
AFFECTIVE MOBILIZATION AND SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION: THE POWER OF MARGINALIZED POETIC VOICES

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ABSTRACT

This study examines how significant, yet often overlooked, poetic voices in world literature contribute to social change. Utilizing the emotional insights of Hugh Mackay and Charles Tilly's mobilization theory, it analyzes works by poets such as Maya Angelou, Audre Lorde, and Patricia Smith. Through detailed literary analysis, the research investigates how these poets address themes of identity, oppression, and resilience, demonstrating literature's capacity to raise awareness and foster empathy for global issues. For example, Angelou's "Still I Rise" reflects the strength and triumphs of marginalized people, while Lorde's "A Litany for Survival" highlights the persistent fears within these groups and the imperative for activism. Smith's "Skinhead" confronts racial violence, challenging societal norms that perpetuate hate. The findings underscore the vital role of marginalized voices in contemporary society, emphasizing their power to motivate social transformation. Ultimately, this study asserts the importance of poetry as a crucial means for bridging cultural gaps and driving social change in our interconnected world.

Keywords: Emotional Insights, Empathy, Global Issues, Identity, Oppression, Resilience, Social Change.

1. INTRODUCTION

The relationship between art, writing, and social issues has garnered increasing attention, particularly concerning the contributions of marginalized voices. Poetry, a powerful medium for expression, has historically served to address social injustices, provoke thought, and inspire change. From ancient Greek dramas to modern protest poetry, it consistently articulates societal concerns, using metaphors and symbols to distill complex problems into relatable narratives. This unique capacity allows poetry to convey profound ideas and leave a lasting emotional impact on its audience.

Poetry is instrumental in articulating the experiences and concerns of marginalized communities. It addresses a wide spectrum of social issues, including environmental degradation, mental health challenges, and economic inequality. By foregrounding unheard perspectives, poetry illuminates critical problems and catalyzes important conversations and social movements. Notable poets such as Maya Angelou, Audre Lorde, and Patricia Smith have significantly raised awareness about race, gender, sexuality, and identity. Their work transcends mere artistic expression; it functions as a social commentary reflecting real-world experiences and global events, fostering unity and social responsibility among readers.

For example, Angelou's "Still I Rise" symbolizes the strength integral to the Civil Rights Movement. Lorde's "A Litany for Survival" powerfully conveys the daily fears

experienced by marginalized individuals. Smith's "Skinhead" directly confronts racial violence and societal stereotypes. Furthermore, contemporary platforms like poetry slams and social media have amplified these poetic voices, encouraging participation in modern social movements such as #MeToo and Black Lives Matter. Amanda Gorman, for instance, gained significant visibility during the 2021 inauguration with her poem "The Hill We Climb", which became a poignant call for unity and social change (Gorman & Verlag, 2021). The sharing of poetic expressions on digital platforms fosters dialogues around identity and resilience, with many platforms hosting contests focused on pressing social issues.

The collective impact of poets like Angelou, Lorde, Smith, and contemporary figures demonstrates poetry's crucial role in inspiring and mobilizing social movements. Their works, reflecting challenges of identity, oppression, and resilience, serve as sparks for empathy and collective action. The emotional potency inherent in their poetry reveals its substantial potential as a tool for social transformation across diverse cultural contexts.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The literature discusses how poetic voices can lead to social change, focusing on their ability to express dissent, build connections, and rally communities around important justice issues. However, there has not been extensive research on the role of poetry in social change, especially across diverse cultures. (Gunaratnam, 2003) asserts that poetry uncovers the concealed experiences of disadvantaged individuals, facilitating connections via shared adversities and eliciting empathy from broader audiences.

The affective turn, as noted by (1945- et al., 2007), shows that emotional connections are key for collective action, while Ahmed (2004) highlights how emotions can boost community mobilization.

The influence of marginalized voices in literature and activism is essential. In 1990, Hooks believes these voices challenge dominant societal narratives and points to digital technologies' role in promoting poetic expressions that can lead to social change. Crenshaw's (1989) important work on intersectionality explains how interconnected identities—like race, gender, and class, shape people's experiences, with poetry acting as a strong tool to express these complexities.

Historical movements, such as the Black Arts Movement in the 1960s and 70s, show how poetry can advocate for social change and cultural identity. Community events like poetry slams boost engagement among marginalized voices, creating communal bonds and inspiring action (Lehman, 1997). Recent research indicates that digital platforms increase visibility for marginalized poets; Paul (2019) explains how social media empowers these voices, enriching activist narratives. Furthermore, (Hochschild, 1983) discusses how poetry conveys emotional labor in activism, helping foster empathy and prompt action.

Crenshaw (1989) explains how intersecting identities shape poetic voices, and Lorde (1984) highlights poetry's political strength in uniting various experiences. Together, these insights confirm that poetry comments on and mobilizes against social injustices.

A recent study is investigating how poetry expressions might bridge generational divides, enhance awareness, and advocate for justice and equality (Wajed & Saghar, 2023).

Research gap

Current research on poetry and social activism reveals significant gaps, which this study aims to fill. One crucial aspect is the lack of thorough research on the influence of marginalized poetry from diverse cultures on social movements. Despite the fame of poets such as Maya

Angelou, Audre Lorde, and Patricia Smith, mobilization theory does not fully examine their works. In addition, the current literature often overlooks the emotional aspects of mobilization, which are important for understanding how poetry supports advocacy and activism. The primary focus on past poetic movements has resulted in a lack of attention to current voices, which are crucial for addressing today's social and political issues. Moreover, there has been little research into how poetic expressions can encourage community action for social change. This study aims to address these gaps by improving the understanding of how marginalized poetry promotes social justice and equity.

Aim

This study analyses how feelings tie into mobilization in poetry from marginalized groups. This analysis highlights the significant role that emotions play in promoting social change. By mixing emotional insights with theories about mobilization, it aims to highlight voices that often go unheard. It also wants to spark conversations about how poetry can promote empathy and push back against mainstream ideas.

Theoretical framework

Hugh Mackay and Charles Tilly provide key insights for this study. Mackay points out how feelings influence how people connect and how communities work. Tilly emphasizes the organization of social movements and their connection to personal experiences and emotions. Combined, their theories will reveal how poetry boosts activism and strengthens the voices of less heard communities.

Hugh Mackay's Emotional Insights

Hugh Mackay discusses the significance of emotions in human relationships and community life. In "The Good Life: A New Approach to a Meaningful Life" (2015), he suggests that emotions help people find meaning and relate to each other. He sees them as both personal feelings and social issues that can lead to community change. This idea matches Mackay's thoughts by showing how the emotional depth in the poetry of less-heard voices, like Julia Augusta Webster and Tracie Morris, speaks to wider societal concerns. Their poems show the difficulties of identity and oppression, helping readers feel empathy and understanding. Using Mackay's ideas, this study shows that these poets' emotional messages are important tools for advocacy, highlighting their significance in today's social justice discussions.

Charles Tilly's Mobilization Concepts

Charles Tilly's important work on social movements gives useful ways to look at how group actions come from personal feelings and experiences. In "From Mobilization to Revolution" (1978), Tilly explains the complex steps of social mobilization, stressing the importance of social networks, chances for group actions, and strategies for making social change. His ideas about the structures and workings of social movements show different ways that poetry can serve as a tool for activism and political conversation.

Using Tilly's ideas in modern research helps us go beyond just looking at single poems to see how the works of Webster and Morris reflect and support larger social justice movements. By applying Tilly's concepts of mobilization, such as framing, resource mobilization, and political opportunities, this analysis can elucidate the connections and participation of these poems in larger social and political issues. This method highlights poetry's dual role as both a mirror of social struggles and a push for change, encouraging a deeper and broader discussion about its role in tackling social problems.

Suitability of the theoretical framework for the research rationale

The combination of Mackay and Tilly's theories helps study lesser-known poets by adding more feelings and social background. Mackay talks about the strong emotions in poems, showing the real lives of these poets. On the other hand, Tilly places these emotions in wider social contexts, making clear how personal feelings connect to group actions and social change. This method shows how poetry can express ideas, support movements, and create unity, especially concerning identity, unfair treatment, and justice. By merging Mackay's insights on emotions with Tilly's attention to group behavior, we get a solid way to see how voices from the margins can question dominant stories and aid in seeking fairness. In the end, this mix of theories fills a key gap in research, showing how poetry can spark social change in a connected world.

Significance of research

This study shows how poetry from marginalized voices connects with social activism in various cultures. It combines feelings linked to mobilization theory with modern poetry. The research aims to enrich academic talks and highlight poetry's power in driving community action and promoting social change.

Research objectives

The research on marginalized poetry and social activism is important. It helps to set clear goals that create a strong framework. This framework supports both academic knowledge and highlights how poetry can be a powerful tool for social change. Each of the following objectives complements the others to elucidate the study's broader significance. It combines ideas from theory and practice to improve discussions about art, identity, and activism.

- Explore how the poetry of Maya Angelou, Audre Lorde, and Patricia Smith supports social change.
- Analyse emotional appeal in poetry to study its influence on collective action.
- Investigate contemporary poetry's role in social justice.
- Examine cross-cultural elements, advocating for the importance of diverse poetic voices.
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Research questions

Based on the study's significance and objectives, the following are the main research questions and corresponding sub questions:

- How does marginalized poetry facilitate social activism across cultures?
- What role do emotional components in poetry play in mobilizing communities?
- How does contemporary marginalized poetry respond to current social justice issues?
- What impact do diverse poetic voices have on fostering awareness of global issues?

These questions aim to address the core aspects of the research while encouraging a comprehensive examination of poetry's role in social justice and activism.

3. RESEARCH METHOD

This research utilizes qualitative literary analysis to investigate the works of often-neglected authors, with the objective of uncovering the emotions expressed in their poems. It combines Hugh Mackay's ideas about emotions and Charles Tilly's thoughts on mobilization to consider how poetry can inspire activism.

The method includes thematic interpretation and emotional interaction, allowing for a fuller understanding of the poems. The criteria for selecting poets and poems were focusing on

aspects of social marginalization, historical background, and themes. We included three poetic voices from different marginalized groups to enhance the analysis.

This study organizes the research into four main steps: first, we read selected poems to understand their emotional and thematic core; second, we use a coding system to identify common themes and emotional cues; third, we study the connection between these elements and activism; and finally, we combine the findings to discuss their broader impact on social change. This detailed method strengthens the reliability of the results and adds meaningfully to discussions on poetry and activism.

Data Collection

This study examined various poems from well-known and new poets. It focused on ideas like resistance, identity, and social justice. This method tries to show how unique poetic voices can spark social change. It also helps better grasp the role of poetry in today's political and social situations.

Analysis of Marginalized Voices Using Poetry with Mackay and Tilly

The poetry of Audre Lorde, Maya Angelou, and Patricia Smith highlights major themes of identity, oppression, and strength, particularly relevant to today's social justice movements. By using the theories of Hugh Mackay and Charles Tilly, we can see the emotional depths and group activism present in these works. This relationship provides insight into how poetry not only reflects personal battles but also prompts collective efforts.

Thematic Analysis

Identity

Each poet expresses a unique view of identity, shaped by their experiences, showing connections between race, gender, and social norms. For example, in Lorde's phrase "For those of us who live at the shoreline / standing upon the constant edges of decision," the imagery reflects the challenges of balancing different identities in society. This metaphor highlights personal struggles and connects to Mackay's idea that feelings influence social actions. The emotional weight of grappling with identity invites readers into a collective experience that strengthens group efforts.

Angelou asks, "Does my sassiness upset you?" Angelou boldly declares her pride, challenging societal norms. This emotional response supports Mackay's idea that shared emotions foster community. Smith's declaration, "They call me skinhead, and I got my own beauty," aggressively tackles societal standards, demanding recognition of her complex identity.

Oppression

Oppression is a strong theme in these works, addressing systemic issues faced by marginalized groups. Lorde illustrates the transmission of trauma in her poem, "For those of us / imprinted with fear / like a faint line in the center of our foreheads." This expression of fear relates to Tilly's mobilization theory, indicating that mutual difficulties can unite people to act together. The powerful depiction of fear becomes a communal recognition that encourages wider movements toward justice.

Likewise, Angelou's claim, "You may write me down in history/with your bitter, twisted lies," critiques the historical injustices faced by Black individuals. She confronts dominant narratives, reflecting Tilly's idea that shared wrongs can spark social movements. The emotional impact of her experience calls for a collective reaction—key to mobilization.

Smith's, "Why am I not working? Smith's "Look at my hand, asshole" also tackles systemic neglect, highlighting both personal and societal struggles. This line demonstrates how recognizing pain from oppression can lead to activism, creating urgency in advocacy, as described by Tilly.

Resilience

Resilience stands out as a key theme in these poets' works, inspiring audiences to find strength in hardship. Lorde's powerful statement, "We were never meant to survive," symbolizes endurance and defiance, creating a foundation for communal identity. The emotional depth of this statement underscores universal experiences of overcoming systemic oppression, in line with Mackay's view on emotional engagement as a driver for social change.

Angelou's emphatic remark, "But still, like dust, I'll rise," evokes both individual resolve and shared community strength. This repetition elevates the emotional call to fight against injustice, connecting back to Tilly's ideas about collective identity prompting organized action.

In a similar vein, Smith's phrase, "I was born to make things right," highlights active resistance. This invitation to Correcting Wrongs shows Crenshaw's idea of intersectionality, pushing readers to see that resilience changes depending on identity while pursuing a common goal of social justice.

Current Social Justice Movements

The ideas in these poems connect with modern movements like Black Lives Matter and Me Too, where marginalized groups seek recognition and equality. Mackay's focus on emotional ties shows how these poems create a sense of urgency; Lorde's writing calls for action against ongoing systemic injustices. Angelou's messages reflect a hopeful strength found in the fight for racial equality. Smith's thoughts on identity politics encourage discussions about empathy and social issues, motivating group action in tough times.

Emotional Influence and Group Identity

Mackay's views on feelings highlight how these poets use emotion to build a sense of shared experience. The urgency in lines like Angelou's "You may write me down in history..." triggers strong emotional reactions that promote community unity based on shared identity. Tilly's theory bolsters this notion, positing that the recognition of shared identities and experiences, exemplified by these poets in their art, propels group action.

In the mix of poetry and activism, the works of Audre Lorde, Maya Angelou, and Patricia Smith powerfully convey themes of identity, oppression, and resilience. Through the perspectives of Hugh Mackay and Charles Tilly, the emotional impact of their words encourages readers to connect with their struggles and drives collective action toward social justice. The emotional depth and shared identity found in these poetic voices not only challenge societal expectations but also inspire a unified response to systemic wrongs, paving the way for a fairer future.

Connection to Modern Social Justice Movements

The themes of identity, oppression, and resilience in these poems connect deeply with today's social justice movements, such as Black Lives Matter, Me Too, and LGBTQ+ rights.

Lorde's poem resonates with current fights against systemic injustice, as her call for awareness pertains to today's activists emphasizing the recognition of both historical and present oppressions.

Angelou's idea of rising above challenges reflects the ongoing struggle for racial equality, capturing the hopeful defiance that drives movements where marginalized communities fight for their rights.

Smith's examination of racial and social issues resonates with ongoing discussions regarding identity politics, serving as a reminder of the violence faced by marginalized individuals and thereby inspiring a unified response.

Hugh Mackay's ideas about emotions

Hugh Mackay says that emotions are key in how people behave and respond to social issues. In poetry, strong emotional appeal can create a sense of shared experience and urgency that encourages people to work together.

The lines "Still I Rise": "You may write me down in history with your bitter, twisted lies; you may trod me in the very dirt; but still, like dust, I'll rise."

In these lines Maya Angelou remind us of past injustices and show a strong affirmation of identity. The phrase "I rise" repeated shows strength and hope, indicating that, despite hardship, a community can uplift itself. This emotional power can motivate people to unite against social wrongs, supporting Mackay's idea that shared emotions drive action.

Charles Tilly's mobilization theory connect to the emotional responses

Charles Tilly's theory explains how shared problems, resources, and identities are vital for collective action. Emotional responses in poetry can highlight social injustices and build a sense of shared identity, making it easier for people to join forces for common causes.

"A Litany for Survival": "For those of us who were imprinted with fear / like a faint line in the center of our foreheads / learning to be afraid with our mother's milk."

In these lines Audre Lorde explores deep fears that many, especially marginalized individuals, feel. By addressing this fear and its roots, she connects with readers who share that experience. The heavy emotional impact of fear can drive people to come together to address and change the social systems that create fear.

"Skinhead": "I was born to make things right. It's now effortless to shift my large body into the shadows, transitioning from a place devoid of anything to the stark circle of a streetlight."

In these line Patricia Smith characterize struggles with identity and issues of violence and oppression. The statement, "I was born to make things right," evokes strong emotions, pushing readers to reflect on their roles in fighting injustice. The imagery of stepping "into the stark circle of a streetlight" shows a wish for clarity and truth. This emotional connection can lead individuals to engage with broader social movements, finding encouragement in shared struggles and hopes for justice.

"You may write me down in history / With your bitter, twisted lies." In these lines Angelou reclaims her identity despite the historical oppression of African Americans. This line directly addresses the misrepresentation of Black history while taking back her story and showing resilience.

"They call me skinhead, and I got my own beauty." These Smith's line conveys pride in her identity against societal labels intended to stigmatize. This captures the fight for self-acceptance despite external criticism, pointing to issues of race and identity.

"For those of us / who were imprinted with fear / like a faint line in the center of our foreheads" in these line Lorde illustrates metaphor embedded fear of oppression in the minds of marginalized individuals. Lorde articulates the anxieties experienced by various identities (such as Black, female, and lesbian) and critiques the societal systems that create such fears.

"I rise / bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave, / I am the dream and the hope of the slave." Here Angelou illustrates intersectionality by linking historical struggles to present successes. She acknowledges the context of slavery while asserting her identity, making a statement about the ongoing influence of historical oppression.

"I ain't part of no organized group; / I'm just a white boy who loves his race, / fighting for a pure country." In these lines Smith looks at the complicated nature of identity and aggression. This recognition of racial identity politics confronts societal ideas of whiteness, emphasizing the tensions within race, privilege, and violence in modern America.

Analysis of Varied Poetic Voices

The poems "A Litany for Survival" by Audre Lorde, "Still I Rise" by Maya Angelou, and "Skinhead" by Patricia Smith provide deep thoughts on the lives of marginalized people, touching on themes of survival, strength, identity, and social justice.

"For those of us marked by fear / like a faint line on our foreheads." This line illustrates how societal oppression shapes systemic fear. Lorde's imagery shows that fear becomes a part of marginalized people from a young age, emphasizing the mental toll of discrimination, which leads to broader conversations about social justice needs.

"You can write me down in history with your bitter, twisted lies." In these lines Angelou refers to the historical wrongs experienced by Black individuals. The idea of being recorded in history highlights how stories have often been bent to silence Black voices, stressing the need for their experiences to be acknowledged as vital for social justice.

"I sit here and watch others take over my TV." This line Patricia Smith illustrates the frustration and fear associated with perceived racial replacement among certain white groups. It starts a discussion about systemic racism and the cultural fears that lead to social unrest. These poems aid cross-cultural understanding by showing shared human feelings and struggles, allowing readers to connect with the experiences of others, regardless of background.

"seeking a now that can grow / futures / like bread for our kids." Here, Lorde's image of nurturing future generations points to a common wish to care for one's children, crossing cultural lines. This creates empathy as readers see the universal hope for a better life for the next generation.

"I am the dream and hope of the slave.", in this line Maya Angelou strongly made a statement that ties today's fight for equality to the past struggle against slavery, celebrating resilience through history. It forms a link between cultures and stories, promoting unity with those who have faced suffering and continue to seek justice.

Patricia Smith: "I was born to correct things." - This claim of purpose urges readers to think about social duty. It conveys a message of justice, not only for the speaker but also as a call for collective action, thereby promoting cross-cultural unity.

Poetry encourage empathy and spark critical discussions about social change

Poetry employs various techniques—like strong imagery, personal stories, and emotional connections—to foster empathy and encourage serious discussions about social issues.

Audre Lorde: "And when we speak, we are scared; our words won't be heard or welcomed."

Lorde expresses here the fear associated with sharing marginalized experiences. This recognition of vulnerability invites readers to empathize with the speaker's perspective, hardships and think about how society's rules can silence people, sparking discussions on the need to hear voices that are often overlooked.

Maya Angelou: "But still, like air, I'll rise."

This line is a strong statement about getting through tough times. It inspires readers to contemplate the resilience of perseverance and the potential for achievement, thereby initiating crucial discussions about the obstacles encountered and the strategies employed to surmount them.

Patricia Smith: "As a white boy who loves his race, I am fighting for a pure country."

Smith's clear statement connects to issues of race and white power. The tension here forces readers to face harsh realities about privilege and racism in their surroundings, offering a vital perspective for ongoing discussions about social justice.

Audre Lorde's "A Litany for Survival"

"For those of us who live at the shoreline / standing upon the constant edges of decision / crucial and alone"

Lorde addresses those on the margins, showing a shared struggle that opposes traditional ideas of safety and acceptance. The images portray the instability faced by marginalized individuals as they navigate their identities and choices.

Maya Angelou's "Still I Rise"

The line reads, **"You may write me down in history with your bitter, twisted lies."**

Angelou directly challenges the historical denial and misrepresentation of Black identity. By declaring her strength and resistance against these narratives, she uplifts marginalized voices and questions the prevailing historical narrative.

Patricia Smith's "Skinhead"

"They label me as a skinhead, but I possess my own unique beauty."

Smith acknowledges a negative label and turns it around, indicating that beauty can exist in spite of societal opinions. This assertion of self-challenges the stereotypes associated with her identity.

Poetic pieces motivate collective responses and actions within marginalized communities

These poets amplify their communities' voices, encouraging empowerment and pushing for collective resistance through shared experiences and struggles.

Audre Lorde's "A Litany for Survival": "We never meant to survive."

This line speaks to shared trauma and resilience, promoting acknowledgment and unity. It evokes a common history of survival against oppression and drives action toward social justice.

Maya Angelou's "Still I Rise": "Like moons and like suns, / With the certainty of tides"

The natural imagery underscores inherent strength and unbroken power that can inspire a community to rise against oppression and stay hopeful in tough times. This energy can lead to collective actions rooted in a shared identity.

Patricia Smith's "Skinhead": "AIDS will take care of the faggots; then it's going to be white and black in the streets."

This line conveys the overlap of race, sexuality, and violence, highlighting the urgent need for unity against systemic violence. It draws attention to the struggles faced by various marginalized identities, compelling a unified response to oppression.

Social activism and art in academic settings

Marginalized poets offer special viewpoints that alter the academic discussions on art and activism, stressing the impact of personal stories and art's role in driving social change.

Audre Lorde's "A Litany for Survival" : "When we speak, we fear that our words won't be heard."

This highlights the silencing of marginalized voices and emphasizes the importance of representation in academic spheres. Lorde's work advocates for reclaiming one's voice as a crucial act of resistance, transforming the perception of poetry as a tool for social activism.

Maya Angelou's "Still I Rise": "I am the dream and the hope of the slave."

This summary of Angelou's themes connects her personal story to historical events, showing how individual strength relates to broader social movements. It sparks academic talks about the link between personal choice and shared history in the fight for rights.

Patricia Smith's "Skinhead": "I'm your baby, America, your boy; drunk on my own spit, I am goddamn fuckin' beautiful."

Smith's bold statements challenge what society views as beauty and worth within marginalized groups. This aggressive viewpoint encourages scholars to explore the intricacies of race and identity in conversations about art, activism, and social standards.

The emotional impact serves as a catalyst for action

Mackay's views on emotional engagement show how strong feelings can motivate an audience to take action. The joy and defiance found in Angelou's poetry not only uplift but also encourage mobilization. The repeated phrase, "I'll rise," serves as a call to action for resilience among communities facing systemic issues. In speaking to those with similar experiences, Lorde's poetry—full of fears and the drive to survive—creates a shared emotional experience. This common ground leads to a recognition that inspires collective efforts for social change.

Cultural Specificity and Universal Experiences

While Lorde's, Angelou's, and Smith's poetry come from unique cultural settings, the emotional stories and themes they present are relatable to people worldwide. Various contexts echo themes of oppression, identity struggles, and resilience. Cultures and histories make their works open to different groups. The emotional impact of unfairness, whether based on race, gender, or other systemic issues, creates conversations that show shared human experiences.

The three poems analyzed—Maya Angelou's "Still I Rise," Audre Lorde's "A Litany for Survival," and Patricia Smith's "Skinhead"—talk about complicated feelings like strength, anger, fear, and loneliness, and who we are, using strong images and effective words.

Angelou's poem shows anger and resistance, expressing a fight against oppression with the constant phrase, "I rise," which stands for power and cultural connection through powerful images. Lorde's poem focuses on fear and survival, showing the worries faced by marginalized people and sharing a common feeling of being vulnerable through its repetitive style, ending with a declaration of strength against past oppression. Smith's "Skinhead" takes on feelings of isolation and identity, dealing with rejection from society and violence while wanting to reclaim and define herself.

A comparison shows that resilience is a shared theme; each poet views it differently. Angelou focuses on personal strength, Lorde on shared survival, and Smith connects her story to larger social issues. The unique images used by each poet—ranging from basic to community to raw—highlight different views on what it means to be human. Together, these poems push against societal standards and encourage readers to think about deep feelings related to struggle and identity.

4. FINDINGS

This study looks at how marginalized poetry connects with social activism, focusing mainly on the works of Maya Angelou, Audre Lorde, and Patricia Smith. It sets out four key research goals: to look at how these poets' writings encourage social change, to understand the emotional aspects that fuel group action, to study the part of modern poetry in social justice, and to showcase various poetic voices from different cultures.

The study uses a mix of qualitative literary analysis and emotional and thematic interpretations, applying the ideas of Hugh Mackay and Charles Tilly to better understand how poetry can drive community activism. Important themes like identity, oppression, and resilience appear in the analysis of the poets' works, showing connections to current social justice efforts such as Black Lives Matter and Me Too.

The results show that the emotional richness of their poetry creates a feeling of shared identity, which stimulates group action against systemic injustices. The poets challenge dominant narratives by providing detailed viewpoints that promote empathy and critical conversations about identity, race, and social change. Overall, the study highlights the importance of marginalized poetry as a crucial tool for promoting social activism and raising awareness of global problems.

5. DISCUSSION

Together, Mackay and Tilly's theories provide a deeper understanding of the poetry often overlooked in social activism. By looking at the emotional impact in the poems of Maya Angelou, Audre Lorde, and Patricia Smith, this approach shows how personal stories and group action connect. These poets share experiences of identity and oppression, pushing back against mainstream narratives and building community among those with similar challenges.

This research points out how emotional expression and social justice come together in today's poetry, showing that these stories can spark larger movements. The analysis shows that poetry not only lifts up unheard voices but also encourages discussions about identity and justice, especially with current movements like Black Lives Matter and Me Too.

The thematic analysis highlights the need for social action in the work of Lorde, Angelou, and Smith, showing how their emotional messages match Mackay's idea of shared feelings and Tilly's focus on group action. Additionally, recognizing intersectionality in social justice movements marks a cultural shift toward including diverse views. This study addresses an important gap in the study of art and activism, promoting more research on the link between literature and social movements.

6. CONCLUSION

This analysis shows how important the poetry of Audre Lorde, Maya Angelou, and Patricia Smith is for social change and encouraging people to act together. Using ideas from Hugh Mackay and Charles Tilly, we see that the emotional power in their poetry creates a feeling of shared identity and urgency among readers, which leads to activism. Their focus on themes like identity, oppression, and strength shows how needed their voices are in today's social justice movements, proving that poetry can greatly promote empathy and support. Through their stories, these poets not only challenge mainstream views but also open up conversations about urgent social topics, highlighting the important link between writing and activism.

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