

A Comparative Analysis of the Theme of “Love” In John Donne’s “The Sun Rising” And “The Good-Morrow”

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ABSTRACT

This paper seeks to investigate the concept of John Donne’s love in his poems “The Sun Rising” And “The Good-Morrow”. These poems show unmistakable attributes of Metaphysical ballads which include conversational phrasing, drawing creative symbolism from unusual sources, energetically breaking down connections and analyzing sentiments. This paper investigates the poems from the perspective of love through a qualitative research design with a descriptive, exploratory and interpretative approach. Besides, the poems are analyzed using content analysis. Both the poems contain the experience of love and affection through vanities, Metaphysical mind, language procedures and symbolism, in a certain tone utilizing legitimate contention. The effect of Donne's utilization of immediate and informal language demonstrates the peruser how he feels about a lady and at last love. Besides both the poems contain feelings of commitment, passion and intimacy as elements of profound love.

Key words: Love, intimacy, passion, commitment, attachment.

INTRODUCTION

The two poems by John Donne “The Sun Rising” and “The Good-Morrow” contain the themes of Love and how the lovers share their feelings and emotions and spend time with each other. Appreciation is a composition of inseparability and affection of two addicts. It enhances a kind of feeling, closeness and attachment between the lovers.

In “The Sun Rising” John Donne tells us about the love between him and his lover. The lover asks the sun why it is shining and disturbing him and his lover while they are in bed. He says that he is more superior and powerful than the sun because he can just close his eyes and make that shining a lighted star to vanish absolutely. The sun should go away and do other works like to wake up the ants and rush late school boys to start their day. The poet is telling us that everything the sun might see around the world pales in comparison to the beloved’s beauty. Moreover, for Donne, bed room is all world in the poem.

While in the poem “The Good-Morrow” Donne wakes up next to his lover and they start discussing about love and their relationship. Donne explains that he and his beloved hold a spiritual relationship. They do not need the rest of the world, their bedroom is the whole world to them, both the lovers are hemisphere to each other and a better hemisphere that builds the entire world, both the lovers are like twins and like the hemisphere and are always together, this means their love is balanced and never ending.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To investigate the theme of love in the poems “The Sun Rising” and “The Good Morrow” by John Donne.
2. To explore three elements of Love: commitment, passion and intimacy in John Donne’s poem “The Sun Rising” and “The Good – Morrow”.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. How do the poems “The Sun Rising” and “The Good-Morrow” revolve around the theme of love?
2. How do commitment, desire, and intimacy are depicted in the poems “The Sun Rising” and “The Good-Morrow”?

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

This paper explores one of the lofty themes in the literary world of poetry which holds its major significance. The paper explores love with elements of commitment, desire and intimacy which are the basis of any profound relationship. Besides, the theme under study is an effective one since it is taken from our daily life. Love is explored as metaphysical phenomenon since the poems selected for the analysis are from John Donne’s poetry who was a metaphysical poet. Hence the study is both significant practically and theoretical. Theoretically, the paper highlights the real concept of love which is never ending which adds knowledge to the academic world. Practically, readers can understand the concept of true love which contain commitment, desire and intimacy as major elements in any love relationship.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Many research works have been done on John Donne's poems to explore compassion, sexual attraction, spiritual connection, romantic attachment however this paper is an attempt to explore love within three elements which include commitment, desire and intimacy.

Whenever we analyze a literary work, it must discuss the intrinsic elements of the work. As stated by Bresseler in literary criticism (1994, p. 38), a literary work can be examined or the text itself (Semi, 1998, p.35).

LOVE

Love is a key concept for caring someone we love. Love is also described as a sexual desire, a connection between two bodies, attraction between them and attachment of their souls itself (Stickley, 2002, p. 123)

SYMPATHY

Love in the shape of sympathy for the suffering human being is a recommendation that has structure caring for hundreds of years (Thorkildsen, Eriksson, & Raholm, 2013 p.12; Von Dietz & Orb 2000 p.19)

SEXUAL ATTRACTION

Intimate love requires sexual attractiveness. Attachment is the second element which is also as widely known (Thomas, 2010). Thomas claimed that there is a third element which is considerably more complicated than desirability or togetherness. This is the stage when lovers understand each other's thoughts beyond expression.

SPIRITUAL CONNECTION

In this relationship, the lovers or the two people committed to one another think beyond the world desires. They both live together without materialistic or substantial feelings thus giving rise to an unending relationship (Mackenzie, 2014). Love under such condition is frequently known as chemistry. When lovers amalgamate indubitable elements and combine together to generate a unified whole.

Spirit associations are everlasting. Though sincerity can be inflexible to bear, mainly when we observe this in association to people we have perceive quite close. It is only when we encounter another in the reciprocal identification of life ultimate enigma, that extricate philosophical and abstract veracity that rise above anything and everything relative, that we observe connection which is forever (Andrew, 2013).

A ROMANTIC ATTACHMENT

It is a kind of extreme emotional bond towards another individual. The potential to form the emotions deeply to another individual is a comprehensive quality of human life. Overall the purpose to form romantic attachment is to attain emotional stability (Andrew, 2013; Burkhardt, 1994).

Register and Herman (2010 p.11) depict inner self attachment as a major category of a relationship, whereas (Pesut, 2008) declares that togetherness and connectedness is a predominant feature of spirituality. Philips Salmi, Haase, and Kooken (2012) aimed to throw light on the notion of love in social relationships. They claim that attributes of love include care, being unselfish and kind hearted towards others.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This paper focuses on critically analyzing the theme of love and its components in the selected poems of John Donne under the theoretical framework of Sternberg's Theory of Love.

STERNBERG'S THEORY OF LOVE

In the circumstances of interpersonal association, there are three elements of deep love and affection. These include intimacy, desire and commitment. Intimacy includes the feelings of attachment. Desire includes passion which encompasses the drive connected to both limerence (romantic attraction) and sexual attraction. The third element includes commitment which ties the two together. It is a decision to remain with one another (short term) and plans made in the future (long term).

FRIENDSHIP

Friendly relationship is distinguished when affinity is also present. This brings the set of emotions and one's observation unaccompanied by the exceeding feelings of passion or commitment.

ROMANTIC LOVE

This form is characterized when love is combined between intimacy and passion. Lovers under this category are bonded both physically and emotionally.

COMPANIONATE LOVE

It is characterized by the combination of intimacy and commitment. It is more powerful than the friendship due to the element of commitment. Companionate love is perceived in long term marriages where love persists throughout the life.

CONSUMMATE LOVE

This type of love is characterized because it is present at the very middle of the triangle, due to which it is said to be the faultless, flawless and ultimate kind of love. All three elements are found in this kind of affection and this is some sort of a desire for individuals who love consummately.

Sternberg's Theory of Love best fits to the love themes in the selected poems of John Donne "The Sun Rising" and "The Good Morrow". Both the poems describe commitment and passion towards lovers with elements of intimacy, desire and commitment. Besides, the fiery depth and extreme

emotions the lover (John Donne) receives from his beloved which include both limerence (romantic attraction) and sexual attraction.

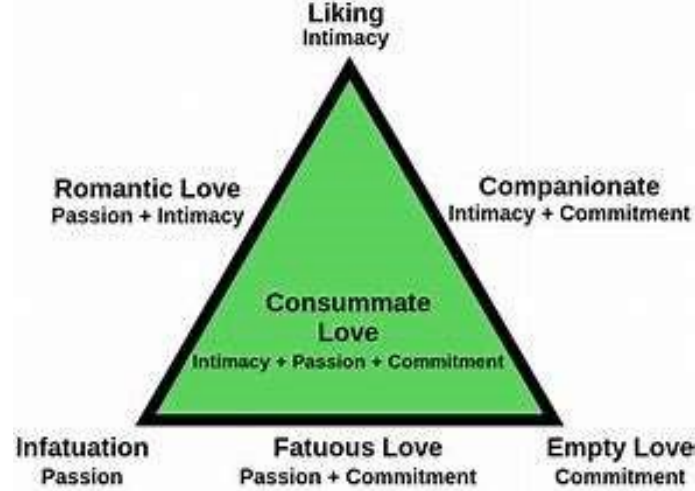


Fig 1.1 Theoretical Framework of the Study

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This paper follows a qualitative research design with a descriptive, exploratory and interpretive approach (Moleong, 2000, p.31). The research is conducted using content analysis of the two selected poems by exploring the theme of love (Wellek & Warren, 1977).

SOURCES

The primary sources include the two poems "The Sun Rising" and "The Good Morrow" By John Donne while the secondary sources include library, articles, research papers, books and relevant websites.

ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

The poem "The Sun Rising" begins with the poet with his lover in the bed. The poet is not happy with the sun and the poet calls the sun as a "busy old fool" because the sun is creating trouble for them through the window when the light comes in the room they get disturb. He says that the sun should disturb the school boys and the hunts man. The poet realizes that he is more powerful than the rays of the sun. He can face the sun by closing the eyes of his own and his lover; he also wants to have the world riches in his bed. The poet concludes that he is lucky and more powerful than the sun. He considers his beloved as a treasure and refers his bed as the richest of all treasures. Hence throughout the poem feelings of intimacy and desire dominate to a metaphysical stage. The poet's will to love his beloved without the interruption of nature (sun) indicates poet's long intimacy and fierce desire to love his beloved.

The poem the "The Good Morrow" begins by questioning the two lovers, the poet and his beloved. Donne's question is meaningful which indicates that life

before falling love is no more than country pleasure. Then the poet compares himself and his lover with the conceit, and metaphor. He also analyzes his past. When the poet moves his face towards his lover, he finds his own reflection in his lover's eyes. He realizes that their passion and feelings are same due to which he says that they both cannot be a prey of death. In this poem the poet seems more intricate in his concept of love. He thinks that both he and his beloved are inseparable due to equal level of commitment.

CONCLUSION

This paper explored the theme of love in the selected poetry of John Donne under the theoretical framework of Sternberg's theory of love. The study concludes that the selected poems of John Donne contain themes of love with the elements of intimacy, desire and commitment which form the core of any true relationship. By using conceits and metaphors related to the other world, John Donne proves himself as a father of metaphysical poetry.

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