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NATURE AS SYMBOLISM IN
D.H. LAWRENCE'S *WOMEN IN LOVE*

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ABSTRACT

This Research paper examines the use of nature as Symbolism in D. H. Lawrence's *Women in Love*. Lawrence uses nature, both as a character in itself and as an essential element in the creation of his main characters. As well as acting in the Wordsworthian fashion as mentor and muse, nature is capable of functioning as both mirror (reflector) and/or lamp (contributor).

D.H. Lawrence's *Women in Love* reveal an unconscious relationship with nature, his true unconscious self is laid bare; that is, in comparison to nature's vitality and completeness, the character shows himself to be equally or potentially as vital and complete. Here we find that Lawrence preference to unconseiousness, the truest source of human identity. His artistic problem, therefore, is how to present the unconscious of individual characters to reveal them on the deepest level of existence, the level which he refers to as carbonic.

Keywords: Nature, reflector, contributor, potentially, unconscious, carbonic

Introduction

Nature is one of the most powerful and mysterious forces of the universe that influences man greatly. Nature has always been an indispensable part of literature. To understand literature from all angles it becomes necessary for readers to see how nature has been treated in literature by various novelists. Nature occupies an important place in literature and the novel particularly. Nature is used by all creative writers to create the proper atmosphere in the novel. At times, nature itself becomes a dominating character which has got its own personality. It influences all the characters in the novel. So, the natural aspects of the novel are as important as the social-cultural, geopolitical and economic aspects. If we remove nature from literature, it will appear dull and dry.

Therefore, nature has been an indispensable part of literature. All great novelists in English literature have paid great attention to nature and have given beautiful descriptions of nature. They have used nature to create a suitable atmosphere in the novel, at times; nature itself becomes the character in the novel. Novelists have used nature to show the hidden and abstract life as well as the psychological condition of the characters reflected through the objects of nature. Nature becomes an active participant in the novels. D. H. Lawrence is a well-known English novelist who has given beautiful descriptions of nature. He has treated nature abundantly in his novels.

The contemporary novelists of D. H. Lawrence has also treated nature with multiple and highly symbolic meanings. James Joyce, one of the

contemporary novelists of D. H. Lawrence, has used nature to create those things which can't simply be expressed in language. He has used many symbols from the world of nature in order to make his point of view more powerful and convincing. His use of nature in his works lends richness to his works and makes imaginative interpretations of it possible.

James Joyce's treatment of nature is extremely symbolic. So it is obligatory to know the symbolic significance of nature used by James Joyce in order to have complete understanding of his fiction. He uses rose, water, birds and clouds in his works. The rose is used to show the nature and the main character, it shows the changes in attitude of the characters. The rose, generally, is used to indicate both sensual and spiritual aspects of love. James Joyce has used roses of different colors with different meanings.

James Joyce has used the green rose for Ireland; the white rose suggests catholic purity, while the red-rose shows passion. Both red and white roses show the conflict in the mind of the character. The conflict is between the flesh and the spirit. Water symbolizes disorder in the life of the character. The flowing water indicates disorder while the standing water shows ordered life, the symbol of birds and their flight indicates freedom. James Joyce in his famous novel *Dubliners* describes:

The glow of a late autumn sunset covered the grass Plots and walks it cast a shower of kindly golden dust on the untidy nurses and decrepit old man drowsed on the benches... [Joyce 1914: 52- 53].

James Joyce, through this extract, indicates the kind of nature towards sorrowful and tortured mind of human beings. It indicates that man, in the lap of nature, is always happy and satisfied.

Symbolism of Nature in *Women in Love*

A woman in *Love* is interpreted as a novel of relationships between adult male and woman, human and nature, and mind and body. David Herbert Lawrence's point of horizon along these relationships comes up its best expression through the position of psychology to the symbolism of nature. It also suggests regenerating natural and inexorable relationships between adult male and womanhood, and man and nature to explore the

secret of the spirit. F.R. Leaves in his outstanding literary work about D. H. Lawrence. He tells that *Women in Love* prove D. H. Lawrence as one of the greatest literary artists, and Lawrence is a modern novelist and uses a lot of modern writing techniques to mould the characters. The woman in *Love* is especially a book which "has an art form more contrary to nature and meaningful structure". The characters in the novel are extraordinary in their personalities which are closely related to the bible and have symbolic meanings. *Women in Love* is one of Lawrence's masterpieces and also one of the important novels of the 20th C. Nevertheless, this novel is difficult to comprehend and analyze Lawrence's art thoroughly in novel writing. Some other view is that different readers interpret it in different positions. Many readers try to interpret it from a modern point of view and attach much importance to the writing modes and through which to reflect the characters and to exhibit one of the ideas of the novel - the reinvention of the love of the eccentrics. In *Women in Love*, Lawrence uses a different technique which is contrary to the traditional to arrange the social organization of the novel so as to achieve his end. It is genuine that the narrative structure of *Women in Love* is complicated. On one hand, it has lucid narration technique to make the outline of its root word; on the other hand, it causes the psychological description which is singular and has profound symbolism. Maybe it is the complex structure and unique creative writing style that stirred the interests of the critics as well as readers to study and further explore the unparalleled literary charm of D. H. Lawrence. *Women in Love* is full of ideas. The construction and growth of its qualities are instantly connected with the subject of the novel, and vividly expresses Lawrence's thinking about the evolution of modern man's civilization and his theory about the relationship between male and female.

D. H. Lawrence notice nature from close quarters, this closest in nature enables him to bring to us a beautiful description of the nature. His vision falls on every object, of nature. R.K. Sinha remarks:

Nature is thoroughly alive in his novels
Trees, plants, Flowers; Rivers all attract his

attention again and again. In every description of natural object there is a novel of its own [R.K. Sinha, 1985: 227].

Lawrence was really interesting with flower. He depicts the flowers as charm and color, and he also describes them as separate individual entities. Here is the illustration for *Women in Love*:

For the moment, sunshine fell brightly into the churchyard; there was a vague scent of sap and of spring, perhaps of violets from off the graves. Some white daisies were out, bright as angles. In the air, the unfolding leaves of a copper beech were blood-red [Lawrence, 1987:14].

At the view of flowers many characters feel wonderful. Lawrence mentions that Ursula and Birkin are bound at their situation:

The little red distillate flowers had some strange, almost Mystic-passionate attraction for her [Lawrence, pg. 41].

David Herbert Lawrence's travel across the world helped him to have knowledge about flowers in which found in many states. The change of seasons brings charming blossoms and he drew the flowers springing up in different months of the year. Lawrence remarked:

It is mid-February before the first violets, the first crocus, and the First primrose. And in mid - February one may find a violet, a Primrose, a crocus in England... [Lawrence, Page: 49].

Lawrence explain with more details about the blossoms for flowers in the beautiful month, he mentioned:

And now that it is March, there is a rush of flowers. Down by other stream, which turns sideways to the sun, and has Tangles of briar and bramble, down where the hellebore has Stood so wan and dignified all winter, there are now white Tufts of primroses, suddenly calm. [Lawrence, Page: 50].

Conclusion

The discourse of nature in literature is old as literature itself. No work of art is without Nature, as the relation of Nature with Man is also old as the birth of man. Man is the product of his natural

surroundings. It shapes man's mental and physical facets of his personality. The literature discusses human life with all its colors; and the writer describing human life in his work, makes use of Nature. The basic reason behind this treatment of Nature in work of art is to get the reader realize the novel or the poem because every work of artistic creation is mysterious, difficult to grasp. Consequently, the author deliberately makes use of Nature in his work to reveal the hidden and abstract ideas and ideologies of the study of art.

Natural phenomenon is easy to understand; man or the reader is acquainted with Natural objects, Changes in seasons and so on. Hence, Nature is abundantly used in literature and natural objects such as tree, leaves, waterfall, flowers, the moon, the sun, rivers and ocean. All these natural objects have got some symbolic meanings.

Therefore, in this study an effort has been constituted to discuss how D.H. Lawrence treats Nature in his novel *Women in Love* to communicate human experiences such as psychological, mystical, spiritual and other spirits of the characters in the novel. He treats Nature highly symbolically to reveal to the reader abstract world of the novel to the reader.

Literature deals with human life, it tries to explore all those mystic, invisible, hidden emotions, passions and ideas of human life. So, the objective of the study of literature is human life which is very mysterious in nature. Human relations are highly complex and complicated. It is not an easy chore to learn and interpret the human judgment, so the author deliberately makes the role of nature in his oeuvre. Another reason of the use of Nature in literature is that the language, the author uses in describing human life, fails to communicate the inner reality of the characters in the novel. Language is also very mysterious as it is connected with the mind of the author. When language is used as the medium to express and explore the inner reality of human life, it may fail to reveal it in the work of art, then the author goes for some symbols, images and other objects through which he communicates the reality.

Lawrence treats Nature in his novel *Women in Love* with deeper symbolic meanings. He provides beautiful descriptions of, Nature, which give the reader; pure pleasure and also provide them a deeper understanding of Nature and its dynamics. This also throws light upon the Lawrence's vision of the Nature and man's relation to nature.

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