

### 3- Mertcan FURAT

#### Elements of Sentimentalism in *Hababam Sınıfı*

Sentimental theatre is a dramatic genre which started in the 18<sup>th</sup> century as a reaction to English Restoration plays. Sentimental theatre is a comedy, and it focuses on middle-class people's lives. *Hababam Sınıfı* is a Yeşilçam movie which was directed by Ertem Eğilmez, and its story is based on Rıfat Ilgaz's novel *Hababam Sınıfı*. Furthermore, *Hababam Sınıfı* includes some features of Sentimental comedy. This paper elucidates the similarities between Sentimental comedy and *Hababam Sınıfı*.

First of all, Sentimental comedy's and *Hababam Sınıfı*'s foci are explained. It is known that Sentimental comedy focuses on middle-class people's lives in a funny way. When one looks at *Hababam Sınıfı*, it is understood that all of the people in *Hababam Sınıfı* are middle-class people, and the movie focuses on their lives in a funny way. Therefore, it can be said that both Sentimental comedy and *Hababam Sınıfı* focus on same class people's lives in a funny way.

Secondly, innate goodness in Sentimental comedy and *Hababam Sınıfı* is clarified. In Sentimental comedy, there is a belief that human beings are innately good. They may make mistakes; however, even the worst person has the potential to be a good person. When *Hababam Sınıfı* is considered, it is seen that sometimes students in the movie make mistakes; nevertheless, they do something good in the end, and their teachers excuse them. Shortly, people are innately good in both Sentimental comedy and *Hababam Sınıfı*.

Thirdly, punishment and reward concepts in Sentimental comedy and *Hababam Sınıfı* are analyzed. In Sentimental comedy, guilt is punished and virtue is rewarded. In *Hababam Sınıfı*, when students make mistakes, their teacher Mahmut Hoca, played by Münir Özkul, punishes them. When students do something good, their teacher Mahmut Hoca appreciates them, and students become happy. Briefly, guilt is punished and virtue is rewarded in both Sentimental comedy and *Hababam Sınıfı*.

In conclusion, elements of Sentimental theatre in *Hababam Sınıfı* are clarified in this paper. It is seen in this paper that *Hababam Sınıfı* and Sentimental comedy have some significant similarities. From my point of view, if *Hababam Sınıfı* was produced in the 18<sup>th</sup> century England, it would be a very successful Sentimental play.