

Unveiling The Feminist Canvases Woven Into The Curated Poetic Melodies

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ABSTRACT

Literature stands as the embodiment of human essence, serving as a conduit for the entire spectrum of human emotions – from longing and joy to sorrow and affection, and beyond. In this exploration, the researcher delved into potential bedrocks for nurturing exemplary citizenship, aiming to fathom the comprehensive perspective of an individual. The objective was to assess the intrinsic principles woven into handpicked verses penned by an esteemed author, while employing the seven foundational facets of human values, with a focus on the prevailing dimension inherent in the selected poems. Through the process of frequency assessment and ranking, this inquiry uncovered the dominant values and dimensions manifested in the examined verses. Each line and stanza of the scrutinized poems underwent scrutiny via the DECS Values Education Program, a curriculum encompassing seven dimensions: physical, intellectual, moral, spiritual, social, economic, and political. After evaluating the selected poems, it was discovered that the prevailing dimension in the poem "Liham ni Pinay Mula sa Australia" is moral, in "Liham ni Pinay Mula sa Brunei" is intellectual, in "Liham ni Pinay Mula sa Japan" is physical, in "Liham ni Pinay Mula sa Singapore" is intellectual, and in the final poem, "Kamanyang kay Tita Terry," the prevailing dimension is moral. Ruth Elynia S. Mabanglo's writings have a strong moral dimension, reflecting values that shape one's identity. Her works provide an excellent basis for studying literature and developing these principles. The chosen poems all have a strong moral undercurrent, demonstrating the writer's focus on ethics and the perception of right and wrong in social concerns. Based on these findings, this study recommends adopting Mabanglo's poetry as a literary and values education teaching resource.

Keywords: poetry, values, literature.

INTRODUCTION

These developments in Filipino literature prompted the researcher to carry out a study aimed at appreciating the poems of a well-known contemporary author, Ruth Elynia S. Mabanglo. The researcher also wants to know what effect a literary work can have on molding an individual's values. As a result, the researcher believes it is critical to find relevant texts for pupils, literature that will aid in their personal growth. A criteria based on the Department of Education, Culture, and Sports (DECS) will be used to evaluate the works of Filipino writers. This standard strives to build students' morale and character by exposing them to pleasant school experiences. As a result, this standard will serve as the foundation for this research.

There are statements mentioned in this study. The study by Permatasari (2016) states that Maya Angelou's poems predominantly reflect Radical Feminism, as discrimination against black women is linked to the historical oppression of black people. The poet's utilization of a feminist perspective can be attributed to the portrayal of her personal experiences of hardship. Lastly, Maya Angelou's poems depict the struggles and discrimination faced by black women during her time. These findings have implications for research literature in educational institutions and other relevant fields. Furthermore, it is expected that this study will contribute to a deeper understanding of feminism and serve as a valuable resource for future researchers exploring feminist themes in literature, specifically in the context of poems and employing biographical and historical approaches.

According to Faulkner (2017), the author argues for the use of poetic inquiry as a feminist methodology by showing her use of poetry as a research method during the past 13 years. Through examples of her poetic inquiry work, the author details how poetry as research offers Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies scholars a means of doing, showing, and teaching embodiment and reflexivity, a way to refuse the mind-body dialectic, a form of feminist ethnography, and a catalyst for social agitation and change. The author uses examples of her ethnographic poetry that critique middle-class White motherhood, address the problems of White feminism, and reflects the nuances of identity negotiation in research and personal life to show the breadth of topics and approaches of poetic inquiry as feminist research practice and feminist pedagogy.

In relation to the result of the study of Ohito & Nyachae (2019), The marriage of Black feminist theorizing about language with feminist Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) offers insights into the potential of poetry as a means to enhance rigor in qualitative data analysis. Additionally, poetry serves as a powerful tool in unveiling the discursive subjugation of Black women, aligning with the objectives of the Black feminist project. Through the lens of poetry, the process of data analysis involves deconstructing and reconstructing initial interpretations, while generating new insights along the way. The inclusion of Black feminist poetry in our research enabled us to demonstrate rigor through several means. Firstly, it facilitated precise identification, distillation, and effective presentation of evidence to support our findings. Secondly, it enriched researcher triangulation by fostering deepened dialogue and engagement with the data among co-researchers. Lastly, it stimulated reflexivity, encouraging critical self-reflection in the research process. In conclusion, we propose thought-provoking questions that can guide future endeavors in leveraging Black feminist poetry for rigorous and explicitly political qualitative inquiry.

METHODOLOGY

This study employed both qualitative and quantitative methodologies. The qualitative technique featured documentary analysis, in which documents such as poems were researched and examined using predetermined criteria. Meanwhile, the quantitative technique was used to quantify the values and analyze the data to answer the study questions. The researcher examined poetry by Ruth Elynia S. Mabanglo utilizing the DECS Order No. 6, s. The Values Education Framework was established in 1988. The poems were written by Ruth Elynia S. Mabanglo that were chosen for analysis based on the following criteria. First, the poem should be written and valued by the selected poet. Second, it should have won literary awards and gained national attention. Third, the chosen work must be from 1986 to the present.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section contains the data analysis and interpretation. It is broken into three sections: a critical analysis of the values present in each line and stanza of all of Ruth Elynia S. Mabanglo's poetry. The values are presented in chronological sequence based on the progression of the issues in the first section, along with an explanation of each evaluated value or core value. The following section concentrates on the

dominating dimension in each picked poem by the two authors, and the last section addresses the overall prevalent dimension in the writings of the emphasized authors.

The poem "Liham ni Pinay Mula sa Australia" depicts a Filipina migrant filled with hope and dreams, but who faces mistreatment by her employer. The persona's memory becomes hazy, with only bruises and bandages as reminders. Nevertheless, she remains resilient, knowing she has a family to come home to without worry.

It depicts the dominant dimensions in the poetry "Liham ni Pinay Mula sa Australia", with the Moral Dimension taking center stage, emphasizing the importance of "courage" in five places throughout the poem. This demonstrates the poem's tenacity in the face of adversity. The poem's protagonist faces hardship and injustice at the hands of the people she serves. Rather than giving up hope, she works hard to stay strong and focus on the positive things in her life. This poetry has both social and physical elements.

The poem "Liham ni Pinay Mula sa Brunei" depicts a woman who is tired of her mundane life. She aspires to a better future overseas, fueled by her desire to wear pants, travels to another nation, and provide financial support for her family.

It illustrates the dominant dimensions in the poem "Liham ni Pinay Mula sa Brunei" with the Intellectual Dimension taking precedence. It stresses "critical thinking," a "future-oriented mindset," and "love for integrity and honesty." The persona in the poem continuously uses her thoughts, spurred by her dissatisfaction with her existing situation. She longs to be free of the confines of her situation, and she frequently fantasizes about working in another nation. In all of her plans, she has her family's well-being in mind. The character is intelligent, with a desire to teach her partner about family management, household tasks, and motherhood. This poetry also has physical, social, and political components.

The poem "Liham ni Pinay Mula sa Japan" tells the story of a woman full of dreams and talents in dancing and singing. She successfully made it to Japan but faced disappointment as she ended up in a degrading job instead of pursuing her passion. She endured hardships for the sake of her dreams.

It presents the predominant Dimensions in the poem "Liham ni Pinay Mula sa Japan", wherein the Physical Dimension stands out with attributes such as "appearance," "artistry," and "creativity." This indicates that the poem emphasizes the physical aspect. As mentioned in the above synopsis, the persona is described as beautiful, creative, and artistic due to her inherent talent in dancing and singing. Other dimensions, such as moral, spiritual, and political, are also observed in the poem.

The poem "Liham ni Pinay Mula sa Singapore" tells the story of a woman pursuing happiness and overcoming hardship. Despite facing mistreatment from her employer, she finds solace in prayer and the ability to provide for her family.

It presents the dominant dimensions in the poem "Liham ni Pinay Mula sa Singapore" wherein the Intellectual dimension takes precedence with the focus on "critical thinking" and "future mindset." The persona appears less emotional, prioritizing her dreams and setting aside the hardships of working abroad. She carefully considers things, plans for progress, and emphasizes following her aspirations instead of dwelling on problems. Additionally, other dimensions are observed, such as moral, spiritual, and economic aspects.

The poem "Kamanyang kay Tita Terry" is about a Filipina named Dr. Teresita V. Ramos, also known as Tita Terry, who worked in Hawaii and made a name for herself in the field of education. She became the first Filipino to hold a permanent position at the University of Hawaii as a professor of the Filipino language. This poem serves as a tribute written by Mabanglo for Tita Terry's joyous retirement.

It presents the dominant dimensions in the poem "Letter from Pinay in Japan," wherein the Moral dimension takes precedence with the emphasis on "personal values" and "courage." This signifies that Tita Terry was successful in uplifting the morale of Filipinos in other countries, showcasing that Filipinos excel not only as domestic workers but also in the field of education.

It shows the total count of dominant dimensions in all the reviewed poems. It is evident that the Moral dimension obtained the highest count. This signifies that Mabanglo's poems strongly emphasize the promotion of morality and the rights of Filipinas.

Furthermore, it also raises respect for the modern heroes of the Philippines, the OFWs (Overseas Filipino Workers).

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the study's findings, the researcher has determined that the valued poems exhibited values that contribute to an individual's character. Therefore, it can be said that their works are worth reading due to the values imparted to them. The results have confirmed that Ruth Elynia S. Mabanglo's writing is characterized by a moral aspect. It can be concluded that the writer values ethics and holds a general perspective on right and wrong in societal issues.

As a recommendation, further exploration and analysis of Mabanglo's works can be conducted to delve deeper into the specific moral dimensions portrayed in her writing. Additionally, comparative studies can be conducted to examine how her values align with other prominent literary figures or cultural contexts. This would provide a more comprehensive understanding of the significance and impact of Mabanglo's writings on moral values and societal consciousness.

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