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- Hunker, H.L. and A.J. Wright (1963), "Factors of Industrial Location in Ohio" Ohio State University, Nigeria.

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#### PORTRAYAL OF NATURE IN ENGLISH LITERATURE AND CONSERVATION OF NATURE

### SANGEETHA .J JUNIOR ASST. PROFESSOR NEW HORIZON COLLEGE KASTURI NAGAR

#### ABSTRACT

The essence and importance of nature has been beautifully portrayed in English literature. Nature is depicted as a woman, a person, a child and also through various emotions, to be loving, friendly, inspiring and kind. Nature acts as a gentle guide to man as his association with nature in inseparable. Man connects every emotion of his with nature \_ happiness, sorrow, solitude, anger, romance and hatred. His civilization starts from nature and his beliefs are so strongly linked with nature that he even worships it in many forms. Till date there are many writers who convey great messages quoted with nature as the basic theme and have attempted to make man realize various truths and his responsibilities towards protecting the ecosystem for the benefit of all creatures. My paper is an attempt to create awareness by bringing to the fore nature as depicted in literature and remind the importance of nature which people are slowing forgetting. It is an attempt to conserve nature by quoting some prominent writings of eminent writers and their magnanimous portrayal of nature in English literature.

#### **KEYWORDS**

English literature, nature, ecosystem, pesticides, Conservation, government laws.

#### INTRODUCTION

ature manifests itself in all its splendour. It is indispensable for man to live without it. Its enormous beauty is in the core for living of all species on earth. It is time we realize that it is the only home we have. The endless beauty of nature has been the topic of various writers ever since man began to communicate through writing. The power of nature is something man cannot defeat at all times but its beauty can definitely be magnified with his efficient ways of describing it in literature. The various time periods of English literature from the old English literature -450 to 1066 or middle English literature 1066-1500 and the renaissance till 1660 have all had various oral and written descriptions of nature. Shakespeare too has made use of nature to make man understand his relationship to nature. Following which are also many other great works of poets who have written about nature in English literature.

#### FINDINGS

Aristotle said that poetry is the most philosophic of all writings. Its object is truth not individual and local but general operative. Notwithstanding upon external testimony but carried alive into the heart by person. The poet writes with the intention of giving immediate pleasure to human beings as a man and not of he being any professional like lawyer, physician, mariner or philosopher [1] A poet is a man speaking to men, a person endued with more sensibility, enthusiasm and tenderness and especially a person with greater knowledge of human nature. Good poetry is the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings but through this is true poems to which any value can be attached will never produce on any variety of subjects, but by a man who being possessed of more than usual organic sensibility has also thought long and deep. True to this there are many poets and writers who have described nature in various dimensions.

Marcel Isnard argues that nature also means the principal power that animates or even creates the objects of nature[2] In Ode to the West wind, Shelly's persons is also aware of the passage of time and so asks the wind to 'Make me thy lyre'. Expressing the romantic desire as Bennet observes to transcend himself to become nature.[3] Romantic poets are basically nature poets as they explore nature to the fullest. The philosophical reflection on natures creative powers lead to an ultimate consideration of man's relationship with the universe. In UK Phillip Gorse and Sarah Bowdich Lee were two popular nature writers in the early VictorianEra. Phillip Henry Gorse was an English naturalist and popularizer of natural sciences. He invented the sea water aquarium and also the study of marine biology [4] Sarah Bowdich Lee had intent in nature and has written an excellent work of natural history. The fresh water fishes of Great Britain.

Shakespeare in his first sonnet states 'From fairest creatures we desire increase'- that is we desire beautiful creatures to multiply in order to preserve their beauty's rose for the world. His sonnet 18 is simply a statement of praise about the beauty of the beloved summer which is personified as the 'eyes of heaven with its gold complexion' carrying the beauty of the beloved down to future generations. The eternal summer shall not fade precisely because it is embodied in the sonnet. His sonnet 73 invokes a series of metaphors to characterize the nature of what he perceives to be his old age. He compares age to 'time of year', late autumn. Old age is compared as 'after sunset fadeth in the west' and also compares himself to the glowing remnants of a fire, which lies on the ashes of his youth, like the fire is extinguished by time. His sonnet 130 also compares the speakers lover to a number of other beauties and finally concludes that his love is rare and valuable. Any love in which false comparisons were involved to describe the loved ones beauty is not true.

Wordsworth, well known as a priest of nature or Nature poet not just offered a beautiful picture of nature but also illustrated the healing power of nature on the spirit of man. Before him English poetry was poetry of town and drawing room but it was Wordsworth who drew the attention of the readers towards rills and hills skies and stars, rivers and trees. His independence towards nature led him to the heart of common things. Wordsworth's optimism and joy is best summarized through the famous poem "Daffodils". In this poem he suggests that Man's inhumanity appears even darker when compared to the pristine beauty and purity of nature [5] Daffodils was actually written after the death of his brother John that led him to loneliness. This poem was the result of the actual visualization of the daffodils when he was walking with his sister in the woods. Nature permeates the entire poem. Phrases like a crowd, host, continuous as the stars etc., presents deep implications. The Daffodils ousted the sparkling waves in glee and left an everlasting mark in the minds of the readers of this poem[6]

The solitary Reaper reflects Wordsworth's belief in the importance of the natural world, the power of memory and mind. The poem begins with a speaker asking to behold a young girl reaping and singing by herself in the field. Her singing is compared to a nightingale and a cuckoo bird. The poet tries to imagine what the song might be about. Given its sad tune he speculates that it might be about some past sorrow. He ends the poem by saying whatever the girl sings does not matter, it is the beauty of the song that touched his heart and lingers in his mind.[5] The Lyrical Ballads is the fruit of that long winter abroad. It marks both a literal and a literary homecoming. Inspired by memories of his childhood amongst lakes and field, he was determined to return what he increasingly saw as his paternal home.

Nature that has been described by so many writers emphasising the beauty of nature is not understood by the man of today. Man struggles to understand his insatiable need to create to meet the demands of an extra growing population. It has been widely viewed to be destroying the earth's ecosystem and ultimately himself, be it through pollution or the exploitation of natural resources. Nevertheless, if man desists from his destructiveness, nature can be preserved. Rachel carson in her Silent springs has described the hazards man is causing to nature by the use of pesticides. I would like to quote a few chapters from the book to reemphasise the need to conserve nature.

Rachel carson began her four years project of Silent Springs by gathering examples of environmental challenges attributed to DDT (Dichloro-diphyenyl trichloroethane). It was introduced in 1874 by German chemists to win the farmers by killing insecticides. The storage of DDT begins with the smallest conceivable intake of the chemical present as residues on most foodstuff. The overriding theme of Silent Spring is the powerful and often negative effects humans have on the natural world.[7].Her main argument is that pesticides have detrimental effects on the environment named 'Biocides' because the effects are rarely limited to the largest pests. She accuses the chemical industry of intentionally spreading disinfectants. Her book is devoted to pesticides effect on natural ecosystems. If we are going to live so intimately with these chemicals eating and drinking them taking them into the very marrow of our bones, we need to think about the nature and power also.[8] As the tide of chemicals born of industrial age has arisen to engulf our environment a change has come about in the nature of public health problems,

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from smallpox, Cholera, plague we are now conceived with difficult kind of hazard that we have introduced. Multiple health problems created by radiation in all its forms. Can we escape pollution that is so thoroughly distributed throughout the world. [9] we stand now where two roads diverge – a smooth superhighway on which we progress with great speed, but at its end lies disaster. The other road the less travelled by offers our only chance to reach a destination that assures the preservation of our earth.[10]

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

Therefore, nature which is so vital for our living has to be conserved. It is the duty of every individual to do his bit for the world. For individuals of the world to work the governments need to take the lead by making suitable laws and also ensure that those laws are strictly followed by all. Awareness to be created on a large scale in schools, colleges and all educational institutions making every child realize the need for conservation of nature. Like we have moral science we also have environmental studies, but if we merge literature with science and make the readers feel the beauty of nature through reading literature, things will change to a great extent. Every house must have a tree planted, we should create space as we do for our car parking. If a law is made that no electricity or water facility will be provided to the house that does not have at least one tree, by default all will ensure they have a tree in front of their homes. We must stop widening the cities and leave place for forests and agricultural land. Agriculture should be the focus of attention and not sites and flats on that land. If we don't realize the importance of agriculture, we will have to import even basic groceries and land up paying more for fulfilling our basic needs. Instead our focus must be to increase agriculture and increase exports and thereby increase our revenue.

#### CONCLUSION

Literature is taught in schools and colleges even today for the simple reason that it is essential for a child to learn various aspects of life through language, then why not emphasize more on the beauty of nature and its importance through literature. There is abundant information but is not utilized by youngsters as the habit of reading is slowing vanishing. It's time to revive the reading habit and experience the beauty of nature by reading literature.

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