



COMEDY AND SATIRE AS TOOLS OF SOCIAL COMMENTARY IN ANITA HEISS'S "PARIS DREAMING" AND "CHERRY BLOSSOMS"

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DOI: [10.33329/rjelal.12.3.37](https://doi.org/10.33329/rjelal.12.3.37)



Article info

Article Received: 17/06/2024
Article Accepted: 21/07/2024
Published online: 27/07/2024

Abstract

Anita Hess is a prolific author and major figure in contemporary Australian literature, particularly known for her contribution to the promotion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices. Her work spans several genres, including fiction, non-fiction, poetry and children's literature. Here is an overview of her literary contributions: Anita Hess, an accomplished Wiradjuri author, has made significant contributions to Australian literature through her diverse works, including novels, poetry and non-fiction. Among the various narrative techniques, he employs, comedy and satire stand out as powerful tools for social commentary. These elements not only provide entertainment, but also help to criticize social norms, analyse cultural conflicts, and reveal identity crises. This article explores the clever incorporation of humour and satire in Anita Hess's writing, examining how these techniques serve as lenses through which to highlight and address pressing social issues. In addition to her written work, Anita Hess is an active advocate for Indigenous literacy and education. She has been involved in a number of initiatives to improve literacy levels in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and promote Indigenous stories in mainstream Australian literature. Anita Hess's literary contributions are distinguished by cultural significance, humour and profound social commentary. His work not only entertains, but also educates and inspires readers to explore important issues of identity, culture, and social justice. Comedy and satire, although closely related, have different functions and characteristics in literature and society.

Keywords: Resilience, Resistance, Comedy, Satire, Racism, Colonialism, Cultural conflict, Reflection.

INTRODUCTION

Comedy is a genre that aims to entertain and amuse the audience with humour often highlighting the lighter side of life. They usually feature exaggerated characters, humorous situations and dialogue, are meant to be funny and entertaining, and sometimes provide light social commentary. The basic elements are humour, exaggeration, misunderstanding and a happy ending. Satire is a genre that uses humour, irony, exaggeration, or sarcasm to expose and criticize the evil, stupidity, and shortcomings of people, institutions, or society as a whole. It aims to stimulate thought, criticize society and promote change by highlighting it. Questioning and thinking, the main elements of satire being irony, parody, sarcasm and exaggeration.

Humour primarily aims to entertain, while satire aims to criticize and provoke thought. Humour is usually light and playful, while sarcasm can be dark and serious. Jokes aim to get a quick laugh; Satire seeks lasting impact by challenging social norms. Comedy originated in ancient Greece with playwrights such as Aristophanes who used comedy to entertain and skilfully criticize social norms. Comedy evolved into forms such as farce and court jesters, mixing entertainment with subtle commentary. Comedy: continues to thrive in a variety of mediums, including film, television and theatre, providing relief and pleasure. Humour: Provides escapism, brings audiences together through shared laughter, and provides alternative perspectives on life. Humour: Provides escapism, brings audiences together through shared laughter, and provides alternative perspectives on life.

Satire appeared in Roman literature through writers such as Juvenal and Horace, who criticized social and political issues in their humorous works. Importantly, especially in political cartoons, shows like Saturday Night Live, and publications like The Onion that analyse current events, satire serves as a

powerful tool for social change, forcing readers to rethink social conventions and injustices.

Both genres flourished, from Shakespearean comedies such as A Midsummer Night's Dream to humorous works such as Thomas More's Utopia. Together, these genres not only entertain, but also enrich literature and society by stimulating humour, reflection, and critical thinking. Popular literature, both traditional and contemporary, often uses humour and satire as powerful storytelling tools. These elements serve many functions, from social communication to countering stereotypes and colonial narratives.

Historically, indigenous cultures have used humour as an integral part of storytelling. Elders often used humour to teach important life lessons or cultural values. Laughter helps engage your audience, making your messages more memorable. Trickster figures like Coyote or Raven are archetypal examples; they use wisdom and evil to teach moral lessons and show the complexity of human nature.

Local writers, playwrights and comedians of today continue that tradition by bringing humour to their work. They use comedy and humour:

- Challenging stereotypes: By portraying local readers as interesting and relatable characters, generalized stereotypes are being challenged in a positive and human way.
- Critique of Colonial Fiction: Satire becomes a weapon against colonialism by exposing the evils and injustices of colonialism. Comedy provides an opportunity to critique historical and contemporary pain without dividing the audience.
- Create a country. Original humour focuses on laughter and laughter, celebrating the ability to laugh and find joy in bad times.

Ideas and the Importance of Resistance to Colonialism

- Driving force: Through humour and entertainment, Indigenous voices can subvert stereotypes imposed by settlers. By using racial stereotypes or stereotypes of immigrants, writers can invite these stereotypes into existence without perpetuating them.
- Freedom: Humour empowers Indigenous people to take the place of fiction. This is one of the most important ways to improve products and services.
- Attract more people. Humour can bridge the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities to allow for understanding and understanding through shared humour.

In this, the use of humour and humour in adult literature is a tool that facilitates communication, provides knowledge, promotes awareness, and ultimately strengthens adult identity and makes the activities of rather. Acclaimed Indigenous Australian writer Anita Hayes presents the cultural and social aspects of the United States in a powerful and engaging way. His books often combine simplicity with complexity, making them exciting and thought-provoking.

Paris Dreaming (2011)

Dreams of Paris is part of Heiss's collection of novels about the lives and loves of Aboriginal women. The story follows Libby Cutmore, director of Canberra's Aboriginal Gallery, who embarks on a journey of her own in Paris. Heiss uses humour and satire to explore identity, desire, and love, all in the City of Light. Drawing on her faith and personal experiences, Libby Heiss challenges stereotypes, celebrates cultural diversity, and emphasizes the importance of self-awareness and pride in her work.

Cheers and laughter:

- Professional Life and Purpose: Heiss uses humour to explore Libby Cutmore's experiences in the art world. The competitive world of design and much of the world of design is shown through Libby's intelligent and observant eye, providing a humorous insight into the politics and vanity of the industry.
- Love. The love and conflict between Libby and her loved ones is portrayed in a humorous way. Their clumsy but loving attempts at international reconciliation are simple, but they also reveal the strange nature of international relations.

The conflict between identity and culture:

- Cultural beliefs and consensus. Libby's journey to Paris highlights the tension between embracing her heritage and entering a largely Eurocentric and popular art world. The character's internal struggles are portrayed with humour and insight, emphasizing each character's quest for self-acceptance.
- Myths and stereotypes: Libby adapts and dispels stereotypes about Indigenous Australians based on her contact with Europeans. These moments combine humour with uplifting laughter, highlighting the stereotypes of Indigenous culture.

Cherry Blossom (2019)

"Cherry Blossom" is another vibrant addition to the Heise department. The novel follows the character of Samantha Blunt, who finds herself at a crossroads in her life after a series of personal setbacks. Eventually, he joins her on a trip to Japan to see cherry blossoms, taking her on a journey of healing and self-discovery. Heiss uses satire to ridicule the futility of modern life, tourism, and the pursuit

of self-improvement. Through Samantha's humorous and thoughtful journey, Hayes critiques societal expectations and emphasizes the holistic search for meaning and fulfilment, as well as providing rich cultural insight and the beauty of intercultural relationships. "Cherry Blossom".

Humour and Satire:

- **Tourism and Volunteer Culture:** Hayes satirizes the tourism industry and volunteer movement through Samantha Blunt's trip to Japan. Samantha's expectations and the reality of her trip are portrayed with humour that mocks the commercialization of personal understanding and cultural experience.
- **Modern Relationships:** The protagonists' romantic and platonic encounters are filled with humorous insights into the modern dating scene and an exploration of meaningful relationships. Hayes uses satire to critique social norms about relationships and personal growth.

Introduction and Cultural Conflict:

- **Finding Oneself:** Samantha's journey is one of self-discovery as she continues to reconcile her identity as an Australian Indigenous woman with her overseas surroundings, while further exploring the gap between her Japanese cultural background and traditions.
- **Tradition versus modernity. Modernity:** Throughout her journey, Samantha is conflicted between traditional values and modern lifestyle choices. The cultural struggles she experiences in Japan serve to highlight the broader theme of navigating personal identity amidst changing norms and social environments.

In both novels, Heiss's ability to combine humour and satire allows her to address profound issues of cultural identity, self-esteem, and the clash of traditional values and modern lifestyles. Portrayed with warmth and intelligence, her characters navigate the complexities of modern society. Living life while remaining true to their true roots. In both novels, Anita Hayes skilfully uses humour and satire to not only entertain but also stimulate her thoughts and discussions about cultural identity and conflict. Her characters' funny yet heartfelt journeys provide a deep exploration of the complexities of cultural pride, universal explorations of self-acceptance, and ideas about culture. It effectively subverts Anita Hayes's expectations of her use of satire, leaving a huge impact on the audience. His satirical approach allows him to mix humour and critical analysis to address serious issues such as racism and cultural identity. Wrapping her critical social commentary in humour helps make more difficult topics more accessible and interesting to a wider audience.

Heiss's writing is characterized by a relevance and depth that makes readers laugh and think. The effective use of humour and sarcasm allows messages to resonate widely, promoting greater understanding and appreciation of Indigenous cultures and experiences. Anita Hayes's novels *Dreaming of Paris* and *Cherry Blossom* are adept at using humour and satire to explore themes of identity and cultural conflict.

Heiss often creates characters and situations that challenge stereotypes and societal norms. Her comics expose the inconsistencies and contradictions of these structures, forcing readers to question their own assumptions and biases. This type of storytelling is not only entertaining but also educational and develops a deeper understanding of the complexities surrounding traditions and experiences.

The impact on the audience is multifaceted. On the other hand, students are drawn to humour and interactive situations, making the content interactive and non-confrontational. On the other hand, the implicit message stimulates thought and discussion, encouraging students to reconsider their thoughts and actions.

For example, in her novel *Am I Black Enough for You?*, Heiss uses her experiences to mock and critique the concept of racial authenticity and social pressures on identity. Her humorous narrative style engages readers as she explores the absurdity of racial stereotypes and the ongoing struggle for cultural understanding and respect.

Audience reception to Heiss' work generally shows appreciation for her ability to tackle difficult subjects with intelligence and wit. Many people find his sense of humour refreshing and refreshing because it offers a fresh perspective to understand and discuss important social issues. But others may find her engaging style appealing, as she confidently confronts deep-seated prejudices and stereotypes.

Ultimately, Anita Heiss' use of satire is a powerful tool in her writing. This not only dispels expectations, but also encourages critical thinking and self-reflection. Using humour and insight, Heiss sparks meaningful conversations with her audience about race, identity and culture, leaving a lasting impact on their perspectives.

Conclusion

Anita Heiss' subtle use of humour not only subverts societal expectations, but also serves as a tool for thought-provoking discussion. Blending humour and social commentary, he tackles complex issues like race and cultural identity in a light hearted and engaging way. His sense of humour engages the reader, encourages them to laugh, and makes them think critically about their opinions and

behaviour in society. As a result, Hayes leaves a lasting impression, inspiring greater understanding and discussion about the important topics he addresses. Quiet! The following are recommended references for further reading on Anita Heiss's discussions of humour, racism, and cultural identity.

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