

# [ The Retelling of History: A Poetics of Identity Negotiation in Alexie’s “Another Proclamation” ]

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**[Abstract]** *Historical accounts and records of interactions between settler-Americans and American Indians in the United States are frequently marked by widespread violence and genocide. Such stories give contemporary American Indians a sense of alienation. This is so because these stories are insufficient in accurately portraying historical events, they fail to acknowledge the continuing existence of the American Indians, and they lack comprehensive examination of the atrocities caused by colonialism. This article addresses Sherman Alexie’s use of poetry to engage in the process of retelling history from a contemporary viewpoint of an American Indian. In doing so, Alexie articulates his perspective on issues of identity and survival, whilst also shedding light on the historical context of colonialism. A postcolonial analytical framework is employed to explain the poetics of survival narration, positioned within the context of third-space negotiations of culture and identity. “Another Proclamation,” the poem used for the interpretation, retells the history of 38 American Indians executed in public on December 26, 1862. The poem is conceptualized as a poetic medium that develops Alexie’s reflection on the executions, potentially challenging prevailing narratives and providing enlightenment to marginalized individuals who battle with a persistent sense of alienation.*

**[Keywords]** *Alexie; American Indians; Another Proclamation; Lincoln; poetry*