



NEW TRENDS IN MEXICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE

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Abstract

Mexican-American literature is written by Chicanos in the United states. Chicano or Mexican-Americans are those who moved to United States and U.S.-born people of Mexican ancestry. This literature emerged in Mexican-American war. It is a new awareness of the historical and cultural independence of both northern and southern American hemispheres Mexican-American has a racial dynamic. Some of them define themselves as Mestizo. Mestizo has the meaning that they are the mixture of primarily indigenous and European heritage, some are of the Hispano demographics. African-descended Mexicans are contributing to this field. Chicanos adopted a dual culture. They speak English and adopt U.S. Culture and influenced by Mexican heritage. Since 1848 they are blamed or targeted racially. They are responded by rejecting the label “brown” throughout history when being “white” was dominant. Chicanas are the feminists who are writing Mexican-American literature. They are begun to write the history of women in the Chicano movement. The main goal of these Chicanas was to include their intersecting identities within these movements.

Introduction

Chicano literature has new dynamics of study. It emphasises on the term Identity, Discrimination, Border culture, Living between two languages, Experience of migration, Sexual and cultural oppression, and lesbian identities etc.

Themes of writing Mexican-American literature are:

Migration or Border literature:

As the Mexican people became part of America means they are facing the problem of travelling. They are travelling across the border. Mexican population is growing in regions close to the border, such as Texas and California. These migrated people focused their writings for workers and Mexican-American Cultural. The travelling can motivate them to increase the views of opportunities to increase their capital. But writing they are struggling with their identity problem and also facing the language problem. Mexicans are considered as immigrants. They have lost their identity and culture. They are struggling for the recreation of strong bond of Mexican identity and Mexican culture in their Border Literature.

Mexican-American Identity:

They are fighting for identity. They are facing racial problems. Mexican American families and their children will need to increase their understanding as they are the members of their ethnic groups. The nature and degree of their

ethnic identity will be the key of their manifestation of their culture, everyday life and transmission of their culture to their children. Mexican-American trend expresses that women and light skinned individuals are more frequently granted “flexible ethnicity” and less strongly racialized than men and dark-skinned individuals. Identity crisis of Mexican-American women varied from blatant prejudice. A good example of this portrait is novel “Chicano”.

Dual-cultural Identity:

Mexican-Americans have their own culture but they are facing problem of mix culture. Chicanos are bound to Mexican Culture and U.S. culture. Another factor that helps Mexican culture endure in the U. S. is people migrating from Mexico to U.S. and bring their culture with them, as well as influencing family members. This mix culture transmits to the new generations to develop their interest in their cultural roots. Later generation is from U.S. and they are in search of their roots. People born in U. S. to the immigrants face an assimilation process where they try to adapt to their communities, but still facing the problem of outsiders.

Nationalism:

Chicano movement is the reflection of nationalism. It is the main pillar of Chicano movement in 1960s. Chicano movement experienced heavy state surveillance, infiltration, and repression from U.S. government. Mexican-Americans developed a new political

consciousness that included a greater sense of ethnic solidarity, feeling of subordination in American society. Most Mexican people refused to call them as Chicanos, many adopted the concept of Chicanismo. Chicanos fought to preserve their culture through a form of Nationalism. Chicano ideas were similar to the ideas of anti-colonial struggle in the way that both groups fight against a rhetoric or culture of dominance. They fought for marginalization. They want to reconstruct their lost terms. They are the problem of undocumented identity of Mexican Immigrants.

Youth: Youth is the major aspect Chicano Movement. This movement is characterised by the inclusion of all classes. Youths of this movement believed that they were able to face the problems raised while fighting American racism. Chicano students described their efforts with the action of movement. It is helpful to create faith among the masses of Mexican-American.

Living between two languages:

Because of migration the Mexican-Americans are facing the linguistic problems. While writing literature they facing the problem mix languages. While behaving the problem pronunciation, vocabulary, accent and cultural difference are the major issues. The memories are facing these problems most.

Mesoamerican Heritage:

Mesoamerican heritage focuses upon the share of Chicanos. They rely upon ancient heritage in order to include all Chicanos. They look forward for inclusion as the symbol of justification. They claim to the land of Aztlan.

Experience of Immigration:

Mexican-American literature experiences the phase of immigration. This literature can be studied with the term of Diaspora. Diaspora is the phenomenon of migration. The study of diaspora is focuses on cultural, literary, social sciences, history and political science, etc. Diaspora are not only made up of individuals but also of groups of people who leave their home countries.

Major Figures in Mexican-American literature:

Ana Castillo, Carlos Munoz, Sabine R. Ulibarri, Rudolfo Anaya, Francisco Jimenez, Americo Paredes, Rodolfo Gonzales, Rafael C. Castillo, Sandra Cisneros, Julian S. Garcia, Gary Soto, Oscar Zeta Acosta, Luis Valdez, John Rechy, Luis Omar Salinas, Tino Villanueva, etc.

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