

# “All Is Well, That Ends Well”- Stylistic Features and Shakespearean Language

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## ABSTRACT

The article describes the peculiarities of distinctive points of writer's style, utilization of expressive means and grammatical deviations. The author focuses on the findings from the play “All is well, that ends well” by William Shakespeare. The article also reveals some features of his writing style acknowledged as Shakespearean language.

**KEYWORDS:** Grammatical deviations, license of poets, stylistic devices, oxymoron, metaphor, writing style, expressive means

A language is a diamond for skillful writers and bards to shape it with varying styles. English is a language of international repute as it has significant historical development. Crucially, any language user should have knowledge on luminaries and contributors who have vast impact on language development. Majority of the English speakers claim the vital influence of William Shakespeare on English literature as for dramatic works and sonnets. However, not everybody has discovered the valuable contribution of the skilled playwright into the English language. He coined considerable amount of new words and phrases which made an enduring contribution to the enrichment of English language.

Importantly, in terms of speech culture of the English language, William Shakespeare made an outstanding contribution. The grammar and sentence structure were the basement for the Standard English.

His every literary work contains impressive stylistic devices, expressive means, coined phrases as well as sentence constructions which are self-evident proof for ubiquity of his legacy.

## Material and Methods

The study reveals the peculiarities of Shakespearean language due to the standpoints of stylistic analysis. The primary data source is “All is well, that ends well” compiled in a collection called “The Complete Works of Shakespeare”. In order to reference the study data, the researcher mentions Act, Scene and the Character.

The article targeted to clarify the linguistic deviation and writing style of Shakespeare in the realm of “All is well, that ends well”. The author utilized the observation method and conducted the qualitative research.

Hopefully, stylistic approach could be helpful to the ESL speakers to digest the Shakespearean language. The researcher reckons this study serves to analyze grammatical deviation and creativity of the writer.

Significantly, the title is still considered as the most frequently spoken phrase by English speakers throughout the world. This saying is used in everyday speech and native speakers utter it unconsciously, not knowing to quote the “quintessential British dramatist” (Maria Delgado, a theater professor).

In the first place, Shakespearean language is distinctive for boundless metaphors. He utilized them to express the feelings and thought of characters, consequently managed to colour their speeches. “All is well that ends well” involves numerous impressive metaphors, easily lead to feel the state of the characters.

Countess: *The tyranny of her sorrows takes all livelihood from her cheek.*

Helena: *Knowing him is enough. On's bed of death;*

King: *Skill infinite or monstrous desperate;*

Parolles: *A most harsh one, and not to be understood without bloody succeeding;*

Bertram: *And found her wondrous cold;*

Parolles: *I know him: 'a was a botcher's prentice in Paris, from whence he was whipt for getting the shrieve's fool with child-a-dumb innocent that could not say him nay.*

King: *Our own love waking cries to see what's done,*

*While shameful hate sleeps out the afternoon. (King, Act V, Scene 3)*

Second Gentleman: *Ay, madam, with the swiftest wing of speed. (S.G. Act III, Scene 1)*

King: *Th' inaudible and noiseless foot of Time;*

Parolles: *Drunkenness is his best virtue, for he will be swine-drunk;*

“All is well that ends well” features inclusive expressive means, especially exaggerations, representation of something as more extreme or dramatic than it really is, serve to bewitch the readers:

Parolles: *I find my tongue is too foolhardy; but my heart hath the fear of Mars before it, and of his creatures, not daring the reports of my tongue.*

The writer skillfully used oxymoron in the play, one of the stylistic devices- a combination of contradictory or incongruous words:

*Be not holy-cruel. Love is holy; (Bertram, Act IV, Scene 3)*

*No, no, no, son was misled with a snipt-taffeta fellow there, whose villainous saffron would have made all the unbak'd and doughy youth of a nation in his colour.*

The talented bard was the man of creativity. He was a real master of the language, who knew no boundary to create remarkable speech acts. Even the writer dared to “break” the regular rules for literary service also called “the license of the poet”.

Bertram: *The best wishes that can be forg'd in your thoughts be servants to you!*

Helena: *I have forgot him; my imagination*

*Carries no favour in't but Bertram's.*

*If Bertram be away. 'Twere all one.*

Lafeu: *Let us go see your son, I pray you;*

*I long to talk with the young noble soldier.*

Lafeu: *But one that lies three-thirds and uses a known truth to pass a thousand nothings with, should be once heard and thrice beaten.*

Parolles: *Within ten year it will make itself ten.*

Second Lord: *He has much worthy blame laid upon him for shaking off so good a wife and so sweet a lady.*

Helena: *I put you to the use of your own virtues, for the which I shall continue thankful.*

The use of pronouns in the way of Shakespeare is known characteristics of the writer's writing style. The works might not have been spread unless he wrote in common and familiar way of that period. Significantly, he dared to make his own direction, which leded contemporaries after him.

*He must needs go that the devil drives. (Clown, Act I, Scene 3)*

*Wilt thou needs be a beggar? (Contess, Act I, Scene 3)*

*The wars hath so kept you under that you must needs be born under Mars. (Helena, Act I, Scene 1)*

*Mine honorable mistress. (Helena, Act I, Scene 3)*

*Mine age is weak; (Countess, Act III, Scene 4)*

In the realm of conditional sentences, Shakespeare has a personal signature. The devoted writer paced own steps to use of Conditional Mood provides the expressiveness of the speech.

*If it be so, you have wound a goodly clew;*

*If it be not, forswear't; howe'er, I charge thee. (Countess, Act I, Scene 3)*

*If she be very well, what does she ail that she's not very well? (Helena, Act II, Scene 4)*

It is obvious from the historical sources that, some contemporaries blamed the poet for lack of knowledge and breaking the formed rules. Naturally, "The bard of the bards" was loyal to his principles and keep writing in own style, known as "Shakespearean language" later.

*There shall your master have a thousand loves; (Helena, Act I, Scene 1)*

*My fear hath catch'd your fondness;*

*Therefore tell me true;*

*That in their kind they speak it; (Countess, Act I, Scene 3)*

*In this my light deliverance, I have spoke; (Lafeu, (Countess, Act II, Scene 1)*

*Thus he his special nothing ever prologues. (King, Act II, Scene 1)*

*I have not wrong'd you!*

*My lord your son made me to think of this,*

*Haply been absent then.*

*Shall be my surety; fore whose thorne 'tis needful; (Helena, Act IV, Scene 4)*

*I wonder, sir, sith wives are monsters to you. (King, Act III, Scene 6)*

*King: Necessitied to help, that by this token; (King, Act V, Scene 1)*

William Shakespeare created compound words which served to deliver the targeted meaning. As British linguist rightly stated: "With language you should be master and not the servant. Shakespeare teaches me to dare to be creative, to

push the rules a little bit. If the word isn't there, make one up".

Contess: *Wilt thou ever be a foul-mouth'd and calumnious knave?*

Second Lord: *He's a most notable coward, an infinite and endless liar, an hourly promise-breaker...*

King: *Shall seem expedient on the now-born brief;*

Contess: *The many-colour'd Iris, rounds thine eye?*

Helena: *In our heart's table-heart too capable.*

One of the deviations observed in the writer's legacy, is to shorten the words or not writing the full word. This type of words provided the incredible sense respectively. This issue was investigated by Fathu Rahman, who conducted a rigorous research on deviation discussed the apocope- to delete a syllable or letter from the end of a word. The works of Shakespeare are full of "unfinished" words and they occur rhetorical power.

*Our remedies oft in ourselves do lie;*

*Looks bleak I' th' cold wind; withal, full oft we see;*

*Sure, they are bastards to the English; the French ne'er got 'em;*

*Ev'n as soon as thou canst, for thou hast to pullat a smack o' th' contrary;*

*Y'are shallow, madam-in great friends;*

*Weary se'nnights nine times nine;*

*Keep it not; you cannot choose but lose by't. Out with't.*

*I am sure thy father drunk wine-but if thou be'st not an ass, I am a youth of fourteen;*

The gifted writer was a real master of the language, as many luminaries claimed, his words beginning with prefix-un, can be peculiar point of his language.

Parolles: Five or six thousand; but very weak and unserviceable.

Clown: Marry, you are the wiser man; for a man's tongue shakes out his master's undoing.

Widow: To her unworthiness. It nothing steads us;

King: Unquestion'd welcome and undoubted blest.

Helena: As nothing can unroot you.

The negative meaning defined by the help of verbs was peculiar to the writer's style.

King: *And yet I know not-thou didst hate her deadly.*

Helena: *I dare not say I take you;*

Bertram: *Which holds not colour with time, nor does;*

*To you that know them not. This to my mother.*

King: *Believe not thy disdain, but presently;*

The writer was a sage person and he was multilingualist at the same time. These quotes about Shakespeare could provide with the irrefutable fact respectively.

"Shakespeare's language is full of resonance of Latin, Spanish or Germanic terms. The Irish have often said it's a myth he's English, he's actually Irish" states Maria Delgado, a theater professor at Queen Mary University of London. "He was the most Spanish of writers" quotes Borges, Argentine short-story writer.

"All is well that ends well" also includes these quintessential writing features of the playwright:

Parolles: Tongue, I must put you into a butterwoman's mouth, and buy myself another of *Bajazet's* mule.

Parolles: Sir, for a cardecue he will sell the free-simple of his salvation, the inheritance of it;

Clown: But it is your carbonado'd face.

Second Lord: *Throca movousus, cargo, cargo, cargo.*

One might be upbrought by the means of wise words in the speech of characters.

First soldier: *Half won is match well made: match and well make it;*

King: *Crying "That's good that's gone" Our rash faults*

*Make trivial price of serious things we have;*

There is adroit utilization of contradictions in the play.

Countess: *Ah, what sharp stings are in her mildest words!*

Helena: *That can such sweet use make of what they hate,*

*When saucy trusting of the cozen'd thoughts.*

### Conclusion

Inevitably, the majority of non-native speakers face to difficulties in understanding the Shakespeare's language. Consequently, there would be a certain breakdown in analyzing meaning of the speech. In order to solve the challenges faced by ESL speakers, they need commensurate knowledge on linguistic deviations and writing style of the writer.

In conclusion, William Shakespeare was creative writer and valuable contributor of the English language. Therefore his

phrases, coined words have been quoted in everyday speech over the centuries. Robert Graves rightly stated: "The remarkable thing about Shakespeare is that he is really very good- in spite of all the people who say he is very good".

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