

## Contradictory Expressions in *Romeo and Juliet*

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Oxymoron is a figure of speech and it plays an important role in decorating the basic expressions and expressing ambivalence about romantic passion. *Romeo and Juliet* has two kinds of oxymoron (contradictory expressions) which were often used in the age of the Renaissance and in the seventeenth century. Moreover, this play includes the features of the traditional courtly love and the new form that is different from the tradition. In short, in the age of Shakespeare, both the way of using oxymoron and the form of love are gradually becoming newer, while preserving tradition. Therefore, this leads to the fact that Shakespeare chooses the way of using them in accordance with the feelings of the characters and the development of the play.

When I examined oxymoron in terms of its forms and analyzed the tendency of the way of using it by each character and in each act of this play, the following results emerged. On the whole, Romeo uses the largest number of oxymora and the most various kinds of forms of all the characters. Moreover, the situations in which a lot of oxymora are used have various kinds of forms, and paradox is also used frequently in the same situations. From the perspective of “collocation”, oxymoron is grouped into “unusual collocation” and, moreover, it can be divided into “direct oxymoron” and “indirect oxymoron”. Almost all the characters use many more indirect oxymora, but there is the difference that Romeo does not come to use direct oxymoron gradually as the play develops, but Juliet almost always uses indirect oxymoron and there is no change in her way of using it.

I found that the scenes in which oxymoron and paradox are used can be mainly divided into three kinds of patterns. Firstly, there is the scene in which the characters feel impatience and anxiety about love. Secondly, there is the scene in which the characters get emotional and they show their feelings of anger in particular. Thirdly, there is the scene in which the characters' senses of values have changed after they resolved to do something firmly. Especially, there are a lot of lines which describe the way of thinking about life and death by means of contradictory expressions and they are increasing as the play develops.

Furthermore, the ways in which oxymoron is used by Romeo and Juliet have a close relationship with their characterization. He changes his way of using direct oxymoron and indirect oxymoron through the play, but she hardly changes her way of using them as I stated above. In other words, he comes to use fewer conventional expressions in order to show his feelings more suitably, but she uses much more creative ones all the time. These tendencies correspond to the fact that he is changing in his personality and his way of thinking after he encountered her, but she is almost consistent in them.

Through this thesis, I think it is so interesting that oxymoron and paradox show not only the characters' contradictory and complex feelings about love but also the change of their views of things and, in addition, that they have a deep relationship with the themes of this play such as "love" and "death" . I would like to do research on other aspects of rhetoric in the near future.