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DEPT: ENGLISH AND LITERARY STUDIES

COURSE CODE: ELS 213

COURSE TITLE: NEOCLASSICAL PERIOD OF ENGLISH LITERATURE

LECTURE: ODOH, ONYEKA

DATE: MAY, 2017

QUESTION: COMPARE AND CONTRAST JOHN WEBSTER'S THE DUCHESS OF MALFI AND APHRA BEHN'S THE ROVER AS JACOBAN REVENGE TRAGEDY AND RESTORATION PLAY.

### Introduction

From the latin translation of "James", the Jacobean drama is named after Jacobus. The Jacobean revenge tragedy, started by Thomas Kyd's The Spanish Tragedy (1587-1589), as one of the earliest plays, built around blood revenge to be performed on the English stage, during the Elizabethan tragedy of violence and horror. In the Jacobean revenge, we see the ghosts of the dead, people that were murdered seeking revenge. In accordance with the Senecan laid down rules for the craft of tragedy, the play is set in five acts. And it goes ahead to centre on characters of noble birth, incorporating ghost, skulls, mental disorder( madness), introduction of fear, death and relatively excess murder as in the case of Webster's The Duchess of Malfi. Lust as a strong emotion, poison and torture are close with the identity of Jacobean revenge tragedy.

COMPARISON AND CONTRAST BETWEEN JACOBAN REVENGE TRAGEDY AND THE DUCHESS OF MALFI

The contrast between Jacobean revenge tragedy and *The Duchess of Malfi* is the comic elements present in Jacobean revenge tragedy which is hardly seen in *The Duchess of Malfi*. Comic reliefs are essential in a play to reduce the tension and suspense especially in a tragic play. Although, in Jacobean revenge tragedy the themes of the play never lost its place, with the scary and horror scenes involved and at the end of the play considering the massive death marked the play. In *The Duchess of Malfi*, there is a strict adherence towards its treatment of tragedy in the play.

A major comparison of *The Rover* and *The Duchess of Malfi*, it will be that the voice of women was heard. Where independent voices given to women. In the stories, issues of matrimony and sex is openly discussed, including essentials of life (family status, integrity, e.t.c).

Another contrast between the tragic genre of *The Duchess of Malfi* is nowhere related to the comic genre of *The Rover*. In *The Duchess of Malfi*, gives a scene of vengeance and betrayal as the writer spells the theme out (murder). But in *The Rover*, there is civilized society where the lives of people can't contain darkness, thereby provoking a comic situation.

In conclusion, *The Duchess of Malfi* is a revenge tragedy in play then (the era) while *The Rover*, the lifestyle and social order that came to the stage with the return and restoration of Charles II on the throne of England