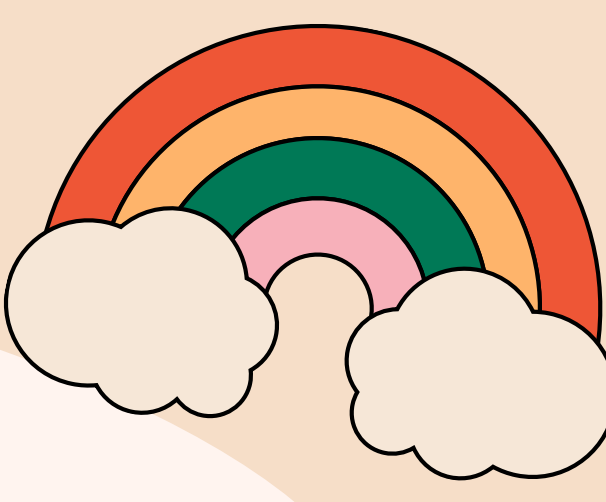
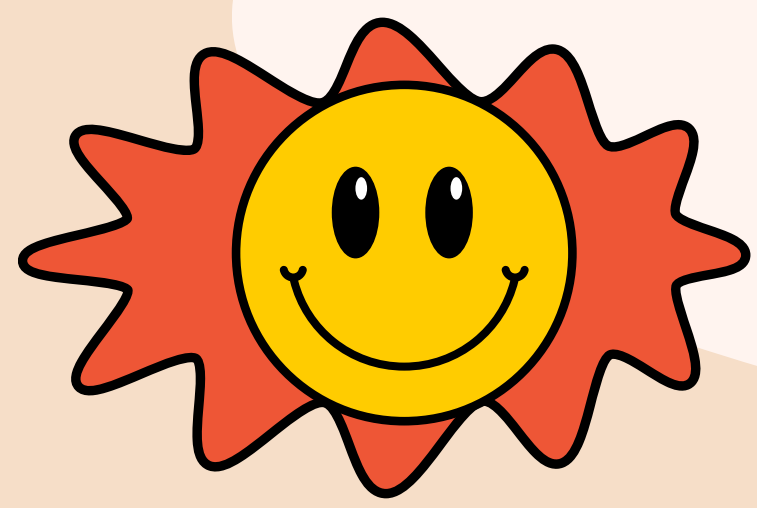


Behavioral and Psychological Effects of Domestic Turbulence: Insights from 'Hamlet' and 'The Lion King'



A1101115 萬亞欣 & A1101117 黃萱貽 & A1101123 李芊諭

Abstract

This study explores the behavioral and psychological effects of domestic turbulence in Disney's "The Lion King" and Shakespeare's "Hamlet." Both protagonists, Simba and Hamlet, face the untimely deaths of their fathers, profoundly influencing their mental and physical states. Simba, manipulated by his uncle Scar, believes he is responsible for his father Mufasa's death. Scar exploits Simba's guilt to drive him away from Pride Rock, turning him into a coward who avoids problems. Meanwhile, Hamlet, Prince of Denmark, is driven to seek revenge by his father's ghost. His father's murder plunges him into despair, fostering a negative outlook on life and a deep existential crisis. By examining Simba and Hamlet's psychological responses and behavioral changes, this study uncovers themes of self-identity, father-son relationships, and internal struggle. It demonstrates how familial structure and domestic upheaval can profoundly impact individual behavior, emotions, and decision-making processes. Additionally, the study highlights how these experiences trigger significant character development and transformation in both protagonists. Through a comparative analysis, the study reveals universal themes of loss, recovery, and personal growth, emphasizing the enduring relevance of these classic tales in understanding the impact of familial conflict on personal development. By contrasting their different coping strategies, the study provides deeper insights into the resilience and adaptability of individuals facing profound personal loss and turmoil.

Keywords: Domestic turbulence, Behavioral effects, Psychological effects, Father-son relationships, self-identity

Introduction

The study of domestic turbulence and its effects on children's mental and physical well-being can be effectively illustrated through the examination of two iconic characters: Simba from Disney's "The Lion King" and Hamlet from Shakespeare's play "Hamlet." Both characters experience the traumatic loss of their fathers, and the perpetrators of these murders are ironically their uncles. This shared experience triggers a desire for revenge and introduces significant emotional and physical turmoil.

In both narratives, the disruption of the familial structure significantly impacts Simba and Hamlet, causing confusion and influencing their decisions regarding their family members and themselves. Analyzing these characters provides insight into how similar issues manifest in modern society, particularly how changes in family dynamics—such as the loss of a parent, divorce, or single-parent issues—can lead to emotional and behavioral problems in children.

The study indicates that children exposed to domestic turbulence often face challenges in their mental and physical development, leading to psychological issues or deviant behaviors as they struggle to cope. This negative perception of the world highlights the importance of providing support and a sense of purpose to prevent potential tragedies.

Comparing Simba and Hamlet reveals the resilience and vulnerabilities inherent in the human condition amidst familial conflict. These timeless stories illustrate the profound impact of family turmoil on children, emphasizing the importance of addressing such issues in society. By fostering a supportive and harmonious environment, we can help children lead fulfilling lives despite their challenges.

Literature Review

(1) Single Parenting: Impact on Child's Development – by Chavda K, Nisarga V.

Single parenting has a higher likelihood of having negative impacts on children than positive outcomes. Children undergoing family dynamics such as parental divorce, separation, abandonment, and abuse often face emotional disturbances, behavioral problems, social difficulties, impairments in physical, social, and cognitive development, low educational achievement, and low self-esteem.

(2) Comparison of single and two parents children in terms of behavioral tendencies - by Usakli, Hakan

Studies indicate that children from families who are in upheaval frequently suffer from significant behavioral and psychological issues. Violence, loneliness, melancholy, anxiety, and obedience challenges are all associated with parental absence. These problems are made worse by parental conflict and economic stress, which results in inappropriate actions and a decline in social competence. More specifically, the absence of a father is linked to negative consequences such as psychological suffering, financial strain, and feelings of abandonment. These results highlight the significance of providing children in single-parent households with particular attention and intervention.

(3) "The Lion King" and Shakespeare's "Hamlet": Similarities and Differences – by BANGELL

When analyzing the effects of single parenting on kids, it's important to take into consideration any potential internal struggle. For instance, in "The Lion King," Simba's psychological struggle to stand out and take responsibility can be seen in his need to confront his past, which is his father's death, and learn to take on his responsibilities as king. In Shakespeare's "Hamlet," the protagonist also struggles with uncertainty before deciding to take revenge on his father's murder. This conflict is eloquently portrayed in his well-known "to be or not to be" monologue. These descriptions demonstrate the severe emotional and psychological difficulties that serious upheavals in the family may bring about.

Textual Analysis

In two pivotal scenes from "The Lion King," Simba's internal conflict and the effects of trauma and manipulation on his character development are depicted.

- **(Scene 33:19–38:43)** Scar arranges a wildebeest that trapped baby Simba in the chaos. Although Mufasa rescue Simba, Scar ultimately causes Mufasa's death. Scar manipulates Simba into believing he's at responsibility which makes Simba run away. Simba undergoes years of self-imposed exile and fosters a reserved evasive personality as an outcome of this terrifying and guilty incident.
- **(Scene 1:00:57–1:02:28)** Years later, Simba's childhood friend Nala finds him and asks him to go back to Pride Rock in order to take his proper place as king. Scar's deceit and Mufasa's death still haunt Simba as he declines to go back and is incapable of facing the past. Simba's internal conflict causes him self-doubt and continuous guilt.

As evidenced by 3 different scenes in "Hamlet," Prince Hamlet's mental and emotional state is significantly affected by King Hamlet's death.

- **(Act 1, Scene 2, lines 129–130)** Hamlet's monologue conveys his deep grief and disillusionment with the world, reflecting his existential distress and desire to escape his painful reality.
- **(Act 1, Scene 5)** The ghost, which is Hamlet's father, reveals that Claudius murdered him, intensifying Hamlet's inner turmoil. This revelation fills Hamlet with rage and distrust, leading to his increasing doubt and hesitation.
- **(Act 5, Scene 1, lines 185–199, the graveyard scene)** Hamlet ponders over mortality while facing Yorick's skull. Hamlet reflects on the inevitable end of life and the pointlessness of existence, deepening his sorrow for his father's death and intensifying his existential fears. These scenes illustrate Hamlet's psychological struggle and the profound impact his father's death has on his actions and prospect.

Findings

- **Self-Identity:** After the passing of Simba and Hamlet's fathers, the two main characters struggle with their feelings of themselves. While Hamlet struggles to find meaning in his life and purpose in a world that seems to be heading nowhere, Simba needs to make peace with his past mistakes and accepts his identity as the legitimate ruler of the kingdom.
- **Father-Son Relationships:** The two main characters are greatly influenced by their close relationship with their fathers. Their individual journeys are triggered by the death of their fathers, highlighting the important impact of paternal relationships on one's development.
- **Internal Conflict:** The center of both Simba's and Hamlet's character stories is their inner conflict. While Hamlet's journey fell into deeper existential and psychological suffering, Simba's journey is one of overcoming fear and self-doubt.
- **Emotional and Behavioral Problems:** After their family structures are changed, both characters show significant mental health issues and behavioral problems. Hamlet's unpredictable behavior and Simba's avoidance are both examples of how domestic turbulence may have an important psychological effect.
- **Character Development and Transformation:** Major character development is driven by personal loss and encounters with familial turmoil. In contrast to Hamlet's terrible death, Simba's final return to Pride Rock and willingness to accept his responsibilities show how diverse endings may occur depending on ways of dealing as well as external factors.

Conclusion

Through the experiences of Simba from Disney's "The Lion King" and Hamlet from Shakespeare's "Hamlet," this study examines the effects of domestic turbulence on individual behavior and emotions, highlighting their behavioral and psychological changes in their lives because of losing their fathers and being betrayed by their uncles.

The study emphasizes the lasting importance of both stories in understanding the consequences of domestic turbulence on personal development by drawing comparisons between Simba's journey of resilience and recovery and Hamlet's get into despair and depression.

Reference

- BANGELL08. "The Lion King' and Shakespeare's 'Hamlet': Similarities and Differences." Owlcation, THE ARENA MEDIA BRANDS, 25 Nov. 2023, <https://owlcation.com/humanities/Similarities-Between-The-Lion-King-and-Hamlet>.
- Chavda K, Nisarga V. Single Parenting: Impact on Child's Development. Journal of Indian Association for Child and Adolescent Mental Health. 2023;19(1):14-20. doi:10.1177/09731342231179017
- Usakli, Hakan. "Comparison of single and two parents children in terms of behavioral tendencies." International journal of humanities and social science 3.8 (2013): 256-270.