Langston_Hughes_Major_Themes.edited.docx

by

Submission date: 24-Oct-2021 08:07AM (UTC-0500)
Submission ID: 1682412495
File name: Langston_Hughes_Major_Themes.edited.docx (18.34K)
Word count: 1042
Character count: 5897

Name:

Professor

Course:

Date:

Langston Hughes Major Themes

Introduction

Langston Hughes wrote many articles, dramas, and short tales, but his poetry, which depicts ordinary African Americans' daily lives and difficulties, is his most well-known works. Hughes is most known for his lyrics written during the Harlem Renaissance in the twentieth century. He is a crucial figure in the movement, and his poetry perfectly encapsulates the atmosphere of the time (Alonso and Del Río 95). Langston Hughes' poetry explores the ordinary lives of African Americans through a variety of themes. He uses poems to promote themes of social equality, liberty, and tolerance (Alonso and Del Río 94). Langston Hughes' poetry affected the African American culture of his time and subsequent generations. After analyzing his works, this paper highlights the major themes that illustrate Hughes's primary concern.

Langston Hughes' principal themes emerge from his daily experience, his encounters with his community, his adventures, and his participation in revolutionary and resistance activities. Themes like Racial pride, the American Dream, discrimination, aspirations of liberty and reform, song, and others can be found in Langston Hughes' compositions. His works provoke sentiments of racial pride. He is one of his race's more effective champions and has a strong sense of ethnic pride. He often tells his people that they should be comfortable with where they are from. His work expresses African-American's great dreams and sentimental recollections of their homeland. He speaks and understandably, with subjects and language that are recognizable

to his audience. He encourages his people to embrace themselves regardless of how others perceive or believe them.

Repatriation and lineage are also themes that Hughes explores in his art (Duki 167). His poems examine the history of African slaves being deported across deep, huge seas and streams. The most well-known are "The Negro Speaks of Rivers" and "The Negro Mother." (Mane 9). He links the African-American race and historic waterways. It links the African-American community's spirit and lineage to four major rivers in the Middle East, Africa, and America. In this approach, the poem covers the origins of African Americans and connects them to the beginnings of civilization through poems like “Justice” and “Let America Be America Again.”. Hughes emphasizes the African race's ancient presence and progression over time.

Another critical theme is systematic oppression. Hughes highlights the disparities and unfavorable social situations that African-Americans faced at the time. They suffered while yearning for equal opportunity. Hughes exploits poetry to encourage his people to endeavor for equality and social integrity. He inspires people to fight white oppression. He also invites them to imagine an America ruled by love, peace, liberty, and fairness for all ethnicities. Hughes' poetry express the potential of African Americans and whites living in unity and tranquility equally. These poems are inspired from experiences and express his philosophy on combating racial prejudice. Hughes' work critiques discrimination and social inequality while also promoting equality. He is a proponent of African American community, enthusiasm, and unity.

In essence, among the most common topics in Hughes' writing is the American Dream and the fight to achieve it. In his works "Harlem," "As I Grew Older," "I Too," and others, he emphasizes the importance of the American Dream for people of color. They also involve a variety of difficulties that his people encounter as they strive to realize their ambition. He

portrays how the American Dream is becoming difficult for his people due to racism and inequity. Hughes aspires to resurrect the American Dream's proclaimed delights of rights and liberties. He illustrates black people's wish to be part of the New America. He talks vehemently for the America he values in his poetry, an America that guarantees liberty and fairness for all.

Langston Hughes is an African-American opponent of racially discriminatory systems and bigotry (Duki 168). His writings effectively portray the issue of racial prejudice that African Americans endured before and after Harlem Renaissance. Throughout generations, Black people in America have been subjected to segregation and prejudice. Jim Crow laws discriminated against African-Americans by depriving them of the right to vote, find employment, attend school, and other possibilities. It was illegal for blacks to join whites' schools, visit their playgrounds, or sit close in theaters or other public areas. They were barred access to public events and discriminated against in practically every aspect of their lives. He offers his people hope by promising that they would live in an ethnically inclusive society (Duki 167). Notwithstanding the racism and inequality they face, he urges them to pursue their aspirations.

In his poetry, Hughes also addresses the subject of aspirations. His work is filled with fantasies representing African Americans' hopes and ambitions for liberation, transformation, and justice. In pieces like "Dream Deferred," "Dreams," and "Dream Variations," he explores the issue of aspirations. All these poems emphasize the significance of pursuing one's aspirations. Hughes values aspirations to the extent that the term "dream" appears in the covers of two of his literary collections. "Montage of a Dream Deferred" and "The Dream Keeper" are two of them. He sends a message of optimism, ambition, purpose, confidence, yearning, and aim to his audience through employing dreams in his writings. He encourages his people to never give up on hope, even if they do not come to pass.

Conclusion

Hughes' compositions are on African-Americans and their issues. His works stimulate issues that bring African-American ancestry and heritage to the world's attention at large. He speaks out against the discrimination and oppression that African Americans in America have faced. He also condemns the South's discriminatory laws and depicts its impact on American culture, specifically African-Americans. In his writings, Hughes condemns bigotry, promotes racial identity, and portrays the hopes and goals of African Americans. All of his endeavors have earned him the title of the political and cultural representative of African-Americans.

Works Cited

Alonso, Alba Fernández, and María Amor Barros Del Río. "Resilience as a Form of Contestation in Langston Hughes' Early Poetry." *Miscellanea: A Journal of English and American Studies* 60 (2019): 91-106.

Duki, Jacques Manangama. "The Essential Characteristics of Langston Hughes' Poetry and Their Impact on the Congolese Conscience." *International Journal of Language and Literature* 5.2 (2017): 162-173.

Mane, Prabhanjan. "LANGSTON HUGHES"THE NEGRO SPEAKS OF RIVERS': A TRIBUTE TO AFRICAN HERITAGE." *LITERARY ENDEAVOUR*: 9.

Langston_Hughes_Major_Themes.edited.docx

ORIGINALITY REPORT

1%	1%	0%	%
SIMILARITY INDEX	INTERNET SOURCES	PUBLICATIONS	STUDENT PAPERS

PRIMARY SOURCES

1	www.coursehero.com Internet Source	1%

Exclude quotes	Off	Exclude matches	Off
Exclude bibliography	On		