

Abstract

Although Bond's theatre is widely known for its grotesque and violent imagery, his plays are a demonstration of the hidden role of ideology and its destructive effects on humanness. By exploring his dramaturgy through Louis Althusser theory of ideology and its apparatuses we can see how Bond uses violence as a tool unveil the allusive effects of ideology in corrupting society. He represents the complex relationships between the societal structures, ideology and inherent humanness through his characters and the settings of his plays. For him drama is an instrument that can highlight the influence of ideology on society and individuals, he does this by creating characters trapped within the societal structures of exploitation, abuse and violence. By employing Althusser's theory to analyze Bond's dramaturgy this thesis attempts to highlight the hidden plot of ideology and the inner workings of state apparatuses through selected works from his dramaturgy. Bond's plays are well known for the use of grotesque imagery and dystopian themes, but he does not use them for their shock value instead he employs it as a tool to create action that is transformative for his characters and the audience.

Keywords: Edward Bond, ideology, Althusser, state apparatus, repressive.