

Theme of Nature and Landscape in English Romanticism and American Transcendentalism in Poetry

K. Keerthana

Ph. D., Research Scholar,
Vivekanandha College of
Arts and Sciences for
Women,(Autonomous),
Elayampalayam,
Namakkal(Dt), Tamil Nadu,
India

Abstract

In this paper the Theme of Natural Landscape in English Romanticism and American Transcendentalism in Poetry, the title brings out the importance of Nature by a Various poets. It deals about the view of Eminent poets like Emily Dickinson, William Wordsworth, William Cullen Bryant their views about the description of the Landscape in their poems. It brings out the Importance of a theory of Romanticism and Transcendentalism, Problem of Ecology, social responsibility of the Individual to protect their Environment and the Final view of this paper.

Keywords- *Poet, Theory, Ecological problems, Final View*

“The nation that destroys its soil destroys itself”-

Franklin D. Roosevelt

Man belongs to the earth in much the same way as animals and plants do. He is also a species of animal, part of the ecosystem of the earth and dependent upon it for his survival. The human species is a product of a long process called evolution in which the "ecological balance played a decisive role" (J. Donald Hughes 20).

Ecocriticism is the study of literature and the environments from a different point of view where the literary person evaluate the texts that pictures the environment refers and survey the various ways literature treats the subject of nature. Some Ecocriticism brainstorm possible solutions for the correction of the contemporary environmental situation. In the present situation Developing country,

Theme of Nature and Landscape in English Romanticism and American Transcendentalism in Poetry

By

K. Keerthana

The Creative Launcher

An International, Open Access, Peer Reviewed, Refereed, E- Journal in English
UGC Approved

Developed country and Under Developed country associate with the environmental issues, it is one of the Major issues in all nations.

Romanticism is an intellectual and artistic movement that origin in the second half of the Eighteenth century. It is a reaction response against the scientific reasoning of nature during the Enlightenment, commonly expressed in literature, music, painting and drama. But it is not simply a reaction to the rationalism of the Illumination but also a cause against the material changes in society, which conveyed the origin and developed the industrial capitalism in the late eighteenth century. In this transition production became national in the city.

Transcendentalism is a theme used by Thoreau, Waldon, Emerson, Hawthorne, Melville, and Walt Whitman. It means it explain about philosophy and literature, belief in a higher reality than that found in the meaning and reflect in theme discuss in

- I) The belief that God gave humankind
- II) The gift of intuition
- III) The gift of insight
- IV) The gift of inspiration
- V) The natural world to revel within

In view of Emerson Nature is “No law can be sacred to me but that of my Nature.” It play a vital role in Romanticism placed importance on emotions and the individual it Stressedan intuition and inner thought of truth that varies from reason and nature’s beauty, strangeness, and mystery for individual expression and artistic freedom.

The different poetry explains about the description of the American Landscape, it includes the poets like Emily Dickinson, Robert Frost, Wallace Stevens, and Robert Lowell remain loosely connected with the New England region. The creative voices in this verse form in their part out of historical trends to shaping the environment in a good views to a speaker, as speakers provoke a landscape informed by its past and converted by cultural movements from the nineteenth century into the middle of the twentieth century. As the first region in America, New England offers a idea in which to enriched and understand the development of poetic voices closely related with the experience of their surroundings. Tracing these voices in the verse of four formative poets over the course of roughly one hundred years allows for a thorough survey of common links as to how speakers respond to historical shifts as well as how they view the landscape in the context of a shared literary tradition.

Theme of Nature and Landscape in English Romanticism and American Transcendentalism in Poetry

**By
K. Keerthana**

The Creative Launcher

An International, Open Access, Peer Reviewed, Refereed, E- Journal in English
UGC Approved

The relationship between the work of these four poets and the New England region, the primal lyric tension that at last defines the voices that readers have come to identify as “Dickinson” or “Lowell” warrant closer investigation. No study has yet to use Lacanian psychoanalysis to read the speakers of this verse in the context of historical changes in their surroundings. This post-structural reading allows for possibly to the closest reflection as to how voices take shape in the New England region based upon how the various speakers view the landscape they inhabit through a version of Emerson’s perspective via his paradoxically “transparent eyeball”: an invisible presence that remains in the foreground because of rhetoric that describes it. For these speakers, history as well as literary tradition serves as such rhetorical covering , which in part offers a new way of considering how they come to sound like they come from “New England” by their visual experience of the environment.

In connecting what has become rather standard post-structural theory to the practical relevance of local New England history, Cultural movements tune the experience of the speakers’ surroundings thus inform their conscious and unconscious desires as they in turn project such desires onto the land. The paradox of Emersonian vision, especially central to the poetry of Wallace Stevens, wherein transparency gets covered with textual awareness, comes to exemplify this regional view taken by the speakers in the verse of the other poets here as well. The connection of Emerson’s transparent eyeball in the New England landscape to the Lacanian gaze offers a means to extend a fundamental trope for lyric vision in the region.

The site of the Lacanian *béance* defined as the gap between nature and the symbolic which ultimately defines the speakers’ inherent self-division, consistently charges the poetry with the greatest tension, paradoxically linking speakers to New England by threatening to disrupt their imaginative connection to their surroundings. This recurring gap around which vision and rhetoric move ultimately make the speakers of Stevens and the other three poets more regional than any slight reference to pine trees, barns, or graveyards.

New England Landscape History in New England Poetry is an important book for readers interested in American poetry (especially the writings of Ralph Waldo Emerson, Emily Dickinson, Robert Frost, Wallace Stevens, and Robert Lowell), psychoanalysis and literature, deconstructive analyses of modern poetry, and New England regional history.

It sifts from Leaden Sieves in this poem Dickinson combining metaphor and imagery to create a winter scene of great beauty. The poem does not name the falling snow which it describes, by the

Theme of Nature and Landscape in English Romanticism and American Transcendentalism in Poetry

**By
K. Keerthana**

The Creative Launcher

An International, Open Access, Peer Reviewed, Refereed, E- Journal in English
UGC Approved

way increasing a sense of entranced wonder. The "leaden sieves" that stand for an overcast sky also contribute to the poem's initially somewhat sad mood, a mood that is quickly changed by the addition of images that suggest a healing process.

It sifts from Leaden Sieves -
It powders all the Wood.
It fills with Alabaster Wool
The Wrinkles of the Road (1-4)

The following five lines show everything in the scene becoming peacefully smooth. With the third stanza, the observer's eyes have dropped from sky, horizon, and distant landscape to neighboring fences and fields. The fence becoming lost in fleeces parallels the image of wool, and the image of "celestial veil" (meaning veil) skillfully provides a transition between the two stanzas and brings a heavenly beauty to what had been the dissolution of harvested fields. Perhaps it also implies something blessed about the memorial which it makes to those harvests. The idea of snow providing a monument to the living things of summer adds a gentle irony to the poem, for snow is traditionally a symbol of both death and impermanence. In the last stanza, the observer takes delight in a close-up thing, the queenly appearance of fence posts, and then, in a tone of combined relief and wonder, the poem suggests that the lovely winter scene has really had no external source, but has simply arrived by a kind of inner or outer miracle. Our analysis can provide a basis for further symbolic interpretation of the poem.

It Ruffles Wrists of Posts
As Ankles of a Queen -
Then stills its Artisans - like Ghosts -
Denying they have been -(16 - 20)

In this poem Emily describe about the nature of Landscape in Imagination. 'If the present condition is exists people think of beauty of nature in the imaginary perspectives'.

In this poem *I'll tell you how the Sun rose* Dickinson describe about the beauty of rose, in this poem poet divides into two metaphorical descriptions "sunrise and a sunset" on the same day. It's a routine activity happen in the earth. The poet image that pretext of a little girl running with news of nature, delighted with the creativeness of her perception and phrasing, and pretending confusion about the details and meaning of the sunset.

Theme of Nature and Landscape in English Romanticism and American Transcendentalism in Poetry

**By
K. Keerthana**

The Creative Launcher

An International, Open Access, Peer Reviewed, Refereed, E- Journal in English
UGC Approved

I'll tell you how the sun rose, -
A ribbon at a time.
The steeples swam in amethyst,
The news like squirrels ran. (1 - 4)

The sun's rising is described as if it were put on ribbons, which is paralleled by hills untying their bonnets. The ribbons are thin strips of colored clouds which are common at sunrise, and which, as it gets lighter, might seem to appear in various and changing colors "a ribbon at a time". The news "running like squirrels" creates excitement in the scene, for squirrels do become active when the sun rises.

The sound of the bobolinks prompts the poet to address herself softly, holding in her excitement. At midpoint, the poem skips over the whole day, as if the poet had remained in a trance. She claims to be unable to describe the sunset. Not surprisingly, the images of the sunset are more metaphorical than those for the sunrise. The entire scene is presented in terms of little school children climbing a stile. They go over the distance into a different field, where a "dominie" shepherds them away. The yellow children are the waning shafts of light and the purple stile is the darkening clouds at sunset. Sunset clouds are a traditional symbol of a barred gateway into another mysterious world of space and time, or into heaven. Dickinson has gently domesticated what may be a fearful element in the scene.

Till when they reached the other side,
A dominie in gray
Put gently up the evening bars,
And led the flock away.(13 -16).

In this poem, Dickinson compare the sunrise and sunset with an imaginative power, in that she use the imaginary animate things like Girl and Squirrel. In that period Nature play a vital role they consider nature as a Goddess in present century the condition has been changed. In the present century people failed to worship God even though a nature.

Thanatopsis a poem has written by William Cullen Bryant the poem deals about nature's ability to make us feel better. It tells us that nature can make pain, less painful. It can even lighten our dark thoughts about death towards about nature. He tells us that, "when we start to worry about death, we should go outside and listen to the voice of nature". That voice reminds us that we will indeed vanish when we die and mix back into the earth.

Theme of Nature and Landscape in English Romanticism and American Transcendentalism in Poetry

**By
K. Keerthana**

The Creative Launcher

An International, Open Access, Peer Reviewed, Refereed, E- Journal in English
UGC Approved

The voice of nature also tells us that when we die, we won't be alone. Every person who has ever lived is in the ground and everyone who is alive will be soon dead and in the ground too. This idea is meant to be comforting, and the poem ends by telling us to think of death like a happy, dream-filled sleep. This poem brings out the reputation of nature through Death. This line shows the importance of nature "The youth in life's green spring, and he who goes, In the full strength of years, matron and maid," (68-69).

In this poem, *Lines written in spring* by William Wordsworth, he recalls the natural landscape spent with his friends at Tintern Abbey, Wordsworth describes a bittersweet moment. He reclines in a beautiful grove surrounded by the "blended notes" of nature, and yet, even as he enjoys the scene, it inspires a melancholy mood and the speaker begins to have dark thoughts about humanity.

Nature has connected itself to the poet's soul, leading him to sadly consider "What man has made of man"(8) Even as he does this, however, he takes in the beautiful scene that surrounds him. The poet looks more closely at the seemingly jubilant birds, plants, and other creatures of nature, trying to decide whether or not they are really full of pleasure. He decides that they are. In the last stanza, he asks whether, if it is true that nature is full of pleasure, he then has a good reason to be sad about "what man has made of man"(24).

In this poem the poet describes about the Tintern Abbey place is found by Walter De Clare and Lord of chepstow its locate adjacent to the village of Tintern in Monmouthshire on the Welsh bank of the River Wye it serve as a border between Monmouthshire in Wales and Gloucestershire in England. It found in the sixteenth century, eventhough its famous by a poets in the Eigteenth century. The beauty of a landscape is familiar by a poet through a reader. 'present world the place is famous through many mass medias ,but in a past poets are an only intermediator to reflect a thing.' The beauty of Tintern Abbey is reflect in a below image,



FIG: 1 (NATURAL LANDSCAPE IN TINTERN ABEY)

Theme of Nature and Landscape in English Romanticism and American Transcendentalism in Poetry

**By
K. Keerthana**

The Creative Launcher

An International, Open Access, Peer Reviewed, Refereed, E- Journal in English
UGC Approved

In this poem *The Table turned* by William Wordsworth the poet teach the importance of Nature to his friends rather than a Book, The poet begins by telling his friend to stop reading books, he will become fat from being inactive. The poet then asks he take to be so unattractive while outside there is a beautiful evening scene. The poet continues, telling his friend that books are dull and monotonous. Rather than reading, he should attempt in outside to where the linnet and the throstle (a song bird) are singing beautiful music containing more wisdom than any book. "Come forth into the light of things, / Let Nature be your teacher" (15-16).The poettells his friend that Nature has more to teach than books, and that he should go outside rather than seek refuge in dry pages.The poet tells his friend that Mother Nature is full of wealth, and that she is ready to give her fruits in our minds and hearts. He also says that in nature wisdom comes from being happy and healthy, and that a person can learn more about humanity and about good and evil from a tree than from a sage.

The poet saysthat even though nature brings humanistic sweet traditions of intelligence, we tend to ruin that knowledge by dissecting it. Instead, we should reject traditional science and art and simply come into nature ready to learn with "a heart / That watches and receives" (31-32).

In this poem the poet represent the Materalistic World, in this condition people ruined by their machinery activities, they failed to enjoy the things in and around him. Book is considered as a one of the Good companion to all,in the view of poets point its worthless compare to a Nature. Nature is a Mother it can give anything to a person. 'Book can mould a man but Nature can make a person as sculpture in their life'.

In this poem Composed upon Westminister Bridge by William Wordsworth,the poet declares that he has found in the most beautiful scene on earth. The poet have not interested in spiritual sense, no taste for beauty, to pass over the Westminster Bridge that morning without stopping to marvel at the sights. It is the Bridge attract all, it describes the beauty of West Minister Bridge in London. London is wearing the morning's beauty like a fine shirt or cape. London, you're lookin' good.

A sight so touching in its majesty:
This City now doth, like a garment, wear
The beauty of the morning; silent, bare,
Ships, towers, domes, theatres, and temples lie. (3 - 6)

Poet describes the Natural scene in and around in the placeThe time is so early that all is quiet. Poet describe the scene in the Bridge, The various landmarks visible from the bridge, including St. Paul's Cathedral and the Tower of London, stand before him in all their majesty in the

Theme of Nature and Landscape in English Romanticism and American Transcendentalism in Poetry

**By
K. Keerthana**

The Creative Launcher

An International, Open Access, Peer Reviewed, Refereed, E- Journal in English
UGC Approved

morning light. Fortunately, there happens to be no “London fog” to obscure the view.

The Poet compares the sunlight on the buildings to the light that shines on the countryside, and he seems surprised to feel more at peace in the hurried city than he has anywhere else. The River Thames moves slowly near by him. In a burst of emotion, he pictures the city as blissfully asleep before another busy day.

Ne'er saw I, never felt, a calm so deep!
The river glideth at his own sweet will:
Dear God! the very houses seem asleep;
And all that mighty heart is lying still! (11- 14).

In this poem Words Worth express the views of his observation with his sister in the West Minister Bridge. In this poem author reflects the Materialistic World the people fail to enjoy in and around him. It also give the Faith of God with Nature. The Description of West Minister in the below image-



FIG:2 THE IMAGE OF WEST MINISTER BRIDGE ACROSS THE RIVER THAMES

In this poem *I wandered Lonely as a cloud* it describe about the Lake district in Northern England the poet describes a time when he roamed over the valleys and hills, “lonely as a cloud.” Finally, he came across a crowd of daffodils stretching out over almost everything he could see, “fluttering and dancing in the breeze”(6). The Poet goes into more detail about the daffodils. They reminded him of the Milky Way, because there were so many flowers packed together that they seemed to be never ending. The poet guesses that there were ten thousand daffodils, which were “Tossing their heads in sprightly dance”.

Theme of Nature and Landscape in English Romanticism and American Transcendentalism in Poetry

**By
K. Keerthana**

The Creative Launcher

An International, Open Access, Peer Reviewed, Refereed, E- Journal in English
UGC Approved

The poet compares the waves of the lake to the waves of daffodils and decides that even though the lake is “sparkling,” the daffodils win because they have more “glee.” He then comments that he, like any other poet, could not help but be happy “in such a jocund company.” He looked at the scene for a long time, but while he was there he was unable to understand what he had gained from the experience.

The poet describes what he gained from the experience. Afterwards, when he was lonely or feeling “pensive,” he could remember the daffodils, seeing them with his “inward eye,” and be content. Through this poem the poet describes about the nature and beauty of daffodil flower which can be grown in spring season or Early winter particularly in the Northern Florida region. It picturaise the climatic state of America in a Particular season. Poets also interested in a climate change rather than scientific. The poet reveals the climatic change through the description of a beauty. The beauty of daffodils flowers reflect as a image



FIG: 3(DAFFODILES FLOWER IN AMERICA)



FIG: 4 (LAKE DISTRICT IN NORTHERN ENGLAND)

Theme of Nature and Landscape in English Romanticism and American Transcendentalism in Poetry

**By
K. Keerthana**

The Creative Launcher

An International, Open Access, Peer Reviewed, Refereed, E- Journal in English
UGC Approved

In this poem *Mont Blanc* by P. B. Shelley describes about the Mountains in a first-person poetic persona addresses the mountain in its inspirational majesty. In the first stanza, he considers “the everlasting universe of things” that he infers from observing nature. Human thought in evaluation is delicate, gaining its impressiveness from the natural world that it thinks about. The second stanza focuses on the mountain itself, with its scarps, trees, and ice, but together something huge and sublime; it is dizzying, too big even for independent thought to capture it.

The feeling that he cannot realize it all remains; as he works to take it all in, the peaceful mountain awaits, unmoved. He is curious to resort to the mythology, but understand that the nature is too strong for that, for merely human things. The wise see nature’s reality. In the fourth stanza, he expands past the mountain to more of the natural world, which continues as long past in a human life; we do not have contact to that the rare immortality. Nature’s power, or the mountain’s, are like an overpowering glacier. In the last stanza, he turns his eyes back to the mountain’s features, finally finishing that the spirit of nature is in the mountain, which finally teaches him that knowing such things fills his mind with a welcome, silent solitude.

In this poem the poet describes about the beauty of Mountains the Mountain is Mont Blanc is one of the highest Mountain in Europe, its otherwise called as a White Mountain which located in the Alpes range of Mountain. Through this poem the poet describe about the Apperance. Poets are considered as a Environmentalist. ‘not historian alone describe about the nature even poet also has same rights to describe’. The image of Mont Blanc Mountain is given



FIG: 5 (THE NATURE OF A MOUNT BLAC MOUNTAIN AT EUROPE)

ECOLOGICAL PROBLEM:

Theme of Nature and Landscape in English Romanticism and American Transcendentalism in Poetry

**By
K. Keerthana**

The Creative Launcher

An International, Open Access, Peer Reviewed, Refereed, E- Journal in English
UGC Approved

Pollution, Global Warming, Overpopulation, Natural Resource Depletion, Waste Disposal, Climate Change, Loss of Biodiversity, Deforestation, Ocean Acidification, Ozone Layer Depletion, Urban Sprawl, and Genetic Engineering.

The above problems are challenging problems in nature faced by an environmentalist, socialist to overcome it. The poet has also the equal rights to make awareness about nature from literate to illiterate through their views in the form of poetic lines. In this paper bring out the Ecological poems from two different themes that is Romanticism and Transcentralism the poet describes about the beauty of nature which the thing they enjoyed. But, later it can be decreased from century to century. The poet also suggests the prevention method to aware of nature. In this paper brings out the problems of ecology through poets' ideas.

In this paper bring out the importance of ecology in the view of Romanticism and Transcentralism, this two forms are different but the concept refers is nature. The Poet plays a significant role in the Nation, poet has a socialistic responsibility about Natural Environment towards the people. Nature is the Mother of God. In ancient period Human consider Nature as God's, they afraid of Nature and Worship God. They consider the planet like Sun, Moon, Fire and afraid and consider it as God. It is the condition surrounds by the People it reflects by the Author in their poems.

In present age the people lead a materialistic life, they fail to enjoy their surroundings in and around him. Nature has a power to create a new thing and has the same power to destroy a thing in and around him, its like the two sides of a same coin. Many people consider Nature is an enjoyable one but its sudden change and cause the destruction to the people.

This problems are discuss by many responsibility persons like Environmentalist, Social Activist and Authors. People situation is changed from century by century like a passion towards Nature also has been changed. Change is a word can't be change in the world but everything has been changed. Even though Poet's Idea and their thoughts live in their works. Literature is like a history to record a thing in the present century.

Responsibility come from the individual mind not from teaching and other thing, in a society, everyone aware or nature, and conscious about nature.

‘Nature has the power to destroy a think or create a world’

References

Bate, Jonathan. *Romantic Ecology: Wordsworth and the Environmental Tradition*. U.K: Routledge

Theme of Nature and Landscape in English Romanticism and American Transcendentalism in Poetry

**By
K. Keerthana**

The Creative Launcher

An International, Open Access, Peer Reviewed, Refereed, E- Journal in English
UGC Approved

Pub., 1991. Print.

Carroll, Stephen and Rankin. William. *Introducing Environmental Politics*. Cambridge: Icon Books, 2000. Print.

Jamieson, Dale, Ed. *A Companion to Environmental Philosophy*. Cambridge: Blackwell Publication, 2001. Print.

Murphy, Patrick D. *Literature, Nature, and Other: Ecofeminist Critique*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 1995. Print.

Sedarat, Roger. *New England Landscape History in New England Poetry*. India: Cambridge U. P., 2011. Print.

Figure:1

https://www.google.co.in/search?q=natural+landscape+of+tintern+abbey&source=lnms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiX5d7d5prWAhUPT48KHXS7DFQQ_AUICigB&biw=1215&bih=566&dpr=1.13#imgrc=xaWLw6dHIF58fM:

Figure:2

https://www.google.co.in/search?biw=1215&bih=566&tbm=isch&sa=1&q=west+minister+bridge&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiX5d7d5prWAhUPT48KHXS7DFQQ_AUICigB&biw=1215&bih=566&dpr=1.13#imgdii=tI3wM4hLOlb3oM:&imgrc=ZldexgVzLgIS4M:

Figure:3

https://www.google.co.in/search?q=daffodils+flower&source=lnms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiX5d7d5prWAhUPT48KHXS7DFQQ_AUICigB&biw=1215&bih=566&dpr=1.13#imgdii=tI3wM4hLOlb3oM:&imgrc=ZldexgVzLgIS4M:

Figure: 4

https://www.google.co.in/search?biw=1215&bih=566&tbm=isch&sa=1&q=northern+england+landscape&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiX5d7d5prWAhUPT48KHXS7DFQQ_AUICigB&biw=1215&bih=566&dpr=1.13#imgrc=e5o4N556VcaI8M:

Figure: 5

https://www.google.co.in/search?biw=1215&bih=566&tbm=isch&sa=1&q=THE+NATURE+OF+A+MOUNT+BLAC+MOUNTAIN+AT+EUROPE&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiX5d7d5prWAhUPT48KHXS7DFQQ_AUICigB&biw=1215&bih=566&dpr=1.13#imgrc=k0TXPnTg5ZDUCM:

Theme of Nature and Landscape in English Romanticism and American Transcendentalism in Poetry

By

K. Keerthana