The Journey from Compliancy to Intimate Revolt: A Kristevan Reading of Sam Shepard's Three Major Plays

Forough Emam, Shideh Ahmadzadeh

Abstract

The study intends to examine three major plays of Sam Shepard – True West, Fool for Love and A Lie of the Mind- to explore the underlying reasons for the characters' social transgression in the light of Julia Kristeva’s theory of intimate revolt. Notwithstanding that all the characters feel alienated from reality and other members of society, there is a marked divergence between male and female characters in the approach they adopt to revolt against the societal norms so as to transform their lives. The findings suggest that while men seem less likely to revolt against the rules of patriarchy, it is predominantly women who embark on revolting against the psyche-numbing society to bring jouissance to their once-predetermined meaningless lives. The study comes to the conclusion that by reconnecting with their personal desire and preserving their individuality in a society that hegemonizes its subjects' identities, women engage in what Kristeva calls 'intimate revolt' and become the forces of power and change in the modern world.

Keywords

Intimate Revolt, Identity Crisis, Feminine Subjectivity, Jouissance

Full Text:

PDF

References


Many footballers dream of playing for such a glorious team it was a wonderful time for me. Not only did we beat our arch rivals Real Madrid, but we also fought our way through to the UEFA finals where we defeated Sampdoria and became European Champions. ‘As you can imagine, the proudest moment was when I played for my country, England, in the World Cup. The Journey from Complacency to Intimate Revolt: A Kristeva Reading of Sam Shepard’s Three Major Plays. Forough Emam, Shideh Ahmadzadeh. Sociology. 2017 (First Publication: 2 November 2017). The study intends to examine three major plays of Sam Shepard – True West, Fool for Love, and A Lie of the Mind – to explore the underlying reasons for the characters’ social transgression in the... Continue Reading. View PDF. Cite. The study intends to examine three major plays of Sam Shepard – True West, Fool for Love, and A Lie of the Mind – to explore the underlying reasons for the characters’ social transgression in the light of Julia Kristeva’s theory of intimate revolt. Notwithstanding that all the characters feel alienated from reality and other members of society, there is a marked divergence between male and female characters in the approach they adopt to revolt against the societal norms so as to transform their lives. The findings suggest that while men seem less likely to revolt against the rules of patriarchy, The Journey from Complacency to Intimate Revolt: A Kristeva Reading of Sam Shepard’s Three Major Plays. Article. Full-text available. Women as Abjects of Desire: The Psychological Subjugation of Male and Female Characters in Sam Shepard’s Three Major Plays. Conference Paper. Nov 2016. Fighting for Desire: A Kristeva Analysis of the Possibility of Intimate Revolt in Female and Male Characters in Sam Shepard’s Three Major Plays. Conference Paper. Nov 2016. Hybrid Mode: A Kristeva Reading of the Necessity of Androgyny in Sam Shepard’s Three Major Plays. Conference Paper. Jan 2015.