Towards an itinerary of ideas: intertextual mapping in the rhetoric of Nelson Mandela

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Abstract: This paper explores explicit and implicit forms of intertextuality in the rhetoric of Nelson Mandela. Intertextuality is viewed as a mechanism of thought and part of the process of dianoia in Classical rhetoric as conceptualised by Aristotle and is also considered crucial in the ethos of a rhetor. The research is founded on the idea that all rhetors have a particular rhetorical imprint, that is a deep-seated impression derived from a cognitive core structure ordering experience and communication and present in all the rhetoric of that individual. Intertextual cues were sought in Mandela's corpus of speeches, biographies, autobiography, anthologies of personal documents, the historical context and discourse communities he engaged with. When read against the historical context of the time, these texts provide insight into the dynamics of message production, personal relationships, personal beliefs and the contexts surrounding the production of certain texts and the discourse communities he engaged with. Biographical cues were sought in his upbringing in Xhosa culture, his mission school education, his political awakening in Johannesburg, his life in the struggle, his long prison term, the years after release and presidency. Thus far, explicit mappings include Afrikaans literary voices, Shakespeare and the 'classics', colleagues and friends from the struggle period, instances of self-referential intertextuality as well as intercontextuality of signs and symbols. The implicit mapping includes Churchill, the Gandhi-Nehru web of intertextuality, a Marxist-Socialist web including voices such as Castro and biblical allusion. To date, the most significant intertextuality found in Mandela's rhetoric is the Gandhi-Nehru web with Nehru playing a particularly influential role in Mandela's conception of struggle and his own life in that struggle.

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All inaugural addresses use tools of rhetoric. Nelson Mandela gave an inaugural address. Therefore, Mandela's inaugural address uses tools of rhetoric. Following this, I will discuss the positions of the author and audience (the rhetorical situation), and relate these positions to Aristotle's concept of ethos and pathos; I will go on to analyze the appeals and tropes exercised by Mandela in his inaugural address; all of these rhetorical elements, I will argue, construct unity and persuade the people of South Africa to take. Nelson Mandela condemned the policy of racial segregation. He entered the African National Congress, a consignment that opposed apartheid. Actions of disobedience, protests led to the prohibition of political power. However, its activists went into guerrilla warfare against the regime. Nelson Mandela is one of the most popular and interesting persons to write about. You should read a lot of sources about his policy before writing Nelson Mandela essays. In general, Nelson Mandela spent 27 years in prison. He worked in the quarry during this time. Only under international pressure in 1988, the authorities began the process of releasing Mandela. On February 11, 1990, he left the prison walls. People greeted their hero with exclamations and words of greeting.