



SHOWING DIGNITY IN DRAMA *PANTOMIME* (2011) BY DEREK WALCOTT

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Abstract

The purpose of this analysis is to expose the issue of showing dignity which is done by Black person and to know the contribution of the plot, spectacle, and character in revealing the showing dignity. This analysis is related to the concept of life instincts by Freud, the concept of self-awareness by Crisp-Turner and the concept of power by Michel Foucault that is supported by the text and context based interpretation. The result of this analysis shows the protagonist succeeds to show his dignity that can be seen from his knowledge and good manners.

Key words: Showing, dignity, Black, *self-awareness*

A. INTRODUCTION

All human beings, essentially, have the same right and degree, although they were born in different races or ethnics. They have equal opportunity to determine their way of life. Everybody deserves to get education, social security, and get better job to raise their dignity in social environment. However, in fact, some particular ethnics or races are underestimated that makes them have no chance to develop their personality and life such as Black people. It has been common issues since hundreds years ago Black people are underestimated by White people. They are colonized and exploited for personal gain. It hinders them to get the access of education that makes them become uneducated and have no manners. This makes them are easily viewed negative.

The negative views do not make Black people just accept the condition; however it triggers them to develop their personality and life in order to show people that Black people have dignity. Since naturally, people have the eagerness to show their ability to be respected and get better life. They realize that to get the goal they need to have self-awareness. With the awareness, they will improve their personality and ability like behavior and critical thinking by gaining knowledge and having good manners in social life that are useful to demolish the

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negative views. With the abilities and skills they have, they will have power to show that they have dignity. According to Cambridge Dictionary (2018), showing means to make it possible for something to be seen. Showing dignity is the efforts of modern-day Black person to change people's view of Black people as uncivilized and uneducated and to reveal his true identity.

The issue of showing dignity of African-American is common to find in daily life. One of the great examples is Barack Obama. He is the first US African-American President; he served two terms as president. Obama was also awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. He won it because of his big contributions of the international peace. He is also known as an activist as well. He funded various foundations, including education, health, and human right movement. Barack Obama is an African-American person who shows that Black people have dignity. He proves it by showing his critical thinking and using his skills to help others by contributing in the world peace. With his efforts, it demolishes the assumption of Black people as uneducated and uncivilized (Pettinger, 2013).

The efforts to show dignity of African-American can be also seen through the character of Black person who appears in the drama *Pantomime* (2011) by Derek Walcott. The drama shows that Black people have good manners and knowledge which prove that they have dignity. Although people underestimate their efforts, they keep proving their abilities by working hard, being discipline and having critical thinking. Showing dignity in this analysis refers to the efforts to show that the Black people have dignity through actions and thoughts in order to demolish the negative views and reveal the true identity of Black people.

B. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The analysis of drama *Pantomime* (2011) is done through text and context-based interpretation. The fictional devices such as character, plot and spectacle are needed during the process of analyzing. Character is used to reveal showing dignity by analyzing character belief, attitude and behavior or action. Action/plot is used to acknowledge the conflicts the character faced. Furthermore, spectacle is also crucial device as it is situation, atmosphere, and conditions exist in the drama in order to help in revealing the meaning. These elements are analyzed based on the concept of life instincts by Freud, the concept of self-awareness by Crisp-Turner and the concept of power by Michel Foucault.

C. DISCUSSION

This chapter analyses the fictional devices such as character, action/plot, and spectacle to reveal the issue of *showing dignity*. Showing dignity in this analysis refers to the efforts done by protagonist, a Trinidadian, to show that the Black people have dignity through actions and thoughts in order to demolish the negative views and reveal the true identity of Black people. In this analysis, showing dignity can be seen through two ways; having knowledge and having good manners.

1. Having knowledge

Having knowledge is one of the ways to show dignity that is done by protagonist. People who have knowledge it can be seen from the way they think. They will think critically toward a problem. They will not just criticize a problem but also he gives solution. They also have bravery to express their ideas and have power to decide what they think the best. This is reflected by the protagonist in his work place. With his knowledge he is able to think critically and has bravery to argue his boss. First, he criticizes his boss' policies. Second, he dismantles the implicit meaning from the boss' argument. Third, he argues when he disagrees with the boss.

The protagonist criticizes his boss' policies. Here, the protagonist shows his critical thinking by criticizing that the boss is incapable to run the guest house since he sees the unfit condition of guest house and there are some unproductive policies. He criticizes the boss' policies that do not make any improvements for the business and harm the customers as well. It can be seen from the following quotation:

“JACKSON: This hotel like a hospital. The toilet catch asthma, the air-condition got ague, the front-balcony rail missing four teet', and every minute the fridge like it dancing the Shango . . . brrgudup . . . jukjuk. . . brrugudup. Is no wonder that the carpenter collapse. Termites jumping like steel band in the foundations.” (p.2)

The quotation shows that the protagonist has critical thinking in work place. It can be seen from he criticizes his boss' policies in the work place. He sees that guest house is in unfit condition. The spectacle encourages the protagonist to fix the condition of the guest house by criticizing the boss' policies and giving solutions. He criticizes condition of guest house that become badly since the boss does not manage the business well. He thinks that the guest house is totally unfit for being rented, since the place does not offer convenience for its guests. It can be seen from the furniture and all of the stuffs in the guest house that are not working well and have been old such as the air conditioner, the fridge, and unclean toilet. He knows that with such condition it will not make any improvements for the guest house. Here, it proves that the protagonist has critical thinking since he does not just accept the unfit condition of the guest house but he is able to see and criticize the weaknesses of the guest house that have to be improved. The utterance *This hotel like a hospital* shows his strong criticism and at once as a mock of the boss' incompetence to manage and run the guest house properly. This also proves that he has bravery to express his opinion to his boss and has care of the guest house. With his critical thinking, he proves that Black people have knowledge to make improvement of their works.

The second way to prove that protagonist has knowledge is from his ability to dismantle the implicit meaning of boss' argument. Since he has knowledge that makes him think critically, he is able to see and understand the implicit meaning. Here, the protagonist knows that the boss wants to mock him. It can be seen in the following quotation:

“HARRY: (*imitating parrot*) Heinegger, Heinegger. (*In his own voice*) Correct?
JACKSON: Wait, wait! I know your explanation: that a old German called Herr Heinegger used to own this place, and that when that maquereau of a macaw keep cracking: ‘Heinegger, Heinegger’, he remembering the Nazi and not heckling me, but it playing a little havoc with me nerves. This is my fifth report. I am marking them down. Language is ideas, Mr. Trewe.” (p.2)

In the quotation, the protagonist proves that he has skill to see the implicit meaning. There is an external conflict since his boss underestimates him. The spectacle encourages him to show his critical thinking. He dismantles the implicit meaning of his boss' argument that wants to mock him. He shows it with his criticality. He doesn't directly believe what the boss says. He doesn't accept the word *Heinegger* as the voice of a parrot, but he sees a meaning behind that word. He knows the word *Heinegger* refers to a word *Hei Nigger* a kind of mock from his boss to him that means an extremely offensive word for a Black person. He sees it as a hidden mock that is addressed to him as Black person. So that, he asks his boss not to use that word as a joke since he knows it is one kind of mock. The utterance *Language is ideas, Mr. Trewe* shows that he is smart since he understands that every language has idea that means every language has a goal like the boss' mocking that has a goal to underestimate him. The protagonist proves that he is able to see something behind the boss' argument since he has good criticality. With this criticality, the protagonist proves that the assumption that Black people are stupid and uneducated is totally wrong since he has good knowledge and critical thinking.

The third way to prove that protagonist has knowledge is from he argues when he disagrees with the boss. Here, protagonist is brave to express his ideas. He expresses his disagreement when he disagrees with his boss' opinion. He also shows his intelligence. It can be seen in the following quotation:

“JACKSON: (*restrained*) ‘Adam in paradise had his woman to share his loneliness, but I miss the voice of even one consoling creature, the touch of a hand, the look of kind eyes. Where is the wife from whom I vowed never to be sundered? How old is my little son? If he

could see his father like this, mad with memories of them . . . Even Job had his family. But I am alone, alone, I am all alone’.

(Pause.) Oho. You write this?

HARRY: Yeah.

JACKSON: The man is not facing reality. He is not a practical man *ship-wrecked* ...

JACKSON: If he is not practical, he is not Robinson Crusoe.” (p.14)

The quotation shows that the protagonist, with his critical thinking, argues anything that he disagrees. He has bravery to express his disagreement to his boss. He argues the boss argument since he knows that argument is wrong. He disagrees when the boss describes himself in a poem he writes as a *Robinson Crusoe* who gets shipwreck and can survive in an island. He tells his boss that the boss can be like Robinson Crusoe since the boss does not have ability that Robinson has. The protagonist shows his intelligence by analyzing the boss’ poem. He explains the boss’ poem does not really describe himself as a person who is struggling to live. It’s more like a person who lives happily in an island. The utterance *The man is not facing reality. He is not a practical man ship-wrecked* (The word *The man* refers to the boss in his poem) shows the protagonist proves that the boss is just dreaming to be Robinson Crusoe. He knows it from the choice of words in the boss’ poem such as the word *Paradise* that does not show a person that is struggling in his desperation. A practical man ship-wrecked will show his struggles if he lives alone in an island and will not depict the island as a paradise. The ability in dismantling the meaning of the poem proves the protagonist has good knowledge since understanding and dismantling the poem’s meaning is not an easy task. It is needed a criticality and meticulous analysis to open up the meaning.

In summary, the protagonist has shown his dignity with knowledge he has. He proves it from his critical thinking, giving solution, and his bravery to express his idea in his work place. First, he criticizes his boss’ policies. Here, he shows his critical thinking by giving solution for the good of his work place. Second, he dismantles the implicit meaning from the boss argument. He proves that Black have knowledge since he knows the boss actually wants to mock him. Third, he argues when he disagrees with the boss. He proves that any Black people have bravery and power to express his opinion or idea to his boss since he has good knowledge. The spectacle in this analysis refers to the tense atmosphere and unexpected situation that encourage him to face and fix it. The conflict mostly comes from external, which caused he has to work harder. These conflicts make him use his skill and knowledge to show the dignity. It makes him use his self-awareness in getting power in his work place since he is relied on by his boss.

2. Having good manners

Having good manners is the second way to show dignity that is done by protagonist. People with good manner will show it from their actions. They will act with discipline and behave properly. There are two kinds of manners; daily life manners and manners in work. In work place, good manners can be seen from a person's responsibility toward his works. He will complete his duty properly and on time. Here, the protagonist shows his good manners in the work place. His good manners can be seen from his discipline, behaviour and responsibility in doing his works. First, he respects of work time. Second, he is responsible for his works. Third, he is not easily swayed by emotional when he is underestimated.

The protagonist shows his good manners in his work place. The protagonist has good principle in work. He knows the rule of professional work. One of them is he respects of work time. It means that he will focus on his works only and he will not do anything but his duty in the work time. It can be seen from the following quotation:

“HARRY: You know, if you want to exchange war experiences, lad, I could bore you with a couple of mine. Want to hear?
JACKSON: My shift is seven-thirty to one.
(*He folds his arms. HARRY offers him a cigarette.*) I don't smoke on duty.” (p.4)

In this quotation, the protagonist has principle in work. He respects of his work time. As a professional worker, he understands that respecting the work time is a form of his responsibility. He focuses only to complete his duty in work place, so that he will not do other activities out of his duty. The utterance *My shift is seven-thirty to one* shows that his principle in work. He shows the boss that he knows the rule of work that he will not leave his duty before he finishes it. This is his response toward the boss that always tries to test and underestimate his manners in work. The spectacle encourages him to show his manners in work. Here, he proves that he knows the work rules and he does run the rules in the guest house. He also knows that being discipline is much needed to make the guest house runs well. The utterance *I don't smoke on duty* shows his allusion to his boss that asks his worker to be indisciplin in work place and it is also as his proof that he runs the rule of work which requires every worker to focus only on duties in work time.

The second way to prove that protagonist has good manners is that he is responsible for his works. The responsibility is proven from his discipline in doing work. It can be seen from the following quotation:

“JACKSON: That is white-man fighting.
Anyway, Mr. Trewe, I feel the fun finish; I would like, with your permission, to get up

now to continue to fix up the sun deck. 'Cause
when rain fall . . .” (p.4)

This quotation shows that the protagonist is responsible for his works. His responsibility can be seen from his discipline in doing his duty. He knows that a person who has discipline will not let job unfinished and the discipline manner is an important thing to make him to be a professional worker. The spectacle encourages him to work with discipline. Here, the protagonist shows his responsibility from his awareness to complete all his works properly. It means that he will not leave his works before he finishes it; since he knows that completing his work is one form of responsibility. The utterance *I would like, with your permission, to get up now to continue to fix up the sun deck* shows that he feels responsible to complete his works. He does not want to let his works become dormant since he is responsible for the quality of his works. In this quotation, the boss tries to disturb him by asking him to do other activity with the purpose to make he leaves his works. Here, he understands that the boss wants to test and at once to underestimate his discipline manners in doing his work. He then responds it elegantly by ignoring the boss' offer with the reason that he wants to complete his duty. This shows that the protagonist proves that he has responsibility in work and it also shows his critical thinking since he knows the boss wants to underestimate his manner. The stressing in the phrase *With your permission* shows the protagonist's allusion to his boss that he is on duty so that he just wants to do his duty rather than doing any other things out of his works.

The third way to prove that protagonist has good manners is he is not easily swayed by emotional when he is underestimated. Besides having good manners in work, the protagonist also shows his manners in behaving. It can be seen from how he reacts toward the negative's views such as mock from his boss. He prefers to do his work rather than responds the boss' mocks. It is proven from the following quotation:

“HARRY: Heinegger. Heinegger. You people create nothing. You imitate everything. It's all been done before, you see, Jackson. The parrot. Think that's something? (JACKSON shrugs, looking away from him.) So you take it out on a parrot. Is that one of your African sacrifices, eh?

JACKSON: Run your mouth, Harry, run your mouth. I'll finish my job” (p.17)

The quotation shows that the protagonist has good manner in behaving. The manner can be seen from his responds when he is mocked by his boss. The boss thinks that the protagonist has no knowledge and skills which make him just imitate what he sees only since he is Black; though in fact it is totally wrong. This negative's view represents the White's view toward Black. The conflict in this

quotation refers to external conflict since he is viewed negative by his boss. The spectacle encourages him to prove that he has good manners. Here, the protagonist shows his manner by his response not to reply it. Instead of replying it by countering the boss, the protagonist responds all negative views address to him with his good manner. He just responds it calmly. He does not counter the boss since he knows it will not solve the problem. The utterance *Run your mouth, Harry, run your mouth* shows he just lets the boss to say what he wants to say about him. It proves that he is not interesting to responds by mocking as well but he prefers to respond it by his works. The stage direction *JACKSON shrugs, looking away from him* also supports that he does not respond the boss' mock since he chooses to leave the boss. The utterance *I'll finish my job* is his tool to responds the mock. He knows that by working with discipline and skills the negative's views will be demolished. The way he responds with not easily swayed by emotional of the negative views toward him shows that he has good manner.

In summary, the protagonist has proven that he has dignity with his good manners. He shows his good manners in work place. First, he respects of work time. He understands that respecting the work time is a form of his responsibility. He focuses only to complete his duty in work place, so that he will not do other activities out of his duty. Second, he is responsible for his works. His responsibility can be seen from his discipline and his awareness to complete all his works properly. Third, he is not easily swayed by emotional when he is underestimated. It can be seen from how he reacts toward the negative's views such as mock from his boss. He prefers to do his work rather than responds the boss' mocks. The spectacle in this analysis refers to the tense atmosphere and unexpected situation that encourage him to face and fix it. The conflict mostly comes from external, which caused he has to work harder. These conflicts make him use his skill, manner and knowledge to show the dignity.

D. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

Drama *Pantomime* (2011), written by Derek Walcott, reflects the issue of showing dignity. The analysis of this drama deals with the concept of life instincts by Freud, the concept of self-awareness by Crisp-Turner and the concept of power by Michel Foucault. Thus, showing dignity refers to the efforts done by protagonist, Jackson Phillip, a Trinidadian, to show that the Black people have dignity through his actions and thoughts in order to demolish the negative views and reveal the true identity of Black people. The protagonist shows his dignity by having knowledge and having good manners. Drama *Pantomime* (2011) reflects how Black people show their dignity like doing a pantomime; a performance using gesture and body movements without words. The protagonist reflects it in his way to show his dignity. To demolish the negative views toward Black, he chooses to show his actions rather than counter it by speaking more. Finally, it proves that to demolish negative views, Black people have to show their knowledge and good manners.

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