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Comparison and Contrast Essay

Imagine a sojourner taking on two diversely dissimilar ways but ending up at his maiden destination of choice. The journey to understand societal and cultural identity backgrounds of Canada is an endeavor that only a talented sojourner-author can help make its vivid memories stick. In what appears to be a tranquil nation, Canada is deeply wallowing in the mire of an identity problem at the same time thriving on adoption of new ethnicity. However, the country has such unmatched unnoticed change in ethnicity caused by international influence. The fact that Canada is socially integrated and culturally disintegrated helps one achieve the goal of comprehensively understanding Canada through a detailed discussion of the country's change in ethnicity, and cultural imagination identity similarities and differences. Thus, this paper achieves this through a complete review of two distinct essay works with a laser focus on either aspect, but exhibiting a similar objective of justification in their discussions. That is, despite Canada being on the verge of losing her cultural imagination identity in trade of new ethnicity, the aspect of internationalism remains crucial to her cultural identity and changing ethnicity.

Similarities

Both the discussions of the Preface to *The Bush Garden* and "*Birth of a New Ethnicity*" are based on Canadian setting. In addition, they offer a global view of Canada in response to

their chosen themes. For instance, in his attempt to demonstrate that Canada has embraced a novel ethnicity, Mathew Mendelsohn probes into transformations the country has been experiencing. He explores the various aspects of social life of Canada, which irrefutably have been impacted by change in Canada's ethnicity for the past years. Mendelsohn maintains his focus on Canada's multiculturalism and immigration issues, with a reflection on country's cultural transformation to what various countries are experiencing globally (Mendelsohn, 2003). Similarly, Frye makes a comprehensive selection of essays that offer fused views of the Canadian cultural identity imagination problem. Hence, providing a general understanding of human immigration's response to and development of cultural imagination identity issues in a Canadian setting. For example, Frye recalls his sophomore days as a student when he could travel in one of the imaginative and emotional centers of his own country and his own people, yet he found it difficult to identify this. This difficulty was not based on cultural memory of language but a crucial effort of identification that a sense of unity was completely opposite of a sense of uniformity. Conversely, Northrop Frye presents a global perspective of Canada in response to Canadian culture through a contrast of the "uncivilized" nature of strangely Canadian communities to other civilized communities in the world that foster a mature cultural imaginative identity through art, literature and painting.

Both reflections on cultural identity problems as well as adoption of new ethnicity in Canada aim to provide an insight into the current state of affairs in Canada. Mendelsohn's work achieves this through a demonstration of how previous concerns related to human rights and freedom due to Canada's multiculturalism were addressed. He mentions that the establishment of Charter of Rights and Freedom aimed to facilitate as well as promote Canadians' mutual coexistence and unity (Mendelsohn, 2003). Also, the charter was to bear a positive impact on the

emerging novel ethnicity in the country. Correspondingly, Frye acknowledges existence of a scar in Canada's cultural imagination identity in quest to uphold and promote distinct Canadian cultural imagination identity to the world. Frye stresses that, although this issue may appear as a self-pitying, rationalized, or a fabricated issue to those yet to experience it or have never conceived on their minds that it was there to be met, the identity question, according to Frye, is essentially an imaginative and a cultural question (Frye, 2003). Thus, it was certain that in Canada, something vegetable in regard to cultural identity imagination did exist. He emphatically stresses that this thing is equally limited in scope. Hence, through mentions of such facts, both Mendelsohn and Frye enable a reader to understand the current situation in Canadian setting.

The aspect of internationalism is greatly promoted by both authors and how crucial it is to the conservation of Canadian identity as well as her culture. Although Frye hesitates to acknowledge that internationalism held a special place in the culture of Canada, his case depicting the day he spotted something different in students from across Canada in an undergraduate painting exhibition in Ghana; where he noticed Canadian students' art held the spirit of multiculturalism and openness to global cultural identity than Ghanaians. Frye is compelled to acknowledge that embracing internationalism in promoting unity and identity of Canadians in line with legislative directions to CBC was vitally important to Canada (Frye, 2003). However, Frye quickly sidelines this fact by seeking to have a distinct definition of Canada's unity and identity. He holds opinion that identity is local as well as regional, and is based in collective imagination of cultural works while unity is national in reference while international in perspective as well as based on a political feeling (Frye, 2003). Likewise, Mendelsohn advocates for encouragement of Canadian values through internationalism aspect which currently is incorporated in the identity of Canada. He emphasizes that this aspect has

been at the core of conveying significant changes in Canada through trade and globalization.

Therefore, he underscores that the prosperity of Canada is ingrained in the new ethnicity being experienced through elements of internationalism such as proactive engagement of Canadians with the rest of the world, and readiness to work abroad (Mendelsohn, 2003). Equally, in line with the popular belief held by most Canadians that they owe other countries a moral obligation, Mendelsohn seems to encourage the adoption of Canadian values by other cultures to consistently promote multicultural nature in Canada.

Differences

Although Canada's adoption of new ethnicity and lack of cultural identity through homegrown art, literature and prose fiction are issues facing the country, they individually present different effects on Canada. Frye confesses that the two endemic diseases of Canadian life stem from assimilation or consolidation of the two components of identity and unity through new ethnicity (Frye, 2003). He further says that when identity is assimilated to unity, the empty gestures of cultural nationalism are brought forward. Likewise, consolidation of Canadian unity to identity gives birth to a sort of provincial loneliness currently known as separatism. Hence, Canadians imaginative stance of facing east or west and still feels at home sparks a sense of mystery and fear of unknown (Frye, 2003). For instance, Frye's work recognizes that lack of cultural imagination identity negatively affects Canada when she faces US to the South. In that Canada is hypnotized or met with repulsion from the United States. Hence, when caught up in such a dilemma, Canada is left with no choice but to come up with unconvincing answers for being different or somehow superior to U.S. The worst resolve being the possibility of her annexation by U.S in case of inevitable. Moreover, lack of Canadian unique cultural identity in

face of a growing new ethnicity stimulates Canada's greatest fear in face of annexation by United States. According to Frye, Canada is afraid of the feeling of her annexation as she would not have anything solid to add to the entity, rather she will melt into the vast entity.

On the other hand, adopting a new ethnicity proves to bear a positive impact on Canada. Mendelsohn's essay begins by outlining some factors of emerging new ethnicity in Canada which spark a sense of pride among young Canadians. They include the ability to coexist peacefully with people from different cultural backgrounds, and a shift in perception of people towards immigrants (Mendelsohn, 2003). For example, in the 1960s, the Canadians were opposed to migration of non-whites. In the 1940s, they resisted Jews' access. Today, after embracing new ethnicity based on multiculturalism, over eighty percent of young people in Canada believe that immigrants positively impact their country. Also, differences arising from ethnicity do not prevent them from marrying or dating (Mendelsohn, 2003). To strengthen the credibility of his argument, Mendelsohn attributes to logos throughout his essay. He strikes a good balance of facts and statistics to point out the positive impact this social transformation through adoption of new ethnicity based on multiculturalism in Canada. For instance, he states that during surveys in countries like France, Italy, Britain, the United States as well as other nations, around 30 to 50 percent of folks claim that relations between various ethnic groups of people are a huge problem; however in Canada, only 12 percent claim such" (Mendelsohn, 2003).

In summation, although Canada is integrated on new ethnicity of multiculturalism and disintegrated on cultural imagination identity perspective, a comprehensive insight into comparing essay works on these two issues experienced in Canada indicate that cultural imagination identity problem least affects Canadians. Even though it is nice to preserve cultural

imagination identity, embracing elements of unity and identity as key aspects of internationalism upon which Canada's national values which ultimately promote embracing of new ethnicity is nicer. Based on comparison of the two essays, embracing new ethnicity promises to preserve youths in Canada as well as immigrants' children ascribing to similar national values.

Recognizing that this is of greater significance by turning a blind eye on anxieties and fears that come and go in face of a fading or unpreserved cultural imagination identity, Canada seems to be maiden to constantly explore the uncharted waters of proven to work and unanimously accepted new ethnicity through multiculturalism, over a dying cultural identity through literature.

References

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