literature. Harold Pinter is one of the most admired and prolific playwrights to appear in the English-speaking theatre since 1957 when he began his career with *The Room* he has tried to reveal the greatest obsessions and the threats on the way of human being. This paper introduces Pinter's great effort in his work *The Room* to show that the room is the great obsession and the most secure center, but at the same time the most lenient source at the mercy of menace. He technically illustrates the fact that many factors give rise to the creation of threat on the way his secure room and space which is unique to the postmodern world. His micro level manifestation room can be the source of revelation of macro level illustration as the shadow in other parts of the globe other than his own homeland as his great literary commitment.

KeyWords: Security, Menace, the Room, Pinter, Clash

Introduction

Harold Pinter, as the great postmodern playwright, has contributed a lot to the revelation of the problems of postmodern man. He has witnessed the World Wars and has gone through the changes of different types in England. He has been highly humanitarian and philanthropist in his literary endeavor. Throughout his works including *The Birthday Party*, *The Room*, *The Caretaker*, *The dumb Waiter* has targeted the great existential obsessions of postmodern man. He has manifested all his ideas throughout his works. This has risen his

status above the others regarding his intellectuality. The paper analyses the theme of security envisaged in the room and the threats menacing this security. He has voiced Franz Kafka and many more absurd dramatists in revealing the obsessions which are unique to post modern era. The extracts taken in his selected work reflect the nature of the theme in his endeavor to illustrate the obsessed mind of postmodern man. He has been well equipped with the techniques of this theatre to show that everything can be manipulated on the line of capturing the expected feature and characteristic at hand. The behavior of the protagonist and the antagonist in this play within the frame of the setting, here *The Room*, signify the reality of being afflicted with the existential dilemma of unique nature. The paper hinges upon many cajoled concepts which can be readily self-explanatory on the line of manifesting the ideas of different types as follows.

Menace

On the line of revealing the themes of his story, Pinter has given rise to the creation of characters who are deeply obsessed and threatened by their own identities and security. Seemingly, the nature of self has been more afflicted with the devastating characteristics of modern age crystallizing the idea of a consumer figure, exploit or be exploited, and susceptibility to or readiness for succumbing to whatever values or moral principles offered by the circumstances of time and place because "the individual is created through discourse, and so therefore is a social construction, enabling a multiplicity of identities rather than one 'true' self" (Ramazanoglu, 1993, 6). He is at the mercy of these alluring features of modern life and is lagging far behind the social, economic, and psychological demands of his present status.

As other researchers have maintained with regard to *Hothouse*, another Pinter's play, that "there has been