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DEPARTMENT: ARTS EDUCATION (EDU/ENGLISH)
TOPIC: RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE DRAMA
REG NO: 2016/231659
SERIAL NO: 8
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DATE: JULY, 2017

MEDIEVAL DRAMA

Medieval drama emanated during the medieval period also called middle ages period. It lasted from 5th to 15th century. Medieval drama was therefore preceded by the Greek and Roman drama and followed by Elizabethan drama. Medieval drama rose from the ashes of Roman drama just before it evolved in medieval drama, there was that level of infamy which entered it and which was vehemently opposed by the church.

The beginning of the medieval drama is therefore traceable to the medieval church sermon and mass which had some dramatic character. The human impulse to indulge in mimesis, which received impetus from the religious tropes, gave birth to the new form of drama prevalent during the medieval era.

Religion occupied an important place in the medieval drama; most of the work use Christian themes such as death and resurrection, good and evil, heaven and earth.

RENAISSANCE DRAMA

The term renaissance is used to describe a period of intellectual and artistic achievements. The renaissance was a cultural and artistic movement which bridges the gap between the middle ages and the modern history. Renaissance is a French word which means “rebirth”. The renaissance period, therefore, means the period of cultural rebirth. It dates from the late 15th to the early 17th century; the introduction of the printing press was a major event in this period which leads to the flourish of literature.

It was a period that marked the rediscovery of past heritage, an age which epitomized in the rediscovery of Greek and Roman civilizations.

The renaissance age is marked with a number of inventions of printing, the establishment of universities, and fall of Constantinople which caused scholars of classical literature to spread all over Europe. The invention of printing press made it possible for classical literature to be printed and taken to Western Europe.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MEDIEVAL DRAMA AND RENAISSANCE

DRAMA

The major and distinct relationship between medieval and renaissance drama was that both have something to contribute concerning religion although, religion occupied an important place in medieval drama than renaissance drama. Medieval drama was centered on religion, chivalry, and courtly love but renaissance drama partly involved in religion and mostly, in historical and social issues. Medieval drama was centered on religious themes as well renaissance drama explored religion in a different approach. Both focused on religion subjects and were generally enacted by either choristers and monks, or a town's tradesmen.

Renaissance drama emanated from and after medieval drama. The medieval drama started from 5th-15th century while renaissance drama started from 15th-17th century. The English renaissance drama grew out of the already established medieval tradition of the mystery and morality plays.

In addition, the medieval and renaissance drama are both forms of literature in previous stages but the history as part of society greatly differ from contrasting philosophies of life, leading to two different personalities.

