



ROBERT FROST AS A REALISTIC POET AND CONSPICUOUS PHILOSOPHER

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Abstract

Reality in the literature is the mirror for the world. There are so many authors who like to portray reality in their respective works for readers to give a moved message. In this paper researcher talked about the well known poet and writer Robert Frost. This paper delves into the dual role of Robert Frost as a realist poet and a conspicuous philosopher within the realm of American literature. Frost, renowned for his distinctive poetic style, has often been recognized for his keen observations of nature and human experiences. However, this study aims to explore his lesser-discussed role as a philosopher who skillfully infused profound philosophical insights into his verses.

The paper begins by elucidating Frost's realist approach, highlighting his meticulous portrayal of rural life, landscapes, and human interactions. Drawing from select poems like "Stopping by woods in snowy evening", "Mending Wall", "Acquainted with the night", "The road not taken" and "Fire and Ice", the analysis demonstrates how Frost's commitment to depicting reality, even its grittier aspects, contributed to his status as a quintessential realist poet.

Subsequently, the study transitions to Frost's philosophical inclinations, examining how he engaged with existential questions, morality, and the human condition. The Poem "The Road Not Taken" is analysed to uncover the depth of Frost's philosophical contemplations. His emphasis on choices, uncertainties, and the quest for meaning reveals his philosophical prowess and his unique ability to provoke readers' introspection.

Furthermore, this paper delves into Frost's capacity to intertwine realism and philosophy seamlessly. Through poems like "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening," Frost juxtaposes vivid descriptions of nature with subtle existential meditations, showcasing his skill in crafting multi-layered verses that engage readers on multiple levels.

In conclusion, this study establishes Robert Frost as a realist poet and conspicuous philosopher, shedding light on his contributions beyond his poetic craftsmanship. By examining the intersections of his realism and philosophical musings, this paper offers a comprehensive perspective on Frost's literary legacy and his enduring relevance as an artist who captured the intricacies of the human experience while inviting readers to ponder profound philosophical concepts.

Key words: Robert Frost's poem, realistic poet, philosophy of life, reality, Philosopher.



1. INTRODUCTION

Robert Frost was well known poet and personality of America. He is still popular in the Assemblage of poetry lovers. He was born in 1874 in San Francisco, California. His father's death made him to move Lawrence, Massachusetts. Frost received four Pulitzer Prizes for Poetry. He was also awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in 1960 for his outstanding works in poetic. In 1961, Frost became poet laureate of Vermont. **A Boy's will (1913), North of Boston (1915), Mountain Interval (1916) New Hampshire (1923)** are his best known poetry collections. According to Wilcox and Robert Pinsky, the 1999 poet laureate of the United States, "conducted a yearlong survey of Americans, asking for their favourite poet, and Frost won national poll by a large and impressive margin". It shows that he was very popular at that time "his poetry continues to be a part of an American culture".

A reader could find that most of his poems have autobiographical elements and from that the establishment of the statement 'he would be influenced by the environment around him in composing his beautiful work' can be made. Frost's themes are very simple and easily understandable and his free style of writing is also remarkable. By the careful study of his works reveals that he was associated with the day to day experiences of the humans and we can strongly find this aspect in his poems like "**Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening**", "**Mending wall**", "**Acquainted with night**", "**Fire and Ice**" and "**The Road not Taken**". These all poems viewed as real struggles in life. In his poetry reader can interpret the poetry in multiple ways in multiple settings. The presented effort aims at critically examining Frost's 'realistic' approaches in his poems. His Poems shows the struggle of humans, by the study of these mentioned poems researcher wants to prove that he his not only natural or nature lover poet but in his poems he tried to reflect the situation of his time and a daily battling of man with the use of natural elements or environment. This invokes question in reader's mind that 'Is he realistic?' Here researcher is trying to prove with rational arguments that Frost is a realistic poet. Researcher first argues that Frost poems deals with day to day life. Second argument is about his use of nature to create his poems more real, and third-one is about Frost's philosophy of life or art of life. The selected poems of Frost will be observed by researcher through his portrayal of themes, symbolism, use of natural elements and structure.

2. Poem "STOPPING BY WOODS IN SNOWY EVENING"

This is one of the world famous poems of Frost, the poem is set in the dark evening in the days of winter in the beautiful forest, the speaker is passing through this forest, the trees and all area of forest are covered by snow flakes. The lake is frozen due to winter season and so the surroundings. Speaker fall in love with this scenario and stopped to enjoy it.

The poem is consists of four stanzas. Each line is in iambic, with four stressed syllables. This is the very symbolic poem and number of critics, gives their different interpretation on the same. In the first four lines

speaker says he is aware about where he is and who's this place is. He likes this place and that's why he stop here to enjoy the beauty, with this Frost want to explain that many times in our life we fall in love with something and lost in, but we should not stop our journey of life. The conflict in the poem, solved in the last stanza, that conflict is between an attraction toward the woods and the responsibility speaker had. Woods represent something that stops him to perform his duty; here woods are clearly a symbol. They are someone's woods but that owner is in the village, so this makes space for different interpretation that is up to reader. Reader may think from his or her perspective and relate with the situation. The last for lines are the most amazing and memorable to give the real advice to all.

**“The woods are lovely, dark, and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.” (Frost)**

3. Poem “MENDING WALL”

This poem is in blank verse the title of the poem it self suggest that it is about wall. This poem is written in 1914. In the poem we see the two neighbours who both meet to repair their wall. The speaker of the poem is individual and free. The opening line is **“Something there is that doesn't love a wall,** - implies that the idea of a wall isn't that much good and straightforward.

The poem primarily revolves around the idea of boundaries and walls, both literal and metaphorical. The speaker and his neighbour meet annually to repair the stone wall that divides their properties. The wall serves as a symbol of division between people, as well as a representation of the human tendency to create separations. Frost questions the necessity of these walls and whether they are truly needed to maintain relationships.

The poem is rich in irony and contradiction. The neighbour insists on mending the wall while acknowledging that "Good fences make good neighbours." This contradiction points to the idea that barriers might not necessarily be conducive to genuine relationships. The speaker's perspective challenges the neighbour's statement, suggesting that true connection comes from understanding and openness rather than separation.

In "Mending Wall," Frost prompts readers to consider the boundaries we create, whether they are physical, emotional, or ideological. The poem's exploration of tradition, change, unity, and isolation continues to resonate with readers, encouraging them to reflect on the role of barriers in human relationships and the broader implications of division.

4. Poem “ACQUAINTED WITH THE NIGHT”

This poem is written in the fourteen lines of a traditional sonnet. Frost uses the “terza rima” in Poem’s rhyme scheme and follows ABA CDC DAD AA, which is very difficult to write in English. “Acquainted with the Night” is another notable poem by Robert Frost, published in 1928 as part of his collection “West-Running Brook.” This poem explores themes of loneliness, isolation, and introspection.

The poem's speaker describes walking alone in the city at night, emphasizing a sense of isolation. The phrase “I have been one acquainted with the night” suggests a familiarity with solitude and darkness. This experience of loneliness is relatable and realistic, as many people have felt isolated at some point in their lives.

Frost uses concrete and vivid imagery to describe the setting and emotions of the speaker. The “luminary clock” in the sky and the “saddest city lane” create a clear mental picture. The concrete details of the poem ground it in reality and provide a relatable backdrop for the emotions being conveyed.

The poem's focus on the speaker's emotional state, such as feeling “out of the rain,” portrays a raw and genuine experience. Frost captures the practical and real aspect of human emotions, particularly the feelings of sadness and detachment that can be experienced in everyday life.

The poem follows a structured rhyme scheme (ABAAB) and consistent meter, which contributes to its rhythmic flow. This structured rhythm, coupled with the conversational tone, makes the poem feel like a personal reflection or confession.

The feeling of loneliness and the experience of walking through a city at night are universal themes. Many readers can relate to the emotions and situations depicted in the poem, as they reflect common human experiences.

The night in the poem can also be interpreted metaphorically. It represents not only physical darkness but also emotional and psychological darkness. The night becomes a symbol for the challenges and struggles people face in their lives, emphasizing the real and practical aspects of dealing with difficult emotions.

In “Acquainted with the Night,” Frost provides readers with an intimate glimpse into the emotional landscape of the speaker.

5. Poem “THE ROAD NOT TAKEN”

The Road Not Taken by Robert Frost is a popular poem like “stopping by woods in snowy evening” With this poem, Frost manifest his writing skill, This poem is often misinterpreted as a celebration of individuality and nonconformity, but a closer analysis reveals deeper layers of meaning. Here's an exploration of the key themes and interpretations of “The Road Not Taken”.

The poem revolves around the idea of choices and their consequences. The speaker encounters a fork in the road while walking in the woods and is faced with a decision about which path to take. The central metaphor of the two diverging roads represents the choices we make in life. The speaker acknowledges that choosing one path will mean missing out on the other, and this realization leads to a sense of regret. The poem suggests that choices have a lasting impact, and we often wonder about the path we didn't take.

The poem contains an element of ambiguity and irony. The speaker claims that they took "the one less travelled by," implying that they made a unique and independent choice. However, the speaker later admits that both paths were "worn about the same," suggesting that the difference between the two paths was not as significant as initially perceived. This irony challenges the idea of the speaker's exceptionalism and raises questions about the reliability of memory and self-narrative.

Frost delves into the theme of self-deception and how we construct narratives about our lives. The speaker's assertion that they took the less-travelled path highlights the tendency to create personal narratives that cast us in a favourable light. The poem suggests that we often reinterpret our past decisions to fit the stories we want to tell about ourselves.

The poem is reflective in nature, with the speaker recounting a past experience. This reflective quality invites readers to consider their own past decisions and the paths they have taken. The poem encourages introspection and contemplation about the roads we choose in life and how those choices shape our identity and future.

While the poem is often interpreted as a celebration of individuality, it can also be seen as a universal exploration of the human experience. Choices, uncertainty, and the passage of time are common to all individuals. The poem resonates with readers because it captures the universal theme of grappling with decisions and the unforeseen consequences that follow.

In "The Road Not Taken," Frost challenges simplistic interpretations by blending nostalgia, regret, and a nuanced understanding of choices. The poem reminds us that life's paths are often complex and that the choices we make shape our journey in ways that can be both anticipated and unexpected. It serves as a timeless meditation on the intricacies of human decision-making and the narratives we construct to make sense of our lives. He Quotes

**“I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less travelled by,
And that has made all the difference.”**

The critic of Frost says that “Time will be his testimony and for ages to come people will recount his story that the lone traveller who chose the second route arrived at his destination, a winner”. So here we see that by the use of nature and realistic view Frost always tries to give moral in his poem.

6. Poem “FIRE AND ICE”

"Fire and Ice" is a short and meaningful poem by Robert Frost, first published in 1920 in his collection "New Hampshire." Despite its brevity, the poem delves into profound themes of destruction, desire, and human nature.

The poem explores two opposing forces of destruction—fire and ice—symbolizing desire and hatred, respectively. Fire represents the consuming and passionate nature of desire, while ice symbolizes the cold and calculated nature of hatred. Both forces have the potential to annihilate, and Frost's choice of these elements highlights the extremes of human emotion.

The poem suggests that human nature is susceptible to both intense desire and deep-seated hatred. These emotions can lead to conflicts, destruction, and even the downfall of societies. By personifying fire and ice as agents of destruction, Frost alludes to the ways in which human emotions can drive individual and collective actions.

Frost's mention of the world ending "in fire" or "in ice" alludes to apocalyptic imagery. While these lines might refer to a literal end of the world, they can also be interpreted metaphorically as the culmination of human conflicts and the consequences of unbridled passions. The poem invites readers to consider the potential outcomes of unchecked desires and unforgiving hatred.

The brevity of the poem, consisting of only nine lines, contributes to its impact. Each word is carefully chosen, making the poem succinct yet thought-provoking. This conciseness allows readers to reflect on the powerful themes without distraction.

"Fire and Ice" explores timeless themes that are relevant across cultures and generations. The poem's focus on human emotions, their potential consequences, and the choices individuals and societies make resonates with readers of various backgrounds.

The poem follows a simple rhyme scheme (ABAABCBC) and a regular rhythm, which contributes to its musical quality. This rhythmic structure, combined with the concise wording, enhances the poem's memorability and impact.

In "Fire and Ice," Frost contemplates the destructive potential of human emotions and actions. By using elemental symbols of fire and ice, he captures the essence of desire and hatred, inviting readers to consider the impact of these emotions on both personal and global scales. The poem serves as a reminder of the complex interplay between human nature, emotions, and the potential consequences of our choices.

7. Practical and Real approach in Frost's Pomes

The Robert frost is realistic poet, because of practical and real approach in his poem. Reader finds that his pomes have numbers of natural element but Robert frost himself once said that **“Some people call me poet for nature because of the natural setting. But I am not a poet for Nature; there is also something else in my poems.”** and the analysis of these mentioned poems is justifying it.

"Mending Wall":

Practical Interpretation: The poem discusses the annual act of repairing a stone wall between two neighbours. It explores the balance between tradition and change, the boundaries between individuals, and the reasons people might build walls.

Real Approach: The poem reflects on the human tendency to create divisions, both physical and metaphorical, between people. It prompts us to consider the necessity of these barriers and whether they truly help or hinder our relationships.

"The Road Not Taken":

Practical Interpretation: The poem presents a speaker reflecting on a past decision to choose a less travelled path, which has made all the difference in their life.

Real Approach: This poem can be seen as an exploration of choices and their consequences. It challenges the notion of following the mainstream and highlights the significance of personal choices in shaping our lives.

"Fire and Ice":

Practical Interpretation: The poem discusses two potential ways the world could end: fire (passion) and ice (hatred). It delves into the human capacity for destruction and its potential sources.

Real Approach: This poem engages with themes of desire, hatred, and the potential for both to lead to destruction. It invites us to contemplate the destructive forces present in human nature and society.

"Acquainted with the Night":

Practical Interpretation: The poem presents a lonely speaker wandering the city streets at night, feeling disconnected and isolated.

Real Approach: The poem captures the experience of loneliness and depression. It provides insight into the emotional struggles people face, even in the midst of bustling urban life.

"Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening":

Practical Interpretation: The poem describes a moment of pause in a snowy forest as the speaker contemplates the allure of rest and the responsibilities that keep them moving.

Real Approach: This poem speaks to the tension between personal desires and external obligations. It prompts reflection on the balance between pursuing individual gratification and fulfilling responsibilities.

In a practical and real approach to these poems, it's important to connect the themes and experiences depicted to our own lives. Consider how these themes apply to contemporary situations, human nature, and societal dynamics. By doing so, you can find relevance in Frost's works and draw insights that resonate with your own experiences and observations.

7.1 Day to Day life in Frost work:

We find that Frost's poem deals with the day to day life of the people. He uses the element of truth because its connected with all people and according to critic Reddy in his article he wrote that **“ any piece of literature that represents the real situation of the real people has always been well received by the readers”**(113).

By this he wants to say that the reader can easily connect with literature if the author uses such real experience and practical approach in his work. this type of approach we are able to found in Robert Frost's work we see that he uses his experience in his poems like “Nothing gold can stay” in this poem he says there is an end of everything and one day it will go away from us; in “The Road not taken” he conveys about how to take decision in life. In “Stopping by Woods in snowy evening” he talks about to follow our own duty. So we find that Frost give important message about life in his work. Let see what one of the critics of Frost talk about the theme of day to day life in the Frost works,

“Robert Frost poems can be interpreted in many ways to reflects on one's lifestyle. But they all have one main concept, they all can be an example of life lesson that we humans have learned, or have yet to learn in our lives”.

So basically critic wants to say that the poem of Frost teach us important lessons about life by the day to day life experience he knows. Frost's poems relate to the readers very effectively. His poem has deep moral message for every one and also deals with truth and real things like nature.

“As Frost argues in the poem, by focusing on "reality," the real actions of real people, a poet can sift through the unnecessary elements of fantasy and discover "Truth." Moreover, Frost believes that the emphasis on everyday life allows him to communicate with his readers more clearly; they can empathize with the struggles and emotions that are expressed in his poems and come to a greater understanding of "Truth" themselves.”

By this statement we can understand the importance of his use of real experience and ‘truth’ that is related with every one.

7.2 Autobiographical Elements

It is said that Frost always try to write from his personal experiences in his poem “After an Apple picking” is consider as his own story and he was also a farmer, we got this information if we look at to his biography, but some how he had to sell his farm. Frost poem is subjective in approach.

Vidhushi Sharma says “A critical peep into the life and environment of frost reveals that Frost’s poem is born out of his personal tension and tragic jolts which he had experienced in his personal life” (55)

Frost had not good life because he lost his children and wife very early and also during his time he later noticed by readers as good writer of that time. We see that poems like “Stopping by woods in snowy evening” and “Mending wall” have some autobiographical element. From the last lines of poem “Stopping by woods in snowy evening” he told that woods are like happy and sad situation for him but he promise to keep to go further before he sleep.

8. Use of Nature

There are number of people who said that Frost is nature poet, but Frost himself said that he is not only nature poet there are so many things in his poem. Yes he is master in use of natural elements but his poem always ends with good advice. We already discussed about importance of human’s experience in frost work and he connects that with nature,

“In a Frost poem, however, the mention of a natural object or force is never just as simple as that. Each connection to nature has a specific, intentional, and meaningful connection to humanity” (Jennings 171).

So from this statement we say that Frost use the natural elements for specific reason. Frost did not use nature as only background but he wanted to add natural beauty to give right message to the readers.

"Mending Wall":

Nature is depicted through the physical act of mending the wall that separates the two neighbours' properties. The stones are affected by nature's forces, such as freezing and thawing.

The poem also contrasts the natural world's ability to destroy barriers with the human desire to create and maintain them.

"The Road Not Taken":

Nature serves as a metaphor for life's choices. The two roads diverging in a "yellow wood" symbolize the different paths one can take in life.

The imagery of the woods reflects the unpredictability and mystery of the future, similar to how nature's paths may lead to unknown destinations.

"Fire and Ice":

The elements of fire and ice represent primal forces. Fire can symbolize desire, passion, and destruction, while ice can symbolize indifference and hatred.

These elemental forces illustrate the power of nature in shaping human behavior and potentially leading to both personal and global destruction.

"Acquainted with the Night":

Nature's darkness and nighttime setting contribute to the sense of isolation and loneliness. The "luminary clock" suggests the passage of time amidst the night's natural rhythms.

The poem juxtaposes the human experience of emotional isolation with the vastness of the night sky, highlighting the interplay between individual emotions and the natural world.

"Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening":

Nature is depicted through the snowy woods, creating a serene and almost magical setting.

The pull of nature's beauty contrasts with the speaker's responsibilities, emphasizing the tension between personal desires and external obligations.

In all these poems, nature is not just a backdrop but an integral part of the thematic exploration. Frost often uses nature to reflect human experiences, emotions, and choices. The natural world serves as a canvas against which the human condition is portrayed, allowing readers to find deeper connections between the external environment and the inner thoughts and feelings of the speakers.

9. Frost's Philosophy of life

It is appropriate to say that Frost's work has limited words with infinite depth. By his poem he tries to give moral messages to his reader. He always convey the good message in his work there are good remarkable critics who consider Frost as the best Philosopher including his friend Peter J. Stanlis; he mentioned in his book "Robert Frost: The Poet as philosopher" that he always try to give optimistic point of view to his reader.

In the first poem 'Stopping by woods in snowy evening' we see that he gives beautiful message that one should not stop without any reason there are many things in the world are beautiful but we should not forget about our own promises, so by this poem we see that he is very clear to do his duty honestly and the same thing he convey through his remarkable poems

10. Conclusion

So we make the conclusion by the analysis of Robert frost poems that he gives moral and motivational message to his readers. Robert frost was found to nature poet but he is not only nature poet. There are much noticeable things in his poem. Frost poem's has the natural things to describe his thought and experience. Everyone can relate his poems with their life and that is the beauty of Robert Frost's writing. He is unique because he does not use nature to express only surroundings but he try to give real approach and experience for life. Frost never accepted him self as just nature poet so the thing is clear that he express his own real life experience.

It is important as well as true that he used nature almost in all his poems, but he gives his reader better thought process to understand life's scenario. His poems provide us better knowledge of life and how should we live it.

It is considerable for poets to express their ideas and message in indirect words or statements, and Frost did that. He expresses his messages through the use of nature, that's why he should consider as **Realistic poet and conspicuous philosopher**.

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