



## THE TRUE LOVE OF A PRINCESS AS SEEN IN WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S KING LEAR

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### **Abstract**

*This research is a study of psychological approaches that discuss the external aspect of drama King Lear by William Shakespeare. In this study the writer will discuss some of the problems that is (1) What does the king Lear prove his unconditional love to his youngest daughter (2) How does the King Lear's youngest daughter prove her unconditional love to her father (king Lear) (3) How does the king Lear face the death of his youngest daughter. The purpose of this study is (1) To describe the king Lear prove his unconditional love to his youngest daughter (2) To describe the youngest daughter of king Lear prove unconditional love to his father king Lear (3) To explain the king Lear face the death of his youngest daughter.*

*The theory used in this research is the theory of literary psychology according to Sigmund Freud and Carl Rogers. This study used a qualitative method. The object of the study is William Shakespeare's William Lear's drama. The data source is divided into two primary data sources and secondary data sources. The primary data source is the drama script itself. The secondary data source is the text of the text and some references related to the research. Data collection techniques are noted. Data analysis technique is descriptive analysis.*

*The results show the following conclusions. First, the true love of a father to his daughter. Second, the true love of a daughter to her father. Third, when a father regrets his past decisions that can not see his daughter's love from the heart and must accept her daughter's gone ever.*

*Keywords True love, Unconditional Love, Drama*

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### **I INTRODUCTION**

The reason for choosing a drama is part of a literary work. Drama is a mode of fictional representation through dialogue and performance. It is one of the literary genres, which is an imitation of some action. Drama is also a type of a play written for theater, television, radio, and film. In simple words, a drama is a compose presenting a story in pantomime or dialogue. It contains conflict of characters, particularly the ones who perform in front of audience on the stage. The person who writes drama for stage directions is known as a "dramatist" or "playwright". Drama is one of the best literary forms through which dramatists can

directly speak to their readers, or the audience, and they can receive instant feedback of audiences. A few dramatists use their characters as a vehicle to convey their thoughts and values, such as poets do with personas, and novelists do with narrators. Since drama uses spoken words and dialogues, thus language of characters plays a vital role, as it may give clues to their feelings, personalities, backgrounds, and change in feelings. In dramas the characters live out a story without any comments of the author, providing the audience a direct presentation of characters' life experiences.

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Drama King Lear is one of William Shakespeare's best tragedy play. The play is based on the legend of Leir king of Britain, and the role of King Lear has been played by the best actors. The play tells the story of a king who surrendered his throne, daughters who deceived his father, a father who broke with his beloved daughter, a wife who planned against her husband, brother against brother, sister who pursues jealousy until her death. King Lear presents a pathetic family circumstance, the deepest wound can be inflicted through the hands of the loved ones. The story of the drama king lear is very touching and draining the tears. In this story it is shown that love does not need to be spoken with words, but with deeds and heart. In this drama, Shakespeare shown that Cordelia the youngest daughter of king Lear loves her father (king Lear) with unconditional love. Cordelia still loves her father (king Lear) even her father had doubted her love in the past and strip of her inheritance and her title.

The story is not boring and make curious about the story. The story is very touching, although the ending is tragic because almost of the main characters dies. However, many lessons can be taken from this story. One of the lesson of this story is unconditional love between parents and children. In this case unconditional love between Cordelia and her father king Lear. Although, her father had doubt her love and more believe to fake love her sister Goneril and Regan, but in the end her father realized that her love most real and unconditionally.

In this story, tells about the true love and unconditional love Cordelia to her father (king

Lear). She is the king Lear's youngest daughter. Cordelia loves her father (king Lear). As well as king Lear also love his daughter Cordelia. No one can deny that true love between a father and a daughter is something really wonderful. In this drama *King Lear*, Cordelia gives us the real meaning of love from daughter to a father. The reader will understand that by comparing the words she said when her father asked her to profess her love to him and she answered simply " I love you because you are my father " with her sisters` long speeches of love. Unconditional love represents a concept derived from Humanistic psychological theory from the theory created by Carl Rogers. According Rogers (1959) Unconditional positive regard is where parents, significant others (and the humanist therapist) accepts and loves the person for what he or she is. Positive regard is not withdrawn if the person does something wrong or makes a mistake. The consequences of unconditional positive regard are that the person feels free to try things out and make mistakes, even though this may lead to getting it worse at times. People who are able to self-actualize are more likely to have received unconditional positive regard from others, especially their parents in childhood.

The real meaning of true love which is expressed by deeds not with words and to show how the expressions of feelings in actions rather than words can increase the love and peace that we give each other. The research will raise awareness that would help people to comprehend that feeling not only by words because true love can never be described merely by words alone. In *King Lear*, Shakespeare addresses the issue of true love.

## II RESEARCH METHOD

The research method used in this research is qualitative method. Qualitative according to Ratna, that is to make the whole use of by presenting in descriptive form (Ratna, 2004 : 46). The data generated through this method of written or oral words are presented descriptively.

In this research divided to 4 methods it is :1) Method of Collecting the Data . The data collecting procedures is focused in the process of the writer collect the data. In the collecting data the writer applies library research. It means that

the writer applies the data which the writer takes from library. 2) Method of Analyzing the Data. In analyzing the data, the information from data collection is processed and presented in form of thesis. In the application, the writer uses structural method. The procedure starts by reading the main source of analysis, which is the drama *King Lear* by William Shakespeare. Then in order to have the audio visual

understanding, the writer finds the movie *King Lear*. After understanding the story, the

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procedure moves to find the intrinsic elements in the drama, which are plot, theme, characters, setting of place, setting of time, and point of view. After the data are organized, the writing is composed based on standard of thesis writing.

3) Technique of Collecting the Data. The writer uses documentary thesis in collecting the data. This technique is attempted to trace the source of information in the form of document which are relevant to the object of the research.

### III RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This drama tell about the aging king of Britain, decides to step down from the throne and divide his kingdom evenly among his three daughters. First, however, he puts his daughters through a test, asking each to tell him how much she loves him. Goneril and Regan, Lear's older daughters, give their father flattering answers. But Cordelia, Lear's youngest and favorite daughter, remains silent, saying that she has no words to describe how much she loves her father. Lear flies into a rage and disowns Cordelia. The king of France, who has courted Cordelia, says that he still wants to marry her even without her land, and she accompanies him to France without her father's blessing.

Lear quickly learns that he made a bad decision. Goneril and Regan swiftly begin to undermine the little authority that Lear still holds. Unable to believe that his beloved daughters are betraying him, Lear slowly goes insane. He flees his daughters' houses to wander on a heath during a great thunderstorm, accompanied by his Fool and by Kent, a loyal nobleman in disguise. Meanwhile, an elderly nobleman named Gloucester also experiences family problems. His illegitimate son, Edmund, tricks him into believing that his legitimate son, Edgar, is trying to kill him. Fleeing the manhunt that his father has set for him, Edgar disguises himself as a crazy beggar and calls himself "Poor Tom." Like Lear, he heads out onto the heath.

When the loyal Gloucester realizes that Lear's daughters have turned against their father, he decides to help Lear in spite of the danger. Regan and her husband, Cornwall, discover him helping Lear, accuse him of treason, blind him, and turn him out to wander the countryside. He ends up being led by his disguised son, Edgar,

The writer uses reading the books and searching on internet for collecting the data.

4) Technique of Analyzing the Data. The data analyzing procedures concern with the ways of the writer to conduct the analysis of the data. In this research the writer applies structural technique. It looks the internal factor of literature that covers the internal element of literary work such the actions of the main characters.

toward the city of Dover, where Lear has also been brought. In Dover, a French army lands as part of an invasion led by Cordelia in an effort to save her father. Edmund apparently becomes romantically entangled with both Regan and Goneril, whose husband, Albany, is increasingly sympathetic to Lear's cause. Goneril and Edmund conspire to kill Albany.

The despairing Gloucester tries to commit suicide, but Edgar saves him by pulling the strange trick of leading him off an imaginary cliff. Meanwhile, the English troops reach Dover, and the English, led by Edmund, defeat the Cordelia-led French. Lear and Cordelia are captured. In the climactic scene, Edgar duels with and kills Edmund, we learn of the death of Gloucester, Goneril poisons Regan out of jealousy over Edmund and then kills herself when her treachery is revealed to Albany. Edmund's betrayal of Cordelia leads to her needless execution in prison, and Lear finally dies out of grief at Cordelia's passing. Albany, Edgar, and the elderly Kent are left to take care of the country under a cloud of sorrow and regret.

The Lear King very loves his youngest daughter Cordelia. Because Cordelia is the best and wisest daughter among her three daughters. to show his affection for Cordelia, the king of Lear will share the most inheritance to his daughter's Cordelia. To make it seem fair, the king lear asked his three daughters to proclaim their love to him in front of the palace. King Lear was very sure that Cordelia was the best among his three daughters to proclaim his love. Because lear sure Cordelia loved and loved her and would give her words of praise. This can look in

quotation as follows when King Lear asked to his daughters to proclaim their love.

“ Tell me, my daughters—

Since now we will divest us both of rule,  
Interest of territory, cares of state  
Which of you shall we say doth love us most,  
That we our largest bounty may extend  
Where nature doth with merit challenge.

Goneril,

Our eldest born, speak first”. (1.1.52-59)

Based on above quotation King Lear demands to know which one of his daughters loves him "most" before he announces the division of his kingdom. When Lear asks "which of you shall we say doth love us the most?" he's operating under the assumption that 1) love is quantifiable and 2) that language is capable of expressing his daughters' love. Yeah, both of these assumptions are dead wrong. according to the king Lear the expression of love words to him from his children is very meaningful. for her cunning daughter who only gave her a sweet mouth, Goneril and Regan were very good at playing words to take the king's sympathy. thus making the king Lear amazed and flattered. Goneril and Regan managed to make the King trust him that they loved him sincerely. but the king's Lear assumption of love is contrary to his beloved Cordelia's youngest daughter. King Lear was very angry and disappointed when Cordelia was silent and did not want to proclaim her love for him. Cordelia only says "nothing" when the king Lear asks about his love for him. here the king was very sad and disappointed because he had been very hopeful to Cordelia who would give a better expression of love from his two brothers. This can be seen from the following quotation about Lear's king who was very hurt and saddened by Cordelia's attitude

“Peace, Kent!

Come not between the dragon and his wrath.  
I loved her most, and thought to set my rest  
On her kind nursery. *To Cordelia.* Hence and  
avoid my sight!—  
So be my grave my peace, as here I give  
Her father's heart from her”. (1.1.135-141)

Based on above quotation we know that King Lear very sad and disappointed to Cordelia. Lear admits that he's angry with Cordelia because he "loved her the most" and was hoping to "set his]rest on her kind nursery." In other

words, Lear was hoping that Cordelia would play mother or nursemaid to him when he retired, which makes Lear more of a child or a baby than a father, don't you think? This is especially apparent when Lear says he's going to spend his retirement "crawl toward death" (1.1.43).

Cordelia loved her father King Lear more than anything, but for him the love does not need to be expressed with sweet words to the person. enough with actions and hearts. he cannot play sweet words to express his love for his father, as is done by Goneril and Regan. but for his father he had betrayed his father and made his father sad and disappointed. Cordelia loves her father (King Lear) according to the bonds of a blood relationship, as paternity demands. Cordelia tempers her love test reply with a simple reason, unembellished statement of the honor due a father from his daughter. Lear irrationally responds by denying Cordelia all affection and paternal care. It can look from this quotation.

“ Unhappy that I am, I cannot heave  
My heart into my mouth. I love your majesty  
According to my bond; no more nor  
less”.(1.1.90–92)

Cordelia speaks these words when she address her father, King Lear, who has demanded that his daughters tell him how much they love him before he divides his kingdom among them. In contrast to the empty flattery of Goneril and Regan, Cordelia offers her father a truthful evaluation of her love for him: she loves him “according to my bond” that is, she understands and accepts without question her duty to love him as a father and king. Although Cordelia loves Lear better than her sisters do, she is unable to “heave” her heart into her mouth, as her integrity prevents her from making a false declaration in order to gain his wealth. Lear’s rage at what he perceives to be her lack of affection sets the tragedy in motion. Cordelia’s refusal to flatter Lear, then, establishes her virtue and the authenticity of her love, while bringing about Lear’s dreadful error of judgment.

“ CORDELIA

I love your Majesty  
According to my bond; nor more nor less.

KING LEAR

How, how, Cordelia? Mend your speech a little,  
Lest it may mar your fortunes.

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## CORDELIA

Good my lord,  
You have begot me, bred me, loved me.  
I return those duties back as are right fit:  
Obey you, love you, and most honor you.  
Why have my sisters husbands if they say  
They love you all? Haply, when I shall wed,  
That lord whose hand must take my plight shall  
carry  
Half my love with him, half my care and duty.  
Sure, I shall never marry like my sisters,  
To love my father all". (1.1.105-115)

Cordelia, as we know, refuses to play King Lear's game of "who loves daddy the most." Here, she says that she loves her father "according to (her) bond," which means that she loves him just as much a daughter should love her father, "no more nor less."

It turns out that Cordelia is about to be married and insists that she reserves half her love for her future husband and half for her father. She also points out that her sisters, Goneril and Regan, dishonor their husbands when they claim to love their father more than their spouses. Cordelia, as we know, refuses to play King Lear's game of "who loves daddy the most." Here, she says that she loves her father "according to (her) bond," which means that she loves him just as much a daughter should love her father, "no more nor less".

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Cordelia, however, cannot lower herself to pretend, dissemble, or exaggerate. Her simple answer to her father's request for a proof of love is the simple, eloquent, honest truth: "*Good, my lord, You have begot me, bred me, loved me. I, Return those duties back as are right fit, Obey you, love you, honor you*".

She does not pay in words to receive material goods. Her answer expresses gratitude for the love and care she has received and reflects the respect a child owes to a parent, but she does not speak in grandiloquent language or idolize her father as if he were a god.

She honors Lear as a devoted daughter loves a human father, not as a deity who deserves adoration. As Cordelia says with plain common sense, how can her sisters love their father "all" if they have husbands? When she marries, her husband "*shall carry, Half my love with him, half my care and duty. Sure, I shall never marry like my sisters, To love my father all*".

Cordelia knows that justice is proportionate, not equal. It is a quality, not a quantity. The proof of love is good works, not idle words. What is owed to a father is not the same as what is due to a husband or to God. Love is founded on truth, not fantasy. Lear's most loving daughter speaks and acts with integrity. A good father deserves just praise, not servile flattery.

King Lear essentially dies of a broken heart. In the final scene of the drama, King Lear is peering over his daughter's dead body. He brings it in and stares at Cordelia's face. He wishes some aspect of life to be brought back to it. There is a vast level of guilt that Lear demonstrates in this scene. He wishes to bring back life to "nothing," the essence of Cordelia's statement to him in the first scene. For Lear, a massive transformation in his own character and his realization has been undertaken throughout the drama. His words that indicate he "might have saved her" is reflective of this. In a setting in which so much has been twisted and deformed, something which Lear himself has been an active agent in perpetrating, Shakespeare devises it so that Lear dies of what amounts to be a broken heart. It is this element that Lear lacked in the opening of the drama and its presence is what causes his death. It is in this where death is seen as a step towards restoration.

Shakespeare uses Lear's death and his own understanding about his own folly as a reason

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why there is some level of hope in restoration in following Lear's death. His death through a broken heart and a recognition of his own failures is where there can be hope for a future that avoids the mistakes that he, himself, has made. Being a "foolish old man" is where his death through the breaking of his own heart becomes a fitting conclusion to the narrative.

“Howl, howl, howl, howl! O, you are men of stones:

Had I your tongues and eyes, I'd use them so  
That heaven's vault should crack. She's gone  
forever!

I know when one is dead, and when one  
lives; She's dead as earth”. (5.3.256–260)

Based on quotation above Lear utters these words as he emerges from prison carrying Cordelia's body in his arms. His howl of despair returns us again to the theme of justice, as he suggests that “heaven's vault should crack” at his daughter's death but it does not, and no answers are offered to explain Cordelia's unnecessary end. It is this final twist of the knife that makes *King Lear* such a powerful, unbearable play. We have seen Cordelia and Lear reunited in Act 4, and, at this point, all of the play's villains have been killed off, leaving the audience to anticipate a happy ending. Instead, we have a corpse and a howling, ready for death old man. Indeed, the tension between Lear as powerful figure and Lear as animalistic madman explodes to the

surface in Lear's “Howl, howl, howl, howl,” a spoken rather than sounded vocalization of his primal instinct.

This final, harrowing wave of death raises, yet again, a question that has burned throughout the play: is there any justice in the world? Albany's suggestion that the good and the evil both ultimately get what they deserve does not seem to hold true. Lear, howling over Cordelia's body, asks, “*Why should a dog, a horse, a rat, have life, And thou no breath at all?*” (5.3.305–306). This question can be answered only with the stark truth that death comes to all, regardless of each individual's virtue or youth. The play's emotional extremes of hope and despair, joy and grief, love and hate, are brought to the fore as well in this final scene. Lear's address to Cordelia at the beginning of the scene is strangely joyful. He creates an intimate world that knows only love: “*We two alone will sing like birds i' the cage. When thou dost ask me blessing, I'll kneel down, And ask of thee forgiveness*” (5.3.9–11). This blissful vision, however, is countered by the terrible despair that Lear evokes at Cordelia's death: “*Thou'lt come no more, Never, never, never, never, never*” (5.3.306–307). Yet, despite his grief, Lear expires in a flash of utterly misguided hope, thinking that Cordelia is coming back to life. In a sense, this final, false hope is the most depressing moment of all.

#### IV CONCLUSION

A father love a daughter can not measured by anything. He would willing to sacrifice anything for his daughter. Even though, sometimes he felt hurt but actually he very sad. In drama *King Lear*, king Lear very love his daughter especially Cordelia the youngest daughter. Cordelia loves her father king Lear. For her, loving her father it need not be spoken by word and mouth in front of crowds and public. But enough with deeds and hearts.

King Lear can not accept the death of his daughter Cordelia . Here, King Lear is very regret for once had cut off the relationship with his daughter Cordelia. There by expelling the Cordelia from the kingdom. After all these meetings, but he only feels the temporary happiness because his beloved daughter has been gone for ever.

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