

An Examination of Eco-Critical Theory and Romanticism in Wordsworth's Selected Poems

Jakir Hussain¹ and Dr. Ajeet Kumar²

Research Scholar, Department of English¹

Research Guide, Department of English²

Sunrise University, Alwar, Rajasthan, India

Abstract: *This study looks at Wordsworth's poems from the perspectives of ecocriticism and romanticism. Using poems by Wordsworth, the researcher examined how humans disregard the natural world and if it is possible for humans to return there. This research looks at how criticism on Wordsworth's poetry has changed over time, moving from romanticism to ecocriticism. The primary source of information for this theoretical inquiry was a survey of previously published publications on the subject. A sizable number of published sources were read by the researcher while researching the subject. On this topic, other information sources, such as the internet, were examined. The researcher comes to the conclusion that romanticism and ecocriticism have fundamentally different approaches to nature. It is acknowledged that romanticism contains many of the key elements of ecocriticism, and that Wordsworth's poetry best captures nature's essence by treating it as the guiding spirit of humanity rather than just a backdrop*

Keywords: Nature, Literature, Eco criticism, Romanticism, Wordsworth poetry

I. INTRODUCTION

Romantic poets adore the natural world and rejoice in all of its facets. Through their poetry about nature, they attempted to ease human suffering. People learn to love nature and how nature loves them from poets. They saw nature and its grandeur from a variety of angles. They depict the modest beauty of nature using straightforward words. They took nature and personified it as God, man, ghost, etc. They believed that humankind's inherent goodness is impeded by modern civilization's urban lifestyle. They held the views that infancy is wonderful, the barbarian is noble, and the feelings these ideas evoked made the heart sing. Romantic poets thus consider nature to be a source of revelation. The majority of romantic poets addressed every facet of the beauty of nature. Prominent poet Wordsworth addressed the theme of nature and its beauty in several of his works. Romanticism first appeared in literature in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries as a reaction against the industrial revolution. Many authors attempted to educate readers about the need to protect the natural environment from pollution and destruction, with William Wordsworth being one of the pioneers who wrote about nature in particular in an approachable manner to make the point that, in addition to its beauty and power, nature can also benefit humans physically and psychologically. In the nineteenth century, he was hailed by many reviewers as a great ecological poet and lover of the natural world. He depicted nature in most of his works, showcasing the romantic poetry's aesthetic.

Research Objectives

- The Specific objectives of the study are:
- To analyze and understand Wordsworth treatment of nature
- To believe that nature is a source of inspiration
- To comprehend the eco system function

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

In "Traces of Mysticism in Wordsworth's Aesthetics of Nature: A Study on William Wordsworth's Nature Philosophy in the light of Ibn Al-Arabi's Ontology," Maryam Soltan Beyad (2021) provides illustrations. Wordsworth is often referred to be a "worshiper of nature" or a nature poet. However, his nature poetry are distinguished by his awakened

spiritual perspective and are not limited to the depiction of the natural elements. Ibn al-Arabi, a Sufi mystic whose philosophy is most famously associated with the doctrine of *wahdat al-wujud*, or "the oneness of being," also treated man and the universe with a prevalent theme of the belief in one life flowing through all. This belief is a prominent feature of Wordsworth's nature poetry. Here, she critically examines the mystical and pantheistic undertones that underlie Wordsworth's poetry and, more crucially, contrasts them with Ibn al Arabi's position on the subject.

Dr. Chandra Bose (2013) completed his paper titled "Romantic poets: Generating Happiness through Nature." Romantic poets adore the natural world and rejoice in all of its facets. He clarified that Wordsworth called readers' attention to the beauty of the natural world. In the most inventive manner possible, he personifies nature and natural items. Wordsworth is depressed about the distance that exists between nature and humans. He exhorts people to comprehend nature in order to find pleasure. He looks at Man has forgotten the beauty of nature because of modern living. Globalization and urbanization are slowly eroding the village's rustic, natural charm, which also makes men and women laugh.

In an effort to address the topic of "Nature as a recurrent theme in William Wordsworth's poetry," Lok Raj Sharma (2013) He sees nature as a living thing that provides him with both enjoyment and knowledge. His concept of nature mysticism, joy in nature, universal love in nature, spiritual unity of nature, bond between nature and man, soothing influence and healing power of nature, and nature's teaching potentiality have been taken from the corpus of his vast works under consideration for the study. He has given us enough heartfelt and beautiful poems that are the enduring treasures of romanticism.

In his proposed "A Study on Wordsworth as Nature Poet," Neha (2014) looks at three aspects of Wordsworth's conception of nature: He saw nature as having a personality of its own. He saw nature as having a healing effect on those who are grieving and stressed the moral impact of nature. He also thought that there is a divine spirit underlying all of nature's items and that being in the company of nature brings delight to human hearts. He elevated nature to a spiritual state and saw it as a wonderful moral mentor, the finest mother, nurse, and protector of humanity, as well as an uplifting force.

"The Concept of Nature in the Poetry of William Wordsworth and Robert Frost: A Comparative Study" is illustrated by Muthanna Z. Almiqdady (2015). The goal is to look at the many interpretations of the word "nature." Additionally, it looks at the main ways that Robert Frost and William Wordsworth's poetry employ nature, and how they vary from one another.

Given the theoretical nature of this study, He draws the conclusion that the meaning and relevance of the word "nature" have changed throughout time. It is important to examine the idea of nature in British literature in addition to how English romantic poets used it. In addition, academics and literary critics need to investigate the notion of nature.

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Methodology

This article relied on evaluating previously published works on the subject topic since it is theoretical in nature. A large number of published sources were considered by the researchers while researching the subject. On this topic, other information sources, such as the internet, were examined. Examples from Wordsworth's poetry, "Lines written in Early Spring" and "I Wandered lonely as cloud," were provided. Data on the subject of nature was gathered from well-known websites that focus on literary subjects. The researchers thoroughly examined and assessed this material in light of its importance to the study's subject. I gathered information from one website and compared it to information found on other literary websites. The researchers then categorized and used the information. Therefore, the goal of this article is to introduce the reader to ecocritical theory and romanticism via a selection of poems by Wordsworth.

IV. DISCUSSION

Romanticism

Romanticism is a period of literature that generally corresponds to 1790–1850. The movement was defined by an idealization of women, an embracing of sadness and seclusion, a celebration of nature and the ordinary man, and an emphasis on personal experience. Romantic literature heavily draws on nature. In art from this age, nature—which is sometimes seen as the antithesis of the rational—is a potent emblem. Romantic poets and writers, including Percy

Byshe Shelley, John Keats, and Samuel Taylor Coleridge, attempted to educate people about the need to protect the natural environment from pollution and destruction. William Wordsworth, in particular, was a pioneer in writing about nature in plain language to spread the word to all people that, in addition to its beauty and power, nature can benefit people psychologically and physically. He was hailed by many reviewers as a superb ecological poet and nineteenth-century naturalist; in the majority of his works, he depicted nature in a way that exemplified the Romantic poetry's aesthetic. Romanticism held that going "back to nature" was the answer as it was seen as a clean and spiritual source of rejuvenation. For the new industrial affluent, it was also a means of escaping the pollution of the expanding industrial centers.

Eco Criticism

Eco criticism is a modern philosophy of literary or artistic analysis. Ecology, which is concerned with the interactions between living things in their natural environments and those interactions with those environments, is best expressed by the abbreviation eco. Eco critique, by analogy, studies how literature and the environment relate to one another or how the physical environment of man is represented in literature. In literary studies, "criticism" refers to "the scholarly study and interpretation of" literature. The study of literature with an emphasis on the role of nature in it is a relatively young topic in literary studies called ecocriticism. In order to comprehend Wordsworth's Romantic portrayal of nature, this study explores how people interact with and produce both natural and man-made environments. "Ecocriticism is the voice of the silent planet. All other techniques are ego-centered, but this one is earth-centered.

"Wild woodlands were despised by humans because they were aware that they might be inhabited. For this reason, forests are cleared to make room for areas intended to grow grains. Animals are excluded as well.

"Ecocriticism is in direct opposition to the anthropocentric approach, which many people perceive to be human-centered. It backs the idea of biocentricity. While the biocentric viewpoint benefits both people and the biosphere, the human-centered viewpoint benefits just humans.

Ecocriticism enables people to see nature from a wider perspective. According to Dr. Suresh Frederick, "it urges humans to have a biocentric view despite their seemingly incorrigible anthropocentrism due to their selfish nature."

Ecological views on Wordsworth poetry

The poetry of Wordsworth may be categorized into two categories: poems about human life and poems about nature. However, he found tranquility and zest in nature. He sees the natural world as a source of love, peace, healing, wisdom, and spirituality. He has also bestowed upon us a wealth of heartfelt, exquisite poetry that will always remain gems of romanticism. Wordsworth spent his whole life loving nature and thought that others may be thrilled by its beauty. Thus, the recurring topic in his poems was nature. He believed that individuals may find inspiration, calm, and psychological comfort in nature. Nature has the power to treat mental illness. Wordsworth thought that individuals may find joy and enrichment in nature. Wordsworth has gained widespread recognition as one of the most significant ecological poets within the last ten years. "Lines written in Early Spring," one of his poems. Man has forgotten the beauty of nature because of modern living. Globalization and urbanization are slowly eroding the village's rustic, natural charm, which also makes men and women laugh. Wordsworth writes: to get back those images of the countryside.

The birds around me hopped and played,
 Their thoughts I cannot measure:
 But the least motion which they made
 It seemed a thrill of pleasure.
 The budding twigs spread out their fan,
 To catch the breezy air;
 And I must think, do all I can,
 That there was pleasure there.
 If this belief from heaven be sent,
 If such be Nature's holy plan,
 Have I not reason to lament
 What man has made of man? (13-24)

In this poem, Wordsworth expresses his abiding affection for the natural world and how it has utterly improved his life. He explains the value of nature to the reader by using his passion and feelings for it. This poem adheres to the notion and topic of Romanticism and has an international appeal. The poem's construction should be seen as an effort at a realistic portrayal of nature. This poem explores the future of mankind in a contemplative manner. According to the poet, to reject nature is to limit man's enjoyment. The earth's natural beauty acted as a link between the divine and human souls. Mankind suffers because he has been disconnected from nature. The poet used to spend his time by himself beside a creek. His "Lines written in early spring" address ecological criticism ideas.

I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees, Fluttering and dancing in the breeze. Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the milky way,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance. The waves beside them danced; but they
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee: ((114)

He explored the link between the human and the natural world throughout this poem, albeit the picture of the daffodils is perhaps the most remembered. Since the primary goal of this essay is to highlight the ecological consciousness of Wordsworth's poetry readers, the poem "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud" Wordsworth emerges in this wonderful poem on nature as a devotee. He firmly feels that the natural world is a never-ending source of happiness. Wordsworth spoke of seeing "a host, of golden daffodils" while strolling across the English countryside one springtime day. Beside the lake and under the trees were the daffodils. It seemed as if the daffodils were dancing in the wind as they were "tossing their heads" back and forth. The poet gets immense joy from remembering the daffodils, and he feels as if his own heart is dancing with them. In this instance, the breath is what causes the poet's heart to dance with the "golden daffodils" at the height of memory. In this poem, Wordsworth describes an experience that everyone may have but that gets less and less attention as men become more focused on business. In summary, Wordsworth's "ecological" poems provide a fresh perspective on the interdependent relationship and balance between nature and humanity within the global ecosystem to contemporary man, who lives in a world consumed by consumerism and technology.

V. CONCLUSION

As a result, Romanticism and Ecocriticism both examine nature from different angles. Notwithstanding their seeming differences, the two theories have a number of connections that are explored in the discussion above. While the eco-critical perspective is blatantly factual, the romantic attitude is on the one hand quite creative. Global eco-literature has recently contributed to the rise in popularity of British romantic fiction. In light of the current ecological catastrophe that the whole world is experiencing, it has shifted its color from local to global viewpoints. Romanticism teaches us how to live happy lives in intimate connection with the natural world. The core theme of eco-literature, the relationships and interconnections between human nature, is masterfully handled in these literary works. An ecocritical literature always aids in the development of ecological knowledge, which is crucial for preserving the planet's delicate natural balance. Although the romantic and ecocritical approaches to nature vary fundamentally, it is inevitable that romanticism contains key elements of the ecocritical viewpoint, and that Wordsworth's poetry finest captures the essence of nature, seeing it as the guiding spirit of humanity rather than just a backdrop. Preserve nature in all of her natural beauty and let us not damage that which we are unable to create. The more awareness of eco-critical works, the more man will learn to interact with nature in a manner that is appropriate and mindful of the current environmental catastrophe.

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