

## محاضرة رقم 9

|  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| التربية للعلوم الإنسانية                         | الكلية                           |
| اللغة الانكليزية                                 | القسم                            |
| Drama  | المادة باللغة الانجليزية         |
| المسرح   | المادة باللغة العربية            |
| الثانية  | المرحلة                          |
| م.م احمد صباح محمد                               | اسم التدريسي                     |
| <b>Psychoanalytic Analysis of Doctor Faustus</b> | عنوان المحاضرة باللغة الانجليزية |
| تحليل نفسي لمسرحية دكتور فاوستس                  | عنوان المحاضرة باللغة العربية    |
| 9  | رقم المحاضرة                     |
|  | المصادر والمراجع                 |
|  |                                  |
|  |                                  |

## Psychoanalytic Analysis of Doctor Faustus and His Role as Marlowe's Perfect Hero

### Introduction

Christopher Marlowe's *Doctor Faustus* stands as a complex study of human ambition, desire, and inner conflict, making it an ideal candidate for psychoanalytic interpretation. Faustus is not only a Renaissance scholar but also a psychological figure whose motivations, anxieties, and ultimate downfall reflect deep unconscious processes. This paper applies psychoanalytic theory to examine Faustus's character and argues that he embodies the quintessential Marlovian tragic hero, marked by intense ambition, internal contradiction, and inevitable ruin.

## **Psychoanalytic Perspectives on Faustus**

### **1. The Id, Ego, and Superego Conflict**

Using Freudian theory, Faustus's character can be seen as a battleground between the id, ego, and superego. The id represents his primal desires for power, knowledge, and pleasure—his pact with Lucifer is an expression of these unchecked impulses. The superego, or moral conscience, manifests through the Good Angel and the Chorus, urging repentance and reminding Faustus of divine law. The ego struggles to mediate but ultimately fails, leading to his tragic downfall.

### **2. Faustus's Ambition as Thanatos and Eros**

Faustus's thirst for forbidden knowledge can be interpreted as a manifestation of both Eros (life drive) and Thanatos (death drive). His desire to transcend human limitations and achieve godlike power reveals Eros, while his reckless disregard for spiritual salvation suggests Thanatos, a subconscious wish for self-destruction.

### **3. Denial and Repression**

Throughout the play, Faustus experiences moments of doubt and temptation to repent but repeatedly denies these urges. His repression of guilt and fear postpones salvation, illustrating psychoanalytic defense mechanisms that prevent confrontation with his own mortality and moral responsibility.

#### **4. The Doppelgänger and Internal Divisions**

Marlowe externalizes Faustus's internal conflict through allegorical figures—the Good Angel and Evil Angel—symbolizing his divided psyche. This dramatization of the doppelgänger motif highlights the hero's split self and the struggle between reason and desire.

### **Faustus as Marlowe's Perfect Tragic Hero**

#### **1. The Overreacher**

Marlowe's ideal hero is defined by overreaching ambition and hubris, a character who strives beyond human limits but is doomed by this very striving. Faustus perfectly embodies this archetype, as his insatiable quest for knowledge and power ultimately precipitates his fall.

#### **2. Psychological Complexity and Contradiction**

Unlike traditional tragic heroes who may be static, Faustus is psychologically complex and contradictory. His oscillation between doubt and defiance, hope and despair, reveals the multi-dimensionality Marlowe sought to explore in human nature.

#### **3. Isolation and Alienation**

Faustus's alienation from society, God, and even himself marks him as a quintessential Marlovian hero. His intellectual pursuits isolate him from conventional morality and social norms, emphasizing his tragic solitude.

#### 4. Cathartic

#### Tragedy

Faustus's downfall evokes pity and fear, fulfilling the Aristotelian concept of catharsis. His psychological journey, from arrogance to terror and regret, engages the audience emotionally and intellectually.

#### Conclusion

From a psychoanalytic perspective, Faustus's character is a profound exploration of human desire, conflict, and the tragic consequences of repression and denial. As Marlowe's perfect tragic hero, Faustus's complexity, ambition, and psychological turmoil exemplify the Renaissance tension between human potential and moral limitation. This rich characterization continues to invite diverse interpretations and underscores the enduring power of Marlowe's drama.

#### References

- Freud, S. (1917). *Introductory Lectures on Psychoanalysis*.
- Marlowe, C. (c. 1592). *Doctor Faustus*.
- Eagleton, T. (1996). *Literary Theory: An Introduction*. University of Minnesota Press.
- Bloom, H. (2004). *Christopher Marlowe*. Chelsea House Publishers.
- Loewenstein, J. (2011). *Christopher Marlowe and the Failure of Mysticism*. Cambridge University Press.