ABSTRACT


David Mamet (1947 - ) is one of the most celebrated American playwrights of the twentieth century. All of Mamet’s characters are story-tellers or performers or both. In Mamet’s world, to act is to exist and to make a mark in the space. His characters play myriad roles to fulfil their dream of avarice that seems to be the only substantial reality available. As the dramatist is a social critic, his concern is strengthening the connection between drama and social reality. The plays that the researcher has chosen for the research purpose are not exceptional.

The dissertation comprises of five chapters of which the introductory one focuses its attention on the origin and the growth of American drama. It also makes a comprehensive study on the predecessors of Mamet who have created an everlasting literary influence and impact on his dramatic career. The present investigation concentrates on the three major stages of the evolution of the characters such as Fragments, Fortitude and Futurity.

The second chapter, *Fragments*, attempts a critical study on how the multi-cultured Americans, the pathetic victims of the country’s capitalism, materialism
and mediatised pop-culture, become the fragmented and fractured individuals devoid of morality, spirituality, love, compassion, co-operation and co-ordination. They forego even the very basic humanity for the sake of their mad pursuit after wealth, power and fame.

The following chapter, *Fortitude*, substantiates that the relentless spirit of the fragmented individuals propels them to move forward in all the possible directions to clear off the barriers that obstruct their path of progress and success. They are men of forbearance and fortitude and hence they do not hesitate to traverse the stringent path of competitiveness and jealousy. As they possess the most striking positive quality of fortitude, they live but never attempt to escape or commit suicide.

The fourth chapter, *Futurity*, is an extensive study on how the motivational inspiration of a successful futurity forces a fractured individual to strive and seek his fortune with fortitude and forbearance. The fifth chapter sums up all the previous arguments in the thesis. Mamet’s literary contribution surpasses age and time with its unique treatment of plot, structure and characters. His plays are a realistic portrayal of the complexities of American scenario under the sovereign control of American myths, dreams, fantasies, consumerism, materialism, capitalism and mediatised culture. The postmodern element which has its root in the writings of Mamet’s predecessors reaches its desirable growth and maturity in his works. The current doctoral thesis, therefore, is a study of the contemporary tendencies that exist among the people who are madly after the benefits of the consumerist, capitalist and postmodern American society.