

## Wordsworth and the 18<sup>th</sup> Poetical Creative Ability

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### ARTICLE INFO

#### Article history

Received: September 25, 2018

Accepted: November 18, 2018

Published: February 28, 2019

Volume: 10 Issue: 1

Advance access: January 2019

Conflicts of interest: None

Funding: None

#### Key words:

Nature,  
Spirituality,  
Romantic Era,  
Urbanization,  
Industrial Revolution,  
Environment Change,  
Pollution

### ABSTRACT

Wordsworth stands as a supreme poet in nature. He is a devotee and worshiper of nature. His affection for nature is more evident than any other poet who writes about nature. Wordsworth has an original and full-fledged philosophy about nature. In his poetics works, there are three notable aspects of nature that are identifiable. One of the facts is that Wordsworth believes that nature is a living person. He believes that nature has a divine spirit and it is available in all objects of nature. This divine spirit is known as mystical pantheism and illustrated in *The Prelude*. Wordsworth also believes that there is joy in the company of nature. Nature has healing attributes and heals hearts struck by sorrow. Wordsworth also emphasizes the influence of nature on morality. He depicts nature as a great teacher because of the great morals taught to man. He believed that there is consciousness between man and nature. In his writings, there is an inclination towards nature. There is no writing that does not have significance to nature. His writings warns the readers about the neglect of nature, but the people do not take her writings seriously. The writings foresee a harsh environment that makes the life of man difficult. Many years after his writing, people face numerous environmental challenges that make life very difficult.

### OVERVIEW

Wordsworth experiences and observations about the trends in the world made his poetic work focus on the issues relating to nature. His visits to various developed countries made him discover tremendous destruction of the surrounding. Trade had influenced people to sell anything that exist in the world, making the indefensible life forms to be part of market products. He was surprised that it is only human beings that were not auctioned at the market. Man was not considerate of the state of his natural environment because of his materialist nature and the pursuit of wealth. Wordsworth discovered that urban life trivialities could make a man weak and passive. The ideal man for Wordsworth is a man who is not indifferent and passive to the surrounding. A man should devote himself to serve the society needs. Wordsworth views man as a deputy to God, and man should take care of everything that exists in the world. Wordsworth disassociated himself from the French revolutionaries because they violated the ethical and moral values because of their desire for power. The slogan by Wordsworth of back to nature was influenced by the feeling of the fraternal love by nature. In the 'The Prelude', every object of nature had a divine spirit, and Wordsworth hoped

that the faith in the spirit would help man understand the ideal nature. Nature has been an inspiration of most of Wordsworth poetic works. His works identify the problem in nature and offers solutions to the same (Wordsworth & Sheats, 1982).

#### Problem Statement

Industrial revolution and urbanization led to massive exploitation of natural resources. The impact of exploitation of these natural resources led to negative living conditions characterized by congestions, diseases and environmental pollution. The effects were severe, and there was no action from government or other organization to condemn the deterioration of natural resources. Romanticist writers came up with art work that aimed at addressing the issue of natural resources. Wordsworth passion for nature influences him to specialize in literature that talks of about nature.

#### Research Aim

The objective of this research is to investigate the contribution of Wordsworth's literature in addressing issues relating to nature.

## Background

During the life of Wordsworth, it was an era of revolutions. During this era, Britain was undergoing through numerous changes in all aspects of human life. Man was doing a re-assessment of his moral and physical being. There were numerous experiments, and expansions and man had to explore natural resources. Urbanization of England led to massive exploitation of resources such as iron, coal, and textile. The effects of urbanization were very severe, and this led to poor living conditions. This period led to the emergence of the Romantic Movement. The writers and poets were expressing their thoughts of the happenings in the world giving a warning of the possible challenges that may arise in future. The writers and the poets attempted to move away from the established customs and traditions. In England, the Romantic Movement was spearheaded by poets such as Wordsworth and others who led to its development (Wordsworth, 2018).

## Research Questions

The following are the questions that will be addressed by the research

Question 1: What influenced Wordsworth to focus on nature literature?

Question 2: What is the concept of nature from Wordsworth's literature?

Question 3: What is the relationship between man and nature?

## Justification

The research study will focus on the literature works of Wordsworth that focus on nature. Since he started writing, he focused on various aspects of nature. During the romantic era, he and other authors focused on various revolutionary literatures. In most of the literature about nature, Wordsworth has been a notable author because of his immense contribution. The work of Wordsworth remains an important precedent to authors who write about nature.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

The childhood of Wordsworth was spent in nature, and this led him to have a strong relationship with nature. A nurse both kindly and stern, she planted seeds of understanding and sympathy in that growing mind. The presence of natural scenes such as the monster shape of mountains and the grassy river banks played a critical role in the development of his mind. He records most of these natural scenes in "The Prelude" for what his mind could learn and not for themselves. Nature was both impulse and law and in heaven and earth, bower and glade, Wordsworth consciousness of a spirit that restrained and kindled. In many exciting ways, which he never explained, nature interfered upon his pastimes and escapades, even when he was speaking memorable things indoors. He did not ask nature neither was he aware of her presence. She triggered her attention by influencing the sensations of joy or fear which affected him emotionally and bodily. The sensations were fixed

in his memory indelibly after some time. Most of the instances in the book "The Prelude" show primitive animalism at work with the psychological disturbances and emotions affect the scenes in a manner that nature appears to be nurturing by fear and beauty. Wordsworth in "Tintern Abbey" explores his development of love for nature. When he was a boy, he considered nature as just a playground. As he developed, he started to seek and love nature, but he was mainly attracted by its aesthetic or sensuous appeal. He finally acquires an intellectual and spiritual character and realized the role of nature as an educator and teacher (Wordsworth & Sheats, 1982).

Most of the romanticist including Wordsworth rose against the authority and were revolutionaries. All the romanticist writer focus on a better world with most of the works inclined to nature. In the sonnet *The World is Too Much with Us*, Wordsworth indicates that "Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers and give our hearts away." The effect of industrialization led to corruption and vanity among the upper class. The poem indicates the rustic life in the city because in the rural areas the permanent and beautiful forms of nature incorporate with the passion of the men. In the 'The Lyrical Ballads', Wordsworth emphasizes the morality of the rustic characters the lessons derived from wisdom and morality from them. Wordsworth uses nature in his poetic works as a solution to an ailing world. He shows how nature nurtures, restores and heals the soul from the negative effects of materialism and industrialization. Wordsworth does not only see the beauty of nature, but there are other deep aspects that come out of it. There is a strong relationship between man and nature, and man has a responsibility of maintaining the relationship. The freedom of human is accompanied by a realization of the relationship between man and other God's creations (Wordsworth & Hutchinson, 2000). Wordsworth indicates in *The Prelude*:

--- I was only Contend, when with bliss ineffable  
I felt the sentiment of being spread  
O'er all that moves and all that seemeth still;  
O'er all that, lost beyond the reach of thought  
And human knowledge, to the human eye  
Invisible, yet liveth to the heart.

Wordsworth believes that the character of a man is developed and formed through participation in the balance and harmony of nature. He indicates that people are at their best when they are closest to nature. Nature consoles the afflicted and adds sunshine to a dull life. Nature helps people feel and think positively, become virtuous and see clearly (Eliot, 2016). In his song, he adds that:

Purifying thus  
The element of feeling and of thought,  
And sanctifying, by such discipline,  
Both pain and fear, until we recognize  
A grandeur in the beating of the heart.

## METHODOLOGY

The research has been based on qualitative research method. The data has been gathered from various articles and books that discuss the contribution of Wordsworth literature. The research is based on review of past literature. There is no primary research making a qualitative research suitable.

## FINDINGS

From the review of past works by Wordsworth, nature was critical aspect in the works. The love for nature influenced him to write a lot about the destruction of natural resources. Wordsworth is more concerned with the spiritual significance of nature than the sensuous manifestation. The daffodil and primrose are symbols of the message of nature to man. He believes that a sunrise is not just a pageant of color, but is a moment of spiritual nourishment. The aim of Wordsworth is to combine his poetic presentment of nature with the spiritual ecstasy (Burra, 1978). This aim is the source of some of his greatest works such as 'Tintern Abbey'. He writes:

My heart was full; I made no vows but vows  
Were then made for me; bound unknown to me  
Was given, that I should be, else sinning greatly,  
A dedicated Spirit.

In one of the adverts about 'The Lyrical Ballads', Wordsworth indicates that the themes of the poem are of different subjects that interest the man. The poem contains inclination to nature, human character, and human interests. The poems contain elements of natural landscape and nature that illuminate the sufferings and problems of man and also a source of pleasure, spirituality of mankind and nature. The nerve breaking sounds in the cities and towns it is not possible to have the spiritual edification of man. Spending time in a place that has natural beauty and the view of the universe provides enlightenment and solace to the soul. Man can discover his poetry of analysis and humanity in the company of nature. Wordsworth believed that a lost paradise cannot be regained and that made him focus on beautification of a concrete world (Wordsworth, 1998).

## DISCUSSION

Wordsworth was determined to fight for the freedom of both the man and what lives around a man. In his works, Wordsworth is portrayed as a prophet whose work is to heal the wounded humanity. Wordsworth in the poem "The World is too much with us" asserts that man has committed his heart to materialistic progress. Man is not able to think clearly because of thinking material things. Man should restore communication with nature because this will lead his soul to peace and contentment. Wordsworth asserts that the greatness and perfection of man depend on nature, but not the worldly and physical path. The worldly desires push man to many challenges and hardships (Wordsworth & Sheats, 1982). Man should overcome all hindrances and avoid all harm to progress. Wordsworth believed that man would never achieve progress in development if he deviates from nature. He observed that if man becomes blood-thirsty and can cause great harm to humanity if he does not observe restraint to life. Wordsworth says that the solution to the worries of a man is a simple life in the lap of nature. In his work *The Prelude*, he illustrates how he was brought up in the company of nature, and how beauty and fear fostered him alike. Wordsworth shows that nature is beautiful and it frightens. Nature is sometimes rough, but that roughness is for the benefit of man. He depicts that the harmony and beauty of nature, and enjoys the bliss of solitude. He indicates that nature

is full of blessings, and being in communication with nature brings peace of mind and happiness (Wordsworth, 2010).

Virtue is one of the values that Wordsworth believes is important in enhancing nation building. He is against the materialistic nature of man that was portrayed in the eighteenth century. Wordsworth poems are about protesting against the effects of urbanization. Wordsworth indicates that mountains are a framework in which social order can maintain itself, but not just objects of nature. In most of his poems, he indicates that people living in areas encircled by mountains have close affection (Wordsworth, 2018). In the poem "The song at the Feast Brougham Castle" he writes:

Love had he found in huts where poor men lie,  
His daily teachers had been woods and hills,  
The silence that is in the starry skies,  
The sleep that is among the lonely hills.

## CONCLUSION

The objective of the research was to investigate the contribution of Wordsworth on nature. The author's literary works have been significant especially in relation to nature. His poetic works have been skillfully composed to explain the significant of nature as well as the relationship between man and nature. Wordsworth used his poetry to write about various issues that affect nature, with an aim of enhancing the preservation of natural environment. Most of the readers of the Wordsworth literature indicate that the focus of nature by the author was influenced by the huge changes that he experienced during the emergence of industrial revolution. The industrial revolution sparked a lot of attention to different people, and each individual raised a caution about the effect of industrialization activities. Wordsworth and other romanticist writers were critical in highlighting the negative effects of industrialization to the environment. The literature of Wordsworth was important because most of the people would relate the cause and effect on most of industrialization activities to the nature (Wordsworth & Sheats, 1982). Many years after Wordsworth literature on the evils of industrialization, people have come to view the author as a prophet of nature because most of the things that he wrote about have passed.

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