

3. Unity of action:

The story of play should be single story without any subplots and minor episodes.

These unity of time, place and action has been derived from the ancient Greek writer and philosopher, Aristotle. They were brought to modern drama through Seneca, a Latin poet. It is this kind of drama that the humanists tried to exhibit to the people of that time.

Romantic drama:

The Romantic drama which is otherwise called as Shakespearean drama has the following characteristic features.

1. The playwrights used variety in theme and tone.

There is a fusion of tragic and comic elements.

(ie) there is a blending of tragic and comic incidents and characters in the same piece.

2. The plot is carried out both with action and narration. The drama of that time was a drama of action. Every action was acted on the stage.

3. Romantic drama violated the unities set by Aristotle,

(a) It allows the story to take place over months or years

(b) There is a shift in scene,

(c) uses subplot along with the main plot.

Principles of the Classic drama :

1. Strictly follows the unity of subject and tone.
 - (a) It deals tragedy and comedy as a separate entity.
 - (b) A tragedy has to be a tragedy from the beginning and till the end.
 - (c) It has to maintain the proper tragic pitch
 - (d) Humorous episodes are not allowed
 - (e) A comedy has to be a comedy from the first till last.
 - (f) No tragical element is permitted.
2. No dramatic action takes place and the plot is reported to the audience through dialogue and set narrative.
3. Theoretically, in all the events the three unities are followed. The unities are as follows,
 1. Unity of time :

The entire story of the play takes place in a single day.

2. Unity of Place :

The story of the play is restricted to a single scene.