

The Construction of Amerindian Identity and Memory in Nine Selected Fictions by Sherman Alexie

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ABSTRACT

Despite the fact that we continue to associate Amerindians with activities like horseback riding, canoeing, and buffalo hunting, three out of four are actually farming. Amerindians now live in urban areas. The movement from rural areas and Amerindian reservations to major cities started in the late 19th century, but it did not pick up speed until after World War II. By the turn of the new millennium, Sherman Alexie had switched from focusing on the struggles faced by Amerindians on reservations to portraying the Native diaspora's experiences in urban settings. Alexie's *Ten Little Indians*, published in 2003, captures the more nuanced and erratic relationships that Native Americans develop in a variety of dynamic urban settings. This research seeks to the way the stories by Sherman Alexie show the position of Amerindians in modern American life.

This study is descriptive qualitative research and uses the theory of representation and Amerindian identity as a guide. The data sources are nine fictions by Sherman Alexie published in his collection *Ten Little Indians* (2003).

The results of the research show that a) *Ten Little Indians* (2003) uses a storytelling style with symbols, irony, and humor to counter Amerindian stereotypes, b) this book opens up a space to understand the 10th story through Sherman Alexie's storytelling style. Amerindians are negatively stereotyped and fight against it by constructing collective memory, and c) Amerindians are in the vortex of assimilation. The position of these people must adjust to the social dynamics of America

Kata Kunci: *Amerindian, representation, identity*