

**The Representation of Race and Otherness in *The Tempest*, *Othello*
and *The Merchant of Venice***



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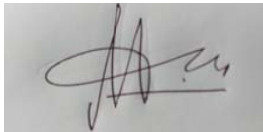
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CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL

I hereby declare that this thesis is the student's own work and effort. All sources of information incorporated here have been duly acknowledged. This thesis has been submitted with my approval.



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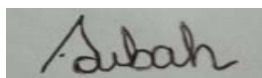
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DECLARATION

This thesis is a presentation of my original research work. Wherever contributions of others are involved, every effort is made to indicate this clearly, with due reference to the literature, and acknowledgement of collaborative research and discussions.



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Dedication

This dissertation paper is dedicated to my parents who motivated me to pursue my M.A.

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I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to my supervisor Md. Muntasir Mamun, Assistant Professor, at the Department of English and Humanities (DEH), University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh, whose continual support and guidance helped me throughout the thesis. To conduct this paper Assistant Professor, Md. Muntasir Mamun gave his precious time and energy and gave feedback accordingly. I have got the privilege to avail his guidance and intellectual advice for this dissertation.

I would also like to thank my parents and my family, without whose support I would not come this far. They always supported me in every stage of my life. I would also like to thank the Almighty for blessing me with the opportunities and privileges that I got in my life.

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Abstract

This study is an attempt to show the representation of race and otherness in Shakespeare's plays *The Tempest*, *Othello* and *The Merchant of Venice*. During Shakespeare's time most of his plays portrayed themes of race, colonization, ethnicity and language. Shakespeare represented colonial power by showing the problems regarding race, minor ethnicity, and language. The paper will project a view to represent how by using racism as a weapon, people were dominated and discriminated against. Shakespeare highlighted important issues like racism in his plays and portrayed the racial prejudices that existed in the society. He wrote about the racial problems in European society and the superiority they showed to the people of other races. The paper will project how racism is represented in the three plays. Racism is an important aspect represented in the play *Othello*. The other two plays *The Tempest* and *The Merchant of Venice* also represent the issues of racial discrimination, racial inequality and the rule of imperialism. Skin color and religion are two important aspects of racism which are portrayed in Shakespeare's plays. This paper will explore the imperial desire of the colonizers and the racial difference present in the characters of Shakespeare's plays. Another aspect which will be projected in this essay is the representation of minor ethnicity or otherness in these three plays of Shakespeare. Both *Othello* and *The Tempest* show the portrayal of otherness and how some characters faced identity crisis. This paper will show the representation of minor ethnicity in the plays and how they are treated as strangers also in the play *The Merchant of Venice*. These three plays show the process of othering and the immorality of the people in the society. This essay will relate the postcolonial ideas of racial prejudices and identity crisis by relating to some postcolonial theories. The paper will discuss how racism and otherness existed in Shakespeare's *Othello*, *The Tempest* and *The Merchant of Venice* and how Shakespeare portrayed the social issues in his plays.

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Chapter 1: Introduction

Shakespeare is known as the writer of the modern era because his plays are relatable to the modern society aspects. Shakespeare wrote about culture as the marker of a community. Culture was not based on color, religion or language rather it was a community of practice to him. He wrote about social practice, ethnic culture, and minority culture. Shakespeare said that culture is not something that isolates others; it does not divide the major and minor. Culture is very modern which is not only aligned to power. Shakespeare gave roles to women, minor characters, he believed in modern culture. His plays deal with the problems of the modern society which includes racism, colonialism, cultural difference, minor ethnicity and many more.

Race is an important aspect which is focused and portrayed by many writers during the colonial process. Racial superiority, racism against culture, language and skin color was focused. During the time of Shakespeare, religion and skin color were the main issues of race. There was always the presence of superiority in the west. The white people of the west ruled and dominated the non-white people. They made fun of the skin color of the people of the East and discriminated against them in every way. Religion also played an important aspect in case of the racial discrimination. The colonizers followed Christianity and according to them it was above every other religion so they considered their religion as the superior one.

The representation of otherness is shown in Shakespeare's play which is also known as the racial other. The discrimination towards the racial other shows how society used to be at that time. The process of othering was very much visible in Shakespeare's plays and he showed how the Jews and the black people were considered as outsiders. Othernesses referred to the foreign characters in Shakespeare's plays are shown as outsiders and were mocked for their religion, skin color or

language. The binary between the Europeans and those referred to as 'other' showed the superiority and the supremacy of the relations.

Shakespeare focused on colonialism along with race and otherness. Colonialism however includes all the domination, oppression, racism and alienating the less powerful countries. Colonial expansion and control over less powerful countries made the colonizers believe that they could buy everything. Most of the time the colonized people did not have their own culture and some did not even have their own language. The colonizers imposed their own culture and language on them. They dominated them and used their resources for their own benefit. The colonizers used cultural, political and economic domination to expand their power. People are divided into different classes based on their race, religion and language.

Racism and otherness are two important aspects which Shakespeare highlighted in his plays. The discrimination of color, religion and language is shown in many plays and the marginalized groups referred as the 'other,' is focused in the plays which will be discussed in this paper. The issues of identity crisis and the formation of identity will be discussed relating to the postcolonial theories. The cultural identity formation and the characters struggling to seek identity are vivid in the plays. We can see the struggle of Caliban who was from the Caribbean Island, struggling to learn the new language of his master Prospero, while looking for his own voice. Othello and Shylock struggle as foreigners seeking the cultural identity of their native past. The identity of Othello as a Moor and Shylock as a Jew alienated them from the Venetians. Caliban is always referred to as a savage monster which shows the racist view of the colonizers. Prospero accuses him of trying to rape his daughter which shows how the White people think that the Black people have the desire to harm them. They are shown as slaves of the Whites which shows the

stereotypical society. The hypocrisy and racism towards the Black is shown by Prospero's behavior towards Caliban. The play *Othello* shows the theme of racism and how Othello became racially conscious. Othello is shown as a character who was intelligent but he was not accepted by the people around him. He doubted his wife Desdemona to be unfaithful to him because he felt the racial discrimination between them. We can see the constant exploitation of Othello's race and how his mind was colonized by the continuous suspect towards his wife. The social and cultural issues and the racial consciousness lead to the fall of Othello. Othello is considered as inferior to the Venetian whites but he accepts himself as different but not inferior. He is shown as the 'other' but he tries to prove his worth in the society by acting as a noble soldier. We can see through this play that no matter how heroic acts you play, the racial difference always makes people inferior. Shakespeare showed how a person can possess intelligence and get to be known as a hero still the racial discrimination in the society cannot accept him as someone equal to them. There is always the presence of inferiority when racism exists in a culture. Shylock being a Jew is alienated and suffers because of the racist views of the people around him. Shakespeare showed how religion can cause discrimination and hatred towards people. Shakespeare tried to build a modern culture which was way above gender and racial discriminations.

Shakespeare understood mass culture and he showed the important aspects like gender, racism, feminism, masculinity and many other aspects. He showed construction and reconstruction of culture through different aspects and how they play a vital role in our surroundings. This paper shows how racism is portrayed in the plays *The Tempest*, *The Merchant of Venice* and *Othello* and how otherness can create conflict and separate people from their surrounding society. The construction of otherness and racial stereotypes has been used as a theme in these plays. Many forms of stereotypes have been occurring since ages and Shakespeare worked on them and

protested against the racial issues. He represented and incorporated the racist views and theme of otherness in his plays to engage with the audience. Shakespeare represented the racial others in such a way which is relevant even in today and people can still interpret his plays by connecting it to modern life.

1.1. Research Objective:

The objective of this paper is to represent and emphasize on race and otherness in Shakespeare's three plays *The Tempest*, *The Merchant of Venice* and *Othello*. The aim of this essay will be to focus on the racial differences and the conflict towards the Other portrayed by Shakespeare. The colonization and the discrimination by the English towards the racially other will also be focused in this paper. The paper will also explore the different aspects of racism and how the characters Othello, Shylock and Caliban were marginalized for being Jew and African Other. The aim of this paper will be to emphasize on the different racial stereotypes and focus on the strategies used to explain the discrimination faced by "the Other."

1.2. Research Questions:

To carry out this paper successfully some hypothetical questions are needed which will follow the other parts of this paper. This study will focus on the following questions:

1. How Shakespeare portrayed racism in the three plays and how he opposed the racism present in the society through his plays?
2. Who does the term 'Other' refer to and how did Shakespeare represent the Other in the three plays?

3. How the three plays are interconnected and why the racial others were marginalized and faced racism?

1.3. Background of the study:

William Shakespeare wrote about the important issues happening around the society. His plays portrayed colonialism, culture, race, otherness and other aspects. Racism was a very common aspect during the time of Shakespeare and he elaborately explained it and protested against it through his plays. Racism is a cultural process which is not biological. Racism focuses on religion, cultural and class differences, skin color, caste system and many other aspects. The issues of race come from social problems. Jews faced racism due to religion issues, Othello and Caliban were treated as the other due to their racial difference and moreover they were colonized which showed how they were treated due to the racial inferiority. Shakespeare emphasized and represented race and otherness in *The Tempest*, *The Merchant of Venice* and *Othello* and opposed the racial differences present among people. The English people considered the outsiders as others and racially discriminated against them. The binary oppositions created by the English were to create a distance among them and the others. Racism was a new term during the early seventeenth century and Shakespeare focused on this term and emphasized it in his plays. Racism is basically the prejudice against skin color, cultural differences, class and religious conflict. The English thought themselves as superior and racially discriminated against the others. They colonized people and treated them as slaves. The Other refers to a group which is different from the usual groups or individuals. This paper will explore the binary of racism and the representation of the Jews and the Africans as the other.

Chapter 2: Literature Review

William Shakespeare had progressive ideas about race and otherness and this thinking is reflected unambiguously in his writings. Shakespeare wrote about culture, race, minor ethnicity, language, colonialism and many other aspects. Race is a socially constructed aspect which is invented by society. Shakespeare in his plays showed the presence of race in society through language, color and culture. Shakespeare used the context of Postcolonialism and also showed the relationship of master and slave to highlight the discrimination. He represented dominance and subjugation in relation to power. Shakespeare's plays showed how the minorities were treated and how they were discriminated against.

Edward A. Cooper in his paper "Ocular Proof": Race, Religion, and Gender in *The Merchant of Venice* and *Othello* are about the racial discrimination that happened in early modern England. Early modern England focused on racial factors like religion, language and gender. The study explored the racial differences in English and European art, rhetoric and theater. It showed the English imperial desires and the term "ocular proof" is used to demonstrate the cultural racial hierarchies. Cooper wrote how the terms "Jew" and "Moor" are used to categorize the Other and show the physical differences. During that time Jews, Muslims and Christians went through forced conversions and massacres. The white Christians were considered as superiors and the Muslims and Jews as dirty blood. The presence of Moor and Jew in *Othello* and *The Merchant of Venice* showed how people considered them as a threat as they thought they would be a threat to national identities. They feared that the women of their religion would be a part of their culture and get converted. This paper shows the desire of the English to rule over both black and white and claim the superiority to dominate the imperial world.

“Identity Formation and the Stranger in William Shakespeare’s *Othello* and *The Merchant of Venice*” by Rodney Castillo is about the strangers introduced in Shakespeare’s plays. The paper discusses the identity formation and the postcolonial theories regarding culture and the foreigners. The theories of Stuart Hall, Homi K. Bhabha and Jacques Derrida are used here to explain the hospitality towards the outsiders. Castillo used the term “universal stranger” to write about the characters that are known as the “Other.” Cultural superiority is shown while imperial powers dominated the others. The colonial powers dominated and corrupted the identity of the people who were marginalized. The paper discusses identity formation and how the outsider settles down but can never become a part of the local group. “The question of ownership, or at least the perception of ownership, is of importance as far as the mechanics of negotiations between natives and strangers” (10). The relation of strangers and the natives are described as such that the things which the natives refuse to do are done by the strangers. Derrida’s universal hospitality is explained and how the strangers were not included and treated as foreigners. Shakespeare’s works are known to be based on racism and anti-Semitism and this paper explained how the discrimination is not always racial, but cultural too and how strangers or the Other are separated from the local group of people.

Nusrat Afreen in her paper “The representation of Language, Race and Ethnicity in Shakespearean tragedies” discussed the three plays *The Tempest*, *Othello* and *The Merchant of Venice*. She explained how Shakespeare wrote about colonial themes and represented language, race and ethnicity in these plays. Her paper elaborately discussed imperialism and the colonial factors that Shakespeare tried to convey through his plays. Language is shown as a colonial tool which is basically a very powerful factor. The linguistic imperialism in *The Tempest* is discussed and how the aspects of racism like identity crisis, racial complex, superior and inferior

discriminations are shown in *Othello* and *The Merchant of Venice*. Afreen portrayed the cultural domination and the cultural conflicts represented by the colonial process. The superiority of the European culture and slavery during the colonial period is explained to show the relevance to the plays and how the characters faced racial discrimination.

“Psychoanalysis, Race, and Sexual Difference in Renaissance Literature: The Case of Three Shakespeare Plays, *Othello*, *The Merchant of Venice*, and *The Tempest*” by Seon Young Jang explains about Renaissance Literature and Psychoanalysis. The notion of race through sexual difference is discussed and the cultural discrimination is explained. The racial gaze in *Othello*, the universal singularity in *The Merchant of Venice* and Prospero racially discriminating Caliban represent the racial factors in this paper. The political and contemporary issues are discussed and how Shakespeare brought the issues about race in his plays. Jang discussed how Shakespeare’s plays link us to the historical time and the next generation people are being able to connect themselves by reading this. The Psychoanalytic identity is broadly explained by referring to the identity conflict in the three plays of Shakespeare.

“Not a Moor exactly”: Shakespeare, *Serial*, and Modern Constructions of Race” by Vanessa Corredera is about Renaissance Literature and racism. The paper explains how the dramas of Shakespeare represented otherness through skin color. The dialogue “Aaron will have his soul black like his face” in the play *Titus Andronicus*, the shame of being a Jew’s daughter shown in *The Merchant of Venice* shows the extreme level of racist views in the society. The social construction of race and culture is explained and how modern constructions of plays are linked to those of Shakespeare’s time. Corredera also wrote that scholars of modern age should discuss and explain people about race and give them an elaborate discussion about race and otherness.

Many people link race to the Renaissance as race is explained in different ways than it was thought back at that time. The paper explains how the modern constructions of race should be represented to people.

“The Bard and ‘the Other’: A Post-colonial Re-reading of *Sir Thomas More*, *The Merchant of Venice* and *The Tempest*” by DamirKahric and Nadja Muhic highlights the representation of “otherness” in Shakespeare’s plays. This paper discusses the postcolonial aspects and how Shakespeare’s plays are linked with postcolonial factors. The representation of Jews as outsiders in *The Merchant of Venice* and how Shylock was treated for being a Jew is explained by the authors. The process of otherness and the representation of the characters as the “Other” are portrayed here. The paper also discusses the colonization process shown in *The Tempest* through the relation of Prospero and Caliban. The divisions that happened due to colonization and the racial factors are explained. This paper focuses on the binary discriminations and the othering process by highlighting the important aspects of race, colonization and conquering the world through these aspects.

Won-Moon Song’s paper “Racial otherness: The representation of colored minorities in Shakespeare and Restoration drama” discusses the representation of colored minorities in Shakespeare’s dramas. The author discussed about the racial and cultural identity and explained multiculturalism. The paper also discusses how people are observed represented in the dominant culture and how racial identities are represented. Most of the time the colored minorities are described by the white critics and represented by the Western ideologies. The colored minorities are mostly shown as abusers, murderers, adulterers and many more stereotypes. However we can see that though Caliban, who is a colored character, is shown as negative but Othello is also a

colored character but he is shown as a brave, noble man. This shows that it is not necessary that all colored characters would be negative. However this is also true that even though Othello is presented as a noble man but still he faced racism. The author explained that the racist views came from the Western culture who thinks the colored people are from another world. These assumptions about the colored characters make them seem evil and negative. The white characters always showed the “other” characters as negative and they could never represent themselves. This paper shows how they were culturally dominated and redefined their characters by showing them in a different way than the Western stereotypes.

“The (De-) Construction of Racial Stereotypes in Shakespeare’s Plays” by Andrea Kalt shows the deconstruction of racial stereotypes. Otherness was constructed and the plays of Shakespeare show the Other characters in such a way that makes them relevant even today. Kalt discusses that the three plays *The Tempest*, *Othello* and *The Merchant of Venice* show the racial stereotypes as the racial other is represented through the characters. Shylock who is a Jew in *The Merchant of Venice* both represents and challenges the stereotypical traits. The character Caliban from *The Tempest* represents a native who was enslaved by the Europeans and they colonized his land. The character of Othello from the play *Othello* shows a different stereotype as he faced racial discrimination but he also killed his wife Desdemona out of rage. The author explained that stereotypes can be both positive and negative and Shakespeare represented the stereotypes in a different way. The construction and deconstruction also includes culture and language which plays a dominant role in the plays. Shakespeare successfully showed his “Other” characters and explained how the Jew, Moor and Savage in Shylock, Othello and Caliban are present among the audience too. The Other is shown as uncivilized and the attitude towards the Other is also shown as negative. However the paper also shows the binary opposites and discusses the relation of

African- European, Jews- Christians and the differences among Othello and Iago to show the racial stereotype and discuss the deconstruction of the stereotypes.

“Black skin matters: the significance of color in early modern England” by Timothy Love is about the stereotypes regarding black skin and how they were represented during the English Renaissance period. The paper discusses how Shakespeare wrote about the black individuals and how the white superiority, black inferiority and colonial representations of black people are portrayed. The author calls Shakespeare anti-racist and explains how Shakespeare and the other writers write against the racial myths and traditional stereotypes. The rejections of black skin in the English Renaissance and the emphasis of modern racism creates a damage which separates and demoralizes the modern black people to know about the black characters like Othello, Caliban, Aaron and many more. The black consciousness and relating Othello to the modern American black people who are treated brutally and stereotyped by the white superiority is also discussed in this paper. The author also highlights the facts that the black or colored people were not given much importance so the white scholars most of the time avoided writing about the discrimination and how color played important role during the early modern period. The black people only represented a small part of the population for which they were not given much attention and the discriminations were not highlighted by the white authors during that time. However the discrimination faced by the black people and the Jews, the oppression they faced should be highlighted more. “By claiming that only “social class governed society” in Tudor England, 79 one implies that racism did not govern society, irresponsibly overlooking an important caveat: white people dominated the social class” (30). The conflicts, discriminations, colonization and the enslavement of the black and the other minorities, the tortures and abuse they faced should be focused and portrayed while writing about them.

Agnes Heller's paper "The Absolute Stranger: Shakespeare and the Drama of Failed Assimilation" is about the traditional characters of strangers also known as the "Other." The stranger is shown as characters who are outsiders and enters the cosmopolitan Venice. Shakespeare showed his imagination through the characters of Othello and Shylock in the plays *Othello* and *The Merchant of Venice* and represented the outsiders who came in the cosmopolitan life and failed to assimilate. Shakespeare used the term "absolute stranger" to show the outsiders as an illusion and represent the modern world. The racism and conflict faced due to the otherness is portrayed. The paper discusses how the strangers are represented in Shakespeare's dramas and their life in cosmopolitan Venice as outsiders.

"Shakespeare's Racial Others" by Francesca Therese Royster discusses Shakespeare's representation about the racial identity and how the cultural surrounding created fear in people's minds. The fear of reproducing racial other children and the violence regarding the black inferiority are discussed in this paper. Blackness is shown as linked to miscegenation in the plays of Shakespeare and the presence of black is shown as alarming. The plays *The Tempest*, *Othello*, *Titus Andronicus* and *Antony Cleopatra* show the threat black characters represent to society. The white superiority considered the black reproduction as threat to their future. Shakespeare's dramas show the racial others different from other racial characters. The color prejudice and the strong belief of whiteness over blackness show the white as pure, good and virtuous whereas it shows the black as evil, filthy and ugly. Shakespeare's plays connect the racial otherness with sexual transgression. The color patriarchy, the racial consciousness, race used as an inner quality and outer appearance, shows us the discrimination and the stereotypes regarding the racial other. Shakespeare's use of "race" points out the social relationship of the black origins by portraying the contemporary discourse and Renaissance theories regarding the "Other."

Shakespeare focused and highlighted the aspects of culture and the racial other in many of his plays. The historical and cultural difference, the dominance, colonization and the conflicts are clearly portrayed in his dramas. Shakespeare is called anti-racist also because he tried to focus on the themes like race and otherness while many others avoided including the black people due to the discrimination. Shakespeare showed the “Other” on the basis of race, culture, gender and religion. His plays highlighted the marginalized people and showed their position in contemporary society.

Chapter 3: The Racial Conquest and Othering the Other in *The Tempest*

Shakespeare's play *The Tempest* is written on colonization and racism where we can see the colonization of Caliban who is also known as the "Other." The Europeans are shown as the colonizers who usurped the property of the natives and ruled there. Here in this play we can see Prospero as the colonial authority and the West trying to enlighten the natives by taking authority over the native's land. Shakespeare portrays the character of Caliban as half-animal and savage. Prospero as we can see is portrayed as a colonial agent who seizes the natives' land and later on enslaves them at their own land. He starts to show authorship and calls himself the monarch. Prospero dominates and shows authorship by naming it as enlightening the natives. However here we can discuss Edward Said's *Orientalism* and relates to the occident Europeans behavior towards the orient others. The colonized others are oppressed and dominated by the colonizers for their own benefits. The racism that they face for being the minority or the other is what this paper will portray. Said highlighted the other as the orient or the non-Europeans are shown as barbaric and uncivilized. They are not allowed to prosper and this othering process separates them from the colonizers. In this chapter my research will examine how Prospero colonized the natives in the name of enlightenment and on the other hand how Caliban and Ariel faced racism for being the uncivilized, barbaric "Other."

The Tempest is not only about the supernatural, betrayal, forgiveness and freedom but it is also about the colonization, racial others and domination of culture. The play starts with Prospero's desire to return to his home and get back his position as the Duke of Milan. The story plotline shows that Prospero's brother Antonio conspired against him and took away his power. However all this time Prospero stayed on an island with his daughter Miranda and his native slave Caliban

and now he wanted to get back his power. We can see how Prospero causes the storm which is a supernatural act and brings his brother Antonio and other characters as Ferdinand, Sebastian, Alonso and Gonzalo to his island to end the separation. Prospero plays some emotional tricks and hides Ferdinand from his father Alonso by telling him that both his daughter and Alonso's son disappeared due to the tempest. However when Alonso understood his wrongdoings and gave back his dukedom, Prospero brought back Ferdinand. Prospero made his enemies experience both separation and reunion and even made sure that he gets back his power too.

If we look into the relation of Prospero and Caliban we can see the colonization, domination and racial conflict. The hypocrisy and the racism are shown by Prospero's behavior towards Caliban. Prospero who is an European dominates and shows his authorship towards Ariel and Caliban and names it enlightening the natives. He is shown as a colonial agent who teaches the language and tries to civilize the natives. We can see that Caliban serves Prospero and his daughter Miranda against his wish and becomes a slave in his own land. If we look through the colonial literature Prospero is a hero for enlightening and civilizing the natives. However in postcolonial readings Caliban is shown as a hero who is colonized in his own land and gets enslaved by the colonizers. The relationship of Prospero and Caliban can be defined in many ways like master and slave, occident and orient, self and the other. Edward Said's *Orientalism* shows how the colonized other is created and how colonialism is justified and manipulated. Another character Ariel is also shown as caged by Prospero. Ariel is an airy spirit who is seen to be bound to obey Prospero's orders. We can see how Prospero liberates Ariel from his imprisonment but still he gets enslaved by Prospero and cannot get his freedom. The storm "Tempest" was also caused by Ariel which was ordered by Prospero himself. This shows how colonization works and how the Europeans colonized and dominated the native individuals.

Racism is an important aspect shown in the play *The Tempest*. Race is mostly used to distinguish people on the basis of physical appearance. This play not only highlights race but also focuses on the aspects of colonization. *The Tempest* represents colonialism along with aspects of race like color, class and language. The play shows the subjugation of the natives and shows the colonized people face the racial discrimination. The character named Caliban is shown as a native inhabitant who is shown as savage and uncivilized. Caliban is represented as a subaltern character who is barbaric and gets dominated by Prospero. Here Prospero plays the role of the main protagonist but he is actually an outsider who acts as a colonial master and dominates the natives. Shakespeare portrayed the master vs. slave relation, which also shows the conflict of the white vs. black and the self vs. the other. Caliban's character is shown as non-white to highlight the racial difference. Another character Trinculo when he saw Caliban said "Were I in England now, as once I was, and had but this fish painted, not a holiday fool there but would give a piece of silver"(II.ii.27-29). We can see how Caliban was compared to an animal and the imperialist desire to make money by showing him to people in England shows how the colonizers thought the natives as mere animals. This racial behavior towards the natives is abusive which treats them as inferior in front of the superior White Europeans. The social hierarchy shows the hegemony the colonized people face for their racial differences. *The Tempest* represents the white supremacy and the superiority of one race over another. While Prospero plays the character of colonial power and dominates the natives. We can also see the "white hegemony" always putting the "black" people in the marginalized line. Caliban is treated as a slave who represents the American black race. Prospero being the master puts Caliban and Ariel in the position of slave and racially discriminates against them. We can even see Prospero calling Caliban's mother a "Witch" and "beast" which shows his racist behavior and his colonial power

over the natives. Even though Caliban was the native of the island, we can see Prospero dehumanizing him and treating him as a slave. However Caliban's unwillingness to serve and obey Prospero is shown when he attempts to rape Prospero's daughter Miranda. He was tired of the racial discrimination and the exploitation and due to his rage he attempts to rape and molest Miranda. However this shows even though Prospero tried to educate and civilize him, he still remained a savage who was uncivilized. Both Prospero and Caliban were at fault but this never justifies the action which he took towards Miranda. The Europeans colonized the natives and tried to educate and civilize the uncivilized. Prospero tried to educate Caliban but was not very successful. The white people always looked down upon the black people and considered them as "powerless." They thought of themselves as the "powerful" ones and thought this gave them the right to dominate the ones who were powerless. Prospero calls Caliban a "mooncalf" shows his racial attitude and looking down at him calling him savage and barbaric shows how he was racially discriminated against by his master.

As Edward Said described in his *Orientalism* the orient other is here portrayed as Caliban. The colonized other is shown in order to justify colonialism. Said used the term "other" to distinguish between the Europeans and the non-Europeans. The othering process represents the orient other as uncivilized, barbaric and cruel which shows how they were racially discriminated against. Shakespeare showing Caliban as "ignoble savage" and Trinculo referring to him as a "fish monster" shows how the other was demeaned and looked down upon. Said also focuses on the colonization process which shows how the native other is dominated by the superior Prospero and he being an outsider himself starts to rule the island. Shakespeare represents the "other" here in this play to highlight two facts. The first one is to show the colonial and social hierarchy and the second one is to focus on the injustice and inequalities faced by the colonized people by the

colonizers who just wanted to fulfill their imperialist desire. Caliban here in *The Tempest* plays the character of others so well because he is the orphan son of a witch who was banished for her wicked deeds. However the play shows that Caliban is being called and treated as a slave of the colonizer Prospero. He is referred to as wicked, dark, and evil to show the discrimination between the Europeans and the non-Europeans. Caliban is continuously referred to as savage; Trinculo thinking him as fish shows how the others were racially attacked and the superior powers dominated them. Prospero's daughter Miranda is also referred to as the absolute other for being the only woman on the island. Miranda is shown as an identity without a mother and grows up under her father's guidance. We can see that both Caliban and Miranda can fall in the group of the other. Caliban is shown as the other for being oppressed and dominated by Prospero but Miranda is burdened by the domination and protection of both her father and her husband. Women were not given many rights which are shown in this play and they could not raise their voice which relates them to the otherness shown by the colonized people. Even though she belongs to the white hierarchy but as a female character she was not given much voice and was dependent on her father. Shakespeare uses Caliban's "Colonized Otherness" to highlight Prospero's "Imperialistic Otherness." The binary oppositions of civilization and savagery are shown by the othering process and Shakespeare uses the otherness to emphasize on the social constructions. We can see how both humanity and barbarity is needed to exist in a society and "otherness" reflects on the social hierarchies to portray both the civilized and uncivilized and both are equally needed in the society.

The racism and otherness in *The Tempest* not only portrays the identity formation but also focuses on the cultural and patriarchal domination of the marginalized others. The play shows how the Western hierarchies represented by Prospero controls the characters like Caliban, Ariel

and even his own daughter Miranda. Shakespeare showed colonization does not end with the colonial occupation. The binary opposition of the occident and orient and the self and the other is portrayed through the characters. The racially other characters are dominated and oppressed by the social hierarchies. *The Tempest* is a play where Shakespeare writes about the burden of the white man which is the colonial process. Prospero represents a ruler of the island rather than the father of Miranda. He dictates and shows his power to colonize and dominate the natives. Prospero being an outsider is the representative of the colonial power and enslaves the native black people. Due to the racial discrimination the colonizers get the power to rule over the inferiors and they get more power to rule the natives. Caliban is educated by Prospero but he uses that education to harm Prospero too. We can see the oppression of colonial power and the marginality of Caliban. The black people are marginalized and they were exploited by the colonizers. The darkness of racism and colonization portrays how the colonized other suffered for being the powerless one. As said by many critics the process of civilization comes with the domination over the inferiors. Here we can see Caliban being the uncivilized one who gets suppressed and oppressed by the colonial power in order to get civilized. The play shows the binary opposition of the white and the black natives within the boundary of civilization. Shakespeare showed the coexistence of the outsider and the insider in a culture. He successfully showed the aspects of colonialism by showing the conquer of the island and the racial discrimination between Prospero and Caliban.

Chapter 4: The Depiction of Colored Minorities and Racial Consciousness in *Othello*

Othello by William Shakespeare is about the relationship between a black man and a white woman and the state. The play shows the Elizabethan attitude towards the black people. The racial hatred towards the Muslims and the black was shown during the times of Shakespeare. The Europeans and the white generated hatred towards the black people which showed their negativity towards the strangers. The character Othello is shown as a “Black Moor” and Moor is known as a Muslim who was both the mixture of Arab and North African native. The Europeans disliked the Moors and they racially discriminated against them which shows that Othello entered a society which did not welcome and accept him as their own. Shakespeare portrays the character of Othello as an outsider who faced racism due to his color, appearance and culture. The marriage of Othello and Desdemona is shown as an inter-racial marriage and this was not good news for the Venetian society. They thought that it was something against nature which shows their racial attitude towards Othello. Othello, who was a brave noble man, was not accepted by the white people because their white superiority was far higher than his black inferiority. In my paper I will discuss in this chapter, the racism Othello faced for being the “Other” and how the binary oppositions between the white and black destroyed his life.

Othello as we can see is a brave soldier who was honored by all for his bravery but when he marries Desdemona the same society failed to accept him for being a “Black Moor.” Another character named Iago is seen who expected to be promoted as lieutenant but when Othello got that rank, Iago became jealous and wanted to destroy him out of vengeance. Iago turns Brabantio, the father of Desdemona against Othello by provoking him about Othello and Desdemona’s marriage. However Othello makes it clear about his marriage and the Venetians

along with Brabantio could not accept the fact that Desdemona being a beautiful, white woman can get married to a black Moor. This shows the racist attitude towards the Moor by the Europeans. Later on Iago conspires and makes Othello believe that Cassio was having an affair with his wife Desdemona and he slept with her. Othello gets trapped in Iago's plan and believes him when he finds out Desdemona's lost handkerchief with Cassio. This was a part of Iago's plan to trap Desdemona and Cassio to make Othello jealous and destroy him. Othello disbelieves his wife and accuses her in public and tells Iago to kill Cassio. Later on Othello kills Desdemona out of jealousy and thinking that she betrayed her. However he gets to know about the conspiracy and later on kills himself in public and Iago gets punished. We can see how jealousy can turn people blind and can convince people to kill someone too. *Othello* not only shows jealousy, betrayal and conspiracy but two major aspects are also shown in this play which is race and otherness.

Racial conflict is shown in the play *Othello* where Othello is called the other and gets racially discriminated against. Even though he was a brave soldier but the moment he got married to Desdemona, people's attitude towards him changed. The people who did not even bother of him being a black Moor and honored him, started to dislike him for his color. We can see Iago calling Othello by animal names while telling about him and Desdemona to Brabantio. He teases Brabantio that the black Moor took away his treasure Desdemona and used vulgar animal imagery to describe him. Iago calls Othello "thick lips" and refers to him as "slave" which shows his racist behavior. Animal imagery like "old black ram," "Barbary horse" and calling Othello a devil shows how racial conflict can make people forget about a person's position and accuses them according to their skin color. When Brabantio and the other Venetians got to know about the marriage they accuse Othello of doing witchcraft to tap Desdemona. This shows how blindly

people follow superstitions and they cannot accept the fact that a white and black person can love each other. We can see that before knowing about the marriage, Brabantio like Othello and respected him but when he got to know about his daughter's marriage he starts to hate Othello maybe because he was Black. The marriage becomes an issue in the Venetian court which shows that two grown up people cannot get married outside their racial culture. Iago calling Othello "an old black ram" (I, i, 88), telling Brabantio "Your son-in-law is far more fair than black" (I, iii, 290) and Othello calling himself "Haply for I am black" (III, iii, 263) shows the presence of racism that existed in the play.

Iago shows his hatred towards Othello because he could not get the rank for him but he was more conscious about Othello's skin color. Iago hates Othello more as he was black and always called him "Thick Lips." Iago represents the white superiors who racially attacked Othello due to his own grudge. When Iago lost his battle in getting the rank of lieutenant, he decided to use the weapon of racism against Othello. He uses the term black more often to set a negative interpretation about the Moors among people. He wanted to isolate Othello and could not accept the fact that a black Moor can get in a higher rank and then marry a white Venetian. This racist behavior later on leads to Othello's jealousy and he starts to doubt his wife as unfaithful. Racism is such a poisonous aspect which can make people murderer too and this is shown in this play. Othello all his life faced racism and when he married Desdemona, he faced more racist behaviors from the society. Othello became insecure by getting the racist comments and he started to feel that he was unfit for Desdemona. When he began to feel that he was black and his wife was white, from that time his insecurity started and he began to feel unfit beside his wife. Due to his insecurity about his racial appearance, his jealousy began. Racism and jealousy is connected in this play and Othello's self-loathe makes him think about his wife's unfaithfulness but he forgets

how she was the one who loved and supported him always. Iago conspired and trapped Othello by giving him hints about his racial features and how he was suitable beside his white wife. Othello started to feel that a white girl can never love a black Moor and maybe she was cheating on him, he considers himself unworthy of Desdemona and these racist thoughts poisoned his life. The prejudice of racism is portrayed through the play. Shakespeare through this play shows his anti-racist view too by showing Iago as the villain. Iago discriminated against Othello only for his racial appearance which is a devious act. Discriminating people racially can never be the solution and we can see strong racism in this play through Iago's character who cannot accept Othello for being black. The racial prejudice and the patriarchy are highlighted by Shakespeare in this play. Othello's blackness not only makes him feel that his wife was unfaithful but he also self-loathed himself for being black. When he felt that Desdemona was not faithful he started to show his patriarchal domination and started to behave like the oppressor of the patriarchal society. Othello shows his power as a man and kills his wife for his own racial inferiority. The racial prejudice can destroy people's happiness and how the effects of racism can mentally break a person is unimaginable. Iago's hatred towards Othello for his black color and the fact that he could not accept a black person getting fame and honor shows the existing racism in the society and how dreadful it can be.

The setting of the play *Othello* in Venice gives us the first example of how otherness is highlighted throughout this play. Othello being a Moor is the protagonist of the play which was full with Venetian characters. The enmity portrayed between the Venetians and the Moors during the time of Shakespeare was one of the reasons for Othello being treated as the other. Othello being a black Moor gets racially discriminated against and his racial otherness is the reason for the jealousy and insecurity that he feels. The cultural identity of the Venetians shows the

discrimination and the “moorishness” of Othello defines him as the Other in this play. Shakespeare’s plays show the “Other” as a foreign or outsider who is represented as the “alien” in the play. Othello’s alienation and isolation is shown due to his black skin color and he faces racism due to his racial appearance. Othello being the Moor and holding a position in the military in the white Christian society shows how the white people could not even tolerate his presence. He entered a society where the blacks were considered as aliens and most of the time he was called a Moor rather than being called by his own name. His otherness was repeatedly emphasized by the white people who disliked him for his black skin color. Othello being called “black ram,” “barbarian,” “African horse” and by many other names shows how he was the target of the othering process. His color was the main reason for which he was not accepted by the Venetians and this was the reason for his destruction which was planned by his enemies and even his own insecurity caused his downfall too. Othello represented an important member of the society by belonging to a higher rank but his marriage to Desdemona was something which the white Christians failed to accept. Shakespeare wanted to show the relation of the “other” and the “same” through marriage. However the Venetians considered the marriage as a threat to their white community. They believed that the black people would enter their culture and destroy their image. Though not intentionally, Othello who was represented as the “other” eventually possessed a threat to the whites. The victimization of the other occurs and the white Desdemona gets murdered by her black husband. Othello’s character is shown as someone who gets stuck in between two worlds. He was treated as an outsider because of his foreign roots even though he was never included in the group on the other hand as he was part of the military force he could not exclude himself from entering the white culture and his marriage emphasizes his willingness to get accepted by the society. Even though he serves the country, Othello is still treated as the

alien other by the insiders. Othello's Christian convert does not change Iago and the other's opinion regarding him. He was still treated as the other and was shown as the inferior one in front of the white supremacy. The characters like Iago, Roderigo and Brabantio racially attack and show their superiority due to their race towards Othello. According to Iago a white Christian deserved the rank that Othello possessed and the marriage to Desdemona helped him to fuel the rage that the Venetians had for Othello. Othello was racially conscious from the beginning as he faced racism all his life. When Iago started to make Othello suspicious about Desdemona's affair, he got envied and his jealousy worked as he always got a negative attitude from the society regarding his color. Othello's inferiority complex made him suspect Desdemona and later on killed her for his jealousy. The whites describing the black as violent prove to be right unintentionally when Othello kills his wife out of jealousy.

Othello never gets accepted by the Venetians and gets racially discriminated against and isolated from the environment where he lived. He can neither be called a "Venetian hero" nor a "Turkish savage" as he is not accepted nor excluded from the society. Due to the racial inferiority he no longer stays the soft and kind man and becomes violent as he was described by the white Venetians. The stranger inside him reveals himself and commits the sin of killing his wife out of racial inferiority and jealousy. Shakespeare portrayed through Othello's character a protagonist who is a Moor, alien to the white society and his otherness rejects him to be a part of the society that he wanted to enter. When the misunderstandings get clear Othello returns to his own self. When he kills himself he actually kills his blackness and the otherness for which he gets racially discriminated. The stereotypical racist culture sets the prejudice of others and eventually makes Othello the victim hero and makes him the cause of his own downfall. The society could not accept the "same" and the "other" together but eventually their separation caused the downfall of

their lives. Shakespeare represented the “other” and the stranger inside the society who is suppressed for his black skin.

Chapter 5: The Construction of Identity and Confronting the Otherness in *The Merchant of Venice*

Shakespeare's play *The Merchant of Venice* is about the racial outcast and otherness faced by the Jew Shylock. Binary oppositions are shown in this play to show the positions of the Africans and the Jews in the society. Shakespeare opposed racism and embraced the other represented by Shylock, the Jew. We can see Shylock being marginalized and racially discriminated against. The discrimination between the Christians and the Jews shows the existing racism in the society. *The Merchant of Venice* is basically known as a comedy but if we look deeper we can see the racist culture and the hatred towards other religions is evident throughout the play. This play is known as anti-Semitic to many people and others view it as the hypocrisy of the Christians. We can see Shylock trying to get accepted by the society and the Christians and he wanted to be treated as other humans. The racism he faced due to his Jewish culture shows how the Christians often preached humanity and kindness but they failed to accept a Jew as a human. Here in this chapter I will write about the racial conflict and the rejection that Shylock faced due to his race and how his otherness separated him from the Christians.

The Merchant of Venice starts with the character Bassanio who wants to marry Portia and for that he takes loan from his friend Antonio and the Jew Shylock. A major plot twist occurs when Bassanio uses Antonio's credit to take a loan from Shylock with whom Antonio had enmity from for a long time. Shylock gave loan to Antonio without interest as he wanted to take revenge for his anti-Semitic insult. However Shylock keeps conditions that if Antonio fails to pay him back on time then he would take a "pound of flesh" which sounds horrifying. Shylock wanted his revenge and for that he gave such a dreadful condition. When Bassanio wins in the casket game

played by Portia both of them get married but Antonio's ship fails to return which gives Shylock an opportunity to take his revenge. Shylock takes the bond to the court and according to the condition he wanted to take a pound of flesh from Antonio. However Portia who got to know about all these disguised as a man named Balthazar and proved that Shylock has broken the law. She argues that Shylock can take a pound of flesh without getting Antonio injured, which is impossible. At the end Shylock is proven to be guilty and he loses all his wealth and has to convert to Christianity which shows the racist rule of the society.

Jews were the most common representation of "Other" shown during Shakespeare and even before his time. Jews were banished in England and they used to live hiding their identity. They were defined as the binary opposites and the English "Self" stayed away from them. The relation between race and Judaism is represented in this play. Shylock's daughter Jessica is asked to be converted to Christianity by Lorenzo. Christianity as we all know is known to be a "cure" invites positivity but even though Jessica converted to Christianity still she faced racism for her father's blood. Lorenzo asking Jessica to change her father even after her conversion to Christianity, shows the racial attitude that a person is being forced to change her identity in order to get accepted by the society. Due to Jessica's Judaism she continuously faces the racial discrimination. The matter was not simply about religion as she had already converted and got married to Lorenzo but the prejudice of race continuously discriminated for her Jewish father and Jewish blood. When Portia enters the courtroom she asks "Which is the merchant here and which is the Jew?" (IV, I, 150) which shows the racial discrimination made towards the Jews separating them from the Christians. At the end we can see that Portia becomes merciless with the final outcome of the court where he has to convert his religion to Christianity and give his wealth to the state. Here we can see the Christians becoming merciless towards the Jew and the conversion

of Shylock showed how the racist society never accepted him and when they got a chance they made him go through the process of conversion. The people, who felt bad for Antonio as Shylock was going to take his life, were the same people who forced Shylock to give up his wealth, religion and even his daughter. So in one way Antonio indirectly took Shylock's life which was celebrated by the people in his community. We can see how Antonio was considered as the "saint" while Shylock was called "devil Jew." Both of them used to lend money but Shylock was considered evil because of his Jewish background.

At the beginning we can see that Shylock wanted to take revenge from Antonio for the anti-Semitic insult he faced for him. If this was true then both Antonio and Shylock were at fault for insulting each other based on their race. While talking to Antonio's friends Salerio and Solanio, Shylock says that "He hath disgraced me, and hindered me half a million, laughed at my losses, mocked at my gains, scorned my nation, thwarted my bargains, cooled my friends, heated mine enemies, and what's his reason? I am a Jew. Hath not a Jew eyes? Hath not a Jew hands, organs, dimensions, senses, affections, passions? Fed with the same food, hurt with the same Winter and Summer, as a Christian is? If you prick us do we not bleed? If you tickle us do we not laugh? If you poison us do we not die? And if you wrong us shall we not revenge?" (III, i, 44-54) These lines show how he was racially discriminated against and when he wanted to take his revenge, he was considered as the evil one. When the court scene goes on we can see the term "Jew" is used more often and most of the conversations went on Shylock's ethnicity which shows that people were more judgemental about Shylock being the Jew rather than solving the problem about the bond that he made with Antonio. While Antonio was asked what mercy he wants to give Shylock, he gives the condition that Shylock must give him his religion and convert to a

Christian. Christianity as we know gives freedom to people to choose their religion but here Shylock being a Jew was forced to change his religion.

Jessica trying to escape her Jewish identity throughout the play shows the identity crisis and we are not sure whether she actually gets converted or not but her marriage to Lorenzo shows her identity as a Christian. The idea of “inner” and “outer” self shows that the racial behavior exists both internally and externally. The racial color which is the external feature cannot be changed but the internal race which represents the religion or language can sometimes be changed by people. The racial other is portrayed by Shakespeare through color and gender too. Jessica being a female and fair in color was accepted by the white Christians even though they discriminated against her for her Jewish blood. However Shylock being a black male Jew was more discriminated against for his dark skin color and gender. Jessica’s femaleness gives her more advantage for her conversion and her fair skin colors made it easier for her to enter the Christian community. However Shylock was still racialized and faced discrimination for his otherness. The theme of otherness is clearly evident in the play *The Merchant of Venice* where Jews were labeled as inferior. The play shows the hypocrisy among the religious groups and the hatred both Antonio and Shylock have for each other. Both of them hated each other due to their religious beliefs, Antonio hates Shylock for being a Jew whereas Shylock also admits that he hates Antonio for his Christian identity. Antonio not only calls Shylock a “cut-throat dog” but also treats him like that which shows his attitude towards the Other. Edward Said in his *Orientalism* represented the orient other as the inferior ones. One thing common in the Other is that the others want to be valued and accepted by the society. Shakespeare used race and religion to show the otherness in this play. *The Merchant of Venice* shows Shylock as an evil character who was socially disliked by people. He isolated himself by saying that Jews and Christians cannot eat,

drink and pray together which shows that the racial discrimination among the two groups. Even though Shylock is shown as a greedy, evil moneylender, still his character faced racism and got insulted for being the racial other. The stereotypical society sets social boundaries which humiliates Shylock as a dark outsider. Shylock is not like the other “Other” characters and he shows his rough, evil attitude towards society. The negative comments from the stereotypical society demands Shylock to be a Christian but Shylock handled the racial attitude with his rogue behavior. The theme of prejudice is emphasized in this play and we can see that the evil behavior of Shylock was maybe due to the racial prejudice and the discrimination he received. The play shows us how society can make you feel about your own religion and culture and how they can decide the religion for a person. Shylock was shown as such that it was wrong to be a Jew for which he was forced to convert to a Christian. The otherness in *The Merchant of Venice* portrays the character of Shylock as evil and greedy but also he was the one who faced the racial stereotypes and got alienated and converted to get accepted by the community.

The Jews are highlighted as the others who were either banished or not accepted by the Christians. Shakespeare not only highlighted the racism that the Jews face but also emphasized on the hypocrisy of the Christians. The Jews were shown as black devils whereas the Christians were white angels. Shylock not only loses his wealth but also loses his dignity and identity. He becomes marginalized and becomes the Other in the play. Shakespeare shows the binary oppositions and shows the radical difference between the Christianity and Judaism. Shakespeare also emphasizes on the “Self” and the “Other” by showing the differences between the characters of Antonio and Shylock. The society that Shakespeare showed in this play shows racist characters. The primary modes of racism are usually shown as the religion and skin color and here in this play we can see Shylock getting racialized for these two aspects. Shakespeare mostly

writes about the culture and cultural domination however he also focused on the boundaries constructed socially. Shylock being called “evil,” “devil,” “villain,” “rotten at heart” and many other names show the radical discrimination he faces and when he was forced to convert his religion we can see the societal pressure that he faces for being a Jew. Shakespeare emphasized on the facts how the Jews were racially tortured and they even had to let go of their identity. Jews were treated as strangers and outsiders because of their religion and color. The Christians called the Jews as black and according to them black was evil for which they considered Shylock as evil and even after taking away all this wealth, Antonio forces him to become a Christian. This shows that the otherness of the Jews was not only for the skin color but the Christians hypocrisy towards them. The Christians preach that their religion spreads positivity but whoever shows disbelief in their religion is shown to be out of their boundaries and they start to racially discriminate against them. Shakespeare not only shows the racial other but also highlights the problems that cause the discriminations in the society.

Chapter -6: Conclusion

The aim of this study was to trace the race and otherness in the three plays *The Tempest*, *Othello* and *The Merchant of Venice*. A close look at the characterization of the three plays reveals not only the racial discrimination that they faced but also uncovers how the characterizations contribute to the construction of culture and the binary oppositions of racial prejudice. Shakespeare in his plays portrayed the presence of hegemonic subaltern and even the standardization of patriarchal hierarchy to show the discrimination and the dominant culture. The plays not only showed racism and otherness but also emphasized on social constructions, ethnicity and hypocrisy. Shakespeare focused on the racial issues and wrote about them so that people get aware of the racial consciousness and they get to know how racial discrimination can cause downfall and binaries among people. Shakespeare also emphasized on the colonial and postcolonial aspects which gives the audience a better understanding about the setting during that time.

Shakespeare used colonization and cultural domination in the play *The Tempest* to show the relation of the colonizer Prospero and the colonized Caliban. Here in this play we can see Caliban as the colonized Other and he faces racism for his language, culture and color. Shakespeare uses the term “barbaric” and “savage” to emphasize on his otherness and how the racial other gets discriminated against by people. We can see Caliban trying to get educated and follow his colonial master but Prospero’s authorization and his dominating rule influences Caliban to get his liberty and get free from this colonization. We can see the terror of Prospero as Caliban tries to get out of his control and domination. The colonizers colonized the other and wanted to rule the non-Europeans. However this domination and racial attitude towards the Other

shows their inferiority and the white supremacy. Shakespeare shows Prospero here as a colonial agent who took control of a native land and imposed his rule and domination over the natives. The racial discrimination and the colonization show that colonizers not only colonized them but also racially attacked them whenever they wanted.

Othello represents the postcolonial issues of race and hegemonic ideologies. Shakespeare through this play showed the racial grudge that the white had for the blacks and how they could not tolerate the blacks to get superior in position to them. The blacks were always considered as inferior and this play shows how racial consciousness can cause self loathing and lead to downfall of a person. Othello being represented as the Other and outsider makes him concerned about the racism around him. Even though he had a beautiful wife, his racial consciousness and Iago's conspiracy made him suspect his wife of having an affair. Iago showed the racial discrimination to such extent that Othello became self conscious and began to demean himself and considered himself unworthy of a white wife. The racial discrimination and the othering process made him kill his wife. Shakespeare showed how the white people, for their own grudge, racially distinguished a person and mentally broke him down. Othello is the example of how a brave noble man can get racially tortured and cause his own downfall. Othello not only killed himself but he also killed the black man inside him.

Shakespeare through his play *The Merchant of Venice* represented Anti-Semitism and emphasized on the hypocrisy of the Christians. The characters of Shylock and Antonio show us how religious beliefs can cause hatred and the urge to take someone's life. The racism Shylock and his daughter faced for being Jew shows the discriminations that took place in the society. Shylock not only was insulted and called by names but was also forced to convert his religion

which shows the extreme political conflicts. Shylock's wish to take "one pound of flesh" from Antonio and Antonio's condition to take away all his wealth and make him a Christian shows how the binary opposites loathed each other and to what extent they could go to take revenge. Not only Antonio and the other Christians but Shylock also hated them for being Christians. His refusal to eat or drink with them shows his grudge against the Christians. At first we can see Shylock as an evil man who hated Antonio but later on we get to know the reasons behind his grudge that he was equally hated by Antonio and the Christians repeatedly discriminated against him for his Jewish background. Shakespeare highlighted the racist views of the Christians and showed their hypocrisy regarding other religions.

Caliban's colonization, Othello's destruction and Shylock's forced conversion shows the racism all these characters faced in the three plays. Shakespeare through his plays not only portrayed racism but he also opposed racism too. The aim of this paper was to show the existing racism and how Shakespeare broadly elaborated them in his plays. We get to know about the natives' sufferings and through the colonial process they are actually treated as slaves in their own island. Prospero's colonial rule not only educated Caliban but we can also see the imperialistic desires of the colonizers which highlights their racial discrimination towards the Other. Edward Said's *Orientalism* helps us to know about the Occident and the Orient. The Westerners regard the Orient as the "Other" and suppress and oppress them politically and culturally.

Shakespeare in his plays portrayed the "Other" who are basically the ones who were racially discriminated against and became the victim of cultural oppression. The minor ethnicities and the people from different racial backgrounds are the ones regarded as the "Other." Shakespeare portrayed the minority group who did not get accepted by society. Shakespeare explores the

different types of otherness in his plays and showed how the social and political boundaries exploited them and showed racist attitudes towards them. Shakespeare's Caliban shows us the Other who gets colonized and treated as a slave. Caliban as the Other gets racially discriminated against for his skin color, savageness and his language. Shakespeare used the characters of Othello and Shylock to show the otherness which includes the religious beliefs. Othello the Moor and Shylock the Jew are shown as the inferiors. Othello as an outsider is shown as a brave hero but due to his racial appearance he gets discriminated against. Shylock on the other hand is shown as the Jew who gets discriminated against as an outsider for his Jewishness. Both Othello and Shylock are marginalized for their non-white and non-Christian aspects. They get victimized due to the racial prejudice and the Christian superiority racialized them for being Moors and Jews. The Christians portraying Othello as a barbaric Moor and Shylock as a greedy Jew shows their conception about the otherness. The stereotypical society representing the binary Other as flawed, negative characters who are savage, barbaric and evil shows their racist attitude which is portrayed by Shakespeare.

This paper also gave us a representation of how the three plays are interconnected. Shakespeare in all these three plays represents the racism that the Other characters face. Shakespeare through the characters of Caliban, Othello and Shylock introduced the minor ethnicity. All the three plays show the Christian and white prejudice set against the colored minorities. This thesis showed the prejudice faced by the marginalized people and the discriminations were common in all the three plays which interconnected them. The urge for identity formation and to get accepted by the society is shown by Shakespeare in his three plays which emphasizes his racial boundaries. Caliban's wish to get freedom from the colonizer, Othello's step towards marrying a white Christian and Shylock's grudge for being insulted as a Jew shows the stereotypical setting and

the boundaries they had to cross just to live their life according to their own way. The identity crisis and the societal pressure for identity formation are emphasized by Shakespeare in the three plays respectively.

Racism, colonization, imperialism and otherness create a huge impact on people's minds. The society who colonized the non-whites, non-Europeans, non-Christians was the ones who exploited and racially alienated the Others. Shakespeare in his plays showed the existing racism and the construction of the hierarchy who discriminated against the colored minorities and the outsiders. The three plays show us the social reality and portray the existence of the "Other" in the society. The superiority and the dominant culture, the ugliness of the racial attitude and the prejudice set by the society is described in this paper. The victimization of the others and how the audience can relate to their plight shows how racist people were during that period. Shakespeare elaborately described the social issues and highlighted the racial discriminations to show how the others played their roles and how the colonizers colonized them for their own benefits. Shakespeare is known as the writer of the modern era as he speaks up about the issues of culture, social problems, race, religion and language. He showed us how culture is not aligned to power and it never isolates people; rather it is very modern and does not discriminate between the major and the minors. Shakespeare through his plays gave voice and rights to women, minors and believed in modern culture. He introduced us to certain aspects of politics and culture and portrayed the social issues which discriminate against people from one another. The three plays of Shakespeare *The Tempest*, *Othello* and *The Merchant of Venice* elaborately discusses the social and cultural facts and introduces us to the racial other and their victimization.

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