AGOSTINO LOMBARDO, *FELTRINELLI*, *INTRODUZIONE ALLA TRAGEDIA HAMLET*

Hamlet is considered the most striking tragedy of our time. It is a modern, ambiguous and complex representation of human being, for this reason the tragedy is typically of the Renaissance.

William Shakespeare writes this play during the reign of Elizabeth I: it is a crucial moment for history of Great Britain. There is a strong conflict between two different visions of the world. The country is lack of balance, people haven’t certainty; man’s balance is destroyed by the transition from Middle-Ages spirit to Renaissance one. This is the major crisis bound to the tragedy of *Hamlet*.

New world, new discoveries and new point of view create “new man”. Firstly interpreted in Julius Caesar, this puritan ideals explode in Hamlet’s personality. His personality and his thinking are the core of the tragedy. There is not a secondary plot: Shakespeare focuses the audience’s attention on Hamlet for the entire tragedy. Every action depends on Hamlet.

Shakespeare gives Hamlet a good awareness of what happened around him but his mind is hung up by uncertainties. He doesn’t know what is good and what is wrong, what life is, who is God and what’s death… these are typical renaissance questions: mans ask themselves the meaning of things around them. They don’t look for answers in religion, like the Middle-Ages. So Hamlet is subject and object of his questions. Moreover asking about himself creates a strong bound with the audience. So this tragedy is an all-time tragedy.

The conscious of Hamlet is the core of the play and his uncertainties born by the lack existential securities. Hamlet’s language symbolically represent his way of thinking. He swings from reality to appearance. Everything abstract becomes concrete: fear changes in stones… Illusions help hamlet to reach reality of his problem and don’t undermine his emotions. He gives oneself away in his monologue which represent the relationship between man and his mind. Shakespeare creates a synthesis between the insanity of Hamlet. He creates a “meta-theater” , a theater into the theater and Hamlet’s folly is the main innovation of this tragedy. The folly is considered a new way to tackle reality.