

Abstract

This work deals with the issue of the literary genre of the work *El Castigo sin venganza* written by Lope de Vega. Within his theatrical production, I emphasize this work, because, in my opinion, it is distinguished from other author's works by many timeless and modern components, which make it remarkable and unique. The work focuses on the analysis of the main topics of the work, for example love and honour, but it is also concerned with the social and cultural issue regarding the Spanish society of the XVI. and XVII. century, the position of woman in this society and in marriage, as well as the formal analysis of applied aesthetic and literary elements, which confirm the ambiguousness of the genre of this work. What is *El Castigo sin venganza*? A tragedy, a comedy or a modern tragedy? The main tool for the solution of this delicate question is an irony, whose concept and role in this drama is the base of this work.

This work called "The irony and tragedy in *El Castigo sin venganza*" primarily focuses on the solution of the unclear question about the genre of the work whose author is Lope de Vega, a well-known dramaturge of the Golden Age. As its title suggests, the main means/tool of the achievement of the goal of this work is the irony, the modern element which is continuously presented in the whole work and which reveals the true face of the play and of the author.

The work is divided into four parts. Before analyzing the proper work, I find appropriate to introduce the historical context as well as the character of the era in which the work was written. In the first part of the work, I devote to the Golden Age, the most significant era of the Spanish cultural history, which is mainly based within the humanism, the new intellectual movement, on the values such as the freedom/liberty and the tolerance, put emphasis on the man, human life and its experience. This period is typical/characteristic of the enormous production of the literary texts, above all the production of the dramatic ones. The theatre became more and more popular and we face its great bloom and renovation, to which significantly contributed Lope de Vega. Dealing with this work, I came to a conclusion that Lope de Vega is not only an author, but he is a complex literary person whose personal life and character forms, influences and plays a key role in his works, and thus I dedicated the next chapter of my work to brief biography of Lope de Vega. The second chapter already concentrates on his literary output, in which I point out his poetics *El arte nuevo de hacer comedias*, which is its main substance.

Through the analysis of *El Castigo sin venganza* reveals many interesting social issues. The theme of honor plays an important role in the work, as it was very extended and popular in the Golden Age, and connected the theme of social code, which strongly influenced as the functioning of the society so the particular individual. We could say that the social code was the significant momentum as well as the superior power working in the Spanish society of the XVI. century, to which many other values were subordinated such as the ethics and the faith. Within this topic, we can also discover many other inferiors/secondary themes such as the position of women in this patriarchal and authoritative society and associated theme of love, especially the concept of marriage at that time. The author alludes to all these issues and points them out through the action of his characters. Since the author depicts the opposed values of this society, we continuously meet either with the unclear and ambiguous statements or the extraordinary decisions or behavior of the characters, which create one giant mosaic of the work full of ambiguity.

The main object of the last chapter is the irony, whose concept of Socrates consisting of discovering and recognizing the truth or the reality serves us for unraveling of this ambiguousness, doubts and anomaly, or at least reveals its main function, which gives us the opportunity to see and understand the author's real intention and purpose. Besides the complete comprehension of the work, the irony, and thus its specific type, the unstable overt irony, completes the research and responses the question of the genre of the work *El Castigo sin venganza*, an exceptional modern tragedy, which was ahead of its time.