

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Vol.6.Issue.1.2019 (Jan-March)

ISSN
INTERNATIONAL
STANDARD
SERIAL
NUMBER
INDIA
2395-2628(Print):2349-9451(online)

NATURE AS AN ELEMENT IN THE POEMS OF JOHN KEATS AND THOMAS HARDY

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[doi: https://doi.org/10.33329/ijelr.6119.64](https://doi.org/10.33329/ijelr.6119.64)



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ABSTRACT

This paper is a comparative study on nature poems of John Keats and Thomas Hardy's perspective of positivity and negativity towards nature in their poems. The theme of nature is a popular choice among famous writers of the time like Thomas Hardy and John Keats. Writers can express themselves through nature in a way the people can relate. The first thing to be noticed when reading the poems is that the writers use nature in different ways to show their feelings whether it be happy, sad, beautiful or bleak.

Key words: nature, positivity, negativity, feelings

Introduction

The Darkling Thrush by Thomas Hardy is more bleak, sad, dark, dull poem. The title Darkling thrush illustrates that the poem is written in a dark style of writing. Negativity was shown through Hardy's choice of diction and his style of writing. Words used in the poem like Haunted, Desolate hard and corpse represents the dark or dull perspective. The mood of the poem suddenly changes when Hardy view on life completely turns around when he sees the aged thrush frail, gaunt and small, which is used to portray a figure much like himself through the theme of nature in negative thought using the similes in his style of writing to grasp the readers imagination and full attention. Like strings of broken lyres this shows Hardy's dark unknowingness of what will come of the death of agriculture. The thrush is whistling an evensong and is just getting on with life and doesn't think of what may come in the future. Hardy's spirit and the poem then starts to create a sense of a calm atmosphere. To Autumn by John Keats on the other hand is a poem with a more warming illustration of nature used by Keats to express his views and how he feel about nature. He was an admirer and love of nature. Everything in nature for him is full of wonder and mystery the rising sun, the moving cloud, the growing bud and the swimming fish. He enjoys nature's beauty and shown through his poetry. He believes nature as that a thing of beauty is a joy forever. In the first line we can see that Keats use of nature in his poem is more positive and tranquil way. The example being Mists and Mellow giving a senses of ripeness, summer time and harvest season in nature. Mood changes from late summer to mid-autumn as the crop has been harvested and the hard work has been done. There is a sense of relaxation and enjoyment in fulfilment the work.

In last stanza of the Ode to Autumn is a stanza full of suspense and awaiting the next harvest time. Where are the songs of spring is written in the first line of the bird and last stanza to show that the agricultural way of life is one of suspense, hard work and finally of rewards.

Nature is a theme that is often found in Thomas Hardy's poetry to take on a role as it is personified either as himself or as the human race as a whole or used to make a statement about mankind. His disillusionment and isolation from society at the time, not forgetting that it could also be a rather pessimistic outlook on the life time he has left.

Keats was astonished to see happiness of the Nightingale. Before hearing the song of the bird, he tried many ways forgetting worries. Keats felt a tranquil and continual joy in the song of Nightingale and makes him completely happy. It indicates to unite with nature and gives eternal happiness for mankind. Nature works as a source of generating happiness and is a best support for human to live a happy life. Keats brings out human beings life has to be taken in a positive attitude which is compared to the nature. The Romanticist idea of nature reflecting the Human sense of self is abundantly present in the poem. Keats continues this desire to find the ideal world of nature in his own life when he identifies with the world of Nightingale who is immersed deep in the natural setting.

Thomas Hardy's *During Wind and Rain* poet views the happy family spending a winter evening inside a room. He hears songs of happy mood but he view in negative perspective. Song of happiness never hear forever it has an end. That is Human beings death or end of life.

As in John Keats poem *Ode to Nightingale* he enjoys nature while he was sad and become happy after hearing the song of nightingale. But in *During Wind and Rain* by Thomas Hardy was happy, he thinks of the death of human each poet views nature in happy perspective.

According to Thomas Hardy nature was viewed and explored only for man's materialistic purposes when he is ruthlessly exploited and treated as an instrument man can never get peace, tranquillity and spirituality consolation from her degrading on natural materialism given man pain than pleasure.

The *Human seasons* by John Keats each period of human life has various feelings and thoughts. Spring season is similar to childhood innocence. Poet enjoys his childhood days with innocence, urge for the outdoors and tremendous appetite for fun and play. Keats commonly compares normal life to season. Childhood days were they have full of happiness, enjoy with nature's beauty. Poet also remembers his childhood days feel happy.

Afterwards by Thomas Hardy also look upon a life cycle and opinion of neighbours after the death of poet. This suggest that nature progress without him and the narrator begins to ponder if his vivid appreciation of the world will go unnoticed and unspoken

Birth and death are common life cycle of human being. Which was enjoyed in childhood days and sad for death. Which were John Keats and Thomas Hardy views in different perspective of nature in their own thought.

According to, John Keats poetry nature was view in a positive way with joyful of life. Keats was one of the greatest sources of inspiration for Keats. Relationship with nature was spiritual he looked at nature with eye of the positive view, recreating the physical world including all living things.

The relationship between man and nature is portrayed as somewhat problematic, but not beyond rescue, some blessed hope, where if he knew and it was unaware. This would suggest that Hardy is representing nature as something that can be learned from, in order to repair the problems of the current time. Industrialization was wrecking the countryside, leaving the bare of trees and people as the young all left to pursue careers in the cities. All the life is drained from the country, yet the thrush is still singing to prove this wrong that if nature is given faith, humans can perhaps benefit from the increased happiness to share what the thrush has. It shows nature as a freeing influence on man, man and that they cannot truly be their natural selves unless they are within nature and not placed within the strict confines of respectability that were in place within Victorian society. Hardy uses nature in his poetry in a variety of ways to portrayed nature in many different lights and personas. To make political point about Victorian society and hardy shows that nature can

be cruel , forgiving ,harsh, loving and just as diverse as mankind in fact, show similar characteristics to man as a race most of the time.

Nature was one of the greatest sources of inspiration for Keats. Keats and nature since he was a city boy. For this relationship with nature was spiritual, he looked at nature with eye of the positive view recreating the physical world including all living things.

Nature was a major theme among the Romantics, but Keats turned objects into poetic images. When he already knew that he was going to die, he looked back at childhood and realized that concrete contact with natural objects at that time was responsible for the positive associations they continued to communicate in adulthood.

From this discussion have drawn that nature is a theme of two sides bleakness or beauty. And either way can be used to expresses the writers feelings and that is theme is so popular amongst talented writers like Thomas Hardy and John Keats.

Overall the paper deals with Nature incorporated in literature and art. It is implied in Poetry especially in Primitive Poetry, Romantic Poetry, Victorian age. Which focused more on Nature. Many works holds theme of Nature. It gives a brief description of nature and their influence in some poetry of John Keats and Thomas Hardy with brief biography of both poets. It contains John Keats Poetry, his view on nature in positive perspective. He enjoys the beautiful sights and scenes of nature and he believed that "A Thing of Beauty is a Joy forever" (Kanadaey V R pg.54). Which comparing with Thomas Hardy's poetry, his views on nature in negative perspective. His love for nature led him to the observation of nature's working and its impact on the existence of life with his views on Man Nature relationship. Then both poems of Thomas Hardy and John Keats made a comparative study of both nature's poet on different perspective views of Nature-John Keats positive perspective on nature and Thomas Hardy's negative view on nature. Finally renders a wrapping up Oof the whole thesis that deals with the influence of nature in the poems of Thomas Hardy and John Keats. Discussion proved that Nature is a theme of both sadness and happiness. This paper will be useful for further studies by analysing how different writers viewed nature and how it influenced them.

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