



AUTHOR'S SOCIAL IMPACT IN AMANDA GORMAN'S SELECTED POEMS

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ABSTRACT

Social impact in this research refers to the influence of Amanda Gorman's literary works on society, especially in fighting for values such as equality, courage and solidarity. Gorman's work not only reflects her personal experiences but also has the power to inspire social change and strengthen human connections at various levels of society. This study examines how Amanda Gorman's life experiences and perspectives are expressed through her selected poems. The data were taken from the Encyclopedia Britannica, Amanda Gorman's own website, an exclusive interview with The Associated Press, Amanda Gorman's poems entitled "The Hill We Climb" (2021), "An Ode We Owe" (2022), and "Chorus of the Captains" (2021). This research is a qualitative descriptive approach and applies Sociology of Literature theory as outlined by renowned scholars Wellek and Warren. The novelty in this research lies in the analysis of Amanda Gorman's poetry by expanding the focus from three main concepts (Social Background, Ideology, and Social Integrity) to seven more detailed concepts. The results of this research reveal that Amanda Gorman's poetry reflects seven main concepts: Personal Struggles and Triumphs, Urban Experience, Cultural Identity and Heritage, Activism through Art, Intersectionality of Gender and Race, Community Building, and Moral and Ethical Advocacy. Gorman draws on her personal experiences and cultural identity to convey social issues through poetry, which reinforces messages of solidarity, justice, and change in society.

Keywords: *Amanda Gorman, Identity, Poetry, Sociology,*

ABSTRAK

Dampak sosial dalam penelitian ini mengacu pada pengaruh karya sastra Amanda Gorman terhadap masyarakat, khususnya dalam memperjuangkan nilai-nilai seperti kesetaraan, keberanian, dan solidaritas. Karya Gorman tidak hanya mencerminkan pengalaman pribadinya, namun juga memiliki kekuatan untuk menginspirasi perubahan sosial dan memperkuat hubungan antarmanusia di berbagai lapisan masyarakat. Penelitian ini mengkaji bagaimana pengalaman hidup dan cara pandang Amanda Gorman diungkapkan melalui puisi-puisi pilihannya. Data diambil dari Encyclopedia Britannica, website Amanda Gorman sendiri, wawancara eksklusif dengan The Associated Press, puisi Amanda Gorman berjudul "The Hill We Climb" (2021), "An Ode We Owe" (2022), "Chorus of the Kapten" (2021). Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan deskriptif kualitatif dan menerapkan teori sosiologi sastra yang dikemukakan oleh sarjana ternama Wellek dan Warren. Kebaruan dalam penelitian ini terletak pada analisis puisi Amanda Gorman dengan memperluas fokus dari tiga konsep utama (Latar Belakang Sosial, Ideologi, dan Integritas Sosial) menjadi tujuh konsep yang lebih detail. Hasil penelitian ini mengungkapkan bahwa puisi Amanda Gorman mencerminkan tujuh konsep utama: Perjuangan dan Kemenangan Pribadi, Pengalaman Perkotaan, Identitas dan Warisan Budaya, Aktivisme melalui Seni, Interseksionalitas Gender dan Ras, Pembangunan Komunitas, dan Advokasi Moral dan Etis. Gorman memanfaatkan pengalaman pribadi dan identitas budayanya untuk menyampaikan isu-isu sosial melalui puisi, yang memperkuat pesan solidaritas, keadilan, dan perubahan dalam masyarakat.

Kata kunci: *Amanda Gorman, Identitas, Puisi, Sosiologi*



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INTRODUCTION

Literature holds a captivating allure for discussion, serving not only as a source of entertainment but also as a reservoir of insights into life (Hamzah et al., 2024). It originated from the fundamental human impulse to articulate one's own existence (Bronner & Kellner, 2020), driven by a profound concern for individuals, humanity, and the enduring realities of the world throughout time (Singer, 2011). This creative art form focuses on human experiences and life, employing language as its medium. Described as a social institution, it relies on language as its primary tool (Sapiro, 2023). Through this medium, "life" is presented, often reflecting social realities while also imitating nature and subjective human experiences (Wellek & Warren, 2016).

A literary work can be studied by combining it with sociology (Chartier, 2017). According to Semi (2013:51), sociology is defined as an objective and scientific study of individuals in society and the social processes involved. Sociology investigates the development and evolution of societies. Although literature and sociology are two different fields of science, they can become a new branch of science, namely literary sociology. Literary sociology means studying literary works by connecting them with social aspects that exist in people's lives (Beckert & Suckert, 2021). This term fundamentally does not differ in meaning from socioliterary, sociological approaches or sociocultural approaches to literature (Váňa, 2020). Damono (2003: 3) asserts that an approach in literature that examines societal aspects is termed as literary sociology. This approach employs text analysis to uncover the structure of literary works, which is subsequently utilized to gain a more profound understanding of social phenomena beyond the realm of literature (Davidson, 2021).

Like sociology, literature is also related to society in creating literary works (Emre, 2019), of course it cannot be separated from the influence of the culture in which the literary work was born. Additionally, Damono (in Faruk, 2015: 5) proposes three distinct approaches within the sociology of literature. These include the sociology of the author, which delves into issues such as social status and ideology pertaining to the author as the creator of literary works; sociological literary works, focusing on the characteristics of the literary piece itself; and the sociology of literature, concentrating on readers and the societal impact of literary works (Godart et al., 2020).

An author plays a crucial role in shaping and producing literary works, often drawing inspiration from personal experiences, daily life, and imagination (Skubic & Fišer, 2022). Literary works, therefore, serve as a reflection of the author's identity, thoughts, and reality, as demonstrated in the poetry of Amanda Gorman (Grana, 2020). Amanda S. C. Gorman, an American poet, activist, and writer, became widely recognized after performing *The Hill We Climb* during President Joe Biden's inauguration in 2021, making history as the youngest poet to perform at such an event (Tyner, 2022).

Previous studies have explored the role of literature in reflecting social conditions, such as Nufaelah's (2015) analysis of women's portrayal in Lady Mary Chudleigh's poems, where the sociological approach highlighted the gender stereotypes and the subordinate role of women in the early 18th century. Similarly, Prahasti (2019) analyzed the relationship between literature and social processes in Rida K. Liamsi's *Megat*, focusing on ethical, social, and cultural aspects through a sociological lens. Rahmadani (2013), on the other hand, examined the concept of the American Dream in *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, investigating how social and cultural factors shaped the protagonist's pursuit of freedom. These studies, while insightful, have focused on various literary works through a sociological perspective, yet little attention has been given to how modern poets like Gorman use their personal background to address current social issues.

This research is significant as it expands the sociological analysis of Gorman's poetry, examining the connections between her social background, ideology, and social integrity in more detail. While previous studies have analyzed individual aspects, the novelty of this research lies in the broader conceptual framework. By extending the analysis from three main concepts—social background, ideology, and social integrity—to seven more detailed concepts, this study offers a deeper understanding of Gorman's work and its relevance to contemporary social and political movements. This research not only contributes to the field of literary studies but also sheds light on the role of poetry in addressing pressing societal issues through the lens of sociological theory.

To ensure readers can better understand the author and immerse themselves in the essence of her work, each writer strives to showcase their unique style in the literary pieces they create (O'Sullivan, 2022). Through writing style, word choices, and the themes they explore, authors create a mirror that reflects their thoughts, imagination, and life perspective. In this regard, Amanda Gorman stands out as an author due to her ability to express experiences and viewpoints through her works. Gorman's creations serve as a channel for her creative expression, establishing a window that reveals how thoughts, imagination, and reality intertwine in a rich and meaningful literary work. Thus, literary works not only represent the result of a creative process but also embody the uniqueness and personality of the author (Pillai, 2019).

The selected poems are a poem that have many moral messages for readers and listeners. The poem depicts a broader overview of the country's history and its struggles for and against equal rights for all people. Poetry as a social mirror provides a space to analyze the author from a sociological literary perspective (Woods & Pollard, 2017). Amanda Gorman, as the author of "The Hill We Climb," becomes the focus of this study to understand the social impact of her work. This approach will detail Gorman's social background, ideology, and social integrity in the context of creating the poem.

Previous studies on the sociology of literature have provided valuable insights into the relationship between literary works and their social contexts, focusing on different genres and time periods. Nufaelah (2015), in her thesis "*The Image of Women in Lady Mary Chudleigh Poems: The Ladies' Defense and To the Ladies*", examines the depiction of women in two poems by Lady Mary Chudleigh. Set in early 18th-century England, a period dominated by patriarchal systems, the study analyzes the stereotypes associated with women through a descriptive qualitative method and a sociological approach. The findings reveal that *The Ladies' Defense* (1701) portrays women as subordinate, deprived of autonomy and appreciation, while *To the Ladies* (1703) emphasizes women's obligations to obey their husbands, portraying them as passive individuals. Both poems

underscore the inferior status of women in a patriarchal society, with figures of speech playing a significant role in conveying these themes.

Similarly, Prahasti (2019), in her thesis "*Analyzes the Sociology of Literature in the Novel 'Megat' by Rida K Liamsi*", explores the sociological dimensions of the novel, focusing on ethical, social, and cultural aspects. The study employs a descriptive qualitative method with a hermeneutic approach, identifying ethical elements such as responsibility and conscience, social aspects including interactions and conflicts, and cultural components like language and religion. This research highlights the intricate relationship between literature and societal norms, emphasizing how the novel reflects the broader socio-cultural framework.

In another related study, Rahmadani (2013), in her thesis "*An Analysis of the American Dream of the Main Character in Harriet Beecher Stowe's Novel Uncle Tom's Cabin*", investigates the manifestation of the American Dream in 18th-century America. The analysis focuses on Eliza's pursuit of equality, togetherness, and freedom, using Abrams' Sociology of Literature theory. The findings identify strategies such as intelligence, optimism, and bravery as central to achieving the American Dream within the narrative. This study connects the literary representation of the American Dream to broader socio-historical ideals of the time.

Building on these foundational studies, this research employs the sociology of literature framework as articulated by Wellek and Warren (2016) in *Literary Theory*. According to Wellek and Warren, literary sociology examines the interplay between literary works and their social contexts, considering the author's social background, ideology, and social environment. This theoretical approach provides the foundation for analyzing Amanda Gorman's poetry, focusing on how her personal experiences, inclusive ideology, and commitment to social integrity influence her creative works.

While previous studies, such as those by Nufaelah (2015), Prahasti (2019), and Rahmadani (2013), have offered critical insights into classical literary works, their focus has been limited to earlier time periods and traditional genres. Nufaelah's research highlights stereotypes in historical poetry, Prahasti delves into the sociological aspects of a novel, and Rahmadani connects a narrative to the American Dream. However, these studies do not explore contemporary poetry, particularly in the context of modern social ideologies.

This research addresses this gap by examining Amanda Gorman's poetry, emphasizing its relevance in reflecting and shaping contemporary social narratives. Unlike previous works, this study analyzes how Gorman uses poetry as a platform to promote inclusivity, equality, and social change, bridging the personal and societal in a uniquely modern context. By focusing on Gorman's works, this research contributes to the understanding of how contemporary poetry engages with and influences evolving social ideologies.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study used descriptive qualitative method, drawing inspiration from Wellek and Warren's renowned author sociology theory to comprehensively explore the social impact encapsulated within Amanda Gorman's poetic masterpiece, "The Hill We Climb" (2021) "An Ode We Owe" (2022) "Chorus of the Captains" (2021).

Research techniques are carried out using data analysis, coding, classification and interpretation. The study aims to delve deeply into the intricate connections between Gorman's

social context and the nuanced elements embedded in her poetic creation. The qualitative research approach aims to understand or study social problems (Creswell & Creswell, 2018). Creswell explained that qualitative research is a tool for gaining an understanding of the meaning given by individuals or groups to social or humanitarian problems. Data collection was taken from the Encyclopedia Britannica, Amanda Gorman's own website, the results of an exclusive interview with The Associated Press, and the poem "The Hill We Climb", "An Ode We Owe" and "Chorus of the Captains". In this research, the researcher used words instead of numbers to describe the main data, making this research qualitative descriptive research.

This study employs a descriptive qualitative approach to analyze Amanda Gorman's poetry. The primary data sources are her poems, which are analyzed to uncover the influence of her social background, personal experiences, and ideological perspectives on the themes and messages in her work. The data collection technique involves library research, where relevant texts, interviews, and secondary materials about Amanda Gorman and her poetry are reviewed and synthesized. The analysis focuses on:

1. Textual Analysis: Identifying recurring themes, imagery, and stylistic elements in Gorman's poetry.
2. Contextual Analysis: Examining the relationship between the poet's life experiences, including her social and cultural background, and the content of her poems.
3. Interpretation: Using the framework of literary sociology to draw connections between the poet's inclusive ideology and the societal impact of her work.

The data analysis follows these steps:

1. Reading and Annotation: Close reading of Gorman's poems to identify key literary elements and thematic patterns.
2. Categorization: Grouping the data into categories such as themes of courage, equality, and hope.
3. Contextual Integration: Relating the categorized data to Gorman's social background and ideological beliefs.
4. Synthesis and Interpretation: Interpreting how the identified elements align with Gorman's broader social message and the principles of literary sociology.

By employing these methods, the study aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of Amanda Gorman's poetry, highlighting the interplay between her personal context and her literary works.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Data was taken from the Encyclopedia Britannica, Amanda Gorman's own website, the results of an exclusive interview with The Associated Press, and the poem "The Hill We Climb", "An Ode We Owe" and "Chorus of the Captains". Based on data analysis regarding Amanda Gorman's life and thoughts reflected in her poetry, there are 14 pieces of data that describe Amanda Gorman's seven life concepts, as explained below.

A. Personal Struggles and Triumphs

Amanda Gorman's personal struggles, particularly her struggle with a speech impediment, have played a significant role in shaping her poetic voice. Overcoming these challenges not only gave her a deep appreciation for the power of words but also instilled in her a sense of determination and resilience. Her experiences with adversity are often reflected in her poetry, where she explores themes of perseverance, hope, and self-empowerment.

Datum 1

The results of the interview show that Amanda Gorman faced various challenges in her childhood. Amanda Gorman and her siblings, including her twin sister, Gabrielle, were raised by a single mother named Joan Wicks, who was an educator at the high school level. Both sisters face difficulties in speaking. Amanda, in particular, faces obstacles due to a hearing loss that impacts her ability to pronounce the consonant "r." In the course of her development, she revealed that poetry was a means that was not only financially affordable but also useful as a medium for self-expression. (Zelazko, 2021)

This condition is reflected in the poem *The Hill We Climb*, where Gorman writes:

*"We the successors of a country and a time
Where a skinny black girl
Descended from slaves and raised by a single mother
Can dream of becoming president*

20. Only to find herself reciting for one." (Gorman, 2021)

In the poem "The Hill We Climb," Amanda Gorman conveys the extraordinary strength and potential of individuals who come from backgrounds that some might consider disadvantageous. With the lines "We the successors of a country and a time / Where a skinny black girl / Descended from slaves and raised by a single mother / Can dream of becoming president / Only to find herself reciting for one," Gorman emphasizes that even though she is a skinny black girl, descended from slaves, and raised by a single mother, she had big dreams that ultimately led her to stand before the president.

Datum 2

Additionally, after achieving fame, Gorman faced new challenges regarding privacy. In the interview, she explained:

"I am still in the process of learning and developing quickly. One of the things that has changed a lot for me is my level of privacy. Unexpectedly, I suddenly became someone known on the street. Even when I go to a restaurant and cover my face with a mask, people are still able to recognize me from my face or voice. I feel very grateful for that level of visibility, even though I sometimes miss the personal privacy because it allows me to have a wider platform to do well." (Gorman, 2022)

Amanda Gorman describes the extraordinary changes in her life through the lyrics of the poem "The Hill We Climb". These lyrics reflect Gorman's life journey from a young girl from a simple background to becoming a widely known public figure. In line with her statements about how her visibility has changed drastically and how she is now known on the street, these lyrics highlight how far her life has come and how her popularity has given her a wider platform to do good, even though she sometimes longs for personal privacy.

Datum 3

In an interview, Amanda Gorman shared her personal experience of having dinner at a restaurant. A woman approached her with tears in her eyes, telling her how much her poetry meant to her. Gorman was surprised by the emotional response, although it wasn't the first time she had

experienced something similar. This moment not only moved her to talk to the woman, but also made Gorman aware of the far-reaching impact her work has had on the lives of many people around the world. She said:

"When I realize that there are so many people around the world who may have similar responses that I have not experienced, I feel a responsibility to treat their experiences with respect and fairness as I write. This is a tough question, but I feel it is also my privilege. I believe that this is something that I encountered and that gives me strength as I write" (Gorman, 2022).

This experience is in line with the lyrics in the poem *An Ode We Owe*:

*"To anyone out there:
I only ask that you care before it's too late,
That you live aware and awake,
That you lead with love in hours of hate.
60. I challenge you to heed this call,
I dare you to shape our fate.
Above all, I dare you to do good
So that the world might be great"* (Gorman, 2022)

Amanda Gorman's experience in a restaurant, where a woman approaches her with tears in her eyes, reveals how much her poetry means to the woman, reflecting the deep connection between Gorman's work and the resulting social impact. This is reflected in the lyrics of the poem "An Ode We Owe". These lyrics describe how Gorman felt compelled to do good and treat other people's experiences with respect and fairness in her writing, paralleling the sense of responsibility she felt when realizing the impact her poetry had on others.

Datum 4

In another interview, Gorman highlighted the long journey she still has to go, both in terms of time and learning. She said:

"Yes, the phenomenon still exists. I still have a long way to go - not just in terms of time duration, but also in the learning aspect." (Gorman, 2022)
*This view is reflected in the lyrics of the poem *The Hill We Climb*:*
*"10. And yet the dawn is ours
before we knew it
Somehow we do it
Somehow we weathered and witnessed
a nation that isn't broken
15. but simply unfinished"* (Gorman, 2021)

Amanda Gorman's statement about the long journey she still has to go through, both in terms of time duration and learning aspects, reflects her view that the process of development and growth is a continuous journey. This is reflected in the lyrics of the poem "The Hill We Climb". These lyrics depict the idea that despite many accomplishments, both on a personal and social level, there is still much to learn and accomplish. As Gorman says, the phenomenon is still around, and she still has a long journey ahead of her, a process full of learning and growth.

B. Urban Experience

Growing up in Los Angeles, a diverse and complex urban environment, has deeply shaped Amanda Gorman's writing style and social views. The city's vibrant cultural tapestry and its socio-economic challenges have given her a different understanding of urban life, which is visible in her poetry. Los Angeles, with its mix of wealth and poverty, opportunity and oppression, has taught Gorman to navigate the contradictions and tensions inherent in modern urban life.

Datum 5

The results of the interview show that Amanda Gorman was born and raised in Los Angeles, a city full of urban dynamics that influenced her early journey as a writer. She has appeared on various prestigious stages, such as the White House, Lincoln Center, and the Library of Congress. Additionally, she is active in social campaigns, such as Nike Black History Month 2020, as well as becoming the first National Youth Poet Laureate in 2017, an honor that reflects her dedication to literature and social activism (Gorman, n.d.). The lyrics in the poem "An Ode We Owe" demonstrate Gorman's attention to social injustices and challenges, especially those that are often prominent in big cities:

*" How can I ask you to do good,
When we've barely withstood
Our greatest threats yet:
The depths of death, despair and disparity,
5. Atrocities across cities, towns & countries,
Lives lost, climactic costs." (Gorman, 2022)*

The phrase "Atrocities across cities" directly shows how cities are places where injustice and social inequality really occur. This is relevant to Gorman's background in Los Angeles, where she witnessed firsthand how urban challenges can impact her community. This experience motivated her to use poetry as a tool to voice the struggle against injustice and promote social justice. The lyrics in the poem "Chorus of the Captains" also reflect an appreciation for individuals who are dedicated to their community:

*" Today we honor our three captains
For their actions and impact in
A time of uncertainty and need.
They've taken the lead,
5. Exceeding all expectations and limitations
Uplifting their communities and neighbors
As leaders, healers, and educators." (Gorman, 2021)*

These lyrics align with the way Gorman has been honored for her contributions, both through her literary work and her activism. The awards she has received, including from Urban Word and Nike, underscore her role as an inspiring figure fighting for change in the urban environment. The phrase "uplifting their communities" reflects Gorman's experience in building social awareness and supporting communities through her poetry and action.

C. Cultural Identity and Heritage

Amanda Gorman's cultural identity as an African American woman greatly influences her poetic voice and the themes she explores in her work. Her heritage is a rich source of inspiration,

allowing her to study historical and contemporary issues affecting the African American community.

Datum 6

In her interview, Amanda Gorman stated that she was inspired by the works of Zora Neale Hurston and Toni Morrison, who she said were literary explorers of their ancestors. Hurston and Morrison are known for using the rich language and experiences of the African-American community as a basis for creating beautiful prose. This illustrates how cultural identity and heritage form *a strong foundation in Gorman's work* (Gorman, 2022).

In the poem The Hill We Climb, Gorman writes:

*“Where a skinny black girl
Descended from slaves and raised by a single mother
Can dream of becoming president*

20. Only to find herself reciting for one.” (Gorman, 2021)

These lyrics directly reflect Amanda Gorman's cultural identity as a black woman who inherited a long history of struggle in the African-American community. The phrase "descended from slaves" emphasizes the historical connection to an ancestral legacy full of challenges, while the "dream of becoming president" shows confidence in the great potential of the new generation despite coming from a background full of limitations.

Gorman draws on personal experiences, such as growing up in a family with a single mother, to emphasize that cultural heritage is not a barrier, but rather a source of strength to dream big and create change. In this way, she follows in the footsteps of Hurston and Morrison who used the language and experiences of their communities to create meaningful works of literature.

D. Activism through Art

Amanda Gorman makes poetry a form of activism, using the power of words to encourage social change. Gorman's ideologies of social justice, equality, and change are deeply integrated into her art. She views poetry as a powerful tool for giving voice to pressing social and political issues, such as racism, injustice, and inequality.

Datum 7

In the interview, Amanda Gorman and her siblings, including her twin sister, Gabrielle, were raised by a single mother named Joan Wicks, who was an educator at the high school level. Both sisters face difficulties in speaking. Amanda faces obstacles due to a hearing loss that impacts her ability to pronounce the consonant "r." In the course of her development, she revealed that poetry was a means that was not only financially affordable but also useful as a medium for self-expression. (Zelazko, 2021)

In The Hill We Climb, Gorman writes:

*“We've learned that quiet isn't always peace
And the norms and notions
of what just is*

Isn't always just-ice.” (Gorman, 2021)

These lyrics indicate Gorman's activism, which focuses on social justice. The phrase "quiet isn't always peace" teaches that silence does not mean peace, while "what just is not always justice" highlights the injustices that are often hidden behind norms and systems that are considered "fair." This shows how Gorman uses her poetry to challenge the status quo and advocate for social change.

In An Ode We Owe, Gorman writes:

*"Therefore, though poverty is a poor existence,
Complicity is a poorer excuse.*

*20. We must go the distance,
Though this battle is hard and huge,
Though this fight we did not choose"* (Gorman, 2022)

These lyrics reflect the importance of acting against injustice and poverty. Gorman not only recognized the enormous challenges faced, but also called for collective responsibility to fight for social justice. This indicates that activism through art is an important basis in her work.

In Chorus of the Captains, Gorman writes:

*"For while we honor them today,
30. It is them who every day honor us."*(Gorman, COTC, 2021)

These lyrics underscore Gorman's appreciation for individuals who work hard and contribute to society. This message reflects the values of service and dedication to the community, perhaps inspired by her mother's role as an educator.

Datum 8

In her interview, Amanda Gorman stated that she hopes this poetry can overcome challenges such as hunger, poverty and illiteracy, although they feel huge, but these challenges are not too big to overcome. But their greatness should not be ignored either. (Gorman, 2022)

Lyrics from The Hill We Climb:

*"And yes we are far from polished
far from pristine
But that doesn't mean that we are
striving to form a union that is perfect.*

*25. We are striving to forge our union with purpose
To compose a country committed to all cultures, colours, characters and
conditions of man."* (Gorman, 2021)

"*We are striving to forge our union with purpose*": Indicates dedication to social justice and inclusion, reflecting a vision to create a society that considers the diversity of cultures, colors, characters and the human condition. It is an artistic expression used to encourage social change.

Lyrics from An Ode We Owe:

*"Therefore, though poverty is a poor existence,
Complicity is a poorer excuse.*

*20. We must go the distance,
Though this battle is hard and huge,
Though this fight we did not choose,*

*For preserving the earth isn't a battle too large
To win, but a blessing too large to lose.
25. This is the most pressing truth:
That Our people have only one planet to call home
And our planet has only one people to call its own.
We can either divide and be conquered by the few,
Or we can decide to conquer the future," (Gorman, 2022)*

"*Though poverty is a poor existence, complexity is a poorer excuse*": This lyric criticizes apathy towards injustice, such as poverty, and calls for social responsibility to act. "*We must go the distance, even though this battle is hard and huge*": Encouraging collective struggle to fight injustice, demonstrating activism that promotes hope and collective action for social change.

Datum 9

In her interview, Amanda Gorman stated "In my view, the main difficulty in writing poetry today is that, even though I have the time and space to write, I often feel hindered by myself. I felt pressured and received excessive attention, which ultimately interfered with my creative process." (Gorman, 2022)

Lyrics from The Hill We Climb:

*"And yes we are far from polished
far from pristine
But that doesn't mean that we are
striving to form a union that is perfect.
25. We are striving to forge our union with purpose" (Gorman, 2021)*

"*We are striving to forge our union with purpose*": This lyric indicates how art can be a tool to unite a divided society. Despite pressures and imperfections, Gorman uses poetry to speak out against social injustice and create change.

Lyrics from An Ode We Owe:

*"Exhausted, angered, we are endangered,
Not because of our numbers,
But because of our numbness. We're strangers
10. To one another's perils and pain,
Unaware that the welfare of the public
And the planet share a name—
—Equality" (Gorman, 2022)*

"*We're strangers to one another's perils and pain*": This lyric reflects how art is used to raise social awareness about injustice and lack of empathy in society.

Lyrics from the Chorus of the Captains:

“ They've taken the lead,
5. *Exceeding all expectations and limitations
Uplifting their communities and neighbors
As leaders, healers, and educators.*” (Gorman, 2021)

"*Uplifting their communities and neighbors*": This lyric shows how Gorman's art honors the contributions of people who work for their communities. Activism through art is realized by appreciating and motivating collective action to create a better society.

E. Intersectionality of Race and Gender

Amanda Gorman consistently incorporates the concept of intersectionality, especially in terms of race and gender, into her poetry. As an African American woman, Gorman is at the intersection of two identities that often experience marginalization. Her poetry not only reflects the experience of being a woman, but also the challenges she faced as a black woman in America. She raised issues that touched on the injustices experienced by black women, including the multiple discrimination they faced.

Datum 10

In her interview, Amanda Gorman stated “The acts of trolling that I experienced actually came from individuals who were not poets, not from fellow poets. Often, I hear comments like, “What Amanda Gorman does isn't that hard. I don't understand why she's so famous.” I don't think they have bad intentions. On the contrary, I feel sympathy because often, these are people who have little exposure to the world of poetry, have never received encouragement or challenges to explore poetry.” (Gorman, 2022)

Lyrics from *The Hill We Climb*:

“55. *We've seen a force that would shatter our nation
Rather than share it
Would destroy our country if it meant delaying democracy.
And this effort very nearly succeeded.
But while democracy can be periodically delayed,
60. it can never be permanently defeated.*” (Gorman, 2021)

"*We've seen a force that would shatter our nation rather than share it*": This lyric describes how discrimination and injustice hinder progress, including on issues related to race and gender. This resonates with Amanda Gorman's experience as a black woman who has faced criticism and trolling that may stem from racial or gender bias.

F. Community Building

Amanda Gorman views poetry as a powerful tool for building stronger, inclusive, and supportive communities. She often conveys messages inviting people to unite in facing common challenges, both at the local and global levels. In her poetry, Gorman emphasizes the importance of solidarity and mutually reinforcing relationships between individuals.

Datum 11

In her interview, Amanda Gorman stated "The hope of this poem is that although challenges such as hunger, poverty, and illiteracy can feel Goliath-sized, they are not too big to overcome. However, their greatness should not be ignored either." (Gorman, 2022)

Lyrics from The Hill We Climb:

*"30. We close the divide because we know to put our future first
We must first put our differences aside
We lay down our arms
So we can reach out our arms
To one another." (Gorman, 2021)*

These lyrics explicitly emphasize the importance of unity and collaboration to overcome social challenges. Gorman uses the metaphor of "lay down our arms" to call for an end to conflict, allowing for cooperation to build a shared future. This phrase reflects the core principle of community building, namely building relationships through empathy and solidarity.

Lyrics from An Ode We Owe:

*" We can either divide and be conquered by the few,
Or we can decide to conquer the future." (Gorman, 2022)*

These lyrics emphasize the importance of unity in facing global challenges. Gorman reminded that division will only weaken society, while collaboration and cooperation can bring positive change and ensure a better future. This message reinforces the theme of community building through a call for solidarity.

Lyrics from Chorus of the Captains:

*" They've taken the lead,
Exceeding all expectations and limitations,
Uplifting their communities and neighbors." (Gorman, 2021)*

These lyrics celebrate the actions of individuals who have gone above and beyond to support their communities. Gorman underscored the important role of local leaders, hard workers and volunteers in strengthening social ties and creating positive impact. This reflects the value of community building which grows from collective contributions and mutual care.

Datum 12

Amanda Gorman revealed that since she first attended a meeting at the UN as a delegate at the age of 16, she felt there was a lack of representation from the younger generation in the forum. This moment encouraged her not only to want to become a delegate, but also to speak on behalf of and with the younger generation. In her interview, she stated that her goal was not only to represent, but also to speak and move with them.

Lyrics from An Ode We Owe

*"Together, we won't just be the generation
That tries but the generation that triumphs;
35. Let us see a legacy
Where tomorrow is not driven
By the human condition,*

But by our human conviction.” (Gorman, 2022)

These lyrics underscore the spirit of building community through cooperation and shared success. Gorman invites generations to not only try, but also achieve success together. These lyrics are in line with Gorman's hopes in interviews, where she wants to be a speaker who inspires and motivates the younger generation to bring about positive change.

Datum 13

In an interview, Amanda Gorman stated that many people have not been involved, have not been informed, or have not been motivated to participate in efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). With her poetry, she wants to raise awareness about these issues and emphasize the importance of these goals.

*Lyrics from An Ode We Owe:
“60. I challenge you to heed this call,
I dare you to shape our fate.
Above all, I dare you to do good
So that the world might be great.” (Gorman, 2022)*

Lyrics "I challenge you to heed this call, I dare you to shape our fate." in An Ode We Owe reflects Amanda Gorman's spirit to encourage collective action in facing global challenges such as poverty, injustice and environmental degradation. In the interview, she emphasized the need to educate and motivate more people to get involved in global efforts towards sustainable development goals. These lyrics are a call to action, to contribute to positive change in the world in a way that collectively supports planetary sustainability and social justice. Gorman invites people not only to see these challenges, but to dare to take concrete steps to create a better world.

G. Moral and Ethical Advocacy

Amanda Gorman consistently emphasizes the importance of moral and ethical values in her works. She used her poetry as a medium to advocate the principles of justice, truth, and goodness. In each line, Gorman seeks to encourage readers to consider the moral dimensions of their actions and their impact on others.

Interview statement:

“In my opinion, although my origins and writing style have remained the same, I feel it has pushed me to think more creatively and imaginatively about ways to convey my poems to the world.” (Gorman, 2022)

Amanda Gorman stated that although her origins and writing style remained the same, her popularity encouraged her to think more creatively and imaginatively in conveying her poetry to the world. With increasing attention to her work, she feels increasingly compelled to use the platform she has in a meaningful way to inspire others.

*Lyrcis from The Hill We Climb:
We the successors of a country and a time
Where a skinny black girl
Descended from slaves and raised by a single mother
Can dream of becoming president
Only to find herself reciting for one.” (Gorman, 2021)*

In the lyrics “We the successors of a country and a time, where a skinny black girl, Descended from slaves and raised by a single mother.” Amanda Gorman uses her experiences coming from a challenging background as a black woman to convey a powerful moral message. These lyrics describe how her struggle, rooted in the dark history of slavery and the hardships her mother faced as a single parent, is proof that social change is possible.

Lyrics from An Ode We Owe:
“
*How can I ask you to do good,
When we've barely withstood
Our greatest threats yet:
The depths of death, despair and disparity,
5. Atrocities across cities, towns & countries,
Lives lost, climactic costs.”(Gorman, AOWO, 2022)*

Amanda Gorman speaks explicitly about the enormous challenges facing humanity, including death, injustice, and climate breakdown. In the lyrics “How can I ask you to do good, when we've barely withstood, Our greatest threats yet” she poses a moral challenge to readers to act for good, even though the world is filled with huge, seemingly insurmountable problems. And in the lyrics "The depths of death, despair and disparity, Atrocities across cities, towns and countries, Lives lost, climate costs." She connects the global suffering and loss as depicted in the lyrics, emphasizing the importance of collective ethical responsibility to address this enormous problem.

CONCLUSION

In *The Hill We Climb*, Amanda Gorman reflects on her personal history, using her experiences as an African American woman to address social and moral issues. She describes herself as "a skinny black girl descended from slaves and raised by a single mother," illustrating the challenges and systemic barriers she has faced. This context deeply informs her advocacy for social justice, equality, and empowerment, particularly for marginalized communities. Her background shapes her poetry, driving her to challenge societal norms and call for action in the pursuit of collective progress and ethical responsibility.

Amanda Gorman's poetry reflects an inclusive ideology, emphasizing the importance of courage, equality, justice, and hope. Gorman uses the power of words to voice inspiring messages about unity, social change, and human solidarity. This reflects her belief in the power of words to create positive change in society. In her poetry, Amanda Gorman shows social integrity by fighting for high moral values and committing to acting in accordance with her beliefs. By conveying messages that speak of hope, unity, and change, she strengthens human connections and encourages social solidarity. Through her work, Gorman strives to build a better world for everyone. In the poem "The Hill We Climb," she wrote, "For there is always light, if only we're brave enough to see it. If only we're brave enough to be it," which describes her belief that courage and hope are the key to creating positive change in society.

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