

SPECIMEN FORMAT FOR THESES OF MONTH

Faculty : Humanities

Department : English

Branch/ Area: : American Literature

Sub Subject Heading: : Native American Literature

Candidate's Name : Aananthi Ballamurugan

Candidate's Address with email : Dept. English,
Avinashilingam University,
Coimbatore – 43,
Tamil Nadu,
India.

Title of the thesis : Forever in the Rehearsal of the Vanishing Indian: A
Study of the Spokane Community in Select Works
of Sherman Alexie

(i) In Roman Script
(ii) In roman Script

Nomenclature of Degree: : Ph.D.

Month & Year of Enrolment: : 27.07.2012

Month & Year of Registration: : 27.07.2012

Month & Year of Submission: : 27.07.2016

Month & Year of Award : 04.04 2017

Name of Supervisor : Christina Rebecca

Designation of Supervisor : Associate Professor of English

Centre/department/school in which research was conducted : English

University's Name & Address : Avinashilingam Institute for Homescience and Higher Education for Women, Coimbatore, India.

Abstract within 300 words: Above 300 words

The intention of the thesis is to provide a broad ranging critical perspective of the various factors that contribute to the dysfunction and stasis of the Spokane community in the select works of Sherman Alexie. The socio-cultural, psychological and political domains of the Alexie's Spokane community are critically analyzed and evaluated. Theoretical frameworks from various disciplines are applied, in order to obtain a vivid and accurate picture of the multiple factors that contribute to the community's stasis and dysfunction.

The second chapter makes an in depth study of the contemporary socio-cultural issues of alcoholism, poverty, racism and violence that are highly prevalent in the community. The unemployment, family dysfunction, irrelevant and outdated education, psychological attrition of the youth, poverty, violence and death endlessly exacerbate the prevailing hopeless condition of the reservation that engulf their life with dysfunction and stasis.

The third chapter focuses on the inherent pain and the unresolved grief of Alexie's protagonist of the Spokane community. The soul wound brought about by an apocalyptic history of genocide and forced assimilation have become intergenerational in the community, with an array of traumatic psychological symptoms along with maladaptive social behaviour and learned helplessness. These symptoms are highly destructive both at the individual and at the social level. Being collective and ever cumulative, it entraps them in a painful and devastated past. The historical trauma / intergenerational trauma theory is used to expound the unresolved grief or the soul wound of the Spokane community.

The fourth chapter focuses on the resistant and resilience attitude of the protagonists of Alexie's Spokane community. They are highly resistive to slanderous colonial stereotypes and myths

in their struggle to redefine their identity. The hatredness of the protagonist towards their white colonizers results in an irrational resistance to anything and everything white. This irrational resistance in the absence of resilience undermines their very existence. Very few characters like, Arnold Jr., Marie Polatkin and Corliss are resilient enough to free themselves from such reservation of their mind. Therefore, they are successful in their attempt to enter into a new realm of endless opportunities, to redefine and re-establish their identity. The theory of resistance and psychological resilience are used to explicate the phenomenon of the resistance and resilience of the Spokane community in the select works of Alexie.

Thus, this research attempts to analyze the various factors – the socio-cultural issues, the historical trauma matrix and the resistance and resilience vortex – that contribute to the generational dysfunction of the community, which forever makes Alexie's Spokane Indian protagonists to enact the role of **Vanishing Indian**.

- i) **Major objectives** : To critically probe the Spokane community from multiple perspectives in select works of Sherman Alexie.
- ii) **Hypothesis**: The contemporary socio-cultural, political and psychological issues that culminate in the dysfunction and stasis find predominance in Alexie's fictional Spokane community.
- iii) **Methodology**: It incorporates number of reading and research strategies from various disciplines. Trauma theory, Historical trauma theory, Resistance theory and Resilience theory are applied.
- iv) **Findings**: **Sherman Alexie,s Spokane community is a highly dysfunctional and static community that abounds in resistance and lacks in resilience.**

Examiners

Internal Examiner :

DR. K. Muthuraman.

Professor & Head, Dept. of English,

Annamalai University,

Chidambaram—608001.

External Examiner :

Dr. M. S. Thirumaaalai,

Professor , Universityof Phoenix,

11249 Oregon Circle,

Bloomington,

Minnesota—55438,

U.S.