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The Bhusawal People's Charitable Sanstha's

Dadasaheb Devidas Namdeo Bhole College, Bhusawal

One-Day Multidisciplinary National Level

E-Conference On

Environmental Imprints: Representation of Nature Across Disciplines

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Reflection of Environmental Sensibility in Selected Poems of William Wordsworth

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Abstract: *Environmental awareness is necessary for the well-being of human beings. Environmental resources play a crucial role in life by providing plenty of essential necessities. We witness many natural disasters caused by ecological imbalance. It is our responsibility to protect the environment by being conscious about its impact on our life. Human life cannot be separated from Nature. We cannot survive without air, water, food and other natural resources, which is the part of the environment. Ecocriticism studies investigate the interconnection between humans and nature, taking into consideration various ecological concepts. Literary works based on Ecocriticism raise different environmental issues to protect the environment. William Wordsworth is one of the most inspiring poets in English literature. His poetry reflects environmental sensibility and love for nature. His poetry depicts natural surrounding and its impact on human life. Wordsworth's idea of pantheism; God shines through nature emphasizes the beautiful nature, which guides and helps us in many ways. The selected poems of Wordsworth are taken into consideration to highlight his environmental sensibility and love for nature. These poems make us think about the importance of the environment and our role and responsibilities in protecting it.*

Keywords: Environmental awareness, environmental resources, ecological balance, Ecocriticism

Introduction

Ecocriticism is a multidisciplinary field. The different domains like literature, ecology, cultural studies, anthropology and environmental studies try to examine, explore and study of the relationship between human life and the physical environment. Understanding environmental conditions and health issues is a very challenging topic in today's world. We are facing new challenges and natural crisis like flood, draught, earthquake and problems caused due to global warming and different types of pollution due to an imbalance in the nature. The rising population and environmental issues need to be addressed. Jonathan Bate defines Ecocriticism as a literary imagination, which focuses upon the relationship between humans and nature. According to him literature is not only the imagination about the nature but it is the understanding about our place and role in the nature to make our life peaceful and stress-free. Lawrence Bull in his work

'The Environmental Imagination" raises the issue of environmental crisis and makes us think about our imaginative power to think and find new ways to understand nature and our role in it. Thoreau in his work "Walden" depicts the importance of human-nature relationship and promotes simple life and fewer possessions without bothering modern luxuries. Many writers and poets have emphasized the importance of nature in our life.

William Wordsworth's Preface to 'Lyrical Ballads' is supposed to be the beginning of romantic period. The Romantic Movement shows escape from social and literary conventions. William Woods's worth is supposed to be one of the most dominating poets of Romantic Movement. He regards imagination as the most powerful feature of human mind. Wordsworth uses his imagination and highlights the powerful and beautiful surrounding by focusing the divine and beautiful natural objects like hills, cliffs, trees, woods, rivers, flowers, birds. These objects are represented by Wordsworth as the divine sources having the power to transform and beautify our life. Wordsworth praises nature as our friend and guide. According to him nature has that power to heal us in many ways.

Objectives of the Study

The main aim of this study is to understand the importance of environment in our life. Therefore, the objectives of the study are as follows:

- To investigate the role of the environment in our life through Ecocriticism.
- To explore factors that constitute environment.
- To understand the role of literature in environmental awareness and its protection.
- To highlight the environmental sensibility in the poems of Wordsworth.
- Understanding different factors of environmental protection.

Methodology

The present study follows a qualitative, descriptive and analytical research design. It tries to

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understand and focus on environmental sensibility in the selected poems of William Wordsworth under consideration. The selected poems are interpreted highlighting the environmental sensibility of the poet. Through the close reading of the selected poems of Wordsworth attempts are made to analyze the poem taking into consideration Ecocriticism.

William Wordsworth's Poetry: A Reflection of Environmental Sensibility

The present paper deals with the selected poems of William Wordsworth and tries to highlight the environmental sensibility of the poet. Wordsworth's poetry either deals with common ordinary life or love for nature. The rustic life of common ordinary people and their natural life is very often praised by the poet. His poems depict nature in the form of fields, rivers, mountains, birds, clouds, woods, flowers, and rustic people. Wordsworth criticizes our modern tendencies and materialistic world which keeps us away from nature. *The Prelude* is an autobiographical epic poem. It is supposed to be the foundational work of the poet. It highlights the influence of nature on him, which transforms his life. The poet's experiences in his childhood days in the Lake District, which he enjoyed and experienced highlight his freedom, joy, and close association with nature. The poet highlights the mystery, power and beauty of nature, which has a magical effect on the poet. The experiences in the company of nature and the powerful imagination of the poet are woven skillfully and beautifully to show the magical power of nature.

Tintern Abbey is a very beautiful nature poem. It reflects the healing power of nature. The poet highlights the childhood and adulthood and by contrasting both the stages, makes us contemplate about nature, which never betrays. The poet reminds us, the beautiful and nurturing force of nature. The poet's memory and imagination show the divine power of nature. The poet highlights nature not only as a source of pleasure but as a spiritual teacher who can guide us and shape our future.

The Daffodils is an interesting poem about the beauty of flowers. The poet while wandering alone comes across the beautiful golden flowers dancing by the side of the lake. The reflection of the daffodils in the lake makes the waves dance and poet is extremely happy to enjoy the beautiful scene. The poet reminds these flowers while alone, and the flowers change the pensive mood of the poet. It shows the power of nature to give us comfort and relaxation. Even the thought of the daffodils gives the poet inner peace. The poet makes us think about the power of imagination, which has the power to transform us. This powerful imagination and environmental awareness are witnessed in Wordsworth's poetry.

Lines Written in Early Spring highlights the peaceful natural surrounding during spring. The poet enjoys the beauty and company of nature. Flowers and birds delight him and he experiences heavenly pleasure. The human society, which is selfish and cruel makes the poet miserable. It shows the beautiful pleasure giving divine nature in the complicated and cruel human life.

Ode: Intimations of Immortality highlights and glories beautiful natural life enjoyed during childhood. The innocent and beautiful childhood ends when we grow. The spiritual connection with the natural world experienced during childhood is lost in later stages. The memory of childhood reminds the poet, happy and blissful natural life. It shows that memories of nature can relax us and prove to be relaxing. While describing delight and liberty in childhood the poet highlights, the beautiful nature referring to clouds, fountains, meadows, hills, rainbow, earth and calm and soothing weather. These delightful and colourful images and memory of childhood relax the mind of the nature and indirectly focus on the power of nature.

Tintern Abbey is a beautiful reflection of its ruins. The poem focuses the childhood memories of Tintern Abbey. It describes the poets visit to river Wye and Tintern Abbey. The natural landscape of Tintern Abbey delights the poet. The poet expresses his spiritual and philosophical insight and gives us the message to shape our life taking help of nature because nature has that power to teach, guide, protect and inspire.

The World Is Too Much with Us criticizes the materialist world and our tendency of getting and spending money. The poet criticizes this tendency, which wastes our energy. The poet criticizes us for being insensitive towards nature. The poet warns us and shows how the destruction of the world will take place if we don't notice the warning of the nature. The poet gives this warning through the sight of Proteus and Triton who give warning of the future catastrophe. This poem truly reflects the environmental sensibility of the poet who advises us to take care of nature to avoid future problems.

The *Lucy poems* of Wordsworth describe a young girl, Lucy. Her death focuses the cycle of birth and death. She becomes the part of the geological cycle as she returns to earth. These Lucy poems highlight the bond between nature and human being and natural transformation.

To a Skylark describes skylark. The skylarks flight in the sky shows his freedom and joy who lives happily in the company of nature. On the contrary, human life is of burden and sorrow. The poet gives the message to live happily in the company of nature and enjoys carefree life. The poet's keen observation and

knowledge of surrounding and love for nature gives us the panoramic vision.

The Tables Turned is a beautiful nature poem. It shows the true spirit of the Romantic Movement, which has given important message of returning to the nature. Actual natural experience teaches us more than bookish knowledge. Therefore, Wordsworth says:

"One impulse from a vernal wood May teach
you more of man,
Of moral evil and of good, Than all
the sages can."

This experience and philosophy of Wordsworth show his love for nature and environmental sensibility. Therefore, he gives priority to nature than books and spends time in nature and enjoys the glory of nature. This poem shows the true spirit of Ecocriticism. It promotes us to observe study, understand and learn about our surrounding and try to protect and preserve it.

Major findings

1. Ecocriticism is an important multidisciplinary field, which takes into consideration various domains and explores the relationship between human life and physical environment. It helps us to know the importance of our surrounding and nature in the real world.
2. It has been found that literature guides us to protect our environment.
3. The study of Wordsworth's nature poems depicts the power of nature to instruct and guide us for better future and happy and peaceful life.
4. Poetic imagination of Wordsworth has the power to convince the society, to understand our responsibilities and role to nurture nature.

Scope for further Study

The present study has highlighted selected poems of Wordsworth. There is a great scope for further research if attempts are made to deal with different forms of literature. This study has highlighted nature as environment but there are many different factures which constitute our environment and therefore there is great scope to define and deal with different factors of environment.

Conclusion

William Wordsworth highlights the power of nature to teach and guide us. His poems try to depict the importance of nature in human life. Wordsworth appeals us to take care and protect our environment by nurturing it. Moreover, the poet advices us to understand our role as a human being and be responsible to preserve our natural and beautiful environment by being sensitive towards nature.

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