

Sir Andrew

Mr. Dowhaniuk

ENG 2DI

Tuesday, May 18th 2010

Sir Andrew's Stupidity

Many characters in the play *Twelfth Night* have unique characteristics that define them in the play. One of these characters is Sir Andrew. The characteristic that makes him unique from the rest is his overwhelming stupidity and his tendency to not realize the obvious. There are many scenes throughout the play where Sir Andrew displays this characteristic. One example is where he meets Maria and when Sir Toby mentions the word "accost" he mixes Maria's name for "accost". Another example is when he meets Cesario and he tries to speak French but when Cesario speaks French back to him, he reverts back to English because he does not understand what she says. Lastly, Sir Andrew writes a letter to Cesario challenging her to a duel because he is jealous of Cesar that Olivia has fallen in love with him when he loves Olivia. The letter challenges Cesar is really joke because he contradicts himself all the time and sometimes the letter does not even make sense. Overall, Sir Andrew is a complete and utter idiot whom everyone makes fun of for his stupidity and these examples prove so.

There are many moments in *Twelfth Night* when Sir Andrew acts like an idiot, one moment is where he mixes up Maria's name for "accost". At first when he meets Maria he calls her "Good Mistress Accost" (Shakespeare 56). He does not understand the difference between the greeting and Maria's name. This clearly shows his stupidity. Sir Toby repeatedly says to Sir

Andrew and even Maria herself says that her name is Maria, but when they do, he just mixes it up by saying “Sir Mary Accost” further showing his stupidity. It also hints that he is kind of oblivious because they mention that her name is not “accost”. These actions make Sir Andrew m look like a fool.

Secondly, throughout the play, Sir Andrew comes as competent in many languages who but, he cannot speak French. He knows absolutely no French yet he tries to speak French and when he fails at it he reverts back to English in embarrassment. The first time he displays this is when Sir Toby says “Pourquoi” and Sir Andrew replies “What is pourquoi?”(Shakespeare 29). This example clearly shows that he has no knowledge of French. Another situation is where he meets Cesario and greets him, “Dieu, vous garde monsieur” (Shakespeare 131), but when Cesario talks back to him in French, he reverts back to English because he does not know what else to say, making him look like an idiot, and clearly showing he cannot speak French. These situations show that Sir Andrew has no knowledge of French and is stupid to try and speak French.

Lastly, Sir Andrew challenges Cesario to a duel by writing a letter. He does this because he realizes Olivia has fallen in love with Cesario, and this makes Sir Andrew jealous because he is in love with Olivia. This makes Sir Andrew look stupid because the letter is suppose to make Cesario afraid yet, half of the letter does not make sense. When Sir Andrew tries to intimidate Cesario he usually ends up contradicting himself. By doing this he confuses Cesario instead of scaring him. Another reason why his letter makes him look stupid is because half of the challenge does not make sense nor has nothing to do with the actual challenge (Shakespeare 45).. In the letter, he never gets his point across as being angry at Cesar and in turn the letter is a complete and utter joke. These reasons are why the letter makes Sir Andrew look stupid.

In conclusion, Sir Andrew shows in many ways how he is stupid. He mixes up Maria's name for the word accost, and then continues to mix it up after Sir Toby and Maria tell him her actual name. He tries to speak French and acts like he knows French but he clearly does not know French making him look stupid. Then he writes a letter challenging Cesar to a duel but ends up getting nowhere because the letter makes no sense and never gets the point he wants across. Therefore all of these situations prove that Sir Andrew's main attribute is stupidity.

Works Cited

Shakespeare, W. *Twelfth Night*. Harcourt: Toronto. 2001.