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I-RoLE 2023

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF
RESEARCH ON LANGUAGE EDUCATION 2023

EMBRACING CHANGE: EMANCIPATING THE LANDSCAPE OF RESEARCH IN LINGUISTIC, LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

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THE COMEDY OF ERRORS SIMPLIFIED: 'EGEON'S 18th REASONS WHY'

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ABSTRACT:

Published in 1594, The Comedy of Errors is one of William Shakespeare's early plays. Recounting the tale of two sets of identical twins who have unexpectedly split apart following an incident. This is one of his shortest and most bizarre comedies, with a large portion of the humour coming from slapstick and puns. This project attempts to produce a fresh approach to reading and comprehending great literature. Additionally, The Comedy of Errors Simplified: Egeon's 18th Reasons Why, an educational e-book innovation, is proposed as part of this project as a means of encouraging general audiences, particularly non-readers and second language learners, to acquire and become familiar with numerous literary classics. As the title implies, this project will take classics that are today referred to as "too long didn't read" (TLDR) and transform them into something more exciting and more straightforward for everyone to enjoy. The study's conclusions showed that including the modern English language and comical arts in literature, learning generated favourable responses from the intended audience and helped spark their interest in the subject.

Keywords: Shakespeare, Simplify, Literature, E-book, The Comedy of Errors

1. INTRODUCTION

Literature serves as a link between the local and the culture of the books and is studied as a topic in schools. Students studying English are exposed to classic literature as part of their curriculum, which is crucial for their language development as well as their comprehension of and ability to communicate in other cultures. The new wave of media has helped to elevate a newfound enthusiasm for literature by supporting its aesthetic perspective. In the research of Han et al. (2022), the emergence of this has piqued students' interest in reading and learning literature on a deeper level because it will be able to demonstrate and support the development of their capacity to comprehend their thoughts, feelings, and perceptions and relate those to themselves, the people around them, and life. With so many classics employing specific terms, such as compassion and pity for unhappy and sorrowful characters, while also denouncing and criticizing bad habits and vices, students will be able to perceive reality in accordance with the rule of beauty and the things that they studied (Han et al., 2022). 91.4% of respondents to the study agreed that the literature is difficult to understand. This is comparable to how most books currently available on the market are regarded as "boring" because they primarily promote textual learning strategies and scarcely assist visual ones. From personal experience, many literature teachers likewise appear to struggle with engaging and involving their students in the material. Our goal in this paper is to outline the creation of an e-book that can make literature more accessible while also making it enjoyable and engaging.



Problem Statement

The author of this project discovered that many literary works tended to solely emphasize the textual parts, which she found to be less engaging and easily exhausting to read and grasp. One of the problems with classical literature is that many people today demand simplified content that can provide them with the information they need right away rather than making them go through a number of pages, which frequently leaves readers even more confused with the storyline. Long sentences and a lack of captivating visuals can wear readers out and make reading monotonous, which will ruin the reading experience. It is simple for many people to give up and stop reading the books they are reading when they are having trouble comprehending and learning it. This leads to breakdowns and exhaustion from their lack of interest and involvement in the book. The writing style, historical contexts, narrative structures, and symbolism in classics make them challenging to read. To increase comprehension, people must read an annotated copy and look up a book's historical era. To fully understand the idea, they also have to read reviews and watch any movie related to the topic (Why Are Classics So Hard To Read? (& What To Do About It), Nowak, 2022). By assisting them in reducing the narratives and producing imaginative graphics that will be enjoyable to read, "Simplifying Literature" hopes to remedy the issue.

Project Objective / Purpose

The goal of this study is to simplify literature in order to increase its readability and accessibility to a wider audience. As we all know by now, reading classical literature may be challenging for the general public, especially for those with no prior understanding of the language, making it impossible to comprehend and enjoy many original copies. Making the experience unpleasant for them will result in the demise of many great writings, including Shakespeare's writings. These books will be easier to read if the language and content are simplified. It is certain that there is a need to make an e-book like this, given the recent increase in interest in e-books. This demonstrates how new technology may be incorporated as a benefit to make teaching more participatory and simpler while also appealing to a larger group of students and even the general public. Hence, to address this need, the author came up with the idea for an electronic book called *The Comedy of Errors Simplified: Egeon's 18th Reasons Why*, which will enable readers to resolve the issues such as explained.

Entrepreneurial Opportunities

The intended audience for this project is people who wish to read books without having to go through the tiresome process of reading hundreds of pages of the original copy but who also want to read through the contents without immediately quitting the book. This will completely change how readers can access literary content. Apart from that, there are other opportunities for this project because it would be a significant innovation in the market for interactive educational books.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

One of many questions asked was: Why is the purpose of learning literature? One of many questions asked was: Why is the purpose of learning literature? Well, the history of literature is the only answer. For instance, it is a fact that Nero's advisor Seneca, before committing suicide in AD 65, wrote tragedies that had a profound effect on English and French drama in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries (Wiseman, 2015). Here we can see how

impactful a literary work can be in a timeline. Literature is one of humanity's greatest inventions, and it has produced many more exquisite works before, during, and after the Renaissance period. This is so because a large number of everlasting and well-written classic literary works have earned a classic status for pioneering the development of a literary subgenre at the time.

Classical literary works have the power to transport readers back in time and depict a distinct period of history. It is not only a gateway to the past but also suggestive of our present and the future. Within every time period lies different people, and within them, different stages in our ever-growing culture (Austin, 2022). Each individual was a product of their own time. As a species, we evolve every day, and without that timestamp that literature gives us, we would know nothing about the past, making each literary work more beautiful as time goes on. Literature allows a person to step back in time and learn about life from the ones who walked before us (Austin, 2022). We are able to gather a better understanding of culture and have a greater appreciation of them, as the Spanish-American philosopher George Santayana observed that "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." Recounting tales that can still resonate with many people today also enables the readers to acquire insight into the universe of human experiences. Literature has the power to evoke many people an experience that will keep them hooked and lead them to a deeper understanding of it in general.

3. METHODOLOGY

The goal of *The Comedy of Errors Simplified: Egeon's 18th Reasons Why* is to write a book that will be able to summarize numerous outstanding literary works for a larger audience. As a result, many more people will be able to enjoy reading a variety of classics without needing a deep understanding of literature, which is essential because reading classical literature can be more challenging than reading modern books. When considered in context, the words and imagery utilized differ greatly from those of modern times. A questionnaire was distributed before the author began constructing the project to help choose the key elements to focus on in the book. The Results and Discussion portion of this paper contains a discussion of the findings. The flowchart below was used to create the e-book and the general procedure used.



Figure 1: *The Comedy of Errors Simplified: Egeon's 18th Reasons Why* flowchart.

The e-book is made ergonomically for all e-book formats and devices while enhancing the users' reading experience. Figure 2 displays the layout of the book's front cover, copyright cover, back cover, and some of its contents.



Figure 2: The Comedy of Errors Simplified: Egeon's 18th Reasons Why front cover, copyright cover, back cover, and some of its contents.

The survey questionnaire was made available through Google Form to individuals interested in interacting with it. Respondents were requested to share their knowledge of literature and other associated topics and their thoughts on them. To collect all the information from individuals who responded to the questionnaire, a total of eight questions were asked. As soon as the form was disseminated, the author got every response needed. The following questions made up the questionnaire.

- Are you interested in classical literature?
- Do you find classical literature hard to understand?
- Assuming you have learned about literature through school and university, did you enjoy it?
- Have you heard/seen any one of these names before?
- Do you find literature accessible for everyone, regardless of your age and educational background?
- Would you be interested to read simplified literature classics? (Written in simple English and condensed into a short story format)
- Would you be interested in an e-book version of any classical literature simplification?
- Would you like the books to have graphics/drawings?

Some of the customers and individuals of the public who were interested in this endeavour were among the respondents in The Comedy of Errors Simplified: Egeon's 18th Reasons Why; there are 35 total respondents. Before distributing the questionnaire, the author made it clear that everything would be collected and used only to offer necessary data for the project's findings. It is also crucial to remember that all information obtained was kept private and protected while being answered. This statement is provided to build responders' trust.



4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The goal of this initiative is to promote literature by demystifying the text's ideas and the author's original use of language. In order to gather evidence of the public's grasp of the concept behind this project, it is crucial to comprehend their opinions on this specific topic and learn about them using the provided questionnaire.

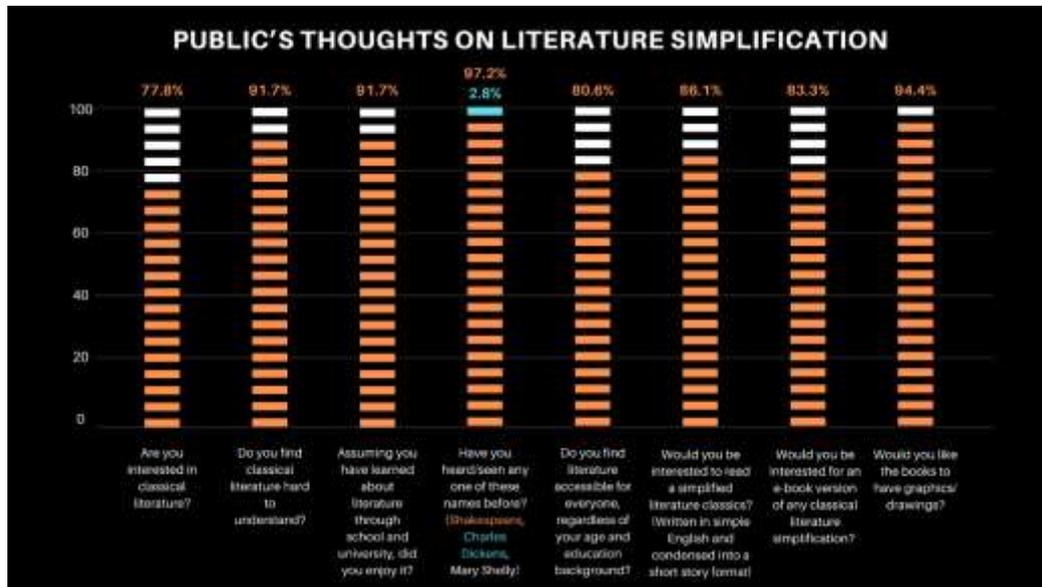


Figure 3: Bar chart on the public's thoughts on literature simplification

These charts demonstrate that many people are interested in literature but need help comprehending it. As a result, many people needed a simple starting point, such as a book like *The Comedy of Errors Simplified: Egeon's 18th Reasons Why*, which simplifies literature for those who want to delve into the world of classical literature gradually. After reviewing the questionnaire's responses, I was more certain than ever that I should write the e-book and make it a reality for my respondents who are interested.

Then, the author sent out a feedback form a few days after the e-book was purchased to have a better understanding of what the buyers thought of the book. There were 13 people who responded to the survey.



Figure 4: Bar chart on customer feedback.



According to the feedback form results, every component of the book—including the language and vocabulary used, the simplification of the contents, and the illustrations—is approved by every respondent. This project's goal was achieved since the respondents expressed a need for more publications like this one to be released.

5. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the readers were interested in buying this e-book because it was unique in simplifying the chosen literature, *The Comedy of Errors*, a play written by the great William Shakespeare. The author thinks that the readers and others interested in this project will benefit significantly. Given that this kind of book is new to the market, the author sets a reasonable price for the book to allay the concerns of potential buyers. The author's goal is for this book to rank among the top picks available. It is also crucial to note that the intention to make literature more approachable in order to appeal to a broader audience can be effectively carried out by using strategies like making it into an e-book and adding entertaining illustrations to make it more interesting and unique for readers, particularly those who are unfamiliar with literature and books such as this one.

In light of this, this study shows that *The Comedy of Errors Simplified: Egeon's 18th Reasons Why* can assist many people in appreciating literature and inspiring them to read more simplified classics while still appreciating the original material. The author hopes that *The Comedy of Errors Simplified: Egeon's 18th Reasons Why's* unique and exceptional qualities will make it a book that readers will always enjoy and remember.

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