

## Pain Pleasure Principle in Joy Harjo's Poetry: The Foundation of Personal Choices and Identity

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Received: 16 November 2023; Accepted: 01 March 2024; Published: 10 March 2024

### Abstract

This article examines Joy Harjo's journey, the renowned poet and musician, has navigated a tumultuous life filled with pain and adversity. The pain pleasure principle is a fundamental aspect of human decision-making. Beliefs, values, actions, and decisions are all shaped by this principle, but it is crucial to examine them critically through a postcolonial lens to better understand the power dynamics and social structures that influence our interpretation of pain and pleasure. A lot of studies have been conducted on Indigenous literature, but very little has delved into the exploration of pain and pleasure, specifically in the works of Joy Harjo. However, the current study argues that when examining Indigenous literature, it is essential to approach it through the lens of post-colonial theory and consider concepts such as identity, hegemony, and hybridity in order to fully understand the hidden motives behind these literary works. In her literature, Harjo's poetry serves as a testament to the transformative nature of language and its ability to heal. Harjo's work, particularly her book "Conflict Resolution for Holy Beings," emphasizes the importance of language in bridging cultural and linguistic gaps. Joy Harjo's literature reflects the pleasure serves as a driving force in our lives, motivating us to make certain choices and take specific actions. These choices and actions, in turn, shape our individuality and help us develop a unique identity. The study stresses on Pain pleasure principle that plays a crucial role in Indian American literature, particularly evident in the works of Joy Harjo.

**Keywords:** Postcolonial; Pain; Pleasure; Identity

### INTRODUCTION

In recent decades, there has been a growing interest among researchers and literary critics in studying the pain pleasure principle as a concept for liberation and finding identity. This interest is likely due to the profound importance of this principle and its close connection with postcolonial history. Many scholars have expressed their views on the influence and inspiration of the pain pleasure movement on the cultural history of colonial peoples, including (Kuppers, 2022; King, 2020; Bradley, 2020; Diabate, 2020; Chaudhary, 2022). The pain pleasure principle in the context of postcolonial history highlights the experiences of Native Americans and their struggle against colonialism. The post-colonial history of Indian Country reveals a legacy of trauma and grief that continues to have a profound impact on AI/A communities across generations and within. These communities have been immersed in a crucible of stress, facing high levels of posttraumatic stress, similar to the experiences of Jewish Holocaust and Khmer Rouge survivors.

Understanding the ongoing impacts of colonization for Indigenous Peoples is essential in comprehending the theme of intergenerational trauma and historical trauma (Nguyen-Truong et al., 2023). The pain-pleasure principle in Native American literature serves as a motive against colonialism and sheds light on the enduring effects of colonization on Native communities. This principle allows Native American writers to explore and express their experiences of pain, trauma, and resilience in the face of colonial oppression. Throughout her life, Joy Harjo has experienced deep pain and profound suffering. She has faced struggles such as abuse, addiction, and the loss of loved ones. However, instead of letting these experiences define her, Harjo turned to writing as a means of self-expression and catharsis. As Harjo delved into the world of poetry, she found solace in pouring her emotions onto the page. She discovered that through the act of writing, she was able to process her pain and find healing in the words she crafted.

Joy Harjo, a renowned poet and musician, has been hailed as one of the most influential voices in contemporary literature. Her poetry speaks to the resilience of the human spirit, offering a powerful testament to the transformative power of art. Harjo's work embodies the notion that resiliency includes many dimensions, as expressed by the arts and narrative methods. Through her poetry, Harjo not only bears witness to personal stories of pain and suffering but also conveys a sense of hope and healing. In Joy Harjo's poetry, the pain-pleasure principle is a powerful and recurring theme that influences personal choices and shapes individual identity. Harjo's poetry delves deeply into the human experience, exploring the complexities of pain and pleasure and how they shape our lives. According to Aristotle, the pain-pleasure principle suggests that people make choices to avoid or decrease pain or make choices that create or increase pleasure. This principle serves as the core motivation behind all our decisions, as beliefs, values, actions, and decisions are built upon the desire to seek pleasure and minimize pain.

As an acclaimed poet and musician, she has utilized the power of words to not only express her own emotions but also contribute to the revival of cultural traditions that were almost lost due to colonization. In her literature, Harjo's poetry serves as a testament to the transformative nature of language and its ability to heal. Harjo's work, particularly her book "Conflict Resolution for Holy Beings," emphasizes the importance of language in bridging cultural and linguistic gaps. In "Conflict Resolution for Holy Beings," Harjo acknowledges the trade language of English as a means to speak across various linguistic boundaries, suggesting that this enforced language can be subversively used to reclaim and honor Indigenous languages and traditions. "Pain and happiness: Joy Harjo's Transformation through the Power of Writing" "Happiness through Writing: Joy Harjo's Journey of Pain and Healing" Joy Harjo, renowned poet and musician, has had a life filled with pain and hardship. Despite the challenges she has faced, Harjo discovered solace and happiness through her writing. Her ability to find strength and healing through the power of words is a testament to the transformative nature of poetry.

Harjo's poetry beautifully captures the nuances of this principle, as she delves into personal past experiences that shape our interpretations of pain and pleasure. From intense experiences of pleasure to moments of profound pain, Harjo's poetry becomes a means to express and explore the depths of our emotions. Harjo's poetry aligns with hedonistic theories, which posit that a person's life is considered

to be going well when there is a surplus of pleasure over pain. Joy Harjo's poetry delves into the complex intertwining of joy and pain, resilience and hardship. Through her powerful and evocative verses, Harjo highlights the capacity of individuals to withstand adversity and find strength in the face of challenges. One of the themes that emerge from Harjo's work is the pleasure of pain. Harjo presents pain not as an obstacle to be avoided, but as a catalyst for growth and transformation. Her poetry reveals a deep understanding of the human condition and invites readers to explore the paradoxical nature of pain and pleasure. Harjo's exploration of the pleasure of pain is not about glorifying suffering but rather acknowledging its role in shaping our resilience.

The concept of pleasure and pain in Harjo's poetry is not limited to mere physical sensations but extends to encompass a wide range of emotional and spiritual dominated by structural factors that sought to suppress Joy's voice, could have easily swallowed her identity and left her feeling powerless. Through her journey in writing, Harjo was able to reclaim her voice and construct her identity as a woman and as a writer. Joy Harjo 'journey through writing to find happiness despite the pain she has experienced in her life. Serves as a testament to the transformative power of artistic expression and the resilience of the human spirit which she was able to claim her own voice and construct her identity as a woman and as a writer, within a context dominated from her early childhood by violence, fear and silence. Those structural factors would eventually give cohesion to her identity.

One of the qualities that are distinctive in Harjo's poetry is her ability to elicit an emotional response from her readers. Her words have a way of evoking deep feelings and stirring the soul. This emotional response generates additional meanings within the poetic material, allowing for a greater appreciation of the human experience and an understanding of resilience as a powerful force. Harjo's poetry aligns with the guiding characteristics of research poetry, where aesthetic power, truth telling, insight, and surprise are essential elements. For Harjo, poetry is not merely a means of self-expression but a tool for healing and building resilience within communities.

Through her poetry, Harjo reminds us that pain is an inevitable part of life. It is through our experiences of pain that we learn valuable lessons, develop inner strength, and cultivate resilience. Harjo's poetry challenges the conventional notion that pain should be solely viewed as something negative or to be avoided. Instead, she encourages us to embrace pain as an essential part of our journey and find meaning within it. Harjo's poetic resilience invites us to reframe our relationship with pain, acknowledging its role in our growth and development.

## **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

Postcolonial theory is a powerful framework that allows us to understand and analyze the experiences of marginalized communities, including Native Americans. By examining the Native American pain and pleasure principle through a postcolonial lens, we can gain deeper insights into their history, struggles, and ongoing fight for liberation and the reclaiming of their cultural identity. The pain and pleasure principle refers to the dichotomy between the suffering endured by

Native Americans throughout history, and their resilience in finding joy, strength, and connection to their heritage and traditions

Native Americans have a long and complex history in the United States, marked by colonization, assimilation efforts, and resistance. Prior to the arrival of Europeans, Native Americans had established rich and diverse cultures that were deeply interconnected with the natural world. They lived in harmony with nature, viewing it as a sacred and integral part of their existence.

However, with the arrival of European colonizers, Native Americans faced immense suffering and displacement. They were subjected to violence, forced relocation, and the loss of their lands, languages, and customs. The pain experienced by Native Americans as a result of colonization and the subsequent erasure of their cultural identity cannot be underestimated. Despite the pain and trauma, Native Americans have also demonstrated an extraordinary ability to find pleasure and joy in their cultural practices, traditions, and communal connections.

From ancient philosophers like Aristippus and Plato to more modern thinkers like Bentham, Mill, and Sidgwick, the question of what constitutes pleasure and how it contributes to our identity has captivated the minds of intellectuals throughout history. Sidgwick, in particular, had a unique perspective on pleasure and its role in shaping our sense of self. He believed that pleasure, in its various forms, plays a crucial role in our lives and can profoundly influence our choices and actions.

Sidgwick saw pleasure as a fundamental aspect of human existence, and he argued that it is through the pursuit and experience of different types of pleasure that we are able to define and shape our identities. Sidgwick's perspective on pleasure and identity is rooted in his belief that the choices we make, guided by our pursuit of pleasure, contribute to our overall sense of self and personal fulfillment. According to Sidgwick, pleasure serves as a driving force in our lives, motivating us to make certain choices and take specific actions. These choices and actions, in turn, shape our individuality and help us develop a unique identity.

In his philosophical works, Jeremy Bentham explored the complex relationship between identity and pleasure within the context of oppression. According to Bentham, individuals who are oppressed often find their identity through the pleasure derived from resisting their oppressors. Bentham believed that human beings are naturally inclined to seek pleasure and avoid pain. He viewed hedonism as the guiding principle of human obligation, with pleasure and pain serving as the sovereign masters that govern our actions (1789Bentham, /1996]). Bentham's concept of utility, which he defined as a measure of pain and pleasure, further emphasized the importance of pleasure in human motivation (John Stuart Mill, /1996). Within this framework, Bentham argued that the experience of oppression can lead individuals to seek pleasure in resisting their oppressors. This resistance can provide a sense of empowerment and an affirmation of one's identity in the face of adversity.

Bentham's analysis suggests that the pleasure of resistance becomes a vital tool for individuals to reclaim their agency and assert their identity. By engaging in acts of resistance, individuals can experience a sense of liberation and assert their autonomy. Bentham's philosophy also highlights the potential for collective action and solidarity in the face of oppression. Bentham's act-oriented utilitarianism

acknowledges that individuals may sometimes act with the best interest of the collective in mind.

## **METHOD**

The study of the Native American pain-pleasure principle is a complex and multifaceted concept that demands thorough consideration of underlying factors, such as identity, hegemony, and hybridity. Identity, in particular, plays a critical role in understanding the basis of Native American pain. Native American pain-pleasure principle refers to the interconnected relationship between pain and pleasure experienced by Native American communities. This concept is rooted in the experiences and historical traumas endured by Native American cultures, such as forced assimilation policies enforced by the United States government.

These policies have had a profound and lasting impact on Native American communities, resulting in a unique and complex relationship with pain and pleasure. To further explore the Native American pain-pleasure principle, specific texts can be analyzed. One such text is "Conflict Resolution for Holy Beings" by Joy Harjo. In this text, Harjo explores the intersectionality of identity and pain within Native American communities. She delves into the pain of displacement and the struggle to maintain cultural practices and language in the face of assimilation. Another important aspect to consider when examining the Native American pain-pleasure principle is the role of historical and cultural loss among many Native Americans. Due to forced relocation, breaking of communal ties, and cultural assimilation, Native American communities have experienced significant loss.

The study of Native American pain pleasure principle is a fascinating field that explores the interactions between indigenous pain and European colonizers. American Indian nations share a common historical relationship with European colonizers and the United States government that has been characterized as, at best, exploitative and at its worst, genocidal. This study presents a vivid depiction of pain and how individuals derive pleasure from proving themselves and finding a unique identity to resist colonization.

The pain becomes a weapon against the unjust colonization, following Freud's views about the natives. The new aspect of this study is the application of Freud's views on natives to the depiction of assimilation and identity as seeds of resistance in Native Americans in the face of European intrusion. Resistance to the degradation of power and sovereignty challenges the consciousness of colonization for Native people. The ingrained notion of colonization continues within society, particularly in education at all levels. Eurocentric perspectives of civilizing American Indian people are still present in persistent efforts at assimilation, which manifest in the form of racism, questioning of identity, and devaluation of their work unveiling oppression within the academy.

The colonization of the Native people had many negative impacts on their culture, tradition, and lives. The most noticeable results of this colonization are assimilation, pain, and the displacement of Native Americans from their lands. However, despite these oppressive circumstances, Native American communities have been able to resist colonialism in various ways. One of the most significant ways that Native American communities have resisted colonialism is through the

preservation and revitalization of their identity, language, and culture. This preservation and revitalization of identity, language, and culture serves as a powerful tool for Native American communities to assert their autonomy and resist the erasure of their histories and geographies. By actively reclaiming and revitalizing their cultural practices, Native American communities are able to maintain a sense of pride and connection to their heritage.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The selected writer for this study sheds light on the complexity of Native American resistance to cultural domination, extinction, and assimilation. Through her poetry, Harjo reminds us that pain is an inevitable part of life. It is through our experiences of pain that we learn valuable lessons, develop inner strength, and cultivate resilience. She provides insight into the lived experiences of Native American writer and her community, showcasing the challenges she faces and the strategies she employ to maintain her cultural identity in the midst of a dominant culture. Historically, the relationship between Native Americans and the dominant culture has been characterized as a dichotomy between assimilation and authenticity.

A recent study aimed to delve deeper into the role of pain in helping Native Americans to resist assimilation and find their true identity. The study observed that Native American literature, specifically poems and stories, not only acted as a record of their experiences but also provided a counter-narrative to their despair. One way Native communities have resisted assimilation and maintained their cultural identities is through the creation and performance of Native texts, including poems and stories. These texts serve as a reflection of their dreams, hopes, and the future pain Native communities' face, helping them resist assimilation and find pleasure in their cultural heritage. By exploring the societal spaces in which these texts are performed, we can gain further insight into the ways in which Native communities use storytelling and literature as forms of resistance and resilience. Furthermore, recent work in Native American studies has focused on understanding the place of Native literature within the broader landscape of literary traditions.

### ***Dual Nature of Human Experience:***

Harjo's poetry often delves into the dual nature of human experience, where pain and pleasure intertwine. In poems like "She Had Some Horses" and "An American Sunrise," she portrays the simultaneous presence of joy and suffering in life. This duality reflects the inherent complexity of existence, where moments of pleasure are often shadowed by pain, and vice versa. Through her exploration of this duality, Harjo highlights the interconnectedness of seemingly disparate emotions and experiences, suggesting that one cannot fully appreciate pleasure without acknowledging the existence of pain, and vice versa.

Through her exploration of this duality, Harjo invites readers to confront the interconnectedness of seemingly disparate emotions and experiences. She suggests that one cannot fully appreciate pleasure without acknowledging the existence of pain, and vice versa. In "She Had Some Horses," for instance, Harjo vividly depicts the coexistence of joy and suffering in the speaker's life, as they navigate the

complexities of their identity and heritage. The horses in the poem symbolize both freedom and captivity, embodying the dualities inherent in the human experience. Similarly, in "An American Sunrise," Harjo explores the bittersweet nature of memory and heritage, highlighting how moments of joy are often tinged with a sense of loss or longing. Through vivid imagery and evocative language, she captures the beauty and pain of Indigenous experiences in America, illustrating how the past continues to shape the present in profound ways.

Harjo's portrayal of the pain pleasure principle in her poetry serves to illuminate the multifaceted nature of human emotions and experiences. Rather than presenting pain and pleasure as polar opposites, she emphasizes their interconnectedness, suggesting that they are inseparable aspects of the human condition. This perspective challenges traditional notions of happiness and suffering, inviting readers to embrace the complexities of their own experiences. Moreover, Harjo's exploration of this duality serves a deeper purpose in her poetry. By acknowledging the interconnectedness of joy and suffering, she highlights the resilience and strength inherent in the human spirit. Through moments of pain, individuals are able to discover their own capacity for healing and growth. Likewise, moments of pleasure serve as reminders of the inherent beauty and wonder of life, even in the face of adversity. In essence, Joy Harjo's poetry offers a profound meditation on the pain pleasure principle and its implications for human existence. Through her nuanced exploration of this duality, she invites readers to confront the complexities of their own experiences and to embrace the interconnectedness of joy and suffering. In doing so, she offers a poignant reminder of the resilience and strength that lie at the heart of the human spirit.

### ***Healing and Resilience:***

Despite the presence of pain in her poetry, Harjo also emphasizes the potential for healing and resilience. In poems like "Eagle Poem" and "A Map to the Next World," she celebrates the transformative power of embracing one's pain and using it as a catalyst for growth. Through rituals, storytelling, and connection to nature, Harjo's poetry suggests that individuals can transcend their suffering and reclaim their sense of agency and identity. By acknowledging and confronting their pain, individuals can embark on a journey towards healing and self-discovery.

In "Eagle Poem," Harjo invokes the image of the eagle as a symbol of spiritual strength and renewal. The poem speaks to the interconnectedness of all living beings and the importance of embracing one's place within the natural world. Through the metaphor of the eagle soaring above the earth, Harjo suggests that individuals can find solace and perspective by connecting to something greater than themselves. By acknowledging their pain and seeking guidance from the natural world, individuals can begin the process of healing and transformation. Similarly, in "A Map to the Next World," Harjo explores themes of loss, grief, and resilience in the face of adversity. The poem serves as a meditation on the passage of time and the inevitability of change. Through vivid imagery and evocative language, Harjo captures the cyclical nature of life and the interconnectedness of past, present, and future. Despite the challenges and hardships that individuals may face, Harjo suggests that there is always hope for renewal and rebirth.

Central to Harjo's exploration of healing and resilience is the idea of reclaiming one's sense of agency and identity. Through rituals, storytelling, and

connection to community, individuals can find strength and purpose in the face of adversity. In "A Map to the Next World," Harjo writes: "Remember the hole of shame marking the last scene of the first act of hell. Stand with empty hands because it is only then that you can embrace the sky." These lines speak to the transformative power of letting go of past traumas and embracing the possibilities of the future. By confronting their pain and embracing the unknown, individuals can reclaim their sense of agency and embark on a journey towards healing and self-discovery.

Harjo's poetry also emphasizes the importance of storytelling as a means of healing and resilience. Through the act of sharing one's experiences and connecting with others, individuals can find solace and strength in their common humanity. In "A Map to the Next World," Harjo writes:

"Give your story a title.

Now you may take off your shoes, my dear."

These lines suggest that by sharing their stories and embracing their vulnerabilities, individuals can find a sense of liberation and empowerment. Through the power of narrative, individuals can transcend their pain and find healing and resilience in the face of adversity.

### ***Connection to Ancestry and Spirituality:***

Harjo frequently draws upon her Native American heritage and spirituality in her poetry, weaving elements of mythology, tradition, and ceremony into her exploration of the pain pleasure principle. In poems like "Remember" and "For Calling the Spirit Back from Wandering the Earth in Its Human Feet," she emphasizes the importance of maintaining a connection to one's ancestry and spiritual roots as a source of strength and guidance in times of adversity. Through rituals and ceremonies passed down through generations, Harjo's poetry suggests that individuals can find solace and meaning amidst life's trials and tribulations.

In "Remember," Harjo invokes the power of memory and ancestral wisdom as a means of navigating life's challenges. The poem serves as a meditation on the interconnectedness of past, present, and future, highlighting the importance of honoring one's ancestors and their legacies. Through vivid imagery and evocative language, Harjo urges readers to remember the lessons and sacrifices of those who came before them, drawing strength and guidance from their resilience and wisdom.

Similarly, in "For Calling the Spirit Back from Wandering the Earth in Its Human Feet," Harjo explores themes of connection and belonging in the context of Native American spirituality. The poem speaks to the importance of honoring one's spiritual roots and reclaiming one's sense of identity in the face of cultural assimilation and displacement. Through rituals and ceremonies, individuals can reestablish their connection to the land, their ancestors, and the spiritual forces that shape their lives.

Central to Harjo's exploration of ancestry and spirituality is the idea of finding solace and meaning amidst life's trials and tribulations. In "Remember," she writes:



"Remember you are all people and all people  
are you.  
Remember you are this universe and this  
universe is you."

These lines underscore the interconnectedness of all living beings and the importance of recognizing one's place within the larger cosmos. By embracing their connection to the natural world and their ancestors, individuals can find a sense of belonging and purpose that transcends the challenges of everyday life. Harjo's poetry also emphasizes the transformative power of rituals and ceremonies as a means of healing and renewal. In "For Calling the Spirit Back from Wandering the Earth in Its Human Feet," she writes:

"We have forgotten who we are.  
We have forgotten who we are.  
We have forgotten who we are."

These lines serve as a call to action, urging individuals to reclaim their spiritual heritage and reconnect with the sacred rituals and ceremonies of their ancestors. Through these practices, individuals can find solace and strength in the face of adversity, reaffirming their connection to the land, their ancestors, and the divine forces that guide their lives. Joy Harjo's poetry celebrates the importance of maintaining a connection to one's ancestry and spiritual roots as a source of strength and guidance in times of adversity. Through rituals, ceremonies, and the wisdom of the past, individuals can find solace and meaning amidst life's trials and tribulations. Harjo's poetry serves as a powerful reminder of the resilience and resilience that lies within each of us, and the transformative power of reclaiming our ancestral heritage and spiritual identity.

### **Agency and Empowerment:**

Central to Harjo's exploration of the pain pleasure principle is the theme of agency and empowerment. In poems like "I Give You Back" and "The Woman Hanging from the Thirteenth Floor Window," she portrays individuals reclaiming their agency in the face of trauma and oppression. Through acts of resistance, self-expression, and self-assertion, Harjo's poetry celebrates the transformative power of personal choice in shaping one's identity and destiny. By embracing their pain and asserting their autonomy, individuals can redefine their narratives and forge a path towards liberation and empowerment.

In "I Give You Back," Harjo confronts the pain and trauma of the past, symbolized by the image of the "bitter seed" lodged within the speaker's body. The poem serves as a declaration of defiance and liberation, as the speaker refuses to be defined by their past experiences. Through the act of "giving back" the pain and trauma that have been inflicted upon them, the speaker asserts their autonomy and agency, reclaiming control over their own narrative and identity.

Similarly, in "The Woman Hanging from the Thirteenth Floor Window," Harjo explores themes of resilience and empowerment in the face of adversity. The poem speaks to the experiences of Indigenous women and the systemic injustices they

face, from colonial violence to modern-day marginalization. Despite the challenges and hardships depicted in the poem, Harjo emphasizes the strength and resilience of the woman hanging from the window, who refuses to be silenced or oppressed. Through acts of resistance and self-assertion, she asserts her agency and refuses to be reduced to a victim of her circumstances.

Central to Harjo's exploration of agency and empowerment is the idea of reclaiming one's voice and asserting one's autonomy in the face of oppression. In "I Give You Back," she writes:

"I take myself back, fear.  
You are not my shadow any longer.  
I won't hold you in my hands.  
You can't live in my eyes, my ears, my voice  
my belly, or in my heart my heart  
my heart my heart"

These lines speak to the transformative power of self-assertion and self-expression, as the speaker refuses to be defined by their fears or past traumas. By reclaiming their agency and asserting their autonomy, individuals can break free from the chains of oppression and forge a path towards liberation and empowerment. Harjo's poetry also emphasizes the importance of community and solidarity in the struggle for agency and empowerment. In "The Woman Hanging from the Thirteenth Floor Window," she writes:

"The others in the building  
call the maintenance man to take the body away.  
I call You."

These lines highlight the contrast between the indifference of society and the speaker's refusal to remain silent in the face of injustice. By calling upon a higher power, the speaker asserts their agency and refuses to be complicit in the erasure of Indigenous voices and experiences. Through acts of resistance and solidarity, individuals can work together to challenge oppressive systems and create a more just and equitable society. Joy Harjo's poetry celebrates the transformative power of agency and empowerment in the face of trauma and oppression. Through acts of resistance, self-expression, and solidarity, individuals can reclaim their agency and assert their autonomy, forging a path towards liberation and empowerment. Harjo's poetry serves as a powerful reminder of the resilience and strength that lies within each of us, and the potential for transformation that exists when we refuse to be defined by our past traumas or present circumstances.

## **CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, this systematic review has presented a comprehensive exploration of the benefits of incorporating drama into English language teaching. The findings align with Budiarto's assertion that "Drama is a powerful teaching tool," reaffirming the pedagogical significance of this approach. Notably, the majority of the reviewed studies were conducted in Asian countries where English is

taught as a foreign language, suggesting a unique set of challenges influenced by socio-cultural backgrounds. The geographic diversity, exemplified by Turkey, underscores the potential impact of cultural fusion on language teaching and learning dynamics. The research landscape reveals a critical need for future investigations to delve into the correlation between research sites, participant demographics, and the decision to integrate drama into teaching. This consideration is pivotal in understanding the contextual nuances that influence the efficacy of drama as a pedagogical tool in diverse settings.

The study's focus on a variety of participants, including English education majors, high school students, elementary school students, and teachers, adds depth to the discourse. Engaging teachers in research is particularly noteworthy as they play a pivotal role in shaping learning activities. The variation in participant profiles enriches the overall understanding of the impact of drama across different educational contexts. The benefits of drama for students are multifaceted, encompassing improvements in language skills, increased confidence in using English, and the development of social relationships. Drama not only enhances linguistic competence but also fosters a positive learning environment, decreasing anxiety levels and encouraging active participation. The findings highlight drama's potential to address challenges related to language apprehension and reluctance among foreign language learners.

For teachers, the use of drama presents an opportunity to create a positive classroom atmosphere and enhance professional skills. However, it also poses challenges, such as classroom management issues, necessitating teacher training and collaborative efforts to overcome obstacles. Future research may delve deeper into addressing these challenges and providing a more comprehensive understanding of the drawbacks associated with the implementation of drama in the classroom. Importantly, the benefits extend to the broader educational landscape. Drama has the potential to improve the quality of education by serving as a medium that encourages language skill mastery and aligns with learning objectives. In the Indonesian context, where teaching English faces various obstacles, drama emerges as a promising avenue for breaking free from traditional, rigid methods and creating an engaging learning atmosphere.

In summary, the synthesis of findings from the reviewed studies underscores the transformative potential of drama in English language teaching, offering a nuanced understanding of its impact on students, teachers, and the overall educational experience. Future research endeavors should continue to explore the complexities associated with the integration of drama, addressing challenges while maximizing its pedagogical benefits.

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