

CHARACTERISTICS AND INTERTEXTUALITY OF MAYA ANGELOU'S POEMS

I Putu Ramadheny Yudhagama

S-1, English Education, Language and Art Faculty, Surabaya State University

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Poems as an object of art has its value to delivers its message indirectly and beautiful, like a glimmering or absurd picture in a white canvas. No one really know what its true meanings or being riddled by many puzzles of words. This magnificent of art has its own form, foundation, form, shape and method, texture and structure to drew a lot of its potential artistic, which obviously would be a matter of choice that would be chosen by who will be its author. And speaking about characteristic in a poem, this is a feature which in a clear bright of crystal will bring a definitive differentiation inside the real person who made it. A character with an honest and sweet scent inside a man might made a poem which in its feature would be in a smooth or a gentle aura. And the opposite person of this man's character would result a distinctive and different poem as well. In Maya Angelou's life, If there is a one word to represent her unique characteristic inside her, that would be a thing as struggle fighting against injustice. Born as an African American woman, the little Maya Angelou yet tough must had her life being full of tragedy despair, discrimination, injustice and of course "struggle" itself. Her journeys as she lived an ever changing events in many of her life, were reflected and flowed in many parts of her poems. Reminding us about what had been happened in the eyes of a person called Maya Angelou. Based on these conditions, the analysis of this thesis is grounded on these two main questions:(1) What are the characteristics of Maya Angelou poems? and How is intertextuality in Maya Angelou's poems?. In supporting the analysis of this thesis some related theories are applied, such as: a basic introduction inside African American feminism, and semiotic theory which based on Michael Riffaterre The effectiveness of using such theories was measured by analyzing the meaning and characteristics which found in Maya Angelou's poems which based through on her life and settings in her experiences. Also in this thesis the author included the intertextuality between poems created by Maya Angelou herself and another poems which created by the same and different idealistic poets. This result in to what is the distinctive topics or theme between Maya Angelou's depictions and ideas which formed in her creations and another poets.

INTRODUCTION

According to experts, as a media, a poem has a form of complex and dense, yet it could introduce the readers to many aspirations and views. As Nurgiyantoro (2002) stated that a poem as a medium of literature has its efficiency and effectiveness to allocate the words in to the beauty, yet means a lot. According to Riffaterre's statement (Pradopo, 1987:4) poem is a thing of times, changes through its appliances and practical using, so the appearances of poems will be reformed in a drastically different shaped.

The purpose of why the poem was being created has a tight relationship with the author's point of view. Tirtawirya (1984) stated that poem is being created to search for what is the "Ideal" for his or her soul. Poem is also said as a creation of fiction. According to Nurgiyantoro (2002:2) fiction as a work of imager, offers many kinds of issues of humanity and human itself, the livelihood and the life itself. Poem possesses its characteristics and behaviours which are different with any objects of literary arts.

According to Waluyo (1987) a poem has a physical structure or a structure of language and in the other hand a structure of mind which is kind alike of an expression of the inner thought of author. These structures of language which physically bound the poems in to readable or consumable form is used to select, arrange or change what the poem needs or chooses.

As the collection of poems created Maya Angelou entitle as "I know why the caged bird sings" (1969) was an autobiography which deliberately drawn from her experiences as a child into adulthood. Maya Angelou is one of the

major writers in the history of black American feminism at 1960s. In this work all things importance for the process in reshaping of Maya Angelou's characteristic are shown in many aspects and considered as a controversial factor in Maya Angelou's life. Many of her poems recollect about all what has been happened mostly about women, especially black women which depicted as the most suffered human being even in their own communities Being underestimated, abandoned, forgotten, always being blamed for all unreasonable mistakes and all bad features sticking around on all of ourselves becoming a black woman. As The black African American women felt in themselves there a gap that made them a second class citizen not only in many communities and societies, also in their family.

To reveals Maya Angelou's poem, Intertextuality study is intended as a review of a number of texts or creations which seems does have certain forms of relationship, such as to find the relationship intrinsic elements such as ideas, ideas, events, plot, characterization, style, and others. Intertextuality study also tries to find certain aspects that have existed in the previous works on the work that appeared later. All the writings or creations are often related to its historical elements so it would be suffice, complete and meaningful if it is associated with the historical element (Teeuw: 1983 via Nurgiyanto, 1995: 50). In this case characters inside poems which was created by Maya Angelou also does have a role in a comparison base with another creations which does have same elements or patterns, whether they are in a concept of extrinsic or intrinsic area. yet another differences also would be there, creates uniqueness and originality that shape Maya Angelou's characteristics' inside her poems among the other poets, and this

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point stand a great mark in her poems as one of kind in the world of literariness especial those who used African American criticism and black womanhood as the basic theme of their creations.

The differences between Maya Angelou's poems and the other creations that would have the same or distinctive features. As the idea of the life experienced by Maya Angelou as she lived in and her background of the black feminism and the intersectional idea in black womanhood. And the meanings of this study wants to analyse the purposes and meanings in the collection of poems wrote by Maya Angelou in her autobiography of "I know the caged bird sings" and her other creations. As her works emerging creation that reflects of many phenomenon circulated in most of black womanhood, black communities and of course the journey of Maya Angelou's life.

REVIEW OF THE RELATED LITERATURE

As the theme of poems which created by Maya Angelou serves as an African American criticism since Maya Angelou's experiences based in her life being born and raised in United state of America. This theory itself would explain the internal and external conflict received by the poet hers self also the method of semiotic theory and finally the Michael Riffaterre methods of understanding and analysing the poem

African American Criticism

According to Lois Tyson in Critical Theory Today, he explained that African American criticism is very useful due to its acquaintance toward the racial issues that may inform African American literary history and introduce the fundamental

concerns of African American race theorist today (Tyson 359). The very object of this study is to analyze the behavior in a big large of community within the black, color and white people regarding the discrimination.

The belief of the leading race, or the classification of the race that is most powerful than another and this race is destined to be the one that must role over the other is an idea that appear and rise in the 19th century. The concept of racism in America is to magnify and make difference between colonial government and white folks between the colonized people and slaves brought or being captured. By viewing this applying of racism, the African descendants and the native people of America whom banished from their motherland depicted as the lesser being of human Later in 1920 to 1960 the arrival of racialism idea that stated of superiority inferiority and purity based on the conviction about moral value and intellectual, based on physical characteristics or biological properties that differentiate races (Tyson 360).

Even after the years of racial discrimination seemed to be vanished, the law can not sure that the opportunities change for black people can be received as same as white could be true. The systematic practice of racial discrimination can occur only when racism has become institutionalized (Tyson 361). Institutional racism is a type of racism that cone into inner structure of political and social institutions and law. It may insert in government, corporations, universities, or any public facilities.

The wide spread of racism that already goes in to institutions lead colored people to feel inferior to whites, less attractive, less worthwhile, less capable,

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and often wish they are white or looked more white (Tyson 362)

Institutional and internalized racism are problems that have been rooted in African American society. its continually presence is a barrier that has prevented the different races, especially black from achieving a prospect fully good life and rights

By far, the most divisive thing among black people is due of their skin color. this phenomena is caused by the power and privilege that are given to those who are lighter in complexion over those who are darker. In the days of slavery, light skinned blacks were assigned to the house while the dark skinned blacks had to work to the fields.

Intersectionality.

An intersectionality approach is used to analyze disempowerment of marginalized women attempt to capture the consequences of the interaction between two or more forms of subordination. It addresses the manner in which racism, patriarchy, class oppression and other discrimination factors and systems create in a quality that structure the relatives position of women, races, ethnicities, classes. Intersectionality study addresses the way that specific acts and policies operate together to create further disempowerment.

And what is more dangerous than just an oppressive act and make a serious trouble out of women issues, it is becoming structuralize and finally it is exploitable. Later this system justifies all idea about women being limited, arranged to anywhere which they don't that it is good or bad

The long issue of this women's problem in being oppressed is they are seen as object, a thing, a compliment goods for men in their luxury little world. This kind of idea limited the range area of women to share and distribute at least for their help. Until now no wonder in some of our place women can't speak up to what they want and think due to men discrimination, the common views which stated that women should be under men and do nothing but being a tool for reproduction and taking care of their next generation.

Intersectionality began with the emergence of despotism in applying the difference roles between the low and high class community, racism and gender equality which almost all of these aspects received automatically by African American women.

General thought of intersectional idea is trying to combine the oppression and dilemma faced by black, colour faces and multilayer background in many women based on many approaches, not just being a woman, being a second class citizen, or being a black people in independently, as the author would think and write about it, is to point out that feminism which is overly white, middle class, cis-gendered and able bodied represents just one type of view, and doesn't reflect on the experiences of all the multi layered facets in life that women of all background faces.

Michael Riffaterre and Semiotic Theory in Poem

Michael Riffaterre was an influential French literary critic and theorist. He pursued a generally structural approach in analysing poetry. He is well known in

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particular for his book *Semiotics of Poem*. Riffaterre revealed that poetry expresses something else or states something indirectly (1978: 1). According to Riffaterre this indirectness is caused by three things, they are consist of replacement of the meaning (displacing), meaning deviation (distorting), and the creation of meaning (creating meaning) (Riffaterre: 1978: 2). In his theory he suggests that there are four things that must be considered in understanding and interpret a poem. These four things are: (1) poetry is the expression indirectly, expresses a sense of things with others, (2) heuristic and hermeneutic readings (retroactive), (3) matrix, models, and variants, and (4) hypogram that would be explained in a detailed part

ANALYSIS

Characteristics of Maya Angelou's Poems

Most of Maya Angelou's poems do have themes which relationship with the life of black communities and black womanhood that set back at 1960's. no wonder in this era with emergence of black societies movement and second wave feminism which focused on black woman experiences, Maya Angelou have been influenced by this strong element, tend to be fluently explicit in a way of writings, obviously direct in how she give a picture of what has been happening inside and outside her black world.

There are three big themes which found in Maya Angelou's poems, most of those consist of plot that describe how her struggle and painful experience and the second is theme which describe hope or love, and the third a theme with a tone of challenging people. There are parts, words

or sense that features challenge, or meant to dare someone or a system.

Of course for these three big themes not always becoming fully one poem in a way, yet these three elements can be blend by Maya Angelou. In some parts Maya Angelou also readers inside her poems to give feel what is the real condition or situation which found inside the setting. Also Maya Angelou's poems seem direct and obvious to many readers, even for those who has a first time seeing a delicate poem.

Maya Angelou uses the words which used to come from black communities. And also common words yet it is shaped to be literally amusing yet known by many people. Maya Angelou poems originally tell about black people and their life yet her poems can be traced and told to many race. Black heritage also become a great future that reshape Maya Angelou's poems, especially her personal life that we all know from the previous talk that her life is the most essential.

Intertextuality of Maya Angelou's Poems

According to the previous section that a work of literature, including poem is a product created by the limitation of imagination, a culture experiences and norms which combine and affect the form the characteristic and mind of an author him or herself. In the other hand a text, whether its content, structure, language method and many elements inside a literature work can be found and affected by the outer source.

Intertextuality study of Maya Angelou as in this thesis purposes to revealed what is the different and same contents between some poems that have a

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distinct differences in culture and background. In this context the other poems which used are a sample which created by Elizabeth Bishop and Adrienne Rich

As Maya Angelou used theme which consist dominantly of her life and experience, that can be considered as the reflection of black American community and social life and especially the black feminism which also in its existence was always meet each other. These means that many feature outside and inside Maya Angelou, as she was a girl, a woman, her drama in her life whether good or life and a lots her environment and situation which usually did a major impact on her personal life and idealism. The idea of Maya Angelou's poem of "*Phenomenal woman*" is an idea of her appearance and self esteem belong to her, a creation to make a proof and resolution of dignity and prominence identity of Maya Angelou. And in black society this poem stand a firm idea of important picture of what had been happened, which we can see in this poem many explicitly vulgar and the picture of women's sensual body. This idea give us a a view about Maya Angelou's way of life, which can be considered harsh hard and dynamic, everything have to be clear and goes to the real point and no '*beating in the bush*'.

Intertextual studies in this context is used to compare what is the different factors between Maya Angelou Elizabeth bishop and Adrienne rich were collected in many various elements, and many of them can be traced or sourced from what is their real perspective, their life's experience, status and financial condition, time settings and place gave a big impact of what would they write in their poem and made a general idea of their basic style. As intertextual studies is created to make

comparison in various elements between both literary works that would lead in to interconnection of what has been happened and realizing sense that having the same idea, concept or adding the feature in to another steps is the characteristic in many literary arts in. And in this case Maya Angelou as she had a different idea about what was feminism in her idea, and her ideology, experience and her place to stay alive were quite different and practically made her works simply strong and harsh rather than Elizabeth bishop's poems. And Maya Angelou idea of feminism was quite different with Adrienne rich who she (Adrienne Rich) managed to insist on post war era, nuclear war and war victims which always depicted in her poems. The analyzing of background and people personality have a majestic standing of how people or individual to bear and publish their thought, reflected by how the authors living their life in to best days of their life

CONCLUSIONS

The analysis of characteristics and intertextuality of Maya Angelou's poems focuses on two statement of the problem. this study is to find out what is the characteristics deep behind Maya Angelou's poems and intertextuality of her creations.

From the first analysis on how to reveal the poems whose is based on methods directed by Michael Riffatterre. The first step that including heuristic, hermeneutic, finding out matrix and hypogram in intertextuality study. For the next analysis that establishes the correct characteristics by using the previous analysis that went through all the process. In this section this thesis could found that theme used by Maya Angelou's poems have three main elements. Those are

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themes that those consist of plot that describe how her struggle and painful experience, the second is theme which describes hope or love, and the third a theme with a tone of challenging people. Seems that Maya Angelou not just use these themes by their individual characteristic yet she combines them in to a single creation.

The intertextuality study in comparing between texts proof that in Maya Angelou's poems were based on massive movement of the ongoing and continuously happened in the middle of second wave feminism, which in this context concerned in mainly black women issue in American and global society in class hierarchy and same equality. This phenomenon would lead a trend that in a latter progress would lead a vast transcend in viewing women and minorities as the equivalent societies same in hierarchy with the other people, which including the equivalent of races, gender, ideas and many more issues. Also as we can see as the big theme in Maya Angelou made her works reflected in many samples of black societies which we see as her imagination and background culture based on her real young and mature experiences. As the culture and background setting known by human being can be imprinted in to what over creations which in the end would be reflected on its self personality.

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