



A Celebration of Human Identity: An Analysis of the theme of ‘Individuality and Democracy’ in Walt Whitman’s “One’s Self I Sing”

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How to Cite the Article: Mrinalini B Chavan (2022) A Celebration of Human Identity: An Analysis of the theme of ‘Individuality and Democracy’ in Walt Whitman’s “One’s Self I Sing”. International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research & Reviews , 1(3), 43-48.

Keyword

Individuality, Democratic Spirit, Interconnectedness, Social Commentary

Abstract

The purpose of the current study is to investigate Walt Whitman’s poem “One’s Self I Sing” and the significance associated with its concept of “Individuality and Democracy” in the setting of the appreciation of human uniqueness. The objective of the research is to advance principles of democracy by bringing light on its importance of accepting and acknowledging individual uniqueness through the examination of the poem’s language acquisition, conversations and representations. The investigation aims to broaden and improve the understanding of the complicated nature of human personality through inquiry into the relation between distinctiveness and principles of democracy. This investigation was prompted by a desire to learn about the work of literature “One’s Self I Sing” by Walt Whitman, which is where Whitman establishes an intriguing connection between individual autonomy and democratic government. The investigation of Walt Whitman’s poem “One’s Self I Sing” uncovers its overarching concepts of uniqueness, political spirit, analysis, and interconnection. All of these concepts are honoured and investigated through Whitman’s powerful language and poetic approaches. Whitman’s poem underlines the significance for an atmosphere which promotes individuality and cultural diversity while maintaining an individual’s right to free communication. It highlights the relationship between individuals, the surroundings, and the larger sense of humanity. In its whole form, “One’s Self I Sing” is an argument for a free society, separateness, intellectual curiosity, and communication, as well as an appreciation of the distinctiveness of every human being. It provides an appropriate remembrance of how important it is to respect the disparities within people while appreciating humanity as a species. Through investigating the aforementioned concepts, one could develop a world that welcomes and upholds individuals while recognizing the distinctive characteristics of each individual within a framework of interconnection.

Introduction

American poet, essayist, and writer Walt Whitman (1819-1892) have been regarded as one of the most prominent and significant individuals in the recent past of American literature. Through its unique lyrical style

and investigation of individuals like individualism, a free society, and the entirety of human experience, his magnum opus, "Leaves of Grass", transformed poetry. The spiritual interaction of every living thing was an integral topic in Whitman's work, as was the exquisite splendour of the natural world and the distinctive characteristics of every human being. His prose work broke with conventional and made him an influential figure in the American literary convention, inspiring following writers. Walt Whitman's other pieces of writing have an attachment to democratic and equal values. They also investigate problems related to one's identity and expressing oneself. They celebrate landscape and its relationship to the lives of humans Whitman constantly examined topics like the romantic aspect of love, sexuality, the body of a person, and the relation between the natural and supernatural worlds.

Death, immortality, and the transcendent nature of the human spirit were prevalent topics in his works of art in addition. Whitman believed in democratization as an aspect of life, not just a system of governance. Many skeptical individuals remained in the first decade of the nineteenth century regarding the ongoing existence of the United States and the continued existence of the democratic political system that it had established. Whitman sought to relieve people's worries and glorify democratization by turning into democratic in both his actions and in his writings. He envisaged democracy as an avenue for interacting between individuals as well as a tool through which individuals were able to live out what they believed. Since everyone receives treatment properly under democratic principles, the system as a whole will ultimately fall apart as "Song of Myself" teaches us (Edmundson). Regardless of the stiff, scholarly language that had become common in nineteenth-century prose, Whitman widened the boundaries of poetic pronunciation through the use of slang, informal expressions, and indigenous languages in the words he wrote. In a comparable manner, he extended the number of prospective topics by presenting a huge range of personalities and settings. Whitman, like William Wordsworth, considered that common occurrences and individuals might qualify for intriguing literature.

Despite the simple fact that Whitman does not often address politics head-on, nearly every one of his works of fiction are about democracy in some manner. It happens either due to the way they depict or imagine a community composed of individuals coming collectively or because they picture various opinions overflowing into one cohesive whole. The vigour and development of the fledgling United States is apparent in Whitman's poetry. Whitman dealt with the rapidly increasing population and the enormous annihilation of life in the Civil War by highlighting the natural sequence that defines human existence such as birth, development, reproduction, growth, and death. Poems like "When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd" portray death as inevitable and unavoidable.

The objective of the study's project titled "The Celebration of Human Identity: An Analysis of the Theme of 'Individuality and Democracy' in Walt Whitman's "One's Self I Sing" is to investigate the comedic aspect of the approach used in Whitman's poem. Whitman's use of irony, comedy, and criticism of society, together with his decision-making process of vocabulary and overall language, are a number of funny sections that the scholar intends to examine with the goal to comprehend more fully the ways in which they connect to the poem's study of personality and democracy (Cohen). As part of an even bigger dedication to the principles of equality and democracy, "One's-Self I Sing" promotes human beings. The poem suggests that the fundamental step towards achieving a truly democratic attitude, one in which every person gets treated with equal consideration, is recognizing and appreciating the individual's distinctive features. This is not restricted to "Male" and "Female" selves, all personalities are accepted. At the end, the poem indicates, respecting one person, no matter what their identities are, affirms all human beings and "Life" altogether. The speaker delivers their memorial for the particular individual as, unexpectedly, an appeal for all of humankind. In simple terms, they are saying, "I sing" or "celebrate", "One's-Self a simple independent human". This was not intended to be a memorial to any specific individual specifically but instead to the principle of originality itself. The speaker goes on, "Yet", indicating that the writing is also regarding humanity in aggregate. A memorial ceremony for the one who passed away develops into an unforeseen call for intervention for the entirety of humankind as it is spoken by the individual who speaks.

The fundamental concept of "individuality and democratic" in Walt Whitman's "one's self I sing" is an acknowledgment of human uniqueness. Recognizing, acknowledging, and supporting the individual features, ranging life past times, and critical characteristics that define each individual represents the celebration of each person's identity. It comprises embracing and cherishing disparities, protecting individual freedoms, and respecting everyone's importance and dignity (Treacy). John Stuart Mill's fundamental publications investigate the significance of self-determination in the framework of society. He promotes the significance of individual

autonomy and responsibility by arguing for acceptance and appreciation for an extensive spectrum of perspectives, methods of expression respectively, and choices regarding one's life. The work of literature by Robert A. Dahl offers an in-depth examination into the political system that is based on democracy.

Emphasizing the relevance of involvement by citizens, equality, and the protection of individual rights, he analyses the ideals, problems, and rewards of democracy. The term "analysis" is used to describe the process of critically examining and interpreting everything, such as a piece of writing or a subject matter. The piece, titled "The Celebration of Human Identity" is an Analysis of the theme of 'Individuality and Democracy' in Walt Whitman's "One's Self I Sing" analyses these concepts within the framework of the human being's identity celebration. Human identity is commended when all of the manners in which humans distinguish themselves from other people are taken into account and respected (Schaefer). It means appreciating originality and defending one's freedom to express one's communication in a society that is democratic. Among Whitman's publications, "One's Self I Sing" is the most outstanding example of that sort of rejoicing. Whitman, via using vivid language acquisition, reveals the numerous facets of a person's identity. Through these characters and occupations, he illustrates the various manners in people that contribute to and contribute to society. The principles of democracy of equality and inclusion are on their greatest display in this homage given to individuals of every stripe and walk of living. The poem's inner conversations additionally emphasize the concept of freedom and autonomy.

Whitman invests in a discussion that recognizes and appreciates the distinctive characteristics of each person by creating debates in which numerous points of view might be heard. These debates encourage honest discourse and add to the greater subject of acknowledging and appreciating one's distinctive distinctiveness in a society where freedom is guaranteed. As part of the wider commitment to equality among people and a free society, "One's-Self I Sing" praises the uniqueness of each person. The poem indicates that acknowledging and emphasizing each individual's distinctive characteristics is an initial move towards creating truly democratic prospects, in which anyone is accorded a comparable degree of attention (Walzer). It encompasses the "Male" and "Female" positions but does not restrict the human to one. In the end, the text implies that recognizing all individuals as well as "Life" as an entire thing may be as simple as respecting one particular individual, irrespective of what their backgrounds are.

The concept of "democratic spirit" has been employed for describing the mindsets and convictions that are distinctive to democracy. It reflects the fundamental principles of a society based on democracy, where all individuals have something to say and every individual receives treatment fairly. Walt Whitman's poem "One's Self I Sing" addresses the ideals of democracy through the perspective of a musical number about the poet's unique personality. Democracy is expressed in this work of literature through its acknowledgment of the humanity and freedom of each and every individual. Whitman emphasizes the principles of democracy behind the commemoration of human distinctive characteristics through his application of conversations and poetic methods. Abraham Lincoln, "Gettysburg Address". Lincoln's significant address symbolizes the ideals of democracy by highlighting its importance of governance "of the people, by the people, for the people". Democracies succeed when everyone in the community comes together for a common cause and are free to go after their own objectives. Dialogues through the poem aim to demonstrate the points of view of various individuals and showcase their unique personalities (Ciribuco). The discussions that follow demonstrate the broad spectrum of experiences people have and the importance of equitable and welcoming representations in an atmosphere of democracy.

Whitman, an outspoken supporter of the democratic approach to developing an atmosphere where everyone's opinions are respected and given the opportunity of phrase, does this by means of permitting many different perspectives to be acknowledged. Whitman's concentration on international legal services, freedom of speech, and interdependence between individuals are further markers of the poem's democratic personality traits. Thomas Jefferson's "The Declaration of Independence" is a foundation text for knowing the democratic worldview. Fundamental concepts related to democracy, like justice and the obligation to autonomous government, are clearly laid out all over Jefferson's work. Similar to Whitman's depiction of the principles of democracy in his poem, the present one places a priority on freedoms for individuals while additionally respecting the will of the population as an entire group (Filreis). The "Gettysburg Address" of Abraham Lincoln is a different classic quote that symbolizes the representative ideal. Lincoln's presentation underscores the responsibility of the government in assisting the people and preserving the freedoms they enjoy. It reflects the principles of Whitman's poem by highlighting fairness and the common voice belonging to the community.

In “The Celebration of Human Identity” an analysis of the theme of “Individuality and Democracy,” the poem by Walt Whitman titled “One’s Self I Sing” is employed to make observations on humanity. Whitman exploits his expressive style to investigate and organize light on an extensive spectrum of issues in society and practices. He delivers societal condemnation using compelling pictures, interesting negotiation, and compelling connections that motivate both thought and action. George Orwell’s “1984” The dystopian work of fiction by George Orwell is an analytical condemnation of rule of law, corporate spying, and the deterioration of freedom of speech. The potential hazards of a dictatorial leadership are brought out, and restrictive structures are critiqued. The historical story by Charles Dickens investigates the events of the French Revolution using a political as well as social standpoint (Fredner). It offers understanding on the universal human situation and the significance of societal transformation by studying topics of inequality, unfairness, and the consequences of societal conflicts. The work of art by Whitman explores its challenges of individualism with regard to social standards and expectations. He explores how norms from society shape the personalities of individuals and presents concerns about the significance of acceptance. Whitman confronts those conventions in his poems, pushing people to question how social standards impact their individual understanding of themselves. Whitman’s assessment of society relies significantly on interaction.

Whitman allows individuals who belong to underrepresented communities the chance to communicate their accounts and gain acknowledgment for their difficulties through a wide range of accents and various points of perspective. Through granting those individuals an expanded platform, Whitman draws spotlight on contemporary issues and inspires viewers to do action about them. In “One’s Self I Sing,” Whitman uses metaphor and vibrant imagery to develop and improve his community comedy (Treacy). He uses symbolic language and metaphor to highlight inequalities in society. Whitman stresses the significance of equality and cooperation by comparing metaphorical “carols” respecting individualism and the dependent nature of humankind. Through the application of these symbolism, he intends that they will motivate viewers to imagine a society that is more welcoming and equitable. The community critique in “1984 by George Orwell” is remarkable. A totalitarian administration rules in the futuristic world of the novel which provides an assessment of state monitoring, surveillance, and the reduction of one’s private freedoms. Readers of Orwell’s work are encouraged to ponder on the essence of government and the significance that comes from individual freedom. “A Tale of Two Cities” by Charles Dickens is a socioeconomic representation on the income gap between wealthy people and the impoverished throughout the French Revolution (Walzer). Through his colorful pictures and fascinating characters, Dickens focuses on the disparities in socioeconomic status and inequities of his duration, prompting listeners to take into account the implications of divisions and the significance of equality and sympathy.

Consequently, Walt Whitman’s “One’s Self I Sing” and his research into the celebration of being human both appear significantly as community scrutiny. Whitman uses verse techniques, conversations, and metaphor to give readers an important prism that allows him to view the norms of society, inequalities, and the effect of social hierarchies on the person in question. His writings promote freedom, equality, and the acknowledgment of different human personalities. This is in accordance with Whitman’s examination of individualism and the representative mentality, and it underlines the important role of preserving one’s own liberties within an environment of democracy. The work of literature “A Tale of Two Cities” by Charles Dickens is an additional resource for evaluating capitalism (Barznji). The political and social upheavals of the French Revolution are examined in Dickens’ narrative, alongside problems such as unfairness, inequality, and the destitution of those without opportunities. This is in keeping with Whitman’s conception of individualism and democratic systems, that places a value on change in society and searching for equality.

The term “interconnectedness” implies an environment that occurs when many different things have a relationship with one another in some way. Significant connections between individuals, communities, or elements that make up an arrangement are suggested. It is emphasized that each and everything is interconnected and depends on other things is highlighted. It was Fritjof Capra who wrote “The Web of Life: A New Scientific Understanding of Living Systems”. The work of literature by Fritjof Capra goes into the concepts of interconnection from the point of view of science (Ciribuco). It finds into how ecological networks are interconnected and underlines the relationships of dependency that are present between individuals and the environment in which they reside. “Interbeing: Fourteen Guidelines for Active Buddhism,” by Thich Nhat Hanh. The well-known Buddhist monk Thich Nhat Hanh goes further on the interdependent nature of every

being in accordance with the notion of interceding. He examines the way acknowledging this mutual dependence may bring about generosity, harmony, and meaningful changes in society. Walt Whitman's "One's Self I Sing" investigates and embraces relationships between people through its crucial theme of interconnectivity. Whitman underlines the vital relationships between individuals as well as the mutual dependency of all things living through his expressive statements, exchanges, and powerful image (Steiner). The notion of an identity that is shared serves as a metaphor for interconnectedness in Whitman's poem. He acknowledges the special qualities of all individuals while emphasising the similarities in humanity and interdependence. Whitman employs dialogue to demonstrate the numerous ways in which people's distinctive life experiences as well as views have been incorporated into the structure of the community as a whole.

The poem additionally demonstrates the closely humanity and the environment are connected to one another. Whitman regularly employs imagery from outdoors in order to show how humans can live together with and take advantage of the environment around them. Whitman's poetry stresses the natural attachment to other people, and Capra's suggestions can be extended to this theme. The premise of interbeing, referred to by "Thich Nhat Hanh" in "Interbeing: Fourteen Guidelines for Engaged Buddhism," highlights the mutual dependency that exists between all beings. The metaphysical perspective on interconnection provided by Thich Nhat Hanh's teachings highlights its importance of acknowledging and appreciating the connections that exist between people and the globe in its entirety. The things he observes coincide with the notion of interconnectedness that Whitman expresses in his poem. Through his study of the interconnection of every element, Whitman challenges viewers of "One's Self I Sing" to recognise the intricate network of interconnections that underlie the culture of humans and the environment as a whole (Fredner). His prose, candid dialogue, and strong visuals invite visitors to reflect on their own place in this intricate network of interconnections and to appreciate the far-reaching effects that each person has on the world that is around themselves. Whitman emphasises an understanding of collaborative responsibility and interdependence by highlighting the importance of acknowledging and expressing the fundamental interconnectedness.

Conclusion

In the first paragraph the introduction of the author has been presented with the themes of his other work. On the other hand, in the second paragraph the study has displayed the study element of Walt Whitman's "One's Self I Sing". The 4 consecutive keywords or themes have been analysed with proper references and thus the research helps to understand about the concept of "individuality and democracy" in "One's self I sing". Walt Whitman's "One's Self I Sing" includes aspects of individuality, democratic spirit, analysis, and interconnectivity, which are addressed in the present investigation. These concepts are respected and investigated through Whitman's expressive language and poetic techniques. Whitman's poem emphasizes the necessity of a society that embraces and upholds its citizens' freedom of choice and of language. It emphasizes the connection between people, the natural world, and the larger experience of humanity. Whitman uses conversation and images to encourage dialogue and an improved understanding of how different points of view shape a shared identity. The poem additionally includes an analysis as well as an interpretation of its main issue, which is freedom of speech in a democracy. Whitman promotes consideration of the significance of approval, the norms of society, and the impact of interconnectedness by pulling down each aspect of human identity. Therefore, "One's Self I Sing" is a tribute to the individuality of every individual and an appeal for the ideals of democracy, autonomy, intellectual curiosity, and interdependence across borders. It provides an appropriate cautionary tale of the importance of recognising the distinctions among people while also recognising the shared humanity. Through exploring these concepts, people may work towards creating a more just and harmonious society that acknowledges and appreciates the value of diversity within a web of interconnectedness.

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