CHAPTER VI

Dramaturgical texture of time and space

External time and space that are used in binding up the whole events in such a manner so that they look very relevant and logical, give dramaturgical effect in covering the entire story in their frames.

So far as time scheme in Hamlet is concerned, Shakespeare seems to be very much aware of binding his whole drama in certain garland of time in which he has provided enough evidence for calculating the time. Undoubtedly Shakespeare does not remain as palpable between the gap of acts as he appears in scenes which do not get too much relaxation of time, rather all the events of scenes of one act take place in a little period of time. In other words the whole act completes in a few days with out having too much gap of time. But the movement of theme from one act to another act gets respite from chronometry and here Shakespeare, either seems to forget about depicting the gap of how many days he makes between the acts, or he does not think it inevitable to enumerate exact hiatus in days because it does not make any big change in movement of the story. Though he hardly appears crystal clear in the mechanical time of drama; how many days he takes between movement of theme from one act to another, but he still gives enough allusions by which one can have a fair assumption of idea, how many days must have passed between two acts with the help of certain change in gesture and disposition of characters and the situations.

The play begins with the appearance of ghost which is seen by the guards. Horatio, Marcellus and Bernardo who are keeping a watch in
the night at the platform of the palace, Elsenore, in Denmark, are stunned to see a ghost which looks like the former king, king Hamlet. Though they try to talk to him but he does not speak and suddenly it disappears because it is getting morning. Later on, it is decided that the matter should be told to Hamlet immediately. In the end of first scene Horatio says, "Let us impart what we have seen to night unto young Hamlet".(1)

The Second scene of the first act opens in a room of the palace where the king with other characters are shown; the queen, Hamlet, Polonius, Laertes, Ophelia, voltimand and Connelius. Here king is sending voltimand and Cornelius to Norway in order to bring the exact information of king’s nephew who is preparing to wage war against Denmark. In this particular scene Laertes is also going to France for study. Having seen Hamlet to be gloomy and distracted, the king and the queen have shown their regret and make an attempt to console Hamlet. So far it hardly seems to be a very next day of the play because there is no evidence in this regard but as soon as both Horatio and Cornelius tell Hamlet about the meeting with ghost, it starts to confirm that it must be the very next day because Horatio not only talks about his duty but also the impact of ghost also pushes them to inform the matter to Hamlet immediately. Horatio says,

"As I do live, my honoured lord, tis true
And we did think it writ down in our duty
To let you know of it."(2)

Having listened all the matter, Hamlet shows his desire to have a glimpse of the ghost in the night. He exclaims, "I will require your loves so, fare you well; / upon the platform, twixt eleven and twelve/ I'll visit you."(3)

In the third scene, that is displayed in the house of Polonius, where Laertes gives some tips to his sister to restrain herself from meeting with Hamlet. Further Polonius appears at the same time and he also advises Laertes who is going to France. After the departure of Laertes, Polonius enquires Ophelia about the relationship with Hamlet
and in the meantime, he asks her to beware of such affair and she should stop meeting to him. Thus the whole scene comes to an end and here Shakespeare does not provide any hint by which one can have an idea of time, whether it is the event of a few days after or it happens at the same days after some hours. But with the advent of the forth scene, it becomes ascertained that it is the same day.

The fourth scene opens at the platform of the palace and Horatio and Hamlet are waiting for ghost's appearance. It is the time of night because meanwhile the king, Claudius, is also waking up to have a party, carouse of drinking or dancing lavishly. As Hamlet tells to Horatio when he asks about "a flourish of trumpets and ordance", "the king doth wake to night and take his rouse / keeps war rails and the swaggering up spring reels—".(4) Suddenly the ghost appears and Hamlet is shocked to see a look alike of his father who also beckons him to come after. Hamlet inquisitively goes after the ghost in order to know some more information about it.

In the fifth scene, there is scarcely any change of time except the place because the same situation of the forth scene continues and Hamlet and ghost are illustrated in some other part of the platform. Here the ghost of the king Hamlet makes a revelation of the conspiracy, which had been hatched by his uncle, and he also tells how he was murdered by his uncle by dropping venom into his ear. The revelation gives a great shock to Hamlet and subsequently he seems to make promise of taking revenge of his father against such a rank conspiracy. Further in order to ascertain the fact, he asks Horatio and Company to keep the matter latent. Thus the first act which neither takes too much time nor space, comes to an end in two nights and one day. Theme of the drama does not move in places too.

In the second act of the play, time certainly appears to be 'out of joint', because Shakespeare neither feels it important to tell, after how many days this act opens, nor he gives any palpable allusion to calculate exactly the gap of time except a faint assumption that three weeks to five weeks might have passed between these two act. So far as second act is concerned, like the first act, it also comes to an
end in a few days. The first scene of this act opens in the room of
Polonius’ house where he is sending Reynaldo to France in order to
provide some money and essential stuffs to his son Laertes. He also
gives some instructions to see whether he does not develop some
rank habits that can take him away from his aims and targets.
Meanwhile, Ophelia comes in frightening position and tells her father
about Hamlet’s misbehavior with her. If we compare the character of
Hamlet with the first act to second act, we would come to know that
Hamlet emerges to be abnormal and gestures or features are
presented by Ophelia of him to Polonius who consequently reacts to
it as saying the “very ecstasy of love” that here clearly means
madness. Now the question rises, can a man be stated mad in a few
days? Moreover Ophelia’s statement of rejecting to accept his letters
on the behest of his father, gives an idea that it is not the matter of
days but of weeks. “As you did commend, / I did repel his letters and
denied/ His access to me.”(5) As a matter of fact, misbehavior of a
man can not be called madness unless it is observed regularly at
number of occasions that need not the days but weeks. In the end of
scene, Polonius takes to his daughter to the king.

In the second scene that happens in one of the rooms of the castle
where the king has called on old friends of Hamlet Rosencrantz and
Guildenstern and asks them to console Hamlet who starts to appear
abnormal. Suddenly Polonius comes and reports the ill treatment of
Hamlet with Ophelia after some times. Though, initially the king does
not believe upon Polonius who enucleates that failure in love is the
root cause of his lunacy. In order to prove it the main reason,
Polonius and the king have decided a plan in which Ophelia would be
left along with Hamlet. He goes to Hamlet who has also hatched a
plan to decide whether his uncle is the main culprit of his father’s
death. He sends for some players to play a fictitious play before the
king and queen, in which the same action would be recreated as his
father was murdered. This is planned in order to take notice how the
king reacts to these things. All the players have come and Hamlet
asks about the preparation and to have a rehearsal because the play
would be played in the next day. Thus, here the act comes to an end
without taking a few days rather it completes in a single day.
The third act of this play starts after a day from the second act. First scene of it opens in a room of the castle where the king, Rosencrantz, Guildenstern, Polonius, queen and Ophelia are shown. The king asks Rosencrantz and Guildenstern who tell him about Hamlet’s abnormal behavior. They also inform about a play that would be played in the very night. “This night to play before him”. While Hamlet has asked the players to perform the play in the next night. “We'll ha’t tomorrow night.” Thus it becomes clearly visible that this is the act that takes place after one day. Polonius and king, according to the plan, go after the arras and listen the conversation that occurs between Ophelia and Hamlet. In the end of the scene, the king does not see Ophelia being the main cause of his lunacy.

In the same night, the next scene of the act is performed in the hall of the castle in which Hamlet asks the players to be ready for the play. Rosencrantz and Guildenstern come to inform that the king and queen also are coming to see the play that is about to be played soon. In order to come out from the muddle of “to be” or “not to be”, Hamlet instructs Horatio to keep a close watch upon the reactions of the king during the particular scene which is recreated in the same manner as his father was murdered. As expected, having seen his own ghastly work in the play, the king gets baffled to see the scene that is enough to scare him. This happens to be ample evidence for Hamlet to believe on ghost’s revelation and comes to conclusion that his uncle is the main murderer of his father. In the end of the scene, Polonius comes to inform Hamlet that the queen immediately wants to meet him.

Having been very much annoyed by the situation, the king in the third scene immediately decides to send Hamlet to England with Rosenerantz and Guildenstern. In this scene Hamlet gets a chance to take revenge of his father’s death when the king is praying to seek pardon of God for what heinous crime he has committed. Hamlet does not think it appropriate occasion because the king is praying secondly he is in hurry to meet his mother that is why he also avoids to take action against the king.
The fourth scene of the act opens in the room of the queen who asks Hamlet about his strange and abnormal behaviors, but Hamlet castigates his mother for her incestuous relationship with the king who has murdered his father. Queen is deeply shocked by the reproof from Hamlet who at the mean time stabs Polonius who stands behind arras in order to listen the interaction of son and mother on the behest of the king. In the end of scene, Hamlet drags the dead body of Polonius in order to take it on the safest place. Thus the whole act comes to an end in the same day or in a single day.

The night of the third act is not over yet, the fourth act starts at the same night after some hours. The first scene of the act opens in room of the castle where the king is talking to Rosencrantz and Guildenstern about their departure for England with Hamlet. Suddenly the queen appears there and tells about the murder of Polonius. The king who once again was shocked to listen hostility of Hamlet, sends both Rosencrantz and Guildenstern to look for Hamlet and the dead body of Polonius. In the second scene, there is hardly any change in time, both Rosencrantz and Guildenstern come to call Hamlet who does not tell about the dead body. In the next scene, that happens in the room of king who asks Hamlet about the dead body of Polonius. Finally Hamlet tells where about of the body to the same night. He says, "the bark is ready and the wind at help."(6)

The fourth scene of the act is revealed in the plain of Denmark, where fortinbras, nephew of Norway’s king is passing along with his soldiers. Here Hamlet is told that they are going to fight for a little land of Poland. Having heard all this Hamlet feels ashamed and annoyed with himself, despite having reason and evidence of his father’s murder and mother’s dishonor, he could not take revenge. Thus all these four scenes take place in the same night.

So far as fifth scene is concerned, Shakespeare has given a gap of week or two between the fourth and the fifth scene. After such a long hiatus, things seem to be a bit strange and out of joint because this scene that opens in a room of the castle, in which the king, the queen and gentleman are discussing about Ophelia who seems to be
very much jolted by his father's death and subsequently gives a reflection of mental debility and in the meantime, her brother Leartes who also appears on the scene with full of fury and anger, comes to know about his father's murder. Though Shakespeare does not refer about the exact gap of time from fourth to fifth scene, but the murder of Polonius is still a burning issue of discussion and very much alive in the memory. Leartes' return from France and Ophelia's disequilibrium of the mind, speak about the gap of time which is obviously not a long gap of more than one or two weeks.

The sixth scene is illustrated in another room of the castle where a sailor comes to meet Horatio with a letter of Hamlet who has written not only about his encounter with a pirate ship but also talked about the revelation of king's lethal intention of sending him to England where he would be killed with the help of sealed letter. Further he asks to give a letter to the king and, immediately meet him. Horatio has taken the sailor to the king.

In the next scene that happens in the room of the king who is still talking with Leartes in order to console him. He also prepares him to take arms against Hamlet who is coming back to Denmark that is learnt by the king with the help of a letter delivered by the messenger. At the same time, the king and Leartes hatch a plan against Hamlet by making him drink the poison in sport. Another major event takes place in the end of the scene when queen comes to tell about Ophelia's suicide by drowning herself. Thus all the events of the whole act have taken place in two phases; first four scenes happen in a single night where as the remaining events of the act occur in three scenes after one or two weeks.

The last or the fifth act of the play opens in a churchyard where two clowns are digging a grave for Ophelia's dead body to be buried. In this particular scene, Hamlet and Horatio have come and see the doing of clowns. After sometimes the king, queen and Laertes have appeared with the funeral. Suddenly the situation becomes volatile and stricken when Laertes jumps into the grave of Ophelia for self-burying along with her but as soon as Hamlet comes to know about Ophelia's death, he also jumps into the grave in order to show his
absolute dejection. Both Laertes and Hamlet start to fight but soon the situation is calmed down by the king. Thus the first scene of the act five happens after one day because when Laertes turns out to be hostile and aggressive the king, in order to pacify him has reminded Laertes about the plan and at the same time his speech also discloses the one day gap of between the last scene of fourth act and the first scene of the fifth act. He says to Laertes; “strengthen you patience in our last night's speech.”(7)

The last scene of the play occurs after some time of first scene in a hall of the castle. Hamlet tells Horatio about, how he could discern malice of the king who has written a letter to the king of England requesting him to kill Hamlet immediately after reading the letter. Hamlet also tells about how he could manage to change the letter, which is carried by Rosencrantz and Guilidinstern. At the same time, a messenger of the king Osric comes and tells about king's desire of a play with Laertes that is a plan to kill Hamlet by stabbing poisonous point of sword and if it does not happen so, then a cup of drink is full of poison would be offered to Hamlet to drink. Without knowing the real intention of king, Hamlet accepts the challenge to participate in the play. Moreover the play is arranged, king and queen and other attendants enjoy skill of Hamlet and Laertes who is having a poisonous pointed sword. By the way, Laertes stabs Hamlet and drops the sword that is picked up by Hamlet who also stabs him. Queen has drunk unknowingly the poison of the cup and dies. Having seen and listened about deception, Hamlet kills the king too. Thus all the major characters including Hamlet die on the spot. Here the curtain falls with full of bloodshed and killings.

**Texture of space and Time scheme in King Lear**

As a matter of fact, Shakespeare in the “King Lear” appears quite obscure and opaque in terms of time scheme that though seems to be lack luster but it still provides enough evidence to reach the conclusion. King Lear is not a drama like Hamlet that covers a long
time, rather it happens to be a play that does not get far too wide in its story rather all the events occur quite briskly without having hardly any long pause or gap of time between two events. In spite of having five acts, the story of it, ends up in three to four weeks.

The drama opens in the castle of aged king Lear who, having three daughters, seems to dissect his property and kingdom into three parts but not equally rather the dissection, the king wishes, would be done on the basis of their love separately for him. The king appears quite satisfied with his both elder daughters who give a foul declaration of their love towards him. Their exaggerated speeches of sycophancy turn the king inflated and flattered. But short-tempered king became furious when his third daughter, Cordelia, does not give a bombastic speech of her love towards him rather she expresses genuine love of daughter to her father. Having listened non-flattering speech, the king has expelled her without giving an inch from his property. Unlike the King, the Prince of France is very much impressed by the statement of Cordelia and still wishes to marry to her despite king’s indignant banishment of her. Ultimately the king dissects his state into two parts equally with the proposal to live with them alternately. Thus the first scene of first act comes to an end with the departure of Cordelia with the prince of France.

The second scene of the act opens with a subplot of the story in which Earl of Gloucester is instigated by his bastard son ‘Edmund’ against his bonafide son, Edger. Edmund fabricates a story by showing a letter written by Edger to him that Edger wants to kill him in order to take over his property. Slimy Edmund tries to make a gap of misunderstanding between them by telling Edger that Gloucester is quite angry with him. And where as by wounding himself, he says to Gloucester that his legitimate son has run away by assaulting him. Consequently cunning Edmund succeeds in winning the belief of Gloucester who starts thinking that though being illegitimate son, still very loving and caring to him.

The third scene happens in a room in the Duke of Albany’s palace, house of Goneril, who appears quite perplexed with the behavior of his father, King Lear. This is the scene that occurs after a gap of a
few weeks because not only Goneril’s speech ‘by day and night’ but also King Lear’s enucleating of fortnight. Here Goneril asks her servant Oswald to avoid the proper service of his father who has been living far over 15 days as per his proposal of one-month stay with each daughter. But Goneril does not want to keep him rather she is interested in getting rid of him because now he is good for nothing to her.

Without any change in time and space the fourth scene of the act shows Kent in disguise comes to meet Lear who has decided to keep with him. Having been ignored by Oswald, Lear becomes furious and sends his knight to call upon Goneril. Moreover Goneril comes and puts foul allegation of rowdy or harsh behaviors of King Lear’s knights. Here the king is shocked to see foul accusation upon his well-mannered knights and rank treatment of Goneril who further asks to cut down the number of knights who have already been deducted by him. He says, “fifty of my followers at a clap within a fortnight?”(8) Now Lear could understand the real nature of his shrewd daughter and subsequently decides to leave her palace even before the completion of the proposed time. The scene comes to an end with Goneril who sends information of those events to Regan which took place there and she also gives her apprehension and suggestion.

In the last scene of the act, king Lear appears to send Kent to Regan with a letter in which he must talk about his interaction with Goneril. King Lear also asks Kent to be very quick and fast in his service because he is also going to start for there.

The second act of the play opens in the court of the Earl of Gloucester after one-day gap from the end of the first act. Here Edmund talks to Curan who comes to inform him about the sudden arrival of the Duke of Cornwall and his duchess (Regan) in the night. Edger also appears there to whom Edmund advises to run away because of his father, Gloucester’s coming. Instead Edmund wounds himself by the sword in order to show his father his clash with Edger. Having been in complete assurance of Edmund, Gloucester blindly believes on fabricated situation of him who tells him that Edger is
looking to kill him and when he defended him seriously, he attacked him bitterly by calling him illegitimate. Moreover Regan and Cornwall come to the palace of Gloucester in order to seek advice of him on their response at the separate massages of sister and the father.

Second scene of this act resumes in before the castle of Gloucester in next day morning. Here Oswald and Kent appear separately and Oswald offers. "Good dawning" to Kent. Having seen disloyal Oswald or faithful servant of Goneril, Kent turns violent and both start fighting each other. At the meantime Cornwall, Regan Gloucester and Edmund who come, part them and further both are asked about the reason of fight. As a matter of fact, Kent has started the quarrel so he has been put to stocks despite his number of arguments in the last of the scene.

The third scene of the act opens in a place like heath where Edger thinks about himself to keep Concealed from the army because he has become the most wanted person of the court and subsequently there remains no outlet for him to pass through. Having been no chance of escape, Edger assumes disguised appearance of “Bedlam Beggar” and pretends to be fool.

After one day or in the morning of the last night, the fourth scene resumes in before the castle of Gloucester. Having seen Kent into the stocks, King Lear become annoyed and asks about the reason of his being into the stocks. Kent complains about his daughter and her husband’s rude and partial treatment. When Regan and her husband come, King Lear tells them about humiliating behavior of her sister, Goneril. At the meantime, Goneril also emerges on the scene. Despite Lear’s long exclamation of misbehaviors and derogation of her sister to an old father, the heart of Regan does not still melt for him and expectedly like her sister, she behaves in the same manner with her. Neither she agrees with any argument put by Lear nor does she allow her rugged father to stay there before his completion of stipulated accommodation in Goneril’s palace. Lear, who has been left alone in the threatening thunderstorm by his sister, could understand the real wickedness of his both sisters.
Act third happens in the open space or heath without making a big gap of time from second act. In a very turbulent weather, Kent meets to Gloucester who is looking for the King. Kent not only tells him about some indifference between Albany and Cornwall but also informs him about France's preparation for attack on such a disunited Kingdom. Gloucester suggests him that the most important thing for them is to look for the king who is wondering homelessly in the turbulent weather. Thus the first scene of this act comes to an end with the search of King Lear.

Second scene of this act occurs in another part of heath where Lear who wonders with fool in adverse situation of the thunderstorm, appears quite infuriated or in a fit of madness. Misdeed of his daughter has broken Lear who in the mood of regret, does not want to live. In the meantime Kent has found him finally and asks him to take shelter in near by hut that would provide them protection from violent storm. But initially king does not show any eager to go with him. In the third scene that happens in the castle of Gloucester after sometime, where Gloucester innocently gives a detail information about enemy's arrival on the coast and his disliking for Cornwell's harsh treatment towards the Kind. Here Gloucester also tells Edmund about his intention to help the king till he dies. In the last of the scene, Edmund thinks to inform whatever is said by Gloucester to Cornwall.

The Fourth scene opens in the same night of violent storm in heath where kent takes King Lear to nearby hut. This is the same hut where Edger in disguised has kept himself concealed by pretending to be mad. It is biting cold for the king who talks to Edger. Immediately Gloucester also emerges in the hut to take the king to his palace. Though initially the king refuses to go with him but biting cold and shabby condition of king makes him to go with Gloucester. In the fifth scene, that happens in Gloucesters' castle and at the same night, Edmund tells every thing to Cornwall about his father's doing. He also gives him the letter that was given by Gloucester to him about French Army's arrival on the door.
The Sixth scene of the act takes place in the farmhouse adjoining to the castle. Gloucester has brought to King and company to stay in the night. But the misfortune does not seem to slack for him, because as soon as rugged king is about to sleep in comfortable place Gloucester comes to take the king to the Dover because Cornwall is looking for the king to kill. Cornwall has ordered that who ever helps the king, would be punished seriously. Seventh scene opens in the palace of Gloucester where Cornwall, Ragan ask their servants to search the king and bring 'disloyal Gloucester', who has been brought by servant before them. Here Gloucester has not only been asked where about of the king, but he has been treated brutally by them. Having seen Gloucester being made blind by them, one of his faithful servants became hostile and starts fighting with Cornwall, subsequently, who gets severally wounded in killing the servant. Blind Gloucester has been made free and Ragan carries wounded Cornwall in the end of the scene.

After consecutive happenings of a few events first scene of fourth act takes place after one day because when the old man tells Gloucester about Edger as mad man, Gloucester replies that "he has some reason else he could not beg! / The last night's storm / such a fellow saw." (9) Moreover Gloucester requests Edger who is shocked to see his father blind and bleeding to take him to the Dover.

The next scene of the act opens in the palace of Albany after one or two days because Goneril returns to his palace from the visit of Regan's palace, the journey that already measured took one or two days time when Kent went to Regan taking the message of King's arrival to her. Albany who seems to be a kind and moral human being, suggests Goneril to be faithful and kind hearted towards aged King. Where as Goneril calls him to be timid and coward. In the last of the scene Goneril is informed by the messenger about the death of Regan.

In the third scene that happens in the coastal area of Dover in the French camp after one day. Lear has been already brought by Kent who asks to the Gentleman about Cordelia's response after seeing King Lear. Here Kent also tells him about some brutality and
unkindness that was shown by his elder daughters. Fourth scene also takes place in the same tent without having a big change in time. Cordelia appears with physician who informs her that her father is going under mental disarray or insanity and now he needs a long rest.

In the fifth scene of the act four, Goneril sent Oswald with a letter for Edmund who has gone to kill his wounded father Gloucester. This scene happens after couple of days, Oswald appears before Regan enquiring about Edmund. Regan manages to read enveloped letter of Goneril after some persuasion to Oswald. In this scene, Regan who also came to know about Goneril’s attraction towards Edmund tells Oswald candidly about her desire for Edmund. Thus the scene ends with Regan who asks Oswald to say to his Lady Goneril, to be practical and reasonable about Edmund who can best be suitable to her rather than his lady.

The sixth scene of the act opens near Dover, when Gloucester is taken by Edger who deliberately tells a lie to him to be moving on the hill because Gloucester seems to commit suicide by falling from dreadful height. This is a space illusion, for Gloucester, that is knowingly created by Edger who asks him about the space to be horrible steep. Gloucester’s attempt of committing suicide goes in vain because it is not any mountainous area rather he was standing on the plain area where he falls. King Lear also appears in this scene and talks with Edger and Gloucester. The big event that specially took place in this scene is Oswald’s encounter with Edger who comes to know something secret and special about conspiracy against Albony borne by Goneril and Edmund with the help of the letter that was given to Oswald by Goneril. There is hardly any big change in physical time of the event of this scene.

The last scene of the act opens in the camp of Cordelia, where King Lear is brought by Kent who is precisely appreciated and thanked by Cordelia for his grateful work for her. Doctor appears in the scene and asks Cordelia not to disturb rugged Lear till he himself wakes up. Information are being collected and delivered by the informers and agent of enemy. Thus the act comes to an end with this scene.
The fifth act that happens after one or two days, opens in the British Camp near Dover. There is a kind of race between two sisters, Goneril and Regan to win the love of Edmund who seems to double cross both the sisters. Albany, who is against all those misdeeds, remains unaware of a conspiracy plotted by his wife and Edmund till he is given a letter disclosing deception of Edmund and his wife by Edger in the first scene of the act. In the second scene, that takes place in the same day. It also gives information of King Lear and Cordelia who have been defeated, made prisoners by Edmund in the battle.

In the last scene of the play, a few worth-taking events take place very rapidly without having too much gap of time in them. Lear and Cordelia have been sent to jail by Edmund who was shocked by the death of Regan and Goneril. Goneril who gives poison to her sister, Regan, died in remorse and repentance. Cordelia was hung by the captain on the behest of Edmund who could not bear the disheartening jolt of both sisters' death. The play comes to an end with sad demise of King Lear who seems to be heavily shocked by the death of his third daughter. Thus the story covers up three to four weeks in reaching its destination.

Texture of space and Time scheme in Othello

The play opens in one of the streets of Venice in the night. In this scene Iago who is the villain of the play talks with Roderigo about the elopement of Desdemona, the heroine of the play with Othello, hero of the play. Iago asks Roderigo to inform the matter to the father of Desdemona, Brabantio. Initially Brabantio did not believe in him, but later on he who accepts it as dame truth, and decides to report the matter to duke.

In the second scene that happens in the same night, Iago appears before Othello telling about Brabantio's intention and search for him. Cassio also comes to Othello with information about his urgent requirement felt by the duke. Brabantio who emerges in the scene
to look for his daughter, rebukes Othello who seems to be in hurry to go to the court of the Duke.

The third scene which takes place in the court of Duke who asks Othello to go to Cyprus in order to defend against Turks who have been reported marching towards Cyprus. Meantime, Brabantio approaches to the court and says about his daughter's elopement. Othello makes it clear that he did not elope with her rather she herself desires to marry with him. In order to prove the fact, he sends for Desdemona who also admits the fact what ever is told by Othello. Brabantio turns furious and urges to give his daughter up. In the last part of scene (act), Duke asks Brabantio to be reasonable and he should accept Othello as his son in law who of course quite contrast to his physical appearance to his mental disposition. The duke asks Othello to depart for Cyprus the same time. Moreover, Othello who asks Iago to bring Desdemona to Cyprus, says to meet them at Cyprus. Having been villainous nature Iago informs Roderigo to go to Cyprus because Roderigo is the person who also loves Desdemona.

The second act that happens in the coast of Cyprus seems to be taking place after two to three weeks because so far as the distance from Venice to Cyprus is concerned, it needs fifteen or so days considering the availability of means of transportation in those days. Imminent wars against Turks goes down with ferocity of cyclone in the sea that claims drowning of Turks' fleet. Othello and company emerge on the dock after a great deal of struggle against the storm. Othello became quite exalted on seeing his wife who has already arrived with Iago who after the departure of Othello and Desdemona, instigates Roderigo against Cassio, who in the opinion of Iago is loved by Desdemona. Iago seems to hatch a plan in order to poison the life of Othello. In the second scene of the play, celebration starts in Cyprus due to the arrival of Othello after sinking of Turkish fleet in the sea.

The third scene happens in the same night in a hall of the castle. Othello deputes Cassio to guard. Iago seeing the appropriate time makes Cassio drink number of pegs which take him out of control. In
the verge of intoxication, Cassio starts fighting with Roderigo and other Attendants. Brawl causes subsequently the arrival of Othello who asks Cassio to leave the place. Thus Iago who gets the chance to play foul in the lives of Cassio and Othello says Cassio to go to Desdemona who can save him and can restore his dignity in the eye of Othello. By doing this, Iago feels that he would get the chance to instigate Othello against Desdemona, her illicit relation with Cassio.

The third act of the play begins in the very next day of the second act because Iago asks Cassio, “you have not been abed then.” In this scene, Cassio requests to Emilia to arrange a meeting with Desdemona who in the opinion of Emilia, favored and defended Cassio before Othello. The second scene also occurs at the same time in which Othello appears to perform some formal duties by giving some letters to Iago to hand over to the Captain.

In the third scene, the meeting between Desdemona and Cassio took place. Mean time Othello appears and have a glance of Cassio talking to his wife that is good enough for shrewd Iago to put poison in the peaceful life of Othello. Seeing Othello coming Cassio rushes off the sight. Desdemona who entreats Othello to forgive Cassio does not have even a faint idea of Othello being badly poisoned against her. Iago took full advantage of the situation by instigating jealous and great lover of his wife Othello, happens to be gullible victim of cunning Iago. Apart from Iago who some unfortunate chance like dropping of a significant handkerchief made thing bad to worse for Desdemona because it gave further chance to deepen suspicion in the mind of Othello who seems to be mere puppet in the hand of Iago.

In the fourth scene of the act, Othello talks to Desdemona with suspicion and asks about her handkerchief that has already been dropped by Desdemona. Tension starts creeping up in the minds of Othello and Desdemona who has been badly jolted by Othello. Thus the whole act occurs in a single day in Cyprus.

The Fourth act of the play occurs after a gap of ten to fifteen days, foul play of instigation of Iago still goes on that pushes Othello in
more and more drab condition. Misfortune that comes in plenty, Bianca appears with the same handkerchief that is seen by Othello who feels agonized to see Cassio laughing with Iago who artistically fabricates all things in a very realistic manner in order to make Othello convinced that Desdemona is disloyal to him. Message from Duke for accession of Cassio in Cyprus pushes Othello into the cell of deep tension. In such a direful state, he slapped Desdemona before Lodovico who becomes resentful for ungrateful act of Othello. Iago goes on pouring poison in the ears of Othello and subsequently he falls into a trance due to overwhelming bearing of strain.

Second scene of this act happens not much after a gap of time rather it takes place in the same day. The cloud of suspicion has taken full effect over Othello who makes some enquiries about Desdemona from Emilia who tries her best to defend Desdemona but she fails to make any mark in alleviating the suspicion of Othello. Othello talks ironically and suspiciously to Desdemona who was shocked to know the subject of suspicion. She talks to Emilia and Iago about Othello. The last scene of this act opens in the night in a room of the castle. Lodovico goes after taking dinner with Othello who asks Desdemona to be alone in her chamber. Desdemona wears the dress of her marriage and seems to be apprehensive about imminent thing that would be ominous for her. The fourth act comes to an end with Desdemona’s discussion with Emilia about disloyal females.

Although the last act of the play does not take too much time in winding the events but this is the act that is full of numerous direful actions. Unlike other act, this occurs quite after the end of the fourth act. In the first scene that takes place in the same night, Roderigo is stabbed brutally by Cassio who is disguisedly wounded by Iago. When Lodovico and Grantiano appear to listen the cry, Iago, very shrewdly emerges and first he murders Roderigo and then he charges Bianca with her involvement in the assault against Cassio. Othello takes full heed of the stabbing of Cassio and subsequently decides to murder his own beloved Desdemona.

In the second scene in which Othello approaches to Desdemona with intention of killing her. As a result Othello slays guiltless Desdemona.
Since it is the last scene of the play, Othello comes to know all ghastly hypocrisy and the fabrication of cunning Iago, with the help of his wife Emila who is also stabbed by Iago. But it is too late to repent for Othello because Desdemona already met to her last breath. Ultimately, Othello himself kills in the end of drama that covers five to six weeks from beginning to the end.

Texture of space and Time scheme in Macbeth

So far as the time scheme in Macbeth is concerned, Shakespeare unnecessarily does not give too much gap of time and space among the events except for one or two occasions that is to make the story realistic and genuine. Though Shakespeare does not give an obvious reference of how much time the whole theme takes. But one or two incidents i.e. big change in the nature of Macbeth who appears quite cruel and wicked later on. Unlike his earlier interactions, general opinion of people, who call mother land to be ‘grave’ due to atrocity and treachery of Macbeth, sums up the idea that the story takes adequate gap of time.

The drama opens in a deserted place where some witches talk about their whereabouts. Second scene of the play occurs in a camp near Farres where the king, Duncan is informed about the battle of Macbeth against Norway by the messengers. The third scene of the first act happens in a heath, not after a too much gap of time. Macbeth and Banquo came across with the witches who made some prophecies for both the persons; Macbeth, the next king of country and Banquo as the father of the line of kings. Meantime Ross and Angus come with the king’s greetings for his victory in the war against Norway. Next scene, the fourth scene of the act happens after one day in the palace of King Duncan who gives a warm reception to valiant Macbeth. Here Duncan desires to be the night guest of Macbeth, who became quite annoyed with king’s declaration of his son Malcolm to be the next king. All set to go to the palace of Macbeth who rushes to his house in order to attend the king and
company. This is the very next day after Macbeth and Banquo's meeting with witches because in one of his speeches Banquo says, "I dreamt last night of the three weird sisters"(11), gives a distinct explanation of time gap between the scenes. In fifth scene of the act, Lady Macbeth who is reading the letter of Macbeth about the prophecy, is informed about the king's arrival in the night. Macbeth also appears and asks her to make a preparation for the king and company. There is hardly a day gap between the scenes because this scene happens at the same day. The sixth scene of the act occurs after a little while at the same place, Inverness, the castle of Macbeth. Duncan and Company have arrived and cordially greeted by Lady Macbeth. In the last scene of the act that takes place at the same night, in which Macbeth is shown obsessed with the idea, should he go to kill the king or not? Where as Lady Macbeth who is very much determined to assassinate the king, gives scoffing for the brittleness of his resolution.

The second act of the play happens at the Inverness, "the same, perhaps a couple of hours later."(12) In this scene, Banquo talks about the night to his son Fleance, while, Macbeth is ready to remove the hurdle between himself and the crown, the king Duncan. In the second scene, the king has been killed by Macbeth who becomes quite perplexed and feels guilty of killing the king. The third scene occurs after the night, at the same place, where Macduff comes to awake the king. All are very much shocked to see the king murdered. Both the sons of king, Malcolm and Donalbain feel conspiracy in the murder of the king, and so they decide to run away from there in order to negate further intention of the conspirator. Macbeth in the fourth scene, it is still the same day, Macduff tells about the king who is to be cremated in colme hill. He also says that Macbeth is going to be the next king of the state. It is also told that both the sons of king flew away.

The third act of the play opens after a gap of four and five weeks, in the palace of forres. Macbeth and Lady Macbeth appear as the king and queen. The royal feast has been arranged in the honour of Macbeth becoming the king. Banquo is the next target for Macbeth because he is afraid of Banquo who not only knows the prophecy of
the weird sisters, but also the prediction in which Banquo, the father of the line of kings', appalls the king Macbeth. Macbeth hired some murderers in order to murder Banquo who knew the fact that the assassination of the King Duncan was carried on by Macbeth to become the king of state. The second scene of the act starts after a little time in the palace. Macbeth who seems to be quite worried and regretful, is though, given solace by Lady Macbeth, but Macbeth realizes that in order to conceal crime, he would have to do number of crimes. In the third scene, that happens in the same day. Banquo has been killed when he was returning to the palace to join the feast. Fleance escaped from the spot. The fourth scene occurs in the same night in the palace. A grant feast is arranged, where Macbeth and all the courtiers are taking part. At the mean time, murderer appears and informs Macbeth about the killing of Banquo and escape of Fleance, that increases more tension of Macbeth. After returning at the feast, Macbeth sees a ghost of Banquo and starts behaving strangely. All the members are finally asked to go from the feast by Lady Macbeth because Macbeth in a fit begins to tell about all the facts. In the fifth scene, witches are told by Hecate that they should not have given information to worldly person like Macbeth. Sixth scene happens after a gap of two or three days. Most of the country men could understand the real character of Macbeth who is preparing to attack on disloyalty of Macduff who has escaped to England in order to inform about growing atrocity of Macbeth and suffering of the people. In the opening scene of the fourth act that does not happen after a long lay off of the time, three witches are shown in a place where Macbeth comes in order to seek some answers of his questions. A number of apparitions are presented before Macbeth who asks them some questions regarding his state and growing revolt against him. After disappearing of weird sisters, Macbeth enquires about Macduff who has already fled to England. At the same time Macbeth decides to attack on the house of Macduff in order to kill his wife and child. After a little time, in the second scene, castle of Macduff is shown where Ross informs Lady Macduff about the escape of Macduff and he also urges her to go away otherwise she would have to face the brutality of Macbeth. Further the Murderers come and kill both mother and child mercilessly. In the third scene, after one or two
days, Malcolm and Macduff appear before the palace of the king Edward in England. Malcolm tells Macduff, after testing him whether he is true patriot or informer of Macbeth, about preparation of the attack against Macbeth with the help of English army. At the mean time Ross appears and gives further description of deteriorating position of the state. He also tells Maduff about his wife and child, had been brutally murdered by Macbeth.

The fifth act occurs in the castle of Macbeth after a gap of three or four days. In the first scene, Lady Macbeth who has gone mad, is examined by the Doctor for couple of days. In the second scene that happens at the same time, near the palace of Macbeth, some other members not only discuss of English army that has arrived at the Birnam wood in support of Malcolm but also decide to move towards them. In third scene, Macbeth says that though members are giving up their positions, leaving the castle to support Malcolm, but he is of the opinion that he can not be killed until there is Birnam wood as predicted by one of apparitions. Doctor appears before Macbeth and says that Lady Macbeth can not be cured. In the fourth scene Malcolm who is preparing for the assault, is informed about the death of Lady Macbeth. Moreover in the rest of scenes; six, seven, eight scenes, there hardly occurs any big change in time and place. After an immense resistance, Macbeth fails short before the army of Malcolm and ultimately killed by Macduff. Thus goodness wins over the evil and day over night. The whole theme takes the range of six to seven weeks in winding up the play.
Chapter VI
Reference

2. Ibid., P. 1033
3. Ibid.,
4. Ibid., P. 1035
5. Ibid., P. 1039
6. Ibid., P. 1058
7. Ibid., P. 1067
9. Ibid. 1099
12. Ibid., P. 1006