

Georg Büchner's Play *Woyzeck*: a Remarkable Examination of the Complexity of the Human Psyche

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to examine Georg Büchner's play *Woyzeck*, a remarkable depiction of the complexity of the human psyche, as well as an in depth analysis of the effects of social oppression and progressive **mental decline**. Although the play was unfinished at the time of Büchner's death in 1837, it offers a very contemporary depiction of **pathology**, exploring the physical and psychological decline of the main character. The play is considered one of the first literary works to explore a gradual, scientific history taking on a person's psychological state. The triangle victim- aggressor- survivor offers the reader profound insights into the pathological of the human psyche, undergoing powerful oppression. This paper explores the morbid elements of the play, however highlighting the main character's **psychological struggle** to try to survive the **medical experiments** performed on him, as well as the social conditions that led to his tragic death. Furthermore, in addition to his personal and medical themes, the paper explores the socio-economic factors that contribute to mental illness.

Keywords: experiment, character, mental illness, narrative, pathology