



RESEARCH METHODOLOGY USED IN STUDY OF SOCIAL CONCERNS IN THE WORKS OF AMIRI BARAKA.

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Abstract

Amiri Baraka is an American dramatist whose plays reflect the social concerns of the contemporary times. Present paper intends a study of American playwright Amiri Baraka and his select plays. Amiri Baraka was a poet, playwright, novelist and also a critic. He struggled a lot to develop his identity and also identity for his people. Baraka has done huge work for liberation of the blacks. During his undergraduate period, he was highly influenced by religious and philosophical studies. His plays reveal the struggle of blacks for getting their identity. His plays emphasize the term of 'equality' for blacks. The research methodologies applied for this study are Descriptive and Qualitative methods. The primary sources are Baraka's select plays, interviews and secondary sources are critical writings, relevant books, encyclopaedia, articles and journals.

Keywords- Research Methodology, Amiri Baraka, Black Art Movement, Black Empowerment and Social concern.

Introduction

Amiri Baraka was an American writer. He was born on October 7, 1934 in Newark, United States, and he died on January 9, 2014. Baraka's first significant plays was *Dutchman* published in 1964. This play gave him wide publicity. He was also a follower of Malcolm X, who was a strong supporter of Blacks. So, this study focuses on the efforts of blacks for their recognition in the western world. Baraka uses simple language. Due to this, all his plays are easy to intelligible. His dramas play crucial role in the development of African-American culture.

We used Descriptive and Qualitative method in our research. Descriptive method in research typically involves providing detail observation or depiction of phenomena, which helps in focusing on the works and ideas of Amiri Baraka. It could analyse his writing, providing insight into his style, themes and contribution to literature and social movements. On the other side, Qualitative method involves the analysis of texts, interviews and other qualitative data to understand themes, contexts and interpretation of his writings. It allows the deeper exploration of subjective experiences and cultural significance.

Objectives

This research on Amiri Baraka's select plays are based on following objectives.

1. To know the social concern in the select plays of Amiri Baraka.
2. To study the relevance of Baraka's philosophy in present time across the world.

Amiri Baraka was a Leader of Black Art Movement. He highlighted the struggle of black people and helped them in creating their identity. He was one of the artists cum social reformer who helped blacks to realize their potential and boosted them to create their identity.

His famous quote-

*The word art is something the west has never understand.
Art is supposed to be a part of a community like scholars
Are supposed to be a part. Art is to decorate people's houses,
their skin, their clothes to make them expand their mind and
it's supposed to be right in the community, where they can
have it, when they want it.....*

-By Amiri Baraka

Dutchman

Dutchman is an important play due to which he reached the pinnacle of success. Through, Qualitative and Descriptive analysis, the play revolves around the tension between a black man Clay and a white woman Lula. Baraka's writing cleverly portrays the psychological and emotional anarchy of the characters. The play employs symbolism and metaphor to explore themes of racial operations and cultural integration. Clay represents the undecieved Blackman fighting to assert his identity in white society, while Lula embodies the selfish and predatory aspects of white privilege.

The successful revolutionary is a statesman, the unsuccessful one a criminal

-By Amiri Baraka *Dutchman*

The Slave

The Slave was famous play by Amiri Baraka. This was influential as well as instigator play that developed identity of Baraka and also theme of race. This play revolved around a powerful character named Walker Vessel. He was a complex figure in the story. By using descriptive method, the dialogues characterized in systematic way, this shows Baraka's outstanding performance as a poet. Second method, we used qualitative, which helps in exhibits the themes and emotions.

To be black in America is to carry the weight of history on your shoulders

I have given you the rope and you call me the hangman

- By Amiri Baraka *The Slave*

These quotes focus on the themes of oppression, struggle and resilience that shows Baraka's as determined inventor of the African-American experience.

Conclusion

After initial evaluation of primary and secondary sources which clearly shows that Baraka's hard-work and also his writings focus on black people upliftment with social concern. His plays seem to be important in the overall social development of blacks.

This paper explores various aspects of social concerns and empowerment of blacks through qualitative and descriptive method. In short, his writing and movements show how deeply he was worried about the miseries of blacks. The same his plays display with his observations, hard work and keen involvement. Amiri Baraka's philosophy is not only helpful for the blacks but also for all human being across the world struggling for their identity.

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