

STRUGGLES AND OPPRESSION IN *MAYA ANGELOU POETRY* BASED ON MARXISM PERSPECTIVE

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Abstract

This objectives of this research are to know the influences of struggles and oppression in Maya Angelou poetry based on Marxism perspective, to know how the poet overcome of struggle and oppression in class community through Marxism perspective and also to know the moral messages contained in Maya Angelou poetry through Marxism perspective. The data of this research were collected from various sources through browsing on internet and listening to the audio of the poetry to support the data analysis. In this research, the writer used descriptive qualitative method as a method of analysis. Theory that the writer used to analyze struggle is from Arindani (2016), and for analyses oppression are from Omidvar (2016). The result of this research are: 1). The influences of struggles and oppression make poet become strong, 2). The poets comes out from life struggles and oppression through leaving behind an oppression and 3). There are many moral messages contained in Maya Angelou Poetry.

Keywords – *Struggles, Oppression, Poetry, Marxism Perspective.*

Introduction

Literature is work of art that make language as a medium containing everything, both oral and written. It contains elements of beauty from the imaginative work of someone who has its own meaning for the reader, also can be enjoyed because of the factors of excellence and artistic works of art itself. According to (Nuraeni, 2017). Literature is a creative work, an art that publish in print. The name has traditionally been applied to those imaginative works of poetry and prose distinguished by the intentions of their authors and the perceived aesthetic excellence of their execution. Meanwhile Rexroth (2019) stated that literature is a body of written works. The name has traditionally been applied to those imaginative works of poetry and prose distinguished by the intentions of their authors and the perceived aesthetic excellence of their execution. In addition Tindaon (2014) said that literature as a result of human art work in the form of oral or written which has a certain meaning or beauty. The literature contained exploration of the truth of humanity, customs, religion, culture, and so on.

Poetry is an examples of literature, can strengthen the level of awareness of its readers through language with specific rhythms. Poetry describes a poet's beauty and feelings. According to Habibah, (2015) poetry is the most beautiful words, in the most beautiful arrangement written from an experience experienced, a collection of emotions, imagination, and using poetic means together to get as much aesthetic effects. In spite of Niken (2014) poetry is an imaginative awarness of experience express through meaning sound, and rhythmic language choices so as to evoke an emotional response. It means poetry is the result of conscious expression of feeling.

Indirectly, the readers imagine the situation and feeling of the poetry itself. Each of poetry, of course has a moral message that can we take benefit such in "Maya Angelou poetry. Moral message is a message conveyed or a lesson to be learned from a story or event. Actually, a moral message is one of the important things get in poetry. For the reader, a moral message also is one of the important things in choose the poetry they read and must have a good moral message, because a good poetry is the poetry that has a good moral



message. Moral messages come from struggles and oppression that the poet experience; According to Kurnia & Pd (2015) state that struggle is strenuous or violent efforts in the face of difficulties or opposition with great efforts. It means struggle need a great efforts in face many problems in daily life. Meanwhile Fuchs (2015) described struggle is effort to maintain pressure on the importance of a better world. His philosophy is a reflection of the reality, potential, and limits of the struggle. In addition Arindani (2016) defined struggle as experience difficulty and make a very great effort in order to do something. According to Omidvar (2016) Oppression is the access of the oppressed to venues and discourses of oppressors and the powerful, such skills have the fatal flaw of doing nothing-in the absence of oppressed groups from seats of power-to help oppressors, or those committing unjust acts, themselves have an inkling of the possibility that they oppress. Brook (2016) states that, oppression is a disease that has permeated all aspects of society since the beginning of time. It is responsible for the construction of the Egyptian empire and the development of North America through the oppression of slaves and the use of force to build these empires.” In spite of Putra & Widyastuti (2014) “Oppression is somebody in a cruel and unfair way, especially by not giving them the same freedom, rights, et cetera. To make somebody only able to think sad or worrying things.”In other words, oppression come from the majority class as a disease for minorities who can only think about sadness and do not get the same freedom or equal rights.

Maya Angelou's poetry is from a Marxist perspective where life poetry and tribal oppression or suppression is experienced by poets. Interpreting poetry is a series of one's heart which she can express through words. It is depending on how she expresses it, not with words of poetry, but all the forts come out of her heart and mind is poetry. No one can say that is wrong or true because it is her heart poem.

Methodology

This study uses descriptive qualitative method which describes the state of a status phenomenon that occurs with words or sentences. It is separated according to categories to make conclusions. It is also interpreted as a describing or portraying of the conditions in a community institution that are solved using scientific procedures.

The source of the data used in this research is Poetry By Maya Angelou entitled *The Complete Collected Poems of Maya Angelou*. It is published by Random House. The writer collected data by searching poetry related to struggle and oppression by browsing on internet. Second, the writer decided to listen the audio via youtube video. After that, the writer listened the poetry audio continuously to get her own understanding to interpret poetry that is already uncommon in this era. Then, the writer collected relevant theories from various journals through browsing on internet. Finally, the writer analyzed the poetry itself and the writer found differences in class struggle between poets (blacks) and white people in her poetry and the oppression experienced by poets.



Findings and Discussion

Analysis of Maya Angelou Poetry

Maya Angelou poetry is famous with her struggles as African-American woman oppressed who wants freedom. Through poetry she convey her feelings and her situation as oppressed, then this study have three analysis of Maya Angelou poetry as explained in statement of the problem in chapter one.

From three above things, the writer has five poetry by Maya Angelou which were analyzed:

1. Still I Rise
2. On working white liberals
3. One more Round
4. Caged Bird
5. Life doesn't Frighten Me

The Influences of Struggles and Oppression in Maya Angelou Poetry

This analyzes using the theory of struggles and oppression. Arindani (2016) stated that struggle as experience difficulty and make a very great effort in order to do something. Omidvar (2016) stated that oppression is the access of the oppressed to venues and discourses of oppressors and the powerful, such skills have the fatal flaw of doing nothing- in the absence of oppressed groups from seats of power-to help oppressors, or those committing unjust acts, themselves have an inkling of the possibility that they oppress.

Then after the writer analyzing the five poetry above, she found some influences of struggles and oppression in the form of the table below;

Table 1. The influences of struggles and oppression

No	Poetry	The Influences	Include
1	Still I Rise	The poet become strenght to face it The poet emphasized still revive	Struggle Struggle
2	On Working White Liberals	Make the poet as oppressed trust in ruler and hand over their freedom	Oppression
3	One More Round	Wanted a change of status as a slave	Struggle
4	Caged Bird	The poet as oppressed described with caged bird The full freedom belongs to free	Oppression Oppression
5	Life Doesn't Frighten Me	The poet do not have fear anymore	Struggle

From table above, it can be concluded that each poetry has infulences of struggles and oppression.



How the Poet Overcome of Struggle and Oppression in Class Community through Marxism Perspective

After the writer found the influences of struggles and oppression in Maya Angelou poetry through the theory of analyzes, then the writer analyzed the way the poet overcome of life struggles and oppression also in table form:

Table 2. The way of Overcome

No	Poetry	The way overcome	Include
1	Still I Rise	Through leaving all of terrors	Struggle
2	On Working White Liberals One More Round	Make a new hope in life	Struggle
3		Through believe in liberals about freedom	Oppression
3		Makin the "Golden Rule" to revoke her family status as slave	Struggle
4	Caged Bird	Through song that speak out for freedom	Struggle
5	Life Doesn't Frighten Me	The poet emphasized herself that fear is only dream	Struggle

From table above, it can be conclude that in each poetry the poet can overcome of life struggles and oppression. It seems from struggle of the poet in her oppression life can be resolved.

The Moral Messages Contained in Maya Angelou Poetry Through Marxism Perspective

Each poetry has a moral message especially Maya Angelou Poetry, from the five poems analyzed above, several moral messages were found:

Table 3. Moral Messages

No	Poetry	Moral messages
1	Still I Rise	a. Whatever the life we face, we should keep reviving
		b. Be like a root, although is not vesible but still gives life to the other (stems and leaves)
		c. Like the land that is always trampled but still the strongest
		d. As a stars and sun that are never tired of giving light
2	On Working White Liberals	a. Give in the freedom does not mean losing
		b. We must be wise in making decisions
		c. Do not defend the path is not ours
3	One More Round	a. Fight to find away out for the problem we have
		b. Never give up because the result never betray the process
4	Caged Bird	a. Dare to voice freedom like caged bird
		b. Stay strong, even though you get a lot of torture
		c. Still grateful at the lowest point we have
5	Life Doesn't Frighten Me	a. Do not afraid to face life although life is sometimes cruel
		b. Emphasized in your life that fear is only dream



Conclusion

From the analysis of Maya Angelou poetry that the writer had done, it can be concluded that a lot influence of struggles found in Maya Angelou poetry especially to poet. Those influences are; the poet become stronger in her life, began believe in for her freedom belongs to liberals, become brave to revoke her lower status, brave to voices her freedom and finally life does not frighten her anymore.

The writer also found, how the poet overcome of struggle and oppression in class community through Marxism perspective such as : leaving the oppression behind, believes in liberals, make the “golden rule” in her life, sings for freedom, and emphasizing fear is only a dream. Through this way our struggle in life will decrease or it may disappear against. Therefore, never be weak if you experience oppression, precisely with the existence of oppression we must be stronger.

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