

Open Learning
Translation Department

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Literary texts

Dr. Amani Al-Eid

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مؤسسة الأنوار التعليمية

Let's study!



Good morning!

Today's lecture is about William Shakespeare.

William Shakespeare is a:

Poet

Actor

Playwright: dramatist (someone who writes drama)

Tragedy (such as, Hamlet, Macbeth, Othello..)

Comedy

History plays (such as Richard the 3rd)

- From Stratford - upon- Avon (a very beautiful town in England. If you go to England please visit it. You can see the houses; William Shakespeare's house, his parents' house, his house when he married Anne Hathaway and his daughter's house. They are open for public. You can see Shakespeare's theatre also in Stratford - upon- Avon)

He was born to Marry and John, who is a glove maker and a local politician.

Believe it or not, William Shakespeare did not have a University degree, and he never went to university. He went to Stafford grammar school.

He is often called England's national poet.

At the age of 18, he married Anne Hathaway, with whom he had three children.

- Married to Anne Hathaway.

- Lord chamberlain's men (theater company with which Shakespeare had connections); later on it was also known as "the King's men".

- Performed in the globe (the globe is a very famous theatre in London. It is a circular theatre and has an open air [has no roof])

- Famous for his sonnets.

- The first 126 sonnets are known as "the fair youth sequence" (because they were written to a fair/ a handsome lord; we don't know what type of relationship he had with this man. It could have been friendship, or it could have been something else. We don't have an answer.

Some scholars argue that William Shakespeare is pseudonym. (pseudonym: false name)

They argue that William Shakespeare is the fake name for another man who did not want to reveal his true identity.

Shakespeare's plays are still performed until today around the globe.

The main themes you find when you study Shakespeare's sonnets:

Love, time, sexuality, mortality and procreation.

Procreation: produce/ to give birth.

William Shakespeare (1564-1616)

We know less about Shakespeare's life than we know about that of almost any other major English writer. He was born the third of eight children in Stratford-on-Avon. Shakespeare probably attended the Stratford grammar school, but received no university education.

The first record of him after his christening dates from 1582, when he married Anne Hathaway; they had a daughter in 1583 and twins in 1585. For most of his career he was an actor and shareholder in, and principal playwright of, the successful theatrical company of his time. He quickly gained a reputation as the "most excellent" English dramatist in both comedy and tragedy and was well known for his history plays, narrative poems, and the "sugared Sonnets" that were circulated among his private friends. After the turn of the century he composed in rapid succession his tragic masterpieces Hamlet, Othello, King



Lear, Macbeth, and Antony and Cleopatra. He apparently retired to Stratford around 1610, and during his later years worked mainly in the genres of romance and tragicomedy. When he died, no collected edition of his works had been played; First Folio, a collection of his plays (but not his narrative poems or sonnets) appeared only in 1632.

➤ What is the “sonnet”?

We have different types of sonnets. What we will study with William Shakespeare is called “The English sonnet” or “The Shakespearian sonnet”.

The sonnet comes from the Italian language “sonnetto” meaning little song, and the English sonnet has certain elements:

1. 3 quatrains¹. (quatrains: 4 lines of poetry with an alternating rhyme. I will talk about it more)
2. Couplet (the last two lines of the poem)
3. Written in iambic pentameter.
4. Has a specific rhyme scheme

ABAB CDCD EFEF GG

Couplet: A stanza of two lines, usually rhyming.

Quatrains: A four-line stanza which may be rhymed or unrhymed. A **heroic quatrain** is a four line stanza rhymed abab.

Stanza: A major subdivision in a poem. A stanza of two lines is called a couplet; a stanza of three lines is called a tercet; a stanza of four lines is called a quatrains.

An English sonnet or Shakespearian sonnet consists of 14 lines divided into 3 quatrains and a couplet. It is written in

¹رباعيات

iambic pentameter (5 beats, 5 stressed syllables and 5 unstressed syllables). In the couplet they answer the question. In the quatrains the writer rises a question or a problem, and usually at the end of poem they answer or solve the problem. It has a specific rhyme scheme.

Scheme: diagram/ structure/ plan/ pattern.

A Shakespearian sonnet has a specific rhyme scheme always:

ABAB CDCD EFEF GG

Sonnet 18:

Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?
Thou art more lovely and more temperate.
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,
And summer's lease hath all too short a date.
Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,
And often is his gold complexion dimmed;
And every fair from fair sometime declines,
By chance, or nature's changing course, untrimmed;
But thy eternal summer shall not fade,
Nor lose possession of that fair thou ow'st,
Nor shall death brag thou wand'rest in his shade,
When in eternal lines to Time thou grow'st.
So long as men can breathe, or eyes can see,
So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.

This is a very famous sonnet by William Shakespeare.

This is a Shakespearian English sonnet. Let's start with the first verse.

- Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?

What is the meaning of "thee"?

Thee means you.

Can you paraphrase the first line?

Student: he is asking himself, but he knows the answer; shall I compare you to a summer day because in England summer is very rare not like Arab countries.

Instructor: great. I thought when I first taught this poem that it is written for a women. Actually, it is written to a man! A fair youth or a handsome lord.

There is no evidence that William Shakespeare was a homosexual person.

- Thou art more lovely and more temperate.

What is the meaning of temperate?

Temperate: mild/ neither hot nor cold. معتدل

What is the meaning of "Thou art"?

You are.

You are more lovely and more temperate.

So, he is basically comparing this young man to a beautiful summer day, but unlike the British summer this young man is neither cold nor hot. He is mild.

We know that English summer can be very moody. Unlike our summer, you can have sunglasses and hold an umbrella at the same time!

So, it can be rainy one hour and the other hour can be sunny.

So, he is asking himself this question or raising this question to the addressee, and he says:

Shall I compare you to a summer's day?

And then he says:

No, not really; you are more beautiful and more mild than our British summer.

- Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May.

Rough: tough, harsh, strong, violent.

Buds: small flowers "blossoms". براعم

What happens during the summer?

What does William Shakespeare say about summer?

Believe it or not, in the month of May in England, there are rough strong winds that shake the beautiful buds on the trees, so it can be quite windy.

- And summer's lease hath all too short a date.

Lease: duration, period of time.

What does he say about summer's duration?

It is too short.

I remember when I was in England; if you are very lucky, summer will last for 20 days.

- Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines

What does "the eye of heaven" refer to?

The sun.

What figure of speech do we have here?

Metaphor and it is a personification.

Personification: give human quality to non-human.

So, one day it can be very windy; the strong winds do shake the buds, and other day is too hot.

- And often is his gold complexion dimmed

"his" refers to?

The sun because the sun in English is masculine.

Complexion: skin.

So, he refers to sun.

What figures of speech do we have here?

Personification. The sun is personified.

And often his gold skin (sun) dimmed.

Dimmed means?

Become dark.

Sometimes, the sun is red in the sky shines, and in other days it disappears behind the clouds and everything becomes gloomy and dark.

- And every fair from fair sometime declines.

What is the meaning of "decline"?

Disappear.

“fair from fair”, what does it mean?

Every beautiful item of British summer gradually disappear.

So, he is saying that the beauty of the British summer does not last.

- By chance, or nature's changing course, untrimmed

Untrimmed means stripped of its gay apparel.

Gay in old English means joyful and beautiful.

What does he say about nature?

What does he say about the British summer in this line?

It is changeable.

He is explaining why the British summer is changeable.

He says this happens either because this is the way things are by nature, or it is just coincidence by chance.

- But thy eternal summer shall not fade.

Thy: your.

Fade: vanish, disappear.

So, he is saying the beauty of this young man is eternal unlike the beauty of the summer.

- Nor lose possession of that fair thou ow'st

What is the meaning of ow'st?

To have, to own.

So, he is saying your beauty is unlike the British summer; you will never lose it.

- Nor shall death brag thou wand'rest in his shade.

What is the meaning of “brag”?

To boast, to show off. يتفاخر

“Death brag” this is a personification because we (humans) brag, but death can't brag.

Death will not be able to brag because your beauty is eternal. He is immortal in Shakespeare's eyes; this young beautiful man is eternal.

- When in eternal lines to Time thou grow'st.

"Eternal lines" refers to?

Shakespeare's poetry.

So, basically this young man will be remembered, and will be immortalized thanks to William Shakespeare's sonnet.

- So long as men can breathe, or eyes can see.

- So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.

What does "this" refer to?

Shakespeare's sonnet.

As long as we have human beings breathing, and eyes can read this poetry. So long my poetry is going to live, and it will give life to the human.

So, the lord could be a friend or could be another thing.

طالب: ممكن يكون تمسيح جوخ!
الأستاذة: ما هو تمسيح الجوخ باللغة الإنجليزية؟

Wiping velvet/ sugar coating.

What is the first quatrain?

Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?

Thou art more lovely and more temperate.

Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,

And summer's lease hath all too short a date.

The first four lines is quatrain number 1.

The second four lines:

Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,

And often is his gold complexion dimmed;

And every fair from fair sometime declines,

By chance, or nature's changing course, untrimmed;

This is quatrain number 2.

And these four lines:

But thy eternal summer shall not fade,

Nor lose possession of that fair thou ow'st,

Nor shall death brag thou wand'rest in his shade,
When in eternal lines to Time thou grow'st.
This is quatrain number 3.

And the last two lines:

So long as men can breathe, or eyes can see,
So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.

This is the couplet.

Now, let's look at the rhyme scheme.

ABAB CDCD EFEF GG

A: Day

B: Temperate

A: May

B: Date

C: Shines

D: Dimmed

C: Declines

D: Untrimmed

E: Fade

F: Owst

E: Shade

F: Growst

G: See

G: Thee

Who would like to show me the meter?

Student: shall I/ compare/ thee to/ a sum/ mer's day.

Instructor: excellent.

Line number two.

Student: Thou art/ more love/ ly and/ more tem/ perate.

Instructor: excellent. Line number three.

Student: Rough winds/ do shake/ the dar/ ling buds/ of
May.

So, it is written in iambic pentameter.

Every English sonnet is always written in iambic
pentameter.

Now I want you to translate this poem into Arabic.

طالبة:

الشمس تشع بحرارة
إلا أن حرارتها لا تقارن بجلدك الذهبي المتوهج
حيث يختفي جمالها أمام جمالك
صدفة أو عن عمد فإن الجمال يتغير
إلا أن جمالك أبدي لا يمكنه الذبول
فالموت بحد ذاته لا يمكنه أن يفاخر بوجوده أمامك
لذا فإن أسطر هذه القصيدة سوف تخلدك إلى الأبد
طالما كان هناك أشخاص يستطيعون القراءة والتنفس
فإن ذكرك سيبقى مؤبداً.

طالب:

هل أقارنك بيوم من أيام الصيف
أنت أحب من ذلك و أكثر رقة
تهز الرياح البراعم اللطيفة
وليس في الصيف سوى فرصة وجيزة
تشرق عين الشمس بحرارة شديدة
وغالباً ما يصير هذا الوهج الذهبي قائماً
وكل مظهر يتغير عن الآخر
سواءً بالمصادفة أو تبعاً للطبيعة التي تتغير بلا انتظام
لكن صيفك الأبدي لن يدوي ولا يفقد ما لديه من الحسن الذي تملك
ولا يفخر الموت أن يذهلك في ظلاله
عندما تكبر ما بين السطور في الحياة الأبدية
فما دامت الأنفاس حية والعيون رائية
الأستاذة: من الواضح أن لديك اطلاع على الأشعار العربية من انتقاء
كلماتك.

What difficulties did you face when you are translating?

Student: we don't have enough vocabulary.

Instructor: yes, especially literary vocabulary.

هنا يظهر مدى اطلاعكم على الشعر العربي، إذا لم يكن لديكم مخزون
أدبي عربي ستكون أول تجربة لكم مضحكة.

لاحظوا الفرق: هذه ليست ترجمتي.
من ذا يقارن حسنك بصيفٍ قد تجلّى
وفنون سحرك قد بدت في ناظري أسمى وأغلى
تجني الرياح العاتيات على البراعم وهي جذلى
والصيف يمضي مسرعاً إذ عقده المحدود ولى
لاحظوا الكلمات ولاحظوا القافية الواحدة التي اختارها الكاتب باللغة
العربية.

حافظ على الرباعية لكنه لم ينقل القافية ذاتها.
بالتأكيد البحر لن يتحقق، وبعض الاستعارات لن نتمكن حتى من ترجمتها.
ما رأيكم بهذه الترجمة؟
طالب: نجح بنقل الفكرة الرئيسية.
الأستاذة: هل يجب الالتزام بالمعنى؟
في الترجمة الأدبية يوجد مساحة كبيرة حتى يتمكن المترجم من إظهار
ملكته الإبداعية.
سأقوم الآن بإعطاء ترجمة ثانية للقصيدة ذاتها لشاعر مختلف. وأخبروني
أي الترجمتين أجمل.

ألا تشبهين صفاء المصيف
بل أنت أحلى وأصفى سماء
ففي الصيف تعصف رياح الذبول
وتعبت في برعمات الربيع
ولا يلبث الصيف حتى يزول
صفاء المصيف بعيدة جداً عن المعنى!
لقد قام بتحويل سياق القصيدة مع أنه لو بحث لعرف المعنى.
ولم يحافظ على الرباعية، فقد كتب 5 أبيات.
والآن اعملوا على مسودة ثانية وثالثة واطهروا موهبتكم الشعرية.
حافظوا على الشكل قدر الإمكان إضافة إلى المعنى.

*That's all is all for today
See you next time.*

