

## A Study on the works of Elizabeth Cook-Lynn with reference to Indian Genocide

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### Abstract

This work is a study on the works of Elizabeth Cook-Lynn who is proficient scholar and hails from South Dakotas and Sioux nations and their turmoil, anguish and lamentation to retrieve their lands and preserve their culture and race. Many a aboriginals were killed in the post colonization. Elizabeth Cook-Lynn grieves and her lamentation for the people of Dakotas yields sympathy towards the survived at Wounded Knee massacre and the great exploitation of the livelihood of the indigenous people and the cruelty of American Federal government. Treaty conserved indigenous lands had been lost due to the title of Sioux Nation and many Dakotas and Dakotas had been forced off from their homelands due to the anti-Indian legislation, poverty and federal Indian – white American policy. The whites had no more regard for or perceiving the native’s peoples’ culture and political status as considered by Jefferson’s epoch. And to collect bones and Indian words, delayed justice all these issues tempt her to write. The authors accuses that America was in ignorance and racism and imperialism which was prevalent in the westward movement. The natives want to recall their struggles, and their

futures filled with uncertainty by the reality and losses by the white and Indian life in America which had undergone deliberate diminishment by the American government sparks the writer to back for the indigenous peoples. this multifaceted study links american study with native american studies. this research brings to highlight the unchangeable scenario of the Native American who is in the bonds of as

American further this research scrutinizes Elizabeth's diplomacy and legalized decolonization theory which reflects in her literature career and her works but defies to her own doctrines.

Elizabeth Cook-Lynn's confronts for the U. S cultural imperialism on the Native People of America and strives for the empowerment of the peoples and their governance which is impractical at the present scenario.

Keywords: Biography, Indiscrimination, Indigenous Peoples, Politics, Dispossession, Decolonization, Indian Genocide.

## Introduction

Elizabeth Cook-Lynn is activist as far as Indian American is concerned her biography influenced me immensely. At the outset I would like to state why I am zealous in the works of Elizabeth Cook-Lynn's works? Elizabeth Cook-Lynn hails from the lap of the Sioux community that she is a Native American and an outstanding scholar in American literature and as a native scholar she has had a vehement passion for her race and community and she might have experienced agony and outrageous faced by the native people than anyone else which had been done to her people in the past and the exclusion culture, literature and myth of South Dakotas' in history.

Secondly why am I interested in drafting dissertation on the works of Elizabeth Cook-Lynn is?

At the prima facie I would like bring to the extent of the anguish and turmoil of the native people of South Dakotas'. I obliged to acknowledge Dee Brown's "Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee" works and Carol, Chris Miller, James Le Roy for the work of "Making America". Thirdly my intuition is often clinching my latent concern for the native people of South Dakotas's. India once under the imperialist sovereignty for over two hundred years approximately and I can perceive the latent agony and the experiences of my freedom fighters who eventually got unleashed us from foreign nations sovereignty to which I am indeed to thank them forever on the another hand as far as the tribal literature is concern my view point on the native people of America is different.

As a research scholar I have been vexed on the traders who entered into India with aim of doing trade with India eventually became the ruler of India by diffusing the western culture among Indian and their atrocity done to our people. Those historical backgrounds shape my intellectual perceptions of the world as well as made me to understand the native people's torments in the hands of intruders and immigrated nations in foreign lands and the deprived privileges and defilement of religious, cultural, imperialism and oppression.

I am somewhat concerned to the Native people of America who had faced the cultural oppression, and their silenced voices and distorted culture and native people's identity by the U.S sovereignty in the encroached lands of the natives. The native people's internal whim and pathetic conditions at the time of great exodus by leaving from their beloved earth by force confront the readers to yields the reader's sympathy for the people. To some extent I am predisposed to analyze the subsisting issues under the sun in common lenses.

Cook-Lynn advocates for the possessory rights for the South Dakotas and she argues and opposes the U.S strategies which are not trying to amalgamate with Indian treaty rights and

landownership into the ethnic heap of multiculturalism in America. In the following dissertations I am obliged to state that how Indians and Blacks have struggled and suffered in the jaw of dominant culture to set up their culture, identity, rights, and their denied equality and how the Natives have resisted to the cultural domination of Europeans and imposition of civilization on them. American government's imperialism forbids the Native American for their basic rights to be an indigenous people. Elizabeth Cook Lynn evens the domestic imperialism with the destruction of Native American lives and their culture and she discards the mottos that the U.S government subdued the native for the interest of America. She urges the government to revamp Indian Reservations and the native scholars to focus on Indian decolonization which is the mechanism to beget the privileges, and wants to refurbish the right and political status of

American Indians even today. She longs for the monuments at the Wounded Knee Massacre site *About Elizabeth Cook-Lynn*

Elizabeth Cook-Lynn was born on a reservation into a family of Sioux politicians and Native scholars in 1930 and she is one of the members of the Crow Creek Sioux Tribes and a proficient novelist, poet, essayist, and Native American scholar. Bruchac describes her that Elizabeth Cook-Lynn writes and teaches for history, cultural survival of Indian Nations.

Elizabeth Cook-Lynn's "I Tell You Now" is an autobiographical essay reveals out the forces that compelled her to write for Native Indian from the stand points of exclusion specifically regarding the absence of Native American history in history books and lack of teaching concerning the former in class rooms. She explains the consequences of a denied history and birth rights of Dakotas. Elizabeth Cook-Lynn habituated mute mistrust eventually they detonated in anger and she describes her anger which started her to write and she writes for her that is an act of defiance born of the need to survive. She is what she becomes and she is a Dakota. She hinds that her frustration transformed into optimism that is an act of courage

and Simon Ortiz defines her that her act defies oppression of her that triggers her to write she uphold a sense of accountability in spite of her anger. “ Seek the House of Relative” surnamed as “ A Poet’s

Lamentation” which is a poem, denotes the massacre of Native Indian American at Wounded Knee and Elizabeth Cook-Lynn states that her accountability is to consecrate history, events, survival, joy, sorrow and significance of her ancestors and she highlights one of the infamous crimes of the human beings. The Native Indian did not deserve to be butchered she tries in her writings to make this points concrete and this is salient stand points for most of her literary creations.

Elizabeth Cook-Lynn’ first book, a collection of poems stories, and songs entitled “The Badger Said This” had comprising forty two pages that depict the strength and mysteries of the Sioux. Elizabeth Cook-Lynn compares imagination and memory that mingle in her literary production. This blend expected to rise to the challenge of Elizabeth Cook-Lynn who says that memory and imagination are components of history. She says knowledge is neither true nor untrue until somebody has made it so.

She makes to absorb history in a new way while letting her readers to share in the celebration of a affluent heritage of Dakotas’. “Seek the House of Relative” is her second book in which she diffuses her pride of her tribes’ oral and spiritual tradition with the social issues. Normac C. Willson, a biographer, writes about her that Elizabeth Cook-Lynn researches for what is real and lasting among the people a false history of life on the reservation and impeding part of the U.S. government. She strengthens her massage of tribal unity and sovereignty.

“ The Power of the Horses and Other Stories” which is a collection of short stories is her third book, she extends the former said theme and these short stories highlights falsely with subtle wisdom of Elizabeth Cook-Lynn in the collection of stories she characters and instincts emits.

The novel "From the Rivers' Edge" makes the readers to look in the political native of Indian life in America. When Tatekeya lost his forty two cattle that enters into a process that illuminates the ambivalence of whole century. Tatakaeya being a Dakota enters into white man's judicial system of justice when he was seeking retribution for his stolen cattle and his dispossessions by the government for hydro-power project and development on the Missouri. Tatakaeya's legal, tribal values.

Elizabeth Cook-Lynn must have confronted as a scholar which she intersects the issues in the novel through her characterization in the novel. She brings forth into her literary creation the imposition of white values and justice on Native American culture. 'Why Can't I read Wallace

Stegner" extends the politics of white people and the stories depicts the political and intellectual issues that subdued Native Americans in academia. Elizabeth Cook-Lynn and attorney Mario

Gonzalez, who hails from Oglala Sioux both, collaborated several years for the publication of

"Politics on the Hollowed" the book comprises the legal struggles that persist the Sioux nations on the reservation. Elizabeth used four years diaries of and his ideas but they did not claim as historians they had presented tribal history in a tribal point of view

The university of South Dakota academics such as Vermillion, and Leonard Bruguier found the book more compelling and provocative Elizabeth Cook-Lynn's writings have many forms and her approaching scholarship is varied. In 1952 she got a BA English degree and completed a master degree at South Dakota state college. In 1971, she got married and has had four children and a divorce later. She was a high school teacher, journalist, teacher of English and Indian studies at Eastern Washington University in Cheney and had a fellowship at Stanford University and in 19909 she was a writer in residence at Evergreen college at

Olympia. She a co-founder of the Vivazo Sar Review and she was working for academic journal for the development of Native American Studies, has invested herself immensely as editor, contributing scholar and her writing on various topics involve scholarship for American studies.

Elizabeth Cook-Lynn is proficient Emeritus of English department and Naïve American studies at the Eastern Washington University where exists in the Black Hills of South Dakota and there she continues to write and lecture for the varsity pupils and scholars

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When I was doing my post graduation in 2005 degree at Madras University I had insight in the Native American culture and more over American literature. Further when I was teaching American literature in private colleges I had an intellectual life style and got an excellent in American literature all those inspiration prevailed me to do research in American literature. In addition to the events happened in the lives of the tribal people's culture degradation, and their struggles for life started in me for inquisitiveness of tribal literature to determine finally to do

research. Prior to this an English professor named Dr. Indra Mohan insisted me to do research in American literature and spoke about the people of America and the origins of Sioux nations and the imperialism of the U.S government when I was pursuing my M.A degree.

According to the oral historical background which determines that the existence of Native American culture and the vanishing theory of the natives, the blend of truth in literary creation works of Cook-Lynn. It asserts that there is a continuation of diverse Indian culture and the existence of Native Americans which is still in the soil of the West.

In view of outrageous, atrocity, slavery of Africans hint that the denied justice for the people in Africa in the past and the same done to the native Americans invoked in me to do research in the works of Elizabeth Cook-Lynn. This dissertation asserts that the African Diasporas discourse on the racial and cultural identification which takes responsibility from the culture of resistance descended from the practices of colonization and slavery and the oppression of the Africans across the globe.

My findings of the existing traditions and struggles of Native Americans in the works of

Elizabeth Cook-Lynn provoked me further in the so called cultures of U.S 's imperialism to study the African American and American Indian experiences. This dissertation is on the works of Elizabeth Cook-Lynn's scholarship who agitates the U.S governments imperialism on the people of Dakotas for devastation their history and culture and dispossession, taking treaty protected lands and making false apologies and Elizabeth Cook-Lynn advocates for the possessory rights for the South Dakotas and she argues and opposes the U.S strategies which is not trying to amalgamate with Indian treaty rights and landownership into the ethnic heap of multiculturalism in America.

This study further examines the oppression, silenced voices and devaluation of the South

Dakotas and their struggles for self determination in the imposed colonization on the Natives of America this view has been considered by the U.S government as non-issues to which Elizabeth

Cook-Lynn strikes. According to Dee Brown's *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee* illustrates that the historical background of South Dakotas' from 1492-1890. His works exposes what had happened to the aboriginal and mass killing of aboriginal by running cannons on them and smashing them into death by the intruders and devastating the livelihood of the tribes.

His chronicles gives a detailed history of the primitive peoples who were dwelling in the American West. Further Dee Brown's works illustrates the Europeans tactics, exploitation in the newly found \lands. To state strikingly the Europeans merciless and barbaric attitude revealed in his works but there is some doubt t whether those details are registered in American history. He had stated the war strategies of the intruders as well as the war tactics and valor of the Sioux nations that how women and children suffered in hands of white peoples and how the tribal did flee for their lives at the time of war and how they toiled for the rations from the government to feed their children and themselves.

There is a chain of continuation for the tribes anguish and turmoil that the tribal were suffering since the intruders stated of settle in the newly found lands after the discovery of America. In 1838 during the exodus from Westward to Indian Territory many tribes on the long winter trek died of hunger, cold or disease. The march was called as the trial of tears and in 1848 the discovery of gold brings much change in the life of the tribes.

On the another hand Elizabeth Cook-Lynn laments in her works and sacks Dee Brown's *Bury*

*My Heart at Wounded Knee*. She quote much historical details from Dee Browns' she only worries for the Wounded Knee massacre but in Dee Brown's works there are unwritten mass killing of aboriginals that is ought to be included in American history .

## Conclusion

In the past centuries there were aboriginals living in America after the landing of Columbus the westerners knew about the existence of the aboriginals in the islands and in America. His invention could have caused much massacre that could not be written as there was no printing press and publishers. Printing press was invented around 1440 by German Johannes Gutenberg, which was based on the existing screw presses. The invaders from the Western countries craved for land and gold and wanted to obtain prosperous life by migrating in America and the discovery of gold mine and vast land attracted people from the Europe. The intruders exploited the livelihood of the aboriginal and polluted natural soil made as waste land for centuries. The invaders rode cannons over the aboriginals smashing them to death. Many a people were made slave and transported by ship to Europe to sell in the slave trade. Some of the aboriginals were died on the way.

The unwritten past lives of the Dakotas in the history irks Elizabeth Cook-Lynn to advocate for the aboriginals who had sprouted as red Indians eventually and she safeguards for their birth rights and privileges in most of her works dealing with land encroachments, stealing of cattle and forced exodus and false promises by the government. I would like to state the anguish and turmoil of the author herself by the official statement of Bishop Hare abrogation of treaty and accepting for the opening of the Black Hills that he wanted a public abrogating treaty as he had foreseen no power on the earth could shut down his men from the country if really contained valuable deposits of gold and other minerals. He had been spending approximately twenty years for the destruction of Sioux culture and religion and resorting menial resources for the native people and encroaching the Black Hills for the White. Elizabeth Cook-Lynn claims that in literature and history the portrayal of North America had been falsely written as Europeans had to invade the indigenous people according to the Will of God. It is not a benign movement directed by God. These kind of presentation gives room for the invaders

that the invasion for the inhabitants of the America. Before the birth of America, the Indian had possessed the continent for thousands of years but incurred by destiny to be invaded by the Europeans and for their greed for land and overbearing. Elizabeth Cook-Lynn has intimacy with the universe as the author hails from the indigenous background. The author further claims and the entire community know the myth, language, and ethnicity that where they are come from and about their forefathers and their customs exist in their memories still. Those aren't written in the history but still exist in the memory of the Dakotas. The author's expectation for the memorial cite and house at the Wounded Knee Massacre is not possible as the ages passed by there is not anything except a stone board at the Indian genocide site in the U.S today. All her endeavor ends in null and void the she can be consoled in book pages and she could vend her anger in literature text and she did not bring any changes to the dominant rules of the U.S governments. She has exposed about the atrocity, struggles, cultural resistance, oppression, stealing of cattle and dispossession of lands through her literary career to which we all intended to thank her from the bottom of our heart and soul.

*About the author:* Mr. V.Padmanaban has been working as assistant professor of English at Bharath University Chennai -73 since 2014 onward teaching English literature and spoken English both arts and engineering students. He is a research scholar in American Literature and has published various articles on the culture and life style of the Native Americans. He has been imparting for diploma course pursuing pupils in Chennai, India.

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