

Demokrasi Estetika dan Jati Diri Amerika dalam Pisi "Song of Myself" Karya Walt Whitman

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ABSTRACT

This research was aimed at investigating the concept of democracy of aesthetics and Whitman's view on American identity reflected in his poem entitled "Song of Myself". Employing aesthetic criticism, this research tried to reveal how democracy of aesthetics applied in the poem marks a breakaway from the hegemony of Aristotelian-Shakespearean aesthetics and how it shapes Whitman's view on American identity. This research was qualitative in nature and employed content analysis method in its analysis. The source of the data was Whitman's poem entitled "Song of Myself" which consists of 1342 lines and is divided into 52 sections. The result of the research showed; 1) democracy of aesthetics in the poem is reflected in both the form and the content of the poem, 2) Whitman's view on American identity found in the poem includes individualism, diversity and democracy, 3) democracy of aesthetics effectively embodies Whitman's view on American identity, mainly through the choice of themes, subjects, and personae of the poem.

Kata Kunci: *democracy of aesthetics, American identity, Walt Whitman, Song of Myself*