

Abstract

The major focus of the research is August Wilson's Retrospection Technique. The term Retrospection literally means looking back; taking the audience or reader back from the present moment in narration or performance. This can be done through dreams and memory, remembering or re-visiting past events in dialogues or soliloquies. A lot has been written about the themes and issues raised by Wilson in his work. The researcher's focus on his stylistic technique or methodology has been limited, exception being Harry J. Elam Jr. whose book *Past as Present in the Drama of August Wilson*, which undertakes the analysis of the past but from a thematic rather than narrative or stylistic perspective. The aim of this research is to redress this critical gap and evaluate Wilson's manipulation and his experimentation with retrospection technique.

As the major focus of this research has been Retrospection, that is, a stylistic analysis thus the theoretical framework falls under Formalism. However it needs to be stressed here that other theories have also been employed to facilitate a deeper understanding of Wilson's technique. The other theories include Post Modern theory, Psychoanalytical theories of Dr. Breur, Freud, Lacan, Russian Formalism specifically Victor Schklovsky's concept of De-familiarization and Bakhtin's Dialogic Discourse. Texts have been evaluated according to the written order rather than the chronological order of time depicted in the major plays to see Wilson's growth as a playwright, therefore the research has been carried out in a linear manner.