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The Death of a Salesman

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Due to long lasting and ongoing impact on society, **the Death of a Salesman** by Arthur Miller has remained a masterpiece in the history of play. The play earned a lot of popularity within the USA and out of USA due to its broad vision and universal impacts. In his play, Arthur Miller has focused on US family values in 1940, the economic consequences of a great depression and WWII, psychological and sociological truths and gender roles and beliefs regarding the sex discrimination in the US of 1940 (Miller).

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Furthermore, an author has also challenged the standard American business values in comparison with American ideal business success. The Death of a Salesman is much-diversified play, and it can be analyzed in the variety of ways. It could be assumed as a memory tragedy. However, the play reflects the Willy Loman as the business icon in the USA. The wrong dream of Willy caused his downfall and business destruction. Instead of focusing on hard working, commitment and dedication, Willy gives value to being "well-liked" which causes his downfall (Murphy).

The cultural aspect of play describes the expectations of US society relying on American Dream and makes the play, an ongoing and practical study. The wrong expectations from American Dream also caused the downfall of Willy. In this context, the play was a perfect description of American Dream and American family values in 1940. The objective of a current essay is applied an analytical lens to story regarding the historical, economical, and psychological and gender aspects the USA in 1940 (Cologne-Brookes).

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I. Historical Analysis:

Miller's play, the Death of a Salesman, describes the story of a person who wants to justify his life even at the time of his death. In the end, Willy understood that he has to face the consequences of his past decisions, and he questioned his struggles made for himself and his family as well. Through identifying the personality traits of Willy, an individual can uncover the nature of the conflict between Willy and his son Biff. Through this dispute, Miller talks about the tendency of family conflicts in 1940.

As Willy is fired from his job, his family considers him an embarrassment, and it continually teased Willy (Price). Although Willy efforts to ensure him that his choices were right and he did not make any wrong decisions, however, comments from his family members and conflicts with Biff and Happy made him a patient of delusion. Willy wants to bring back his days of prosperity when everyone loves and respect him. Even in days of prosperity, he always prefers his family bonds and values. Through this, Miller argues about the strengths of family relationships and family values in the USA of 1940.

In conclusion, the whole play demonstrates that Willy always cares and loves his family. He wants to save his family from a painful loss which he suffered. Despite conflict with Bill and Happy, he always tries to talk and spends his time with them. Miller associates the Will's love for his profession with his family values. The destruction of the business also resulted in the destruction of family bonds and family values (Moyer). Through this, Miller delivers a message about materialistic family relations even in 1940.

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On the other hand, Linda Loman (Wife of Willy) always loves Willy and cares him. She is the unyielding woman who always keeps her family together in the period of prosperity or hardships. Although Linda suffers a lot from grandiose dreams and self-delusions of Willy, however, she takes cares of Willy and always supported him. She helped Willy through her love and emotional strengths. She keeps Willy motivated until his collapse. Through this, Miller exhibits the power of husband-wife bond in the context of 1940.

II. Economic Analysis:

WWII and great depression affected the global economy very badly, and several families suffered. The suicides of business holders, bankers, and stockholders became very familiar. However, the most compelling thing was that several ordinary people lost their jobs as the business market crashed in the great depression (Price). The tenure of 1940 in which play is written was a period when demand and competition in the market were very high. That's why; Willy failed in his profession as he did not occupy the necessary job skills. It was the fundamental reason that Willy can never live the American dream being a successful sales person.

Although great depression happened in 1929-1930, however, its effects were persisting as discussed by Miller in his play. In 1929, the stock market crashed, and the government announced a loss of \$40 billion. The businesses collapsed and gradually moved towards decline. The unemployment rate increased, and a lot of local people lost their jobs. By the start of next decade, 4,340,000 Americans were out of a job. More than eight million people lost their jobs. More than 32000 businesses flopped and closed as well (Cologne-Brookes). 5000 banks failed and closed by US government. It was tough for ordinary people to survive.

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However, an economic boom occurred after the WWII (1939-1940), and it caused a high competition in the market. There was a demand for white collar and competent employees as compared to blue collar employees. The industries entered into the technological era, and there was a need for experienced employees. Several organizations replaced the Human resources by technological tools, and it caused in a firing of employees. It is setting which is discussed by Miller in his play, "the death of a salesman." The competition in the market increased and Willy lost his job as he was not competent (Moyer). His boss fired him saying that now he should take rest. Once more time, Willy failed to live his American Dream. In Hence, both economic situations denied accepting Willy, and it finally resulted in a failure of his profession.

Psychological Analysis:

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The most important aspect of Miller's play is the psychological perspective. The first mental aspect of play is unrealistic parental expectations from their child. Several times, parents expect some deeds from their children which they cannot achieve in their lives. The Same phenomenon happened in play "the death of salesman". Willy believes that only thing which can cause the success of Biff is following him. In Hence, he asks Biff to follow his footsteps and Biff refuses. It makes Willy sad that his sons do not follow his plan. However, Biff and Happy effort to avail their father's dream, but they cannot (Parker). Resultantly, Willy lost his faith over his sons. Finally, Willy commits the suicide so that Biff could receive \$20, 000 and fulfill his dream. It was the last attempt made by Willy to keep Biff on his footsteps.

The following perspective is about power, control and manipulation. Willy efforts to live American Dream; however, he cannot do it without the assistance of social, political and economic support. Willy is residing in a capitalist society where power and control are everything. For example, it is power and monitoring that Willy is fired by a person who is even set by Willy on a job. Howard Wagner is an individual who is proud of his power and through using his power, he fired the Willy. The wrong Manipulation of Willy ideas plays a significant role in making him the patient of delusion. Until his death, Willy attempts to keep his family happy, but he failed. It is manipulation which causes the conflicts between Willy and his son Biff (Price).

The next psychological aspect of plays is parental favoritism. Happy perceives that his parents give more importance to Biff as compared to him. This attention makes Biff active and gives him a power of self-determination. However, Biff lost self-identification and accountability due to excessive parental favoritism. Happy cannot get parental favoritism, and this thing makes him sick and attention craver.

The fourth psychological aspect regarding the play is depression and adult suicide. It does not forgive situation with caused depression to Willy and finally he commits suicide. Furthermore, he perceives that his sons are not following his plans. He has lost his importance for his family. When Willy lost his job, then his family considers him as an embarrassment. All these factors lead Willy towards depression, and finally, he commits suicide (Moyer).

The last psychological perspective of play is the effects of infidelity on adult children. Willy cats a significant impact on his children, wife and even his neighbor Charlie. He always argues with Charlie that he is not going in right direction. In the same line, he always asks Biff to

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follow him. Later on, the failure of Willy affects his children negatively, and they begin to avoid him. His disease also detracts him, and his effect becomes weak with the passage of time. Psychologically, it puts Willy in tension which finally results in his death(Cologne-Brookes).

Gender Role Analysis in 1940:

In "Death of Salesman play", the traditional role of gender can be observed. Although it could not be the underlying theme of the play, however, it could be the second unit of analysis on the play. For Example: The initial stage of play talks about a rigid family system where father daily goes to job and wife works at home through caring her children. So there is the rigid family system where lady only focuses on the household matters, and there is no contribution in other social works.

It was the traditional family system of 1940. Some people cannot perceive this system as American Dream (Parker). Another example of rigid gender system is when Linda comes to kitchen and Asks Willey to make a sandwich for him. Lind also tries to reconcile the matters between Willy and Biff. It can be observed that Lind is playing a role of a traditional woman who is made just to serve at home to his husband as well as children.

About women, the character of Willy is stereotyping. He believes that a person is lucky if he is well attracted and being liked. This belief brings pride in Willy's personality which finally caused his downfall. Regarding the relationship with women, Willy is not a sincere person. He always advises Biff and Happy to be careful with girls. He asks them not to make any promise With those girls. Willy believes that a person without success is the dump. This pride and perception finally affect his relation with Linda as well as his sons (Moyer). This pride takes Willy

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to another woman in a hotel where he is traced by his son Biff. Overall, the play exhibits very rigid and traditional roles regarding the gender in the USA of 1940.

~~Conclusion:~~

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The Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller is much diversified, and a revolutionary play was written in the context of 1940 of USA. The play talks about the US family values in 1940, the economic impact of great depression and WWII on business holders and ordinary employees. Willy, Linda, Biff, and Happy are central characters of play and members of a strong family unit. After firing from the job of a salesperson, Willy lost his importance for his family, and it makes him a mental patient. Overall, the author has focused on US family values in 1940, the economic impacts of the great depression and WWII, psychological and sociological truths and gender roles and beliefs regarding the sex discrimination in the US of 1940.

Revise and carefully
structure your work around
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