



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE, LITERATURE
AND TRANSLATION STUDIES (IJELR)

A QUARTERLY, INDEXED, REFEREED AND PEER REVIEWED OPEN ACCESS

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL

<http://www.ijelr.in>



RESEARCH ARTICLE

Vol. 3. Issue.4., 2016 (Oct.-Dec.)

ISSN INTERNATIONAL
STANDARD
SERIAL
NUMBER
INDIA
2395-2628(Print):2349-9451(online)

“A RAISIN IN THE SUN”: AN ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

The main ideas of African- American literature are used to portray about human and social rights. The black writers have used to tell the world about the scars and pains of Black Life .The enslaved Africans expressed their sorrows, frustration, anger, oppression, and religious faith in firm voice. This play shows how the protagonist was dominated by White and how she fought against discrimination.

Key words: Hansberry, Raisin, Clyboure, dreams, Youngers.

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INTRODUCTION

Lorraine Hansberry, undoubtedly known as the best Black Woman playwright. Her play *A Raisin in the Sun* was staged on Broadway in 1959 and won critical acclaim and the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award as the best play of the 1958-59 theatre seasons. The play *A Raisin in the Sun* can be considered a turning point in American art. The author mainly focuses on the evaluation of black literature in an attempt to discover multiple black feminine styles. She concentrates on a recollection of black consciousness and heritage.

Hansberry plays often reveals how the black family is looked upon as dynamic cultural entity. The play provides the most interesting prototype of the black family. She endows the Younger family with characteristics that challenge the existing stereotypes. She offers a rediscovery and reinvention of African-American cultural heritage and identity.

ANALYSIS OF THE PLAY

A Raisin in the Sun is a revolutionary work. In it Lorraine shows an entire black family in a realist light. She even uses black vernacular throughout the play and probes deep into the important issues such as poverty, discrimination and the construction of African-American racial identity. It explores not only the difference between White and Black society but also the strain within the black community over how to react to an oppressive white community.

A Raisin in the Sun portrays a few weeks in the life of the Youngers, an African-American family living on the South side of Chicago in the 1950s. The Youngers, - Mama, Walter, Beneatha, Ruth and Travis- are living in a ghetto. They are about to receive an insurance check for ten thousand dollars. It comes from the deceased Mr. Younger's life insurance policy. Mama has a dream of purchasing an own house with light and enough space for everyone.

Mr. Walter has a dream of starting a liquor business. He likes to be rich. Mama's daughter and Walter's sister, shortly called 'Bennie'. Her personal beliefs and views to distance from her Mama. She dreams of Medical schooling and Ruth dreams of having bigger space for her family. In the end, Mama gets a house in the Clyboure Park and Walter invests money on liquor business and ultimately loses his share by his friend. Even when they move to Clyboure Park Apartment Association comes and asks them not to move in as they may not be wanted in the all-white neighborhood. The dreams of the inmates of the house are shattered and thwarted. All lose hopes except Mama who is an optimistic person. She stands erect and decides to fight against racial discrimination.

The main characters of this play struggle to deal with the oppressive circumstances that rule their lives. The play has a reference to a conjecture whether those dreams shrivel up like a raisin in the sun. In short, the Youngers', struggle to attain these dreams throughout the play and of their happiness and depression is directly related to their attainment of, or failure to attain, these dreams. However, the play asserts that the dream of a house is the most important dream as it unites the family. The whole play runs parallel to V. S. Naipaul's novel, *A House for Mr. Biswas*, where Mr. Biswas dreams of owning a house of his own.

Apart from the theme related to dream the need and the strength to fight racial against discrimination is also a major theme in this play. It is through the character, the only White character in the play, Mr. Karl Lindner, the theme to fight racial discrimination operates and later in the play it becomes an important issue that the Youngers cannot avoid, but face it. Karl Lindner, has been sent by the governing body of the Clyboure Park Improvement Association as a representative to ask the Youngers not to move into the all-white Clybourne park neighbourhood. Mr. Lindner and the inmates of the Clybourne Park only see the colour of the Youngers to keep them away from moving to the White's place. Thus the play powerfully demonstrates that the way to deal with discrimination is reasserting one's dignity in the face of it rather than allow it to pass unchecked.

Besides these two dominant thematic divisions, the importance of a united family also can be taken as an important issue of the play. The Youngers struggle socially and economically but they are united in the end of the play to realise their dream of buying a house of their own. Mama strongly believes in the value of the family. In the end of the play Walter and Beneatha realize the value of the family. Even though Walter should compensate the loss of the family income, he has to stand united in order to reject Mr. Lindner's racist overtures. They become strong and function as part of a family. In fact, they merge their dreams with the family's overarching dream of owning a house of their own.

Here, Like Mama's firm confidence is directly linked with the freedom fighter's dreams, called Martin Luther King, who dedicated his life for the emancipation and happiness of the Negroes.

" I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia sons of formers slaves and sons of former slave-owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood".

" I have a dream that my four little children will one day lie in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by content of their character. I have a dream today".

Like Martin Luther King mama beseeched them to meet physical force with soul force.

CONCLUSION

A Raisin in the Sun is an analysis of moral considerations rather than the economic situation, presents a conclusion where perseverance and righteousness triumph. Thus the play portrays the black spirit of survival and quest for African identity.

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