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English Written Test III

Option B.

In the following text I’m going to make a comparative analysis between the extract from Macbeth’s soliloquy written by W. Shakespeare and A Valediction Forbidding Mourning, a song written by J. Donne.

First of all, I’m going to consider the genres used by Shakespeare and Donne. As for the extract from Macbeth, it is a soliloquy: the use of this device has the functions to allow the audience to be more concentrated on the scene and then, to be aware about the character’s feelings and thoughts. As regards A Valediction Forbidding Mourning, it is a song organised into nine stanzas written in alternate rhyme. In the song there are references from different fields, like alchemy (gold), geometry (compasses), … unusual to readers of poetry.

At first the intelligent reader immediately may understand the different conception of separation there is in the extracts, if he considers the language and the structure used. In a song by J. Donne there is a contrast between “Dull sublunary lover’s love” and “we”. It is increased by the use of the alliteration of sound “l” (Dull sublunary lover’s love) that conveys the idea of a negative connotation about love and separation, and the alliteration of sound “s” (Care less, eyes, lips, and hands to miss) that evokes in reader’s mind as if the speaking voice was whispering in order to give a negative connotation about body and then, courtly’s conception of love. Instead, in Macbeth’s soliloquy the use of “should” and “would” conveys to the audience Macbeth’s awareness about separation due to a lot of people Macbeth has killed. Indeed the repetition of tomorrow allow the audience to understand Macbeth’s awareness about the fugacity of life and time.