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Robert Frost's Experiment With Ecology And Humanity.

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Abstract

The advent of the postcolonial era brought with it a new poetry-loving tendency that established a new standard for poetry writing. Writing about ecology doesn't distinguish itself from other types of writing; in fact, it may elevate poetry to the point where authors from all over the world attempt to elevate the natural world. In their creative works, American, British, and Indian poets have established the relationship between humans and environment. These intellectual groups, which gave rise to humanity that blossomed beneath the lap of Nature, were the subject of several poets. Their sense of belonging increased when an ecological backdrop was present.

The American poet Robert Frost is a virtuoso at using ecological language to describe human activity. A keen awareness of nature, ecology, and its components may be seen in the majority of Frost's poetry.

Key words: American poets, literature, postcolonial, Ecology, and Nature.

Introduction:

This paper tends to present the analyzed scenario of American poets in the context of ecological writings. With the progress of technology and standard of living, people have forgotten the need and value of nature. For the American poets, ecology means the setup between natural and materialistic life, which becomes a medium to connect with human needs. There are numerous poets who countered this part and uplifted the true meaning of nature in their minds. Poets like Robert Frost, Emily Dickinson, Mary Oliver, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Walt Whitman, Henry David Thoreau, Henry Wordsworth, Ezra Pound, Sylvia Plath, and so forth. Among all these poets, Robert Frost was the prominent modern American poet of rural life who depicted the need and use of nature with science and technology in daily life. He actually showed nature with the human activities. He described the world around him in his writing, which he actually sees and feels.

Raymond William has also mentioned about nature that nature is perhaps the most complex word in the language. The word nature assumes an oversimplified relation between ecology and humans. John Denham's *Cooper's Hill* is composed as 1st Nature poetry written in 1642. The countryside of America has always been rich in the beauty of nature. The American poets had turned their lyrics into the change of seasons, sceneries, natural phenomena, and so forth. They had regularly focused on portraying the realistic images of places, things, environments, sceneries, and people. Using these themes, they connected it to individual thoughts, which showed their identity. Every theme helped them in constructing the American identity on the world's stage. They showed the unity of the natural world with the reference of humanity. For a very long time, it has been considered by the poets that America is the hub of different cultures. People from different parts of the world are inhabitants of America in the modern era. Poets believed in the passing of time and the importance of the flow of time.

Objective of the study

- o To delve into the significance of ecological imagery and symbolism used in Frost's poetry.
- o Influence of lyrical lines on nature and humanism.

Research Methodology

This study is based on secondary sources of data such as articles, books, research papers, journals, websites, and so forth.

Themes in Frost Poetry

Robert Frost is one of the well-known and recognized ecological American poets who illustrated the balance between the world of humans and nature. He has profoundly used simple language to describe nature. Frost is ambiguous in ecological consciousness. His poetic description is full of affection towards nature, which a reader can easily sense. He had never received recognition as a Romantic poet like Coleridge, Shelley, Wordsworth, and John Keats. They all have always considered nature as communicable, lovely, and benevolent. Frost holds a different perspective towards nature. He considers it a formidable and mysterious one. Considering rural life as a healthy life, he focused his poetic style on it. His unique style of writing has presented his way of capturing the reality of man and nature. And this can easily be traced in his different poems like *The Road Not Taken*, *Fire and Ice*, *Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening*, *Birches*, *Mending Wall*, and so forth. In the poem *The Road Not Taken*, Robert Frost has represented human life with the lyrical tone by taking help from nature. Though he wrote it in a narrative form. He has discussed the dilemma of a human standing at diversions of life. He compares the two paths with the two confused decisions of life. Our hopes and ambitions help us to decide on the path that is selected by fewer people. He symbolizes human thought with nature's presence. He clears it in the lines mentioned below:

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!*¹

The road symbolizes our life. And the poet insists the readers choose the path that has been less traveled in order to get success in a unique form. According to Frost,

*Nature is not only the source of pleasure but also an inspiration for human wisdom. People will get the enlightenment from observation; thus, nature becomes a central character in his poetry rather than merely a background.*²

Frost's other nature work too tells about his personal thoughts on the human and nature relationship. His other remarkable work, *Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening*, taps on themes like life, death, pessimism, optimism, and darkness through the journey of life. The speaker stops on the way to watch the snowfall. He reflects the natural world and its contrast with society. Being a pastoral poet, he showed humanistic approaches towards dealing with natural themes. He was a working farmer. He continuously compares man to trees and animals and made a finding that vegetables and animals are of human nature. He clearly mentions in the lines given below:

My little horse must think it queer.

To stop without a farmhouse near

Between the woods and frozen lake

*The darkest evening of the year*³

The poet shares the feelings of his animal friend and his thoughts, which is a sign of human behavior. There, the poet also notices the sound of blowing wind and falling snowflakes. The evening was so dark that it made nature more threatening in the presence of moonlight. The poem presented a different setting from human society. It shows the dark reality of the human tendency to continuously try to dominate the natural world. Frost's poetry holds a striking quality of its extreme clarity and simplicity. He has successfully captured the flavor and tone of nature. He has beautifully blended observation with imagination. His lyrical lines seem simple and observant, but in reality, they carry multiple layers of meanings. *Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening* is apparently clear, but in reality it is magnificently symbolic and suggestive.

Frost has beautifully experimented with the thoughts of humans on nature in many other poems. In the poem *Birches*, the poet showed the reflections on human conditions, life, and death. The blending quality of birches symbolizes the cyclical nature of life and renewal. It even explores the human desire to escape from this materialistic world. Here, the poet tells about the tree that got bent by an ice storm, which gets substituted with the thought that it may get bent by the boy playfully swinging. This imaginative thought reflects the carefree joy of childhood and a way to escape adulthood. He mentions in the line given below:

When I see birches bend to the left and right
Across the lines of straighter, darker trees.
I like to think somebody's been swinging them.⁴

Those above lines create a whimsical and illusionary visual for readers, which is different from reality. That bend was actually caused by the heavy weight of ice on the trees, which was created by the ice storm.

Birches is a nature poem highlighting the importance of ecology and natural scenery. It draws a qualitative approach to nature and ecology. The surroundings of that wintery bed soothe the minds of human beings, as this has been presented in the poem metaphorically. The poet took the scene of birch trees to depict an image of the countryside. They carry a deep meaning, presenting the harsh reality of life and human desire. The bending reflects the challenges and burdens that people face. Those birch trees serve as a bridge between the imagination and the reality of the struggles of human existence. This poem focuses on intellectuals' relations with nature, while *Mending Wall* is another of the best lyrical compositions, which focuses on nature's role in shaping human existence. The poet uses trees, stones, and frozen ground to raise questions about the value and purpose of boundaries. *Mending Wall* is both a teacher and a destroyer. That wall mentioned in the poem is frequently being broken by natural forces, suggesting the value of those boundaries as meaningless and artificial. This poem puts a debate on juxtaposing tradition and natural change occurring around it. Poet mentions about wall and nature in the lines given below:

*Oh, just another kind of out door game,
One on a side. It comes to little more;
There where it is we do not need the wall;
He is all pine and I am apple orchard.
My apple trees will never get across
And eat the cones under his pines, I tell him.*⁵

Here, the poet used two different natural symbols to represent or highlight the two different neighbours with the pole apart thoughts. Apple and pine trees has been metaphorically used here to show their personalities. Speaker takes himself as fruitful, cultivated apple orchard and calls neighbor as dark dense pine.

Throughout the poem, poet presents Nature and humanistic approach as individuality and emotional barriers. The speaker also questions the humanistic need of barriers and desires for unconfined relationships.

Conclusion

Robert Frost poetry occupies a unique position in American poetry through his engagement with the ecological world. His nature poetry represents a exploration of human experience through the lens of the natural world. His work transcends simple pastoral imagery to create complex psychological and philosophical landscapes that invite readers into deeper contemplation of life's fundamental questions. Through careful use of imagery, symbolism, and metaphor Frost creates a distinctive poetic experience where nature serves not merely as a backdrop but as an active participant in the human drama of existence. Robert Frost takes the people to rustic life, giving lyrical treatment to the reader's mind. Frost's poem *Birches*, *Mending wall* and *Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening* shows the physical representation of ecology, nature, and landscape along with healing related to renovation. He makes a lucid, selective collection of words from nature and uses them in a symbolic way. *Birches* is the best example of the use of multiple symbolic words with emblematic explorations of nature's curing capacity. The poem *Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening* is replete with imagery and symbolism; the speaker may temporarily escape from social duties in the snow-covered woods, which stand for peace and quiet. Whereas *Mending wall* is full of humanistic desire with the reference of Nature. Frost values ecology as a treasure trove. Natural phenomena have the healing strength for afflicted minds of postmodern people. Therefore, humans should return to the lap of nature to cure the psychological spring of humanity. His poetry portrays nature as a dynamic presence full of psychological importance and meaning rather than as a passive landscape. Frost's nature poetry delves into more general themes of the interconnectedness of humans and the environment, going beyond personal healing.

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