



Psychology of Indigenous People: A Comparative Study through Fairy Tales *Moana & Pocahontas*

*¹Kowsalya RM

*¹Student, Department of English, Bishop Heber College, Trichy, Affiliated to Bharathidasan University, Trichy, Tamil Nadu, India.

Abstract

Moana & Pocahontas-the famous fairy tales that deals with the tribal community where the princess takes care of it by closing the door of their own feelings. The researcher compares these two fairy tales mainly discussing the psyche of the indigenous people. Moana, the fairy tale written by Jared Bush, deals with the protagonist act of saving her people by returning the relic to Te Fiti. The people in this fairy tale are from Polynesian village. It is an original plot by mixing the myths of Polynesia. The next fairy tale Pocahontas was written by Carl Binder, Susannah Grant, and Philip Lazebnik. This tale deals with Powhatan tribe where the princess Pocahontas gets attracted to a white sailor but leaves him for the sake of her tribe. This research attempt to apply some magic of the fairy tales by defining the psychology of the indigenous people in the tale mentioned which has happened originally (real /reel life). The study is based on the following hypothesis: Usually indigenous people gets suppressed and oppressed by the colonizers. Well, here the protagonists in both the fairy tales fight against the oppression to save their people. The psychological wounds still torment the psyche of the majority of the indigenous people, and it prevents them from having a proactive psyche. The present study attempts to analyse & explore the effectiveness of Moana & Pocahontas in studying other indigenous communities with similar psychological impact in order to effectuate healing and reconstruct the indigenous psyche. The detailed study undertaken in this research brings out the cultural, spiritual, and psychological uniformity among with the Powhatan and Polynesian tribal community. This study identifies that both the tribal community are not broken people, but they are wounded people. Therefore, the indigenous people all around the world can be healed by reconstructing the wounded psyche.

Keywords: Indigenous people, psychology, fairy tales

Introduction

Indigenous people are social and cultural groups that have shared ancestral ties to the lands and natural resources they live on, inhabit, or have been displaced from. Their identities, cultures, livelihoods, physical and spiritual well-being are all inextricably linked to the land and natural resources on which they rely. Indigenous people see themselves as having a different and independent historical existence and identity from the states that now encircle them. Lands within a certain geographic area are important in terms of their history and identity, as well as their current political needs.

Kim and Berry (1993) describe indigenous psychology as "the scientific study of native human behaviour or mind that is not transplanted from other locations and is created for its people." Indigenous psychology encourages looking at people's self-awareness, talents, and beliefs and studying them in their native settings. This research is not limited to native populations; it also contains data on any group of peoples that can be considered exotic in any way.

The Disney princess Moana, the strong-willed daughter of a Polynesian village chief, is selected by the ocean itself to reunite a magical relic with the goddess Te Fiti in the fairy tale Moana. Moana sets off in quest of Maui, a famous demigod, in the hopes of returning the relic to Te Fiti and saving her people when her island is struck by blight. The plot is original, yet it is based on Polynesian mythology. The Polynesian people worship Te Fiti, the goddess of nature who,

long ago, gave life to the ocean by utilizing a pounamu stone as her heart and source of power.

When the vegetation and livelihood of the people in this hamlet are destroyed by Maui's act, the psyche of the people in this community is revealed. He removes Te Fiti's heart in order to grant humanity the power of creation, but Te Fiti disintegrates, and Maui is assaulted by Te Ka, a volcanic monster, off the coast. The ocean chooses Moana to restore the power after a thousand years as a result of this tragedy. Moana eventually redeems Te Fiti's heart. The occupations of the characters in the fairy tale provide insight into their lives. Around 3,500 years ago, Polynesia-the islands nearest to Australia and New Guinea-was populated.

During those years, people sailed to practically every inhabitable island in the central and eastern Pacific and colonised there.

In the myth of Moana, Polynesians had stopped voyaging a long time ago and had made going beyond the reef a taboo (another Polynesian realm). Moana's people resume voyaging after her mission is completed and she has acquired the art of way finding. Maui the demigod, who assists Moana on her quest, is a heroic figure who is found throughout most of Polynesia and is credited with a variety of feats for the good of humanity. Throughout the fairy tale, the Polynesian people's techniques and vocations are clearly obvious. Moana uses the stars to help her navigate the seas. This method is known as route finding, and it has been employed by Polynesian explorers for thousands of years.

Throughout Polynesian culture, family is extremely important, and it is a major topic in Moana. Moana is confused and torn about her place in her family and on the island at the start of the story. Moana begins to realize who she is when she learns about her family's bigger tale, which includes her voyaging ancestors.

Moana's psychology is completely messed up since she is constantly concerned about her identity. During her tenure as chief-in-training, she was loyal to her village. Despite her ability to observe things quickly and her intelligence and resourcefulness, she is hindered by her identity struggle. She believed that pursuing the ocean would cause her to disappoint the people she cared about. Simultaneously, she felt a responsibility to her ancestors, desiring to revive their ways of finding their way as a manner of honoring them and the legacy they left for her people. Moana's greatest problem throughout the tale would be dealing with her conflicted emotions. "I am Moana of Motunui. You will board my boat, sail across the sea and restore the heart of Te Fiti". When the Polynesian people learned of their village's destruction, they were distraught.

When the ocean provided their goods, their minds were at ease. All of their tranquilly was shattered, however, when the ocean goddess shrank the ocean and fishing. Moana thus restores the Polynesian villages tranquilly by reclaiming Te Fiti's heart.

Another fairy tale, Pocahontas, is set in Werowocomoco, Tsenacommacah, Virginia, and is about the Powhatan tribe. The so-called conflict between the natives and the settlers, which puts Pocahontas' home in jeopardy, is the subject of this fairy tale. She falls in love with John Smith, an English settler. She is driven to bring peace and unity to the two realms before a fight can take place, inspired by her love for Smith.

Pocahontas is portrayed as a noble, free-spirited, and spiritual young woman throughout the fairy tale. "Pocahontas loves nature, and she spends her time exploring the land. After she falls in love with a man named John Smith, it's up to her to discover her destiny and bring peace to her people." After learning of John Smith's presumed death, her light-hearted nature matures. His death, unbeknownst to her, is part of a conspiracy by a settler to force England into a conflict with the Indians. In comparison to the other characters, Pocahontas' mentality has developed significantly. She is willing to put her life on the line to protect her people from the colonisers. With her techniques, she eventually saves her people from the settlers.

Both Moana and Pocahontas were willing to give their lives to protect their people from the settlers as well as fate's destructive forces. Both characters enjoy being in nature and going on adventures. They both adore their nation and are constantly doing something unlawful, which their fathers banned. Pocahontas' act of saving John Smith and Moana's clever manoeuvre with the King Crab while rescuing Maui's fish hook are examples of how both princesses use their minds in important situations. Their tales are based on the culture of indigenous peoples whose way of life was obliterated by colonisation. "Moana sets sail outside the reef and her comfort zone to right a wrong, save her people, and find the answers she's been searching for her whole life". They both have some type of natural link that grants them exceptional abilities that none of the other princesses have. They're both the chief's daughters, and they're torn between accepting their roles in the tribe.

These stories often reflect the state of society at the time they were written. It strikes a balance between realism and caricature by setting characters in a geographically plausible setting. The psychologies of the characters in the stories are depicted in great depth.

Indigenous psychology is a different way of looking at human behaviour. According to the alternative paradigm, research into human thoughts and actions should be heavily centred on indigenization, or the study of behaviour in an environment free of all external influences.

The term indigenous refers to a natural occurrence in a specific location; thus, the absence of external, foreign, and non-local circumstances in comprehending human behaviour is a significant element of indigenous psychology. Eco psychology has an impact on indigenous psychology. Eco psychology seeks to understand how individuals can engage with nature in healthy and sustainable ways that benefit both people and the environment. This is evident in both books, because the characters both love nature and relies on it to help them when they are melancholy or distraught. Eco psychology's main focus has been experiential learning, which aims to help people relate to the environment in which they live.

This experiential learning principle is linked to the creation of a platform for local knowledge that will naturally benefit local people and will be free of external demands and influences.

Indigenous psychology is the result of this increase in experience learning.

Indigenous psychology is a progressive intellectual movement that recognises the value of generating psychological knowledge via the use of localised ideas, concepts, and practises. It arose from a rejection of western effects on non-western societies, as well as an appreciation for, value for, and recognition of the impact of profound localised knowledge on comprehending human behaviour in a specific setting.

Without accepting indigenous psychology, the search for harmony in psychological knowledge production processes, as well as complex human behaviour, cannot be fully comprehended. People, in the story, are seen with the disturbance in their minds. Both the stories have a conflict among themselves and with settlers. Their livelihood, occupation, and daily routine have been collapsed by the intrusion of the opponent force in the stories.

Conclusion

Comparative Literature is the study of two or more literatures in comparison, as well as their multi-dimensional components, which may include historical, gender, economic, cultural, social, philosophical, theological, and linguistic characteristics of the civilizations being studied. This study compares the stories of Moana and Pocahontas. Both are well-known Disney princesses that portray the reality of indigenous people in those days. Because the terrain and livelihoods are the most important components of their lives, their mentality is primarily influenced by them. Indigenous psychology is used in both the stories for the main characters and minor characters who want to save their homeland from settlers or dictators, as well as bring peace to their minds and lands.

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