

**Family Disintegration in Tennessee William's *the Glass Menagerie*,  
Tracy Letts's *August: Osage Country*, and Eugene O'Neill's *Long  
Day's Journey into Night: A Comparative Study***

By

**Alaa Abbas Abdulla Al-Hadidi**

Supervision

**Prof. Asad Al-Ghalith**

**Al-Zaytoonah University of Jordan, 2021**

**Abstract**

Family relationship is one of the most prominent motifs in drama since it is the microcosm of society and one of its essential pillars. Several American dramatists use real-life events of American families in their works. They intend their plays to be a useful corrective force to help people have a close look inside themselves and consequently launch a positive change.

The study is an analytical comparative investigation of the theme of family disintegration in the literary works of Tennessee William's *the Glass Menagerie*, Tracy Letts's *August: Osage Country* and Eugene O'Neill's *Long Day's Journey into Night*. It approaches these American families from different perspectives. In other words, it deals with how each family is represented, the reasons behind its disintegration, the role of parents in its breakup, the consequences of this on the children and society, the effect of the external surrounding conditions on the family, and the influence of the playwrights' personal life and background on their plays.

Many studies tackle the issue of the disintegration of American family; however, this study deals with this topic in a broader way, revealing its various causes, manifestations, and consequences. It focuses on this motif in the three selected plays and describes all forms of the breakup of the American family in the twentieth and the twenty first centuries and argues how every writer depicts this problem differently. Moreover, this thesis extensively compares these plays and covers all aspects of the issue by using comparative analysis and the Historical Theory that sheds light on customs, traditions, culture, thought and social circumstances of a particular society in a specific historical period.

**Keywords:** American, disintegration, drama, family, history.