

Abstract:

The aim of this BA Thesis is to analyse and compare Shakespeare's prologues and choruses according to their formal features (narrative strategies, Chorus persona, and distribution in the play) and their position and function in the individual plays. The introductory chapter will briefly comment on the use of the chorus and prologue in Elizabethan drama, providing the context for subsequent specific analysis of Shakespeare's plays. The discussion will open with the analysis of the earliest of the containing this feature plays, *Romeo and Juliet*. This will provide a basis for categorising and documenting the development of the above characteristics, which will then be compared with other Shakespeare's prologues and choruses from all the genres of his plays. The other compared plays are *Henry VIII*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Troilus and Cressida*, *Pericles, Prince of Tyre*, and *Henry V*.