



Biodiversity in the Poems of William Wordsworth: An Overview

Dr. K. Haribabu.

Department of English, Sharadchandra ACS College Naigaon, Dist-Nanded (MS), India.

Abstract:

The present research paper highlights the study of biodiversity look on nature reflected in selected poems of Wordsworth. It is trying to connect the English literature with issues of environment and nature. It is possible while learning and teaching English literature we can connect with the campaign save nature, conservation of nature, contribution in environment protection. It will give a strong vision to the learner, reader, researcher and analyser. The selected poems have the power, scope of reformation or orientation of community. These poems give the message of the vital role of nature, the relationship of nature with human. Their motto was “return to nature”. They inclined towards country life and nature in spite of urban life. Wordsworths deep love for nature has been seen very early. He has treated nature as a living personality. He believed that every objects of nature has divine spirit. He says that nature has a healing power to cure the sorrows of human heart. Nature gives joy to the human heart. Many writers have written about nature but the work of Wordsworth has shown supremacy. He is devotee or worshipper of nature.

“Come forth into the light of thing, Let nature be your teacher” W. Wordsworth.

The more variety, the better society.

Key-words: Biodiversity, Nature, Human spirit, love and sensation etc.

Introduction

William wordsworth was born on 7th of April, 1770 at Cockermouth in Lake district. His father, John Wordsworth, was a lawyer at Cockermouth, died when Wordsworth was 13 years old. His mother Ann Cookson whose ancestors had been lords of the menor of Newbiggin, near Pennith. He had completed his schooling with the help of his two uncles who paid for him. Wordsworth was a moody and violent temper in his childhood. He had got a strong support from his sister Dorothy, he has expressed his emotions in following lines

“She gave me eyes, she gave me ears,
 And humble tears, and delicate fears,
 A heart, the fountain of sweet tears,
 And love, and thought and joy.”

He settled at Dove Cottage, and later in October 1802, married Mary Hutchinson.

Poetical Career of W. Wordsworth

Herbert Read has divided the work into four periods.

First period started in his school days, he ordered to complete his homework so he has written these poems due to compulsion of school and teacher. Wordsworth himself has written about his early poetic attempts:

“It may be perhaps, as well to mention, that the first verses which I wrote were a task imposed by my master; the subject, The Summer Vacation: and my own accord I added others upon Return to school. There was nothing remarkable in either poem; but I was called upon, among other scholars, to write verses upon the completion of the second centenary from the foundation of the school in 1585 by Archbishop Sandys. These verses were much admired- far more than they deserved, for they were but a tame imitation of Popes versification, and a little in his style.”

An Evening Walk and Descriptive Sketches are notable poems of this period, Wordsworth has given accurate observation of natural elements in the poems. Nature has been described very well in the early poems, it shows the Wordsworthian eye for nature. Descriptive Sketches was written in France, it describes the walking tour in 1790 of the Alps. Wordsworth said about An Evening Walk “There is not an image in it which I have not observed, and now in my 73rd year I recollect the time and place where most of them were noticed. Legouis has expressed his opinion about the two poems importance “Of the young mans passion for nature, his early poems, both published in 1793, furnish direct proof. They are the most minute and copious inventories of the aspects he saw, of the noises he heard, in his native lakes (An Evening Walk) or in his wanderings through Switzerland (Descriptive Sketches). Such acuteness and copiousness of observation were only possible in the case of a devotee. However contorted and knotty the verse may be, however artificial the diction, the poets fervor is as manifest here as in the most eloquent of his subsequent effusions. Though he follows in the train of a succession of descriptive poets, he outdoes them all in abundance of precise touches.”

In the second period 1792 to 1797 Wordsworth has written about social problems like war and social injustice. The poem *Guilt and Sorrow* is a

story of cruel wrongs suffered by an innocent women due to war. About this work Wordsworth said: “It is a story of cruel wrongs suffered by an innocent woman, chiefly as the result of war, and by a technically guilty but essentially good man, who ends on the gallows as a confessed murderer.

Westminster Bridge

in lines 1 through 8, which together compose a single sentence, the speaker describes what he sees as he stands on Westminster Bridge looking out at the city. He begins by saying that there is nothing “more fair” on Earth than the sight he sees, and that anyone who could pass the spot without stopping to look has a “dull” soul. The poem takes place in the “beauty of the morning,” which lies like a blanket over the silent city. He then lists what he sees in the city and mentions that the city seems to have no pollution and lies “Open unto the fields, and to the sky.”

Earth has not anything to show

More fair:

Dull would he be of soul who

could pass by

A sight so touching in its majesty:

This City now doth, like a

garment, wear

the beauty of the morning; silent

bare,

Ships, towers, domes, theatres,

and temples lie

Open unto the fields, and to the

sky;

all bright and glittering in the

smokeless air.

In lines 9 through 14, the speaker tells the reader that the sun has never shone more beautifully, even on nature (“valley, rock, or hill”), which he has never seen or felt such deep calm. He goes on to explain the way that the river (which he personifies) glides along at the slow pace it chooses. The poem ends

with an exclamation, saying that “the houses seem asleep” and also the heart of the town continues to be.

Never did sun more beautifully
 Steep
 In his first splendor, valley, rock
 or hill;
 Ne'er saw I, never felt, a calm so
 deep!
 The river glideth at his own sweet
 will:
 Dear God! the very houses seem
 asleep;
 and all that mighty heart is lying
 still!

Composed upon Westminster Bridge, September 3, 1802 is an Italian sonnet, written in iambic pentameter with ten syllables per line. The rhyme scheme of the poem is abbaabbacdcdd. The poem was actually written about an experience that happened on July 31, 1802 during a visit to France with sister Dorothy Wordsworth.

The poem begins with a rather shocking statement, especially for a Romantic poet: “Earth has zilch to point out mare fair.” This statement is surprising because Wordsworth isn't speaking of nature, but of the town. He goes on to list the gorgeous man-made entities therein, like “Ships, towers, domes, theatres and temples.” In fact, nature’s influence isn’t described until the 7th line, when the speaker relates that town is “open to the fields, and to the sky.” While town itself might not be a component of nature, it's certainly in conflict with nature. This becomes even more clear within the next line, when the reader learns that the air “smokeless” (free from pollution).

Wordsworth continues to surprise his reader by saying that the sun has never shone more beautifully, even on natural things. He then personifies the scene, giving life to the sun, the river, the houses, and eventually to the outlet city, which includes a symbolic heart.

I Wandered Lonely as Cloud

(the speaker was walking around through the hills and valleys, but he felt all lonely and mopey. Suddenly, as he passed a lake, he noticed an enormous group of yellow daffodils waving within the breeze. This wasn't just a few scattered patch of daffodils. We're talking thousands around this particular bay. and every one these flowers were dancing.

Yes, the daffodils danced, then did the waves of the lake. But the daffodils danced better. The speaker's loneliness was replaced by joy, but he didn't even realize what a present he has received until later. Now, whenever he's feeling quite blah, he just thinks of the daffodils, and his heart is happily dancing)

("I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud" may be a verse form by Wordsworth. The poem was inspired by an occurrence on 15 April 1802, during which Wordsworth and his sister Dorothy stumbled on a "long belt" of daffodils.)

I wandered lonely as a Cloud

That floats on high o'er vales and Hills,

Wandered means roaming around without a purpose, like once you explore something. Wandered can mean feeling purposeless and directionless generally. Poet has introduced clouds, hills and valleys.

To the Cuckoo

The context of this poem finds in Journal for 1802 written by Dorothy, she has written that William Wordsworth has written this poem in March 1802 and published in 1807. this can be one in every of the foremost popular short poem of Wordsworth. it's written in eight four-line stanzas. Wordsworth was greatly moved to ecstasy by the song of the Cuckoo. during this beautiful poem, Wordsworth is all praise for the bird, which, give him perennial joy and spiritual experiences.

Wordsworth speaks of the joyful life in nature. the world on which we live is substantial and meaningless. except for the bird it's a fit home. Human life is filled with repentance for the past and therefore the restlessness for the long run. But nature is free from such things. The Cuckoo feels Nature with joy. Man can even be happy provided that he keeps company with Nature. Wordsworth considers the Cuckoo because the Nature's spokesman.

O Blithe Newcomer ! i have heard,

I hear thee and rejoice.

O Cuckoo ! shall I call thee Bird,

Wordsworth welcomes the cuckoo because the 'Blithe Newcomer' he's rejoiced to listen to its song. But he's not capable to know on how he should call it, a bird or a wandering voice. within the above line the weather of biodiversity- Cuckoo, Bird

While i'm lying on the grass
Thy twofold shout I hear ;
From hill to hill it seems to pass

At once far off and near.

While relaxing himself on the grass, he hears the 'koo-koo' sound of the bird. It is seen flying from hill to hill, sometimes singing very near, sometimes at a distance. Elements- grass, hill

Though babbling only to the vale,
Of sunshine and of flowers,
Thou bringest unto me a tale
Of visionary hours.

It seems that the Cuckoo is carelessly holding conversation with the valley about the sunshine and flowers. But to the poet it brings visionary happiness. Elements- vale, sunshine, flowers

Thrice welcome, darling of the Spring !
Even yet thou art to me
No bird, but an invisible thing,
A voice, a mystery ;

Wordsworth welcomes the Cuckoo thrice; first, because it heralds the spring, second, because it brings sweet memories of the past, and third, because it symbolizes happiness. It is loved by all. But the poet considers it not an ordinary bird but an invisible voice and a mystery. Elements- spring, bird

The same whom in my schoolboy days
I listened to; that cry
Which made me look a thousand ways
In bush, and tree, and sky.

It is the same bird whom the poet used to hear in his school days. The voice of the bird then so enthralled him that he used to search it in the bushes, trees and the sky. Elements- schoolboy, bush, tree, sky.

To seek thee did I often rove
Through woods and on the green;
And thou wert still a hope, a love;
Still longed for, never seen.

To find the Cuckoo, he used to roam from wood to wood, on the green meadows. He never saw the bird but he had hopes to see it one day. He had a special attachment to the bird. Elements- woods, green.

O blessed Bird! The earth we pace
Again appears to be
An unsubstantial, faery place;
That is fit home for thee!

Addressing the bird as blessed, Wordsworth feels that the bird can transform this material world into a blissful region of happiness. The Cuckoo, being a fairy-bird, creates a fairy land for itself by its enchanting song. Elements – Bird, earth, home.

In this way, Wordsworth have given detailed connotation about his said poems. He has shown the bond of love between human and nature. It's a good example of biodiversity in the field of English literature as well.

References:

- 1) William Wordsworth and S. T. Coleridge (2006). Lyrical Ballads, London, Penguin Classics.
- 2) Wordsworth (1994) The Collected Poems of William Wordsworth, Heartfordshire, Wordsworth Edition Ltd.
- 3) Wordsworth (1999) The Complete Poetical Works, London, Macmillan.
- 4) Anju B. Agrawal (2009) Critical Essays on Wordsworth, jaipur, abd Publishers.

5) Nicholas Halmi (2014) Wordsworths Poetry and Prose, Newyork, W.W. Norton and Company.

6) Nicholas Halmi, Paul M., R. Modiano (2003) Coleridges Poetry and Prose, Newyork , W.W. Norton and Co.

7) M. H. Abrams (1972) Wordsworth: A Collection of Critical Essays(20th cen. Views),New Jersy, Prentice Hall

Webliography:

- 1) m.sparknotes.com

