

Presentation of Iago

At first glance, Iago may seem as a person who wants to remain loyal to Othello; but a ~~took~~ deeper look at Iago's soliloquy provides an insight into his true nature and his malicious intentions. In his first soliloquy, he reveals he "hate[s]" Othello, expressing his belief that Othello has slept with his wife Emilia, despite proclaiming that "I know not if 't be true." Iago is aware of this rumour to be potentially false and extremely damaging, however he corrupts his own thoughts to acting upon false information to seek unjust revenge upon Othello, which makes Iago a motiveless malignant. The reference to "truth" suggests Iago is not inclined towards what is moral, which in turn makes the audience fear and distrust his character. This perfectly illustrates Iago as a Machiavellian character as he is feared and not loved. This sets the foundation for Iago's motivation to seek revenge and destroy Othello's life. The venomous language and intense imagery he employs during his soliloquy demonstrates his malignant nature.

analytical sentence of Iago presentation
Fundamentally, Iago is presented as a subservient character who is devoted to his master Othello, but despite this, a closer look at his soliloquy provides us with his true persona. Towards the start of his first soliloquy we are told 'If I would time expend with such a snipe' enabling us to understand that Iago does not obey Othello 'But for [his] sport and profit'. In essence, we are undoubtedly told that Iago would not follow Othello if he did not have a motive behind it. His duplicitous actions insinuates the idea

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that usually the servant works for and obeys the master, and evidently here the servant is benefiting from following the master. Iago clearly knows this, and is using his relationship with Othello to his advantage, disregarding morals. This reinforces the fact that

zoom ← Iago is presented as a mercenary. The words 'for my sport and profit' explores the point that Iago is a Machiavellian character, due to the words said by Machiavelli 'A prince must always seem to be very moral, even if he is not. Iago compellingly takes on this role and it makes him a character who is despised by the audience.

impact on audience ←

Context

WWW: Used relevant point, evidence and analysis

EBI: Use more ambitious vocabulary