## Five Elizabethan tragedies

### Greenwood Press - Influence of Seneca in Elizabethan Drama



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English drama (Tragedy)

English drama -- Early modern and Elizabethan, 1500-1600. Five

Elizabethan tragedies

-Five Elizabethan tragedies

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As it was, when the Elizabethans had learnt what they could from Seneca, they realised the dramatic weakness of his tragedies and struck out a new line for themselves. This passage from Nash seems to indicate that these translations of Seneca proved of great use to the popular playwrights, and especially to Kyd, at whom the satire was probably aimed.

#### Elizabethan Tragedy: An Introduction

Asides or private conversations and soliloquy are used to engage with the audience and became quite popular. The Bodleian Library contains a fragment of an unpublished translation of Hercules Oetaeus which is attributed to Queen Elizabeth.

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The jangling fourteen-syllable couplets which Heywood uses for speeches by his characters seem particularly inappropriate to the play's tragic subject-matter, and the tortuous syntax he employs to make his words fir his rhyme-scheme often makes his language difficult to understand.

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The Senecan drama, crude, and melodramatic as it seems to us, appealed far more strongly to the robust Englishmen of the sixteenth century, whose animal instincts were as yet only half subdued by civilization. Use of theology, geography and science provided a new dimension to the literature of the time.

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