



## A Study: Stunning theme of Nature in William Wordsworth and Robert Frost's literary world

**Dr. Varsha Kushwaha**

Ph.D (English)

Aligarh Muslim University

Uttar Pradesh

Email: [varsha.english@gmail.com](mailto:varsha.english@gmail.com)

### Abstract

This research paper has focused on the most famous poets William Wordsworth and Robert Frost. Although both poets belong to different periods yet they represent same background of their poetry. The heavy shower of nature can be clearly seen upon their literary works. The theme of nature revolves around their literary writing. Through poetry, they have represented their astounding ideas about nature. They wrote their poetry in common language of common people. Both poets have realized nature in a different way although there are some features of the subjects which are same. Nature is the vast subject which cannot be described in easy manner and it is a changing thing also.

**Keywords:** Nature, Poetry, Language, Ideas, Shower

Nature is indefinable. It is very difficult to describe it in a simple way. Discussion on nature is study of surroundings like trees, rivers, birds, sky, earth etc. Well, there are so many writers who have described it in an amazing way. The famous poets like Robert

Frost and William Wordsworth have elaborated nature through their eminent works. A profound influence of nature can be seen on their works. So, they have gained a huge popularity through their interest in nature. Robert Frost is generally nominated by the students and critics as the American poetical parallel of William Wordsworth, the predecessor of the Romantic Movement in England. It is believed that Robert Frost was influenced by Wordsworth because his influence can be seen on Frost's poetry especially on nature. In philosophy and style, it seems that they are similar and dissimilar.

William Wordsworth is a typical figure of romanticism in England. For his treatments towards romantic elements, he has represented himself as a romantic poet. The Romantic Movement is a revolt against the classical tradition of eighteenth century. With the help of imagination, Wordsworth makes common things unique and beautiful. In "Intimations of Immortality from Recollections of Early Childhood", the ode starts by the contrasting narrator's opinion of world as a child and man. In this poem,



he uses the word like meadow, earth, stream, celestial light etc. It seems that he wants to explain his real views through these things. He remembers that time when all of nature appeared dreamlike to him. He represents that nature is the source of inspiring material that nourish a creative mind.

There was a time when meadow, grove, and stream,

The earth, and every common sight,

To me did seem

Apparelled in celestial light,

The glory and the freshness of a dream.

It is not now as it hath been of yore;—

Turn wheresoe'er I may,

By night or day,

The things which I have seen I now can see no more.

In “Lines Written a Few Miles above Tintern Abbey”, Wordsworth has also used some natural things to define his opinions. Revisiting the natural beauty of river Wye, he feels a sense of peaceful restoration. Five years have passed since he visited this place. He thinks about his past and remembers the objects again and narrates its effect on him. It can be observed that he has explained each and every thing in a beautiful manner by using natural objects. The poet sees river, stream, lofty cliffs, and sky through his imaginative eyes. Here he says,

Do I behold these steep and lofty cliffs,  
That on a wild secluded scene impress  
Thoughts of more deep seclusion; and  
connect

The landscape with the quiet of the sky.

Wordsworth wants to show that nature has a great healing power through which a man can get freedom from his suffering. All these old memories give true satisfaction to his troubled heart. Through his imagination, he feels existence of nature when he is far away from nature. So, he gives much importance to nature. He says

These beauteous forms,

Through a long absence, have not been to me

As is a landscape to a blind man's eye:

But oft, in lonely rooms, and 'mid the din

Of towns and cities, I have owed to them

In hours of weariness, sensations sweet,

Felt in the blood, and felt along the heart;

And passing even into my purer mind,

With tranquil restoration:—feelings too

Of unremembered pleasure: such, perhaps,

As have no slight or trivial influence

Wordsworth supports the use of ordinary language in his poetry. In “She dwelt among the untrodden ways”, he describes about Lucy who lives in nature. He associates her with beauty of nature in a perfect manner.

Through his imagination, it can be seen that Lucy is associated with beauty and vivacity of nature. Apart from that, he thinks that poetry should be written in a “selection of language really used by men in humble and rustic.” He is apt to use language of simple truth. So, his poems are prominent. In “She dwelt among the untrodden ways”, he says

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good relationship with nature supports man to connect both spiritual to social world. In “Prelude”, he says that a love of nature can lead to love of human being. He represents nature as a subject. He starts poem by explaining the breeze and gives the breeze a human quality.

OH there is blessing in this gentle breeze,  
A visitant that while it fans my cheek  
Doth seem half-conscious of the joy it brings  
From the green fields, and from yon azure sky.

People are losing connection with the natural world because they are obsessed with money and manmade objects. Through “The World is too much with us”, Wordsworth says that everyone must get in touch with nature to get progress spiritually. When people becomes far away from nature, they become selfish and immoral. He says

The world is too much with us; late and soon,  
Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers;  
Little we see in Nature that is ours;  
We have given our hearts away, a sordid boon!

Wordsworth’s “London, 1802”, is a sonnet which addresses the late poet Milton (the writer of the most famous “Paradise Lost”). According to him, England was a great place of happiness, art, chivalry and literature but at the present moment, every virtue has lost. Actually he wants to draw attention on the problem with English society. He says that Milton can save virtue of England. He compliments Milton by comparing him to the natural things like the stars, the heaven and sea.

Thy soul was like a Star, and dwelt apart;  
Thou hadst a voice whose sound was like the sea:

Pure as the naked heavens, majestic, free,  
So didst thou travel on life's common way,  
In cheerful godliness; and yet thy heart  
The lowliest duties on herself did lay.

In “Strange Fits of passion have I known”, Wordsworth explains a moonlight ride to the cottage of his beloved Lucy. He compares her with the rose. This shows that he connects his poem with nature.

When she I loved looked every day  
Fresh as a rose in June,  
I to her cottage bent my way,  
Beneath an evening-moon.

Through “Solitary Reaper”, Wordsworth gives definition of a natural woman who connects herself to nature by working out in the fields. It seems that she is more a part of nature than humanity. So, it can be observed that he has created a natural environment in this poem precisely.

Behold her, single in the field,  
Yon solitary Highland Lass!  
Reaping and singing by herself;  
Stop here, or gently pass!  
Alone she cuts and binds the grain,  
And sings a melancholy strain;  
O listen! for the Vale profound  
Is overflowing with the sound.

Like Wordsworth, Robert Frost has also connected himself to nature through his eminent literary works. Frost was one of the well known American poets of 20<sup>th</sup> century. He has written so many poems with several



themes. One of the main themes is nature. He always discusses two sides of the nature. He explains how beautiful and attractive nature is or how destructive it can be. Through nature, he expresses his personal view in his poems. In the poem “Stopping by the woods on a snowy Evening”, he discusses about the woods. On the surface, this poem seems simple but it is complex. The poem describes about a lone rider who likes to stay and watch snow falling in the woods because he is a lover of nature. But in the end of the poem, the narrator has a long path to go; he has always enough time to watch the beauty of nature. He reminds that he has promises to keep, despite the attractiveness of the view. This shows that he has chosen theme of nature in a precise manner.

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.

The poem “Birches”, along with other poems that deals with rural and natural environment and represents Robert Frost as a nature poet. This poem shows how to reconcile between spontaneity and structure. Nature is the crucial theme in Frost’s thought.

When I see birches bend to left and right  
Across the lines of straighter darker trees,  
I like to think some boy's been swinging  
them.  
But swinging doesn't bend them down to

stay  
As ice-storms do.

Frost has acquired a well known position as a natural bard. He has placed himself in the heart of countrymen as an American symbol. Through his poetry, he personifies the simple life of people in a complex world. His poems seem simple on the surface but they have deep significance. He shows deep insight into instinct of man. Apart from that, his poems give messages to his readers in a clear way.

In “Once by the Pacific”, Robert Frost has expressed so many word pictures of nature. In this poem, he describes a night on an ocean beach when the ocean waves appear to be producing to demolish land and its people. He talks about water and wants to show how powerful the water is when it eats away at the cliff. The shore, cliff and continents are against the threat of forthcoming storm. He doubts that they will be successful at quelling the disastrous power of ocean.

The shattered water made a misty din.  
Great waves looked over others coming in,  
And thought of doing something to the shore  
That water never did to land before.

In “The Tuft of Flowers”, the narrator also describes the beautiful picture of nature. He goes to a field to turn the grass that has mowed there. He feels a sense of loneliness. Actually, he explores the brotherhood of nature. Through this poem, he wants to convey his theme of unity between man and nature. It seems that he connects himself



with nature by expressing his unique views of nature in this poem.

I went to turn the grass once after one  
Who mowed it in the dew before the sun.  
The dew was gone that made his blade so  
keen  
Before I came to view the leveled scene.

In “Our Hold on the Planet”, Robert Frost sees nature as an unknown power able of demolishing man, but he also sees man’s struggle with nature as a noble conflict. This thing can be observed in this poem.

There is much in nature against us. But we  
forget;  
Take nature altogether since time began,  
Including human nature, in peace and war,  
And it must be a little more in favor of man,  
Say a fraction of one percent at the very  
least,  
Or our number living wouldn’t be steadily  
more,  
Our hold on the planet wouldn’t have so  
increased.

So, Frost has enough capability to explain the deepest nature and humanity in the same manner and to disclose tidbits of philosophy about man’s life in simplistic everyday moods. It is easy to read his poetry but it gives always a deep meaning. Frost does not formulate a vital continuity between man and nature. Nature has a little informative appeal to Frost. His poetry can be considered with the role of man in nature not the view of natural world.

Wordsworth and Frost represent an amazing creative power of poetic imagination

through their eminent works. In their works they are often seen exploiting nature to describe the beauty of the scenario.

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