

A Comparative Study of Emile Durkheim's Sociological Ideas in Two Plays of Federico Garcia Lorca: Yerma and The House of Bernarda Alba

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Abstract

As a prominent figure in sociology, Emile Durkheim is one of the important contributors to the scientific methodology practiced in humanities. He classifies social structures and cultural norms, into two main categories: "material" and "non-material". He offered morality and "collective conscience" as the two most important examples of non-material social facts. Also he proposes the idea that people of primitive societies are held together by an irresistible force which he labeled as "mechanical solidarity". Durkheim argues that in such societies, the individual is overruled by the society and therefore, punished if he/she ignores its values. Federico Garcia Lorca, the known Spanish playwright, provides in his plays the perspectives of conservative and closed society of Spain (Granada in particular) on the advent of the twentieth century. The present article attempts to trace the ideas of Emil Durkheim's collective conscience in mechanical solidarity of primitive societies and the relationship between the individual and societies as such, in two plays of Lorca, namely Yerma and The House of Bernarda Alba. The study purports to show that how the deep faith of southern Spanish inhabitants in their traditions is rooted in what Durkheim calls the mechanical solidarity in the primitive societies.

Key words: Emile Durkheim, Federico Garcia Lorca, Yerma, The House of Bernarda Alba, Sociology, Spain