

Jeannette Armstrong as a Native Writer: A Review

Gokulapriya .T¹, Dr. S. Selvalakshmi²

Ph.D Scholar, English Department, Karpagam Academy of Higher Education, Coimbatore, India
gokilakala9[at]gmail.com

Professor, English Department, Head of the Department, Karpagam Academy of Higher Education, Coimbatore, India

Abstract: *Through Armstrong's novel Whispering in Shadows, this paper analyses Armstrong's writing themes and her writing styles. The has used a variety of literary techniques in this novel which is a journey of finding the intimate voices that direct the world. Through her writings, Armstrong portrays the Native women's situations, culture, the relationship of artist and art, traditions of Native American heritage, and also the complex systems that govern modern society.*

Keywords: Jeanette Armstrong, Whispering in Shadows, literary techniques

Jeannette Armstrong is considered the first Native American Woman novelist, writer, teacher, artist, sculptor and activist. She has received a conventional education from Okanagan in 1978; she obtained her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree (BFA) from the University of Victoria in 1978 and become the first director of the En'owkin International School of Writing in Penticton; it is a creative writing school which is organized by the Native people; she teaches creative writing and performance in the school.

Jeannette Armstrong is an Okanagan Indian, born in 1948; she can speak fluently in both the Syilx and English languages; she is lived on the Penticton Native Reserve for most of her life and brought up her two children there. She has appointed for 'Canada Research Chair in Okanagan Indigenous Knowledge and Philosophy' in 2013.

Armstrong said that the process of writing as a Native person helps to heal her because she uncovered the fact that never make her feel like a savage, not grimy and hideous and not less because of her brown skin and a Native philosophy, for that she feels proud of her Okanagan heritage. She knows that Indians have not to sense good about their heritage because, from the traditional educations, the children have understood that the philosophies of Europeans are worthier than Indians; she wants to break the lie and said that the suicide rates and problems of Indian people have been explored how stupid, and ignorant people are in India.

Armstrong states the objective of the centre En'owkin where she has worked as a teacher and researcher; the objective is, to record and achieve and promote Native in the cultural sense in education, lives and communities. Most of her works deal with the importance of education and the indigenous rights of Native people. She is well-known for her novels *Slash* and *Breath Tracks* which are poetry collection; mostly in her writings, she combines prose and poems.

Through her novel *Whispering in Shadows*, this paper analyses Armstrong's writing themes and her writing styles; she has used a variety of literary techniques in this novel which is a journey of finding the intimate voices that direct the world. The protagonist of the novel is Penny who is a Native American of the Okanagan tribe. Her life is filled

with complications and her journey through life as an artist, environmental activist, single mother, a Native American, college student, daughter, sister, friend, and casualty of cancer. Along the journey, the reader has involved with Penny in determining the complex systems that govern modern society and the complex traditions that eventually come again to humanity and mother earth.

The novel is prosperous stitching of different literary forms and in addition to the conventional genre of the novel, Armstrong chooses to incorporate poems, letters, and entries from Penny's diary to tell the story. This procedure provides a unique opening for the novel to develop into multi-dimensional; the story is told from the narrator's points of view and the standpoint of Penny. Time is approximately indefinable in the novel; the readers are engaged with the novel because of the events that jump around, and that years go in a few sentences. Armstrong's techniques help the readers to understand the social and political statements that she makes in the novel.

As a Native American artist and activist, Penny has engaged in projects attacking the tyrannical power of society throughout the novel. Penny's environmental activism directs her on the journey around the world in sustain of native inhabitants. The journey around the world develops complex theories about the world and social realism to Penny. She understands real society through her own life experiences and interfacing with others. Penny's persistence to travel around the world has developed her to observation on many of the social issues faced by her people.

The novel becomes an investigation, as uttered in one of the poems within the novel, of the systems of globalization and superiority trickery and unwilling paternalism systemized racism colonial practice and government structured radicalization influence enforcement might make right the colour of domination and racism is money and blood. Penny expresses her feelings as a Native of Canada about the implications of globalization in this way:

Globalization
Something about breathing
in the dirty
buzz words
and missed manners

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a global design of conjure and conquer
 situating the hilarity
 as common text
 a mastering and the master class

The poem from Penny's diary denotes the political undertones of the extravagant concept of globalization.

The native women face a lot of issues that come from the conditions and occasions of the provincial history of Canada and the inconvenience of a man-centric framework coin the cast libertarian indigenous social orders. Portability, after the eighties, portrays the native women more frequently than men. Driven by neediness and single parenthood, numerous native women relocate to urban focuses. This condition is verbalized by Penny when she sees that the whole worldwide framework is set up with a malicious insight to stick everything from the weak to serve the rich.

The novel is a journey through life and the improvement of humankind's relationship with themselves, with other people, and with nature. Armstrong uses Okanagan's background throughout the novel. Penny learns the civilization of her people and family early in the novel from her "Tupa," and it is this background that allows Penny to return to her family and native soil by the end of the novel as her conflict cancer. The journey towards accepting herself and her relation to those around her is difficult for Penny. Her preferences throughout the novel are always fixed in the traditions of her Native American heritage. By the end of the novel, she comes to recognize her role in the world and how she would be returned to the earth after her death.

Whispering in Shadows is a competently crafted journey for any reader and the embarrassment of poetry and traditional prose allows the novel to work and convey its message on different levels; the novel frequently 'whispers' to the reader. At last, the story allows the readers to communicate on some personal level the feelings and situations which are Penny faces in the journey of her life. Whether it is the anxieties associated with being an activist or the personal feelings relating to fading of life-threatening infirmity or losing a loved one, the novel is an all-inclusive journey through and about life.

The novel expresses the complications of the contemporary life and psyche of indigenous people and also it depicts the theme of environment and insight into the future. The novel unites conventional oral literature, prose and poetry into longer episodic passages that reveal Penny's artistic mind and inner confusion as she journeys from youth to middle age. Armstrong explores the radiant ideas about the human condition, native life in Canada and the relationship between the sexes but she does not consider the story of the novel that lets the work disrupts in literature.

Armstrong confines the essential but unbearable aloneness of the artist and the relationship of artist and art help to bring the readers into the creative mind. In any case, similar to much writing from the native house- where altering is compared with abuse and the content is loaded with plurals punctuated as possessives, spelling blunders, non-parallelisms and all way of irritating mistakes. This

forgetfulness to detail will attempt the persistence of pursuers, as will the addressing. The individuals who read around those defects will find a complete and influencing profile of the masterful personality.

Armstrong has portrayed the fundamental reason for the sufferings of the indigenous individuals and their neediness. Globalization and its thoughtless drive to advancement have increased the neediness. Penny has a solid reservation against the pretended by the Multi-National companies. She sees how the defences less indigenous people are being denied fundamental human rights while the MNC's mess around with their lives for the sake of improvement.

At the point when Penny is distinguished from malignant growth, she accuses the advanced, urban way of life that put some distance between nature and the common method of living. Armstrong depicts in the novel, how brute power combined with outright ethnic-anti-extreme make the prevailing force bunch consider itself to be better than others furthermore, subsequently able to do dismissing the way of life others. The mistreated find their way of life presentation of dismissed infantilized and falsified.

The novel depicts the cultural conflict as Penny's little girl Shanna is depicted to have fallen a casualty of the American method of living. Penny finds that even before she could understand, her daughter has been estranged from her and thus from the native culture one of that is addicted to drugs.

The novel follows the life of a youthful Native woman on a reserve that is presented to the pesticide while functioning as an organic product picker in the Okanagan Valley. The novel gives a brief look into the complexities of the contemporary life and mind of Aboriginal people groups. The novel conveys a significant environment and experience into the future also.

Besides, the monetary incorporation prompts institutional or social homogenization which endeavors to present the American shopper culture. This has ascended to an emblematic circumstance of importance, driving at last to the American lifestyle. America's cultural totems keep on entering the small of urban areas and towns today. In Canada, globalization, which can be securely perused as Americanization, inspires conflicting reactions, contingent upon which side of the separation one is on. Through her writings, Armstrong portrays the Native women's situations, culture, the relationship of artist and art, traditions of Native American heritage and also the complex systems that govern modern society.

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