

A STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS OF AUDRE LORDE’S RACISM POETRY: IT’S INTRINSIC AND EXTRINSIC ELEMENTS

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A B S T R A C T

This research aims to analyze and identify intrinsic elements in the form of theme, figurative language, and diction, then analyze extrinsic elements in the form of social elements in poetry making and analyze racism reflected in Audre Lorde's poems entitled *Power* (1978), *Who Said It Was Simple* (1973) and *A Woman Speaks* (1984). The method use in this research was a qualitative method. Reading the poem in order to comprehend its overall meaning and discover the meaning which was primarily the essence related to the topic was how the data was collected. This research, there were found 16 data from three themes, 42 figurative languages, 38 dictions, and 17 racism data from three Audre Lorde poems. In addition, There were various manifestations of racism in the poem "Power," including skin color, injustice, segregation, and racial prejudice. The poem "Who Said It Was Simple" has elements of racism related to homophobia, gender, and skin color. The poem "A woman speaks" contains multiple instances of racism, including prejudice based on race, gender, and skin tone. This research is recommended for someone who is interested in literary works, especially poetry, but further research can analyze more broadly in other literary works such as novels, short stories and, songs.

Introduction

In this chapter, there are some points conveyed as follows: background of the study, research question, objectives of the research, scope of the research, and significance of the research. This study investigates the intrinsic and extrinsic analysis and racist elements reflected in the poetry text. This discussion was chosen to see how the theme, figurative language, and diction of social and racist elements are contained in the poem. This research analyses the poetry text about racism selected in three Audre Lorde poems entitled "*Power, Who Said It Was Simple, and A Woman Speaks*".

The selection of the three poems by Audre Lorde in this study is based on the reason that Audre Lorde is a poet who expresses emotional and social injustice based on what happens around her. The researcher analyses the intrinsic and extrinsic elements and racism reflected in the poems to find out the meaning and intent implied from within the poem and from outside the poem and lessons can be learned for the readers. Therefore, the researcher decided to analyses the poetry text of Audre Lorde.

According to Suminto (2008) in Kusmana (2020) poetry is a type of verbal expression that considers the nuances of its sounds. It implies that poetry, particularly in literary work, is a medium to express thoughts, sentiments, and emotions. Poetry is one kind of literary work in which the presentation mostly depends on the elegance of the language and the depth of the message. And to support the presentation of poetry in order to get a graceful impression and have a deep message, poetry must be supported by elements that can make poetry more elegant and more meaningful.

Regarding the elements contained in poetry, we must know that poetry contains several elements, namely intrinsic and extrinsic elements. Nurgiyantoro (2010) in Zainuddin (2020) defined intrinsic elements as those that build the literary work itself.

When people read literary works, these elements are factually discovered, causing literary works to be present as literary works. The components that readers of literature can discover. It can be further noted that one of the structures seen in poetry and other literary works is that of inherent elements. The intrinsic element is the building element also explain the poem. The substances are categorized as intrinsic. The poem's components are: theme, diction and figurative language. While the extrinsic elements according to Wellek and Warren (1956) in Marlina (2021) The extrinsic aspect, which is the author's subjective state regarding the attitudes, beliefs, and worldviews that serve as the foundation for the creation of a work of fiction, can be said to influence the work's features. Extrinsic elements tell about aspects outside poetry itself, such as biography and elements of society.

This research focuses on poetry as a literary work. As a fiction, Audre Lorde has a dynamic plot which results in an interesting poem. This study uses a structuralism approach to analyse poetry. Structural analysis according to Hawkes (1978) in Rahayuningsih (2019) The extrinsic aspect, which is the author's subjective state regarding the attitudes, beliefs, and worldviews that serve as the foundation for the creation of a work of fiction, can be said to influence the work's features.

Research Method

Research design is a strategy and set of steps for conducting a study that cover everything from general hypotheses to specific techniques for gathering and analysing data. To conduct this research, the authors use a descriptive method that focuses on "qualitative methods". The research approach is a set of philosophical insights related to the nature of the facts that will be worked on and the description of the way that will be done used to capture and understand it, the approach in this study uses a discourse analysis approach which includes analysis the intrinsic elements in poetry which include aspects of theme, diction and figurative language which are extrinsic elements such as biography and elements of society further strengthened by structural analysis. According to Darma in (2018) in critical discourse analysis is linguistic studies that discuss discourse not from linguistic elements, but relate it to context. Context in here the meaning is the language used according to certain situations and conditions so that the desired goals are achieved.

Result and Discussion

This section presents findings about Audre Lorde's third poem "Power, Who Said It Was Simple and A Woman Speaks". First, analysing the intrinsic and extrinsic elements in the form of themes, figurative language, diction and social elements in the selected poems. Second, identify the racism that is reflected in the selected poems. The research found 16 data in theme, 42 figurative language, 38 diction, and 17 data on racism featured in the three poems of Audre Lorde.

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A. Power

Theme

Data 1: “*And a dead child dragging his shattered black*” (Line 6)

This line describes the killing of a black child until his body was destroyed.

Based on the information presented above, it can be concluded that the poem's theme is hatred and destruction. Audre Lorde, the poem's author, actually witnessed the murder of a 10-year-old black boy who was killed by a police officer posing as a racist black man, but the officer was exonerated, so Audre Lorde was able to overcome the injustice.

Figurative Language

Metaphor: “*Trying to make power out of hatred and destruction*” (Line 18)

In words, hatred and destruction have the same characteristics, namely very strong emotions that can have devastating effects.

Personification: “*Only the sun will bleach his bones quicker.*” (Line 20)

Since the sun cannot whiten, the meaning in this line is that bones can be dried by exposure to sunshine. The words whiten and sun are extensively employed by living things.

Hyperbole: “*And lined her own womb with cement*” (Line 41)

This sentence contains exaggerated meaning, lining her uterus with semen is impossible to do, the purpose of this sentence is to protect the uterus that has a baby by heating it as much as it can

Diction

Line 7: “*Face off the edge of my sleep*”

Concrete words (**edge**) In my sleep edge diction means entering into sleep dreams.

Line 11: “*Churns at the imagined taste while*”

Concrete words (**churns**) In diction churns at the imagined means a bad feeling when imagining.

Line 12: “*My mouth splits into dry lips*”

Concrete words (**splits**) In diction my mouth is split to mean a mouth that is crying until it becomes dry lips.

Social element

The murder and court trials used in "Power" are actual events. Even though this poem was first published in 1978, it still has relevance today. The murder of Clifford Glover and the trials that failed to bring justice for his son or his family are discussed by Lorde in the essay "Power." He talked about his fury and how it is connected to the rage of everyone who consistently suffers maltreatment at the hands of white oppressors. The poet attacks the core of the discourse surrounding white and black using horrific imagery of violence and death. Additionally, he compared the rhetoric to the force that poetry must employ to combat this injustice.

Racism reflected

Data 1: “*And a dead child dragging his shattered black*” (Line 6)

The phrase "and a dead his shattered black skin" explains that the child has died until his entire body has been destroyed. "Black" here indicates that it was the limbs of a boy who was killed by a white policeman, the policeman killed for no reason, just because the little boy was black. This line of racism is reflected in the figurative language. It explains how sadistic racism is.

B. Who Said It Was Simple

Theme

Data 1: “*An almost white counterman passes, a waiting brother to serve them first*” (Line8-9)

In this line explains, a white counterman is prioritized in everything, because they have white skin.

With the information provided, it is clear that the theme of this poem is inequality and the burdens of life. The author, Audre Lorde, claims that this is a powerful poem about inequality in the various civil rights movements she has participated in throughout her life. Audre Lorde wants to reach out to those who identify with one group while continuing to oppress another.

Figurative Language

Metonymy: “*Sitting in Nedicks*” (Line 4)

The word Nedicks is a fast food restaurant in America, in this sentence it describes sitting in a place which is a restaurant.

Synecdoche : “*Discussing the problematic girls*” (Line 6)

In this sentence expresses something to express the whole of the parts or collectively, in the word "girls" it's not just one girl that's in trouble.

Paradox: “*The slighter pleasures of their slavery*” (Line 11)

The words pleasure and slavery have two contradictory types but express real facts, pleasure is something easy to do, in contrast to slavery which is very tired if done. however, in both sentences this has a feeling.

Diction

Line 1: “*There are so many roots to the tree of anger*”

Concrete words (**roots**) In diction roots to the tree means many causes from various sources.

Line 4: “*Sitting in Nedicks*”

Concrete words (**nedicks**) In diction nedicks means the American fast food restaurant chain that originated in New York City is fruitful.

Line 18: “*All these liberations*”

Concrete words (**liberations**) In diction liberations means surviving despite the Civil Rights movement and women's rights, still divided.

Social Element

In 1973, Lorde's third book of poetry, *From a Land Where Other People Live*, had "Who Said It Was Simple" as one of its poems. The brief poem looks at people who identify as feminists yet nevertheless support and profit from the opposition of other organizations. Lorde outlined in it the facets of her identity that prevented her from approving of such a conditional version of feminism.

Racism Reflected

Data 1: “*An almost white counterman passes, a waiting brother to serve them first*” (Line8-9)

This line of racism is reflected in the figurative language, The phrase "an almost white counterman" in this statement alludes to racial characteristics including skin tone

and gender. The phrase "a waiting brother to serve them first" is then used, which conjures up the image of brothers passing by while they wait for their other brothers to serve them first. White men are referred to as "them" in this sentence, demonstrating how they treat men more favorably than women. The term "brother" literally means "superior to others" and alludes to white men being serviced first.

A Woman Speaks

Theme

Data 1: "I seek no favor" (Line 5)

This sentence implies that because women are devalued and their existence is viewed as abnormal, they will not grovel or plead to be treated like men.

In the data above it can be concluded that the theme in this poem is the power of black women. The poem "A Woman Speaks" by American poet and activist Audre Lorde honors the distinctive strength of black women's voices while bemoaning their underrepresentation.

Figurative Language

Metonymy: "*Witches in Dahomey*" (Line 21)

The word Dahomey is the name of a kingdom that once existed in Africa. In this sentence, it explains that the witch is in a kingdom.

Paradox: "*Within my birth nor my divinities*" (Line 17)

In the words birth and divinity have two types of contradictions but express real facts, birth is the early life of a human being and divinity is the divinity that comes from gods.

Alliteration: "*wear me inside their coiled cloths*" (Line 22)

In this sentence there are several consonants repeated, namely the consonant c in the word "coiled cloths"

Diction

Line 8: "*Permanent as my errors*"

Concrete words (*permanent*) In diction permanent means this is clear and eternal as an error.

Line 21: "*Witches in Dahomey*"

Concrete words (*Dahomey*) In diction Dahomey means it is the name of a royal state that once existed in Africa.

Line 28: "*I am treacherous with old magic*"

Concrete words (*treacherous*) In diction Treacherous means be careful with a smile that black women are dangerous.

Social Element

Lorde penned "A Woman Speaks" in 1984; the book *Collected Works of Audre Lorde*, which was released posthumously in 1997, contained it. The book "A Woman Speaks" makes the case that the strength and experience of black women have long been undervalued in the fight for equality and progress. Black women are historically excluded from the "future/promised" by white women (and, indirectly, black males), their experiences are underrepresented, and their voices are muted because they are marginalized in terms of both gender and race. However, the speaker made it apparent that the intersection of Black and female identities was a source of powerful and

enigmatic "magic." The poem makes the implication that black women must actively participate in shaping their own "future" if it is to be worthy.

Racism Reflected

Data 1: "I have been woman for a long time beware my smile" (Line 25-27)
This line of racism is reflected in the theme, this line "I have been woman for a long time" shows that women have long been victims of racism. Describing the ongoing misery that has been happening for a long time. The phrase "have been" indicates that the unfortunate occurrences and unfair treatment they have faced have persisted over a lengthy period of time and continue to do so.

Biography

On February 18, 1934, Audrey Geraldine Lorde, also known as Audre Lorde, was born. She was a poet, writer, feminist, and librarian. He was famous for his technical proficiency and emotional eloquence as a poet. His poetry deals extensively with rage, crimes that take place in civil society, and social injustice in light of what he observes going on around him. The majority of her poetry and prose also explore black female identity as well as civil rights, feminism, and other related topics.
Lorde was born in the Big Apple. He is a member of the Harlem-based Caribbean immigrant family Frederick Byron Lorde (also known as Byron) and Linda Gertrude Belmar Lorde, specifically from Barbados and Carriacouan. The mother of Lorde was a mulatto. She is wearing

Discussion

Referring to the findings of Audre Lorde's poems, namely "Power, Who Said It Is Simple and A Woman Speaks". researchers found 42 figurative languages, 38 diction and 14 racism data from three Audre Lorde poems. in 42 figurative languages, there are 24 figurative languages in the first poem, 7 figurative languages in the second poem and 11 figurative languages in the third poem. Then in 38 diction, there are 20 diction in the first poem, there are 7 diction in the second poem and 11 diction in the third poem. and the last discovery the researcher found 14 racism data, there are 3 racism data in the first poem, 5 racism data in the second poem, and 6 racism data in the third poem.

This study discusses intrinsic elements in Nurgiyantoro's in Zainuddin (2020) defining intrinsic elements are elements that build the literary work itself. and extrinsic elements in Wellek and Warren's theory in Marlina, et, al, (2021) extrinsic elements are the state of the author's subjectivity about attitudes, beliefs, and views of life that become the background for the birth of a work of fiction, it can be said that the biographical elements of the author can determine the characteristics of the work produced. Extrinsic elements tell about aspects outside the poem itself, such as biography and elements of society. This study addresses this issue by examining the intrinsic and extrinsic elements in the poems. A case study design was used to get a better analysis of the speakers' realization of politeness strategies.

This study collected data through several steps based on Creswell's (2013), in collecting data, the researcher first found the text of the poem. Second, the researcher took several steps to get a concise description of the data, such as reading the text of the poem and examining every word contained in each word. Finally, the researcher determines the theme, style of language and diction and looks for biographical and social elements in making the poem. This study found figurative language and diction in 3 of

Audre Lorde's poems entitled "Power, Who It Is Simple, A Woman Speaks". This finding is common because this study found that there were 44 figurative language, 38 diction and 17 data on racism that were reflected in the selected poems. Thus, this study shows that in every poem, there is meaning and meaning implied in it.

In the debate above, metonymy and figurative language are the statistics that stand out the most. In particular, this study reveals racism represented in Audre Lorde's poetry, which can be seen from the essential parts of poetry, which are the most recent findings from earlier studies.

Conclusion

This study aims to describe the intrinsic and extrinsic elements and racism that are reflected in three of Audre Lorde's poems entitled "Power, Who Said It Was Simple, and A Woman Speaks." In selecting participants for this study, the researcher chose poetry with the theme of racism. The first conclusion provides answers to the first objective of the research, which is to describe the meaning of the three intrinsic elements of Audre Lorde's poetry in the form of themes, figurative language, and diction, and to look for extrinsic elements in the form of biographical and social elements. The second conclusion is the answer to the second objective of this study, which is to analyse racism that is reflected in the three poems.

This study shows that the three poems of Audre Lorde use the same theme of racism, in the three poems of Audre Lorde there are 16 data themes, 42 figurative language, figurative language is generally used to embellish every word contained in the poem, then 38 dictions in the three poems of Audre Lorde has diction in writing that is used to express the meaning in each sentence.

In the second research, which examines how racism is mirrored in Audre Lorde's three poems, there are 17 instances of racism. Several facets of racism, including skin tone, injustice, and racial prejudice, are present in the poem "Power." Racism can be seen in the poem "Who Said It Was Simple" in terms of things like gender and skin tone. The poem "A woman speaks" contains a number of racist elements, including prejudice towards race, gender, and skin tone.

Based on the results of the study, the researcher would like to provide some suggestions as important considerations to the following parties.

The researcher expects that this study can provide a deeper and better understanding of how to describe intrinsic elements and extrinsic elements in EFL students or the factors that make students understand when reading poetry in class. The researcher also hopes that this research can be used as a reference for those who want to conduct similar research, not only can it be used in other literature studies.

For literary enthusiasts, especially oral literature, it is very good and interesting to study because it makes us close to our own culture. With research like this, we can add insight and knowledge about our own culture so that with the results of scientific writings made like this thesis example. will help other researchers in finding references for future research.

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