

**Willy Lowman's self-admiration in "Death of a Salesman"
mirrors the concrete reality of American society**

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Abstract

The focus of this article is on Willy Loman, the protagonist in Arthur Miller's 1949 play *Death of a Salesman*. Arthur Miller, a prominent American dramatist who lived from 1915 to 2005, depicts the effects of the working class's stressful way of life on stage. He portrays a person divided between obligations at home and in the larger community. A Salesman's Last Day Willy Loman, a struggling salesman, is the protagonist of Miller's tragic tale. After spending a significant amount of time at the same company, he desires a desk in the office rather than traveling to different parts of the United States. Willy is greatly distressed by his son Biff's failure, as he is unemployed and earns a meager living. Willy's wife, Linda, is unaware of his betrayal, but she is aware of his other flaws. Willy commits suicide and leaves a fortune to Biff through his insurance policy, allowing Biff to make something of his life. Willy's misfortune was brought upon by familial, occupational, and subjective castration victimization. His overt denial leads to his hidden submission of his emotional and

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erotic tendencies, which eventually leads to his infidelity. Willy's kid and wife are aware of it, but it causes conflict in his life and finally leads to his death.

Keywords: Willy Lowman, death of salesman, self-admiration, and character's faults

المُلخَص

الموضوع الرئيسي في هذه الدراسة هو غرور بطل مسرحية ارثر ميلر... "موت بائع متجول"... التي كتبها في عام ١٩٤٩... ارثر ميلر وهو كاتب مسرحي بارز المولود عام ١٩١٥ والمتوفي في ٢٠٠٥ يصور نمط وشكل الطبقة العاملة الكادحة والمتعبة على المسرح... يظهر في هذه المسرحية انشطار شخصية انسان وتشظيها بين التزاماته العائلية ومتطلبات المجتمع على نحو اوسع واكبر... الشخصية الرئيسية في هذه القصة المأساوية ويلي لومن وهو بائع متجول يعاني من صعوبات حياتية قاسية... بعد ان قضى شطرا كبيرا من حياته في نفس الشركة، كانت رغبته ان يكون له مكتب في شركة بدلا من ان يتجول في ولايات امريكا المتنوعة... كان استياء واضطراب ويلي لومن عظيما بسبب فشل ابنه بيف العاطل عن العمل والذي يعيش حياة بائسة شحيحة.... زوجته لندا لم تكن على علم بخيانتة الزوجية ولكنها مدركة لعيوبه الاخرى.... ينتحر ولي لومن ويترك لولده بيف ثروة من خلال التأمين على حياته.... تاركا لولده بيف بذلك شيء ما ليدير ويدبر شؤون حياته..... العوامل التي كانت السبب في تعاسة ولي لومن انه كان ضحية العلاقات العائلية وطبيعة عمله والشعور بالحرمان الذاتي... انكاره المعلن لكل هذا ادى الى خضوعه الخفي الى نزعاته المتعجرفة وميوله الشهوانية... وهذه الاخيرة قادت الى الخيانة الزوجية... وكان ابنه وزوجته على علم ومعرفة بذلك مما ادى الى نشوب صراع واضطراب في حياته الامر الذي قاده في النهاية الى الجنون والموت.

1. Introduction

"Death of a Salesman" is considered one of the greatest dramatic masterpieces in American literature. Arthur Miller aims to cast light on the faults and catastrophes of European and American society by utilizing the dreamlike character of Willy Loman. This play is regarded as a harsh criticism of American culture (Belounis, 2022). Death of a Salesman's protagonist believes that the

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American ideal is the opportunity to become affluent and successful through charisma and hard work (Nahvi, 2016). Willy Lowman believes that the key to success is character, not hard work and innovation. Willy Lowman conveys repeatedly his desire for his sons to be well-liked and well-known. Arthur Miller employs a realistic, accurate, and pragmatic approach when writing his play. The author also sheds light on the problems of American society. During the 1920s, American society was influenced by numerous factors (Mulyanto & Kurnia, 2019). In his drama, Arthur Miller employs a realistic, empirical, and pragmatic style. Acting, dancing, clubs, prosperity, and business are all thriving in the United States at the present time (Bigby & Bigby, 1985). Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller is the most famous work of contemporary American drama. This drama centers on the conflicts within a single American family. It has been stated that the author draws significantly from his historical and sociological experiences when writing the numerous elements of the play. Miller draws inspiration for many of his fictional characters from his own family and his experiences growing up in Brooklyn. It's no secret that salesperson Manny Newman served as inspiration for Miller's Willy Lowman. In addition, he made Biff Lowman likeable despite his portrayal as an athlete rather than a scholar (Marino, 2007). Miller's cousin, who is also an athlete, served as inspiration for this portrayal. Also, the characters of Willy Lowman, Biff Loman, and Happy Lowman stand in for the poorest Americans of the 1930s. These low-income workers, who did not share in the prosperity that followed World War II, were eager to receive the promised material comforts of postwar America.

2. Research questions

1. What political, social, and cultural influences led Miller to write the play Death of a Salesman?
2. What are the primary causes of self-admiration in Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller?

3. Objectives of the study

1. To examine the cultural, social, and political context in which Death of a Salesman was written.
2. To examine the major causes of self-admiration in "Death of a Salesman."

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4. Literature review

Researchers from all over the world agree that Miller's life served as inspiration for his work, and that he drew on actual events to shape the plots, characters, and themes of his plays. Panesar (2007) analyzes Miller's *Death of a Salesman* in light of the author's biography, historical context, social context, and religious context. Panesar claims that Miller's uncle Manny Newman served as inspiration for Willy Loman since both men are products of their time. Miller was much like Newman's kids, Buddy and Abby. Miller later learned that Willy had many similarities with Manny, including the fact that both men had lofty ambitions for their families that ultimately fell through. He claims that the family is the primary focus of all of Miller's works and most American tragedies produced after Eugene O'Neill. According to Panesar, Willy's worst flaw is that he believes in the American Capitalist ideal too wholeheartedly. In terms of religion, he claims that even the Lowman does not hold any religious beliefs. This, he claims, is why people in post-war America tend to pin all their hopes on making a lot of money. "Miller is interested in how society affects a person's sense of self," writes Nienhuis (2010). He also notes that Willy seems preoccupied with his appearance and the approval of others since he lives in a Capitalist culture that values wealth and status so highly. Esfahani (2007) says that *Death of a Salesman* can be looked at from different points of view. It can be seen as a historical play about the United States after World War II. It could also be a social play based on something that happens every day in American life. He comes to the conclusion that the play is also a social one because it shows how people lived in America at the time. Cardullo (2005) says that the core idea of *Death of a Salesman* is the 20th-century person who sells goods without making them.

He says that Willy Lowman "exists as an isolated piece of commercial society fighting for a sliver of authenticity before slipping into the vast darkness." Sarkar (2014) looked at *Death of a Salesman* in light of the American Dream. He said, "The play explores many modern themes of the 20th century, such as the American Dream, abandonment, betrayal, consumerism, and the growing power

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of the United States." He also says that Miller's social learning led him to make Willy Lowman a worker whose life is destroyed by emotionless, vague industry.

5. Methodology

The self-admiration and illusions of Willy Lowman's character in the play "Death of a Salesman" are the focus of this research paper. The current study employs both descriptive and analytical techniques. It tries to investigate the external factors that influenced the creation of Arthur Miller's characters, concepts, and other components in Death of a Salesman.

6. Findings

The results of this analysis suggest that the play is based on Miller's biography. The work was influenced by Miller's experiences, which encompassed the Great Depression, World War II, an economic boom, and the Cold War. It is reasonable to presume that the play reflects the effects and circumstances under which it was written, as well as the cultural background of American society. The play demonstrates that its themes and characters mirror those of its culture. The play emphasises the family theme, the collapse of the American ideal, the father-son bond, and the mother-son relationship. In addition, linking Death of a Salesman to contemporary historicist notions demonstrates that reading the play could help you perceive American politics, class, and power. Death of a Salesman readers will gain a deeper understanding of the United States, including its history, culture, economy, politics, and social structure.

7-Conclusion

Arthur Miller's drama centers on Willy Lowman. Willy symbolizes the American dream and self-importance, delusion, pretension, and fakery. Willy Lowman is the source of all family strife. Arthur Miller's "Death of a Salesman" struggles between fact and fancy. He feels reality is depressing. Willy Lowman's fatherhood is a fantasy. He envies his neighbor Charley's prosperity. The current study says that Willy's family isn't real. Only pride, haughtiness, self-importance, showing off, being fake, and bragging are real. Willy Lowman fails as a father because of these false beliefs, which

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ruin his family, especially his kids Biff and Happy. Willy Lowman's sorrow stems from his efforts to give his boys a sense of accomplishment, success and wealth. Willy thinks Biff has failed the world's best nation, while Biff thinks his father is a phony. Willy Lowman also compares his sons Biff and Happy to the mythic Greek figures "Adonis and Hercules" because he believes that his sons are "pinnacles of personal attractiveness" and power through "well-likeness". Finally, failure and dreams destroy everything in Willy's life. Willy is a victim of both the system and his own incapacity to grasp what it's like to be a normal person.

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