



11th National Conference on Nature, Culture, Language and Literature: Narratives and Critical Practices held on
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"Nature an indigenous recluse beyond cultures"- a comparative study

Author: VINCIE EUNICE V

Address : SHRIMATHI DEVKUNVAR NANALAL BHATT VAISHNAV COLLEGE FOR WOMEN, CHROMEPET, CHENNAI -600044.

Phone No: 9791508438

E-mail ID: eunicevincy@gmail.com

Abstract: *Nature is a language by itself. It is a free gift given to us by God. We are the children of nature, but often we forget this fact and try to act like the creator of nature. We are used to Industrialization and Urbanization and due to this, we have lost our connection with the nature and our minds turned evil and the outcome of this is the devastation and extinction of nature. Due to this, in future...there may arise a situation, where people might forget that Flora and Fauna was once existed. It would only exist in the map. When we disconnect ourselves from nature, we will lose the major part of our life.*

This paper highly concentrates on the poems,

'LAKE ISLE OF INNSFREE', 'KAANI NILAM VENDUM', ' BROOK IN THE CITY' and 'A WELSH LANDSCAPE' which are from various cultures. No matter in which culture we belong to, nature remains the same. All these poems emphasize on the same ideology of the importance of nature and it also reveals the consequences, when we take nature for granted.

Key-words: *Nature, Culture, Industrialisation,*

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Interconnected - relationship (Between nature and

human) and Dystopia.

Nature is everything that was put on this earth whether it is the food we eat, the water we drink, or the wood we use to build our houses. Some may think nature is just the oceans and forests, but no matter what we think, nature is one which we all must take care of. We have so many different cultures around us. Culture may differ from place to place but nature remains the same. We cannot separate culture and nature because it all when we take nature for granted. The poems which we are discussing are from various cultures. In the means of their own culture they imagine their own world of nature.

Cell phones, ipods, videogames, car alarms, door slamming, people talking, laughing, shouting. We live in a noisy world. Regardless of whether we're city folk or country people, we all need a peaceful place to live in. In the poem "**THE LAKE ISLE OF INNSFREE**", W.B Yeats expresses his yearning to go and enjoy the site of the country side. There were so many opposing forces pulling him in different directions, he desperately longs for the change. In this poem he imagines a solitary world, where he can live in peace. He says:

"And I shall have some peace there..."

The **LAKE ISLE OF INNISFREE** is a real place near the coast of Ireland. It is not inhabited and is on Lough Gill, a lake in country Sligo. Yeats spent his summer as a child there and this poem was born from his sudden memory. Innisfree is a real place, but the description

goes hand in hand. We can also say it in other words. Nature goes even beyond culture because culture varies, but nature remains the same. In this paper we are going to discuss few poems in which some poets create the world of utopia through nature and the rest warn us

given in this poem is imaginative. He wants to form his own world which will be far away from the city. He has decided to make the break from modern society and all of the hectic madness it can bring and go to a place he love, Innsfree. He says:

"And live alone in the bee-loud glade"

This can also be taken as, being in the city had made him too old, and he was too tired of everything. So he wants to go back to his childhood experience, where he can be so young and live at peace. When we are around nature, it transforms us. We feel like very energetic. The noise which we hear in the cities very unpleasant because it is the noise of the machines and the harsh words of the humans but the noise in the country are very pleasing to our ears because nature whispers secrets to us. Yeats says:

"I hear lake water lapping with low sounds by the shore"

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The sad part of this poem is, he could only imagine the picture of Innsfree. He cannot go back to that place. But the best part is, he didn't have a physical experience with nature but the spiritual experience. Physical will not last long but spiritual will be treasured up deep inside our hearts because nature and human builds a very strong relationship which will never die and remain firm in our heart beats. He says:

“I hear it deep in the deep heart’s core”

Similar to this, we also have an Indian poem **“KAANI NILAM VENDUM”** Written by a tamil poet Subramaniya Bharathiyar. Like Yeats, his life was also filled with so many opposing forces. So he invoke his prayer to the supreme god and asking god to create a natural world filled with all the natural resources. He says:

**“I need one kaani land, oh supreme power!...
You should build me a palace (home) in it...”**

He didn't ask god to grant him power or wealth to rule the world but he ask god to grant him happiness in his life. He knows the secret that, the city life will not grant him happiness. So, he wish to connect himself with nature. He ask god to give him wells, coconut trees and also he longs to hear the chirping sound of the cucukoos. According to him these are the greatest wealth. He very well knows that, only all these things can bring the true delight in his life.

“the melodious music from cuckoos chirping should subtly touch my ears,”

He also wants a woman by his side as his life companion and he want to rejoice the scenery of nature along with her. All these things shows that how these poets desperately wanted to connect themselves with the nature. These two poets lived in a place where the conducive environment was denied for them. They were trapped between the modernized world and the natural world. They were tired both physically and mentally. This made them to wish for the natural world where they can enjoy and live like a recluse and admire the nature as it is. When all these things was chasing them, it was nature who was their fortress. Nature consoled them and also served as the best teacher to them. Their wish was not something big, but it was very subtle. One best part of being connected with the nature is, nature never change like humans. It provides everything without any expectation.

We should tend to nature. When we fail to do so, nature reacts in a opposite way. When we compare these two poems with the next two, they are completely contrast in themes. In the above mentioned poems, the poets have imagined the world of utopia and they were longing to get connected with nature. But in the next two poems **“A BROOK IN THE CITY”** and **“A WELSH LANDSCAPE”**, the poets brings contemporary issues in it. We are living in a modern world and we are longing to have all the luxuries in our life. This updated world connect all of us more with the man-made things than with nature. In the poem **“BROOK IN THE CITY”**, the farm house and the brook represents the rural landscape. Robert Frost pathetically picturizes the condition of the brook. He says:

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**“...But what about the brook
That held the house as in an elbow-crook?”**

Over time, the brook is not needed anymore. So the people of the city transformed it into a sewer under the streets. This shows the fall of nature and the rise of the industrial revolution. In the beginning of the poem, it tells how the person used to play with the brook by dipping his finger. He says:

**“That held the house as in an elbow-crook?
I ask as one who knew the brook, its strength
And impulse, having dipped a finger length
And made it leap my knuckle, having tossed
A flower to try its current where they crossed.”**

As we consider trees are no more useful to us, these people considered the brook as no longer useful for them in this new landscape and they turned it into a sewer system and later it was covered by dirt. The last few lines tells that no one would know where the brook was and wouldn't care for it at all. He says:

**“No one would know except for ancient maps
That such a brook ran water.”**

This also shows the evil nature of the humans. Humans are not cautious to be responsible. Instead of protecting nature, they are destroying it. They didn't have the sense of guilt at all.

In the poem “**A Welsh Landscape**”, R.S Thomas portrayed the Wales and the Welsh Culture. Moreover, to live in Wales, also means to be part of the rural Welsh tradition. The poet says, to live in Wales means to be aware of the “**Spilled blood**”. This means that the

people of Wales know that they have lost many things in their past. When we lose something, it will create a greater impact in our lives. We clearly don't know that what has happened in the past. But one thing is very clear that the people are struck in their past and they were not able to move on further. The poet says,

**“And no future;
There is only the past,”**

There is no hope in this poem. This poem brings out the pessimistic view of the landscape because there are only leftovers in the landscape. Nothing is fresh. It lost its original glory. The poet says:

**“At dusk of the spilled blood
That went into the making if the wild sky,
Dyeing the immaculate rivers.”**

The spilled blood has spoiled the wild sky and also polluted the immaculate rivers. River is one of the most important natural resources and it is said to be the part of our culture. River travels through all the generations. When it gets polluted, our future generation will be the greatest sufferers. The poem clearly states that the people didn't take any effort to get back their lost glory. The poet says:

**“You cannot live in the present,
At least not in Wales:”**

These people are grumbling about their olden days. They fail to take effort to create a bright future. Their towers and castles were shaken. This is to be avoided. If any misfortunes occur we have to rectify it instead of grumbling. We do not know whether it is the war or

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natural calamities which are standing as a background for this poem. Whatever it may be, if any destruction comes towards nature, we should not leave it as it is. It is our duty to bring everything to normal. When we fail to do so, we have to face the consequences.

All the above mentioned poems emphasis on only one thing. **“Nature is all we need”**. The first two poems **“THE LAKE ISLE OF INNSFREE”** and **“KAANI NILAM VENDUM”** brings out the world of utopia through nature. Both the poems shows the longingness for nature because they know that only nature can give us happiness and the other two poems **“THE BROOKS IN THE CITY”** and **“A WELSH LANDSCAPE”** portrays that, when we fail to realize the existence of nature that, nature will be completely destroyed in the days to come. Then, we will all be able to identify nature only in the maps. We are so fond of

machines because it simplifies all our works. But we should all understand one basic thing, that is, our body is not made up of spare parts but of blood and flesh. When god created Adam and Eve, their only companion was nature. They were one among nature. Time may change but our body is used to nature. For time being all these machines might give pleasure but it will not last long because we humans need a companion in our life. You may ask, nature doesn't speak and react. Then how come it can be a good companion? When we connect ourselves with the nature, we will be able to hear the whispers of the nature. When we are depressed and dejected we can go and hide ourselves inside the nature because nature is our fortress. Nature goes beyond everything. Nothing can withstand before nature, because nature is true and it doesn't change its nature.

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