

Allan Poe and Emily Dickinson work

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Many poets have expressed their talents and skills in writing poems over the years. The most distinguished and most respected poets of the 1800s are Edgar Allan Poe and Elizabeth Dickinson. They are the most famous poets in American Literature as their great works still fascinating even in the present days. The two poets share common characteristics as well as differences. Since they were both born and brought up in a small village in Massachusetts, they always talked about similar life experience which they gathered in their early lives, (Rahman, 2015). Their life experiences influenced the major themes in their poems.

According to Risdianto, (2014) the major similarity between the works of the two poets is that they majorly talked about sadness and death. The major theme that appear in most of the two poets is that of death, modes of death and the uncertainty that exist after one dies. This is because they grew in a similar setup where life was difficult, and fatalities were rampant, (Risdianto, 2014). They were both born in Massachusetts area. Both came from a wealthy family.

The two poets had lost their loved one due to mysterious circumstances. Emily laments about having lost her closest cousin who she had considered as a best friend and a family member. They always shared secrets and shared problems. The cousin was always there for her whenever she needed her. They could spend most of their childhood life together which increased their bond. However, death took her away which pained Emily so much that she mourned for several days after her cousin died. She wrote several poems complaining about death and could regularly mention her cousin's

death and the way it left her in agony and stress. Edger, at his tender age, lost his mother (Risdianto, 2014). Before the memory could clear out of his mind, his father died. The death of his parents left him destitute. He could not believe that he was an orphan. He did not even know who would take care of his needs. The pain he suffered at his tender age influenced him to write poems lamenting about death. Since both poets had experienced loss of their loved ones, the experience shaped the major themes of their poems. That is why both of them regularly wrote about death which was not common among the poets of their time.

Both Poe and Dickson lived an isolated life. They rarely interacted with people as they isolated themselves from the world. This is attributed to the loss they experienced when they were young. They displayed fear of death because they were aware of the danger death can pose in someone's life. Emily is known to hide in her house so that she could not interact with people as she liked staying alone. She always stayed alone in her house writing or doing other household chores alone. Even though Poe did not hide, he always kept his feelings in (Rahman, 2015).

Both Poe and Dickson experienced a lot of rejection and critics out of their works. When trying to publish their work, it had to undergo several alterations to meet the then set standards of a poem. According to McGann, (2014) the poets' works faced ridicule as they talked of a topic many had not spoken of. Most of their works were not published until their deaths since they were considered unfit and not meeting the literature rules. In fact Dickson's first volume of 115 poems published when she died.

Even though both had similar life experiences, they had numerous differences (McGann, 2014). Their understanding of and approach to death were different. Poe

always saw death as a mystery which he could not comprehend. He could not understand death and kept wondering what it was. He also wondered what happens after a person dies. On the other hand, Dickson always seems to have a better understanding of death than Poe. She listed the various ways in which a person could die such as crucifixion, hanging, drowning or suffocation. According to Rahman, (2015), Dickinson used numerous poetry skills such as imagery gotten from the environment she lived in such as castle, buildings or even from nature.

Another difference between the works of the two poets is that Poe not only talked about death but also about love (Gale, 2016). He seems to have appreciated other aspects of life even though he was sure that the end of every person life is death. Gale, (2016) mentions him as a talented poet as he involved several writing skills such as irony in his poems. Dickson, on the other hand always lamented about death. He, however, included in writing different genres such as short stories and fiction stories.

Conclusively, both Dickson and Poe works had similarities as well as differences. They are considered works of suffering souls as they always talked about losses especially that brought about by death. This is as a result of the losses of their loved ones which occurred at the early ages of their lives. Even though they were brought up in the same village and from wealthy families, they expressed variations in their works. Their works faced a lot of rejection and often not published until the day they died after which people started taking their job seriously. Even though their works were written several decades ago, their ideas, writing skills and themes are considered to be of great minds.

Reference

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