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Analyzing and Comparing The Poetry of William Wordsworth and Ghani Khan: An Eco-critical Perspective

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Abstract: This research study aims to compare the poetry of William Wordsworth and Ghani khan poetry through the lens of Eco-criticism. Various comparative studies have been conducted on their poetry, but no one has used the lens of eco-criticism. Although they both are from different background and literature but still they have some comparable elements and approaches in their poetries. William Wordsworth was an English poet who belonged to nineteen centuries, Romantic age; while Ghani khan belonged to twentieth century Pashto literature. In many respects, they share some elements. This was a qualitative study, for which primary data was obtained from their original works and secondary data from research articles and books. Data obtained was analyzed through textual analysis. This research study explored many shared Eco-critical elements in the poetry of William Wordsworth and Ghani Khan.

Introduction

William Wordsworth viewed nature as a source of inspiration and spiritual renewal (Wikipedia). Coleridge, (1817) also praised him for his habitual communion with the world outside and also emphasizing his capabilities to deeply connect nature with human emotions and moral significance. Arnold's (1865) also celebrated words worth as a poet of natural piety and his ability to provide solace for human condition. Bate. J (1991) describes Wordsworth as a quintessential romantic poet who celebrated individual experiences and nature transformative power. Khan. G (1935) says that Ghani khan holds a unique place in south Asian, particularly Pashto literature for his blend of philosophy, mysticism and spirituality. Rahman and Ahmad (2016) also say that Ghani khan is a twentieth century unique poet of Pashto literature. William words worth and Ghani khan got unique places in literature because of theirs struggles and contributions to English and Pashto literature respectively. Although, they are different from each other on the basis of tradition, caste, creed, literature and ages but still they have shared a lot of elements in their poetries which can be comparatively analyzed. By studying their poetries, the spirit of romanticism can be easily identified in their poetic works. Outwardly, they are looking distinct from each other because William Wordsworth written his poetry in English language while Ghani khan composed his poetry in Pashto language. Despite using different languages, they have shared common feelings and emotions in their poetries. As Wordsworth was influenced by romanticism while Ghani khan was not influenced by romanticism but a lot romantic elements and approaches of romanticism can be seen in his poetry. William Wordsworth was most influentiantial among romantic

poets and remained widely popular (Emma, 2010).

Ghani khan

According to Bacha and Bibi (2010) Ghani khan full name was Abdul Ghani Khan. He was born in (1914, Ashtanagar, village Atmanzai, NWFP, old Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan) and died in 1996 at Lady Reading hospital, Peshawar. He was the first son of Abdul Ghafar Khan. He was very much dear to his parents.

When he was six years of that he suffered from influenza epidemic and his parents were very much curious about his health conditions. They were praying from ALLAH for his speedy health recovery. This was very much intense and severe illness that his mother asked the GOD to transfer his illness into her in lieu of his health recovery and it happened as his mother had wished. She died due to her prayer which she had made for Ghani Khan Health recovery. Ghani Khan therefore, recalls his mother's extraordinary love for him in his poem (Mother, Moor).

Ghani khan as a poet

Ghani Khan as a prominent modern poet in Pashto literature, celebrated for his unique style and rebellious approach to traditional poetry. Unlike others, he was guided by his own conscience and intellect, rejecting conventional norms. His poetry reflects personal experience, emotions and a dep connection to beauty and nature. He is also known as a "Crazy philosopher" for his complex and philosophical expressions, his works spas romantic, political, and revolutionary themes.

William Wordsworth

William Wordsworth was Born on April 7, 1770, and died on April 23, 1850, (Britannica).

According to (Khan. F.S, 2023), He is a central yet complex figure in English literature. His works focus on ordinary life, nature, and common people like beggars, formers, and labourers. While some critics praised him as a poet of nature, others debated his role as a poet of humanity. (Singh and Mishra, 2019), argued that despite different views, Wordsworth is widely regarded as the foremost poet of rural life and nature's, beauty, earning him the title of "High priest of nature. Scholars agree that his depiction of nature in all its form remains unparalleled. Wordsworth's poetry explores both the physical and spiritual dimensions of human existence on earth. He dedicated his life to celebrating through verse, demonstrating unwavering, though restrained, optimism. Despite life's many hardships, he believed it remained meaningful and valuable scholars often highlight the "Prelude" is a key text for understanding the inseparable bond between humanity and nature_ a connection so vital that, for Wordsworth, life without it would be devoid of true meaning. H held that only nature could unveil life's deepest truths.

Research Objectives

The study endeavours to achieve the following objectives

To find out the Eco-critical elements in the poetry of Ghani Khan and William Wordsworth.

Research Questions

What Eco-critical elements are there in the poetry of Ghani Khan and William Wordsworth?

Statement of the Problem

Historically, poetry played a significant role as a medium to show the bond between human and nature. Poetry has always served as a linkage between nature and humanity and also presenting profound vision and insights into their interconnectedness. As William Wordsworth was a famous and central popular poet of western Romanticism and he is famous and popular for his different celebration of nature and considered it as a source of peace and inspiration. Similarly, Ghani khan a unique and well-known Eastern poet and expressed great and deep love for nature in his poetic works, as he was influenced by his culture and belief. As they both are from different cultures and ages but both of them shared a strong love for nature.

However, few studies have been conducted on their approaches towards nature, love and mysticism but there is a lack of comparative studies on their Eco critical approaches. This research study tries to fill the gap by examining their poetry through the lens of eco-criticism.

Significance

The comparison of Ghani Khan and William Wordsworth with the perspective of their eco critical approaches is important because it explain—that how poets from different cultural, historical contexts and backgrounds attach and connect with nature. Wordsworth sees nature as a source of peace and personal growth while Ghani khan links it to his cultural recognition, freedom and spirituality. This comparison links Eastern and Western cultures and perspectives. It also emphasizes that how literature is important to overcome the environmental challenges. This comparison is also significant because it explores and showcases different poets from different backgrounds who share some comparable commonalities and contrast in their poetries. William Wordsworth, who was influenced by romanticism, viewed nature as a source of spiritual renewal. As comparative analysis is a vast and expand field in research. This comparative analysis will be a valuable addition to the field of comparative analysis in literature.

Methodology

Comparative Analysis

Comparative study is the type of procedures that examined the occurrences and events and then combines them to identify their differences and similarities, (MokhtarianPour, 2016). According to Swanson (1971), scientific study and research cannot exist without comparison. Comparative analysis involves outlining and interpreting both the similarities and in situations or outcomes across broad social units such as regions, nations, cultures and societies, (Smelser, 1973). According to (Mills, et al, 2016), comparative research is a comprehensive approach that incorporates both qualitative and quantitative methods. Social entities can be examining through different lenses, including geographical and political perspective, particularly in cross-national contexts.

Walk, K. (1998), argued that students are often required to write papers comparing and contrasting theories, historical figures, or scientific developments. According to (Azarian, 2011), emphasized the long standing role of comparison in human sciences, particularly in history and culture. Comparative approaches in social theory trace back to an ancient Greece and have evolved over time. These methods have grown more prominent as history progresses, especially with the rise e of technology, communication, and globalization which have intensified the focus on comparative research, especially across nations.

Consequently, modern social sciences now heavily utilize comparative approaches.

Research Design

(Kumar, 1999) quoted S.L. Gupta and Hitesh, "A research design is like a roadmap for a study. It provides you guiding in every step from recognizing the issue and forming a hypothesis to collecting data and then to analyse the data and then draw a conclusion. Think it as just like Glue that keeps together all the parts of research project together. It is the "Glue" that holds all the elements in a research project together. Different experts explain it in a different way. (Khandey and Khanam, 2019) quoted Dutch and cook, who call it "A plan for collecting and gathering data and then analyzing data efficiently while staying focused on the research goal. Research design is the arrangement of conditions for the collection and analysis of data in a manner that aims to combine relevance to the research purpose with the economy and procedures. According to Bernard Philips compares it to a blueprint for gathering and analyzing data.

Qualitative research Design

Oranga and Matere (2023), stated that the primary objective of qualitative research is to gain deeper, more comprehensive insights into a phenomenon by exploring non-numeric data. Unlike quantitative methods, which focus on numerical data and hypothesis testing, qualitative research emphasizes understanding human experiences, social interactions, and cultural norms. Cleland (2017), supports this, suggesting that qualitative methods are ideal for exploring personal experiences through structured yet flexible approaches. This study applies qualitative research design.

Quantitative Research Design

Quantitative research designs cantered around collecting and analyzing numerical data to answer questions such as 'How long?", "How many?", and "To what extent?" This method aims to generate measurable data to draw broad conclusion from a sample. It involves data collection, analysis, and interpretation to support hypothesis in a structured study, (Bryman, 2016.

Data type

(Ajayi, V.O, 2023), describes data as a fact, all or numerical inputs used to drive conclusions. Similar to how trees serve as the raw material for paper production, data acts as the foundational element from which information is extracted. It consists of qualitative or quantitative values and can be categorized into two main types: Primary and secondary.

Primary Data and Secondary Data

According to (Melsy, 2015), distinguishes primary data as information collected first hand by the researchers, whereas secondary data is pre-existing information gathered by others. The primary distinction lies in originality –primary data is direct and factual, while secondary data involves the examination or interpretation of previously collected data. Primary data is tailored to address specific research questions and is gathered through methods such as surveys, observations, questionnaires, as studies, or interviews. In contrast, secondary data, sourced from agencies, organizations, or publications like government reports, books, journal articles, and websites is more readily available but may not fully align with the researcher's objective. Additionally, secondary data often undergoes statistical processing, which may affect its purity. For this research, secondary data was collected from articles, research papers, journals, and books; while primary data was obtained from the poetic works of William Wordsworth and Ghani Khan.

Data Analysis Technique

(Alem, D.D., 2020), Data analysis is a key step in research that helps make study result more impactful. It involves gathering, cleaning, transforming, and organizing data to uncover useful insights. Without data analysis, research would not be complete, as it helps researchers draw meaningful conclusion. There are two main types: Qualitative and quantitative analysis

Textual analysis

When conducting textual analysis on a text, researchers attempt to make an educated and informed guesses about the most probable interpretations of a given text. Essentially, textual analysis can be described in simple terms as the process of making sense of a text, (McKee, A, 2001)

Data Analysis

William Wordsworth in his poem, "Tintern Abbey" depicted the relationship between nature and human. He also described the coordination between Earth and the Sky, in a euphonic and better way. He also discussed the connection between worlds and inner tranquillity. Overall, the poem revolves around the past, nature and personal development. In the following lines, he is of the opinion that nature is the source of peace ad reflection. He also discussed the way through which he got peace, comfort, inner peace, solace and spiritual renewal in nature. He considers nature as a healing power

because when he returned back to Tintern Abbey, after five years, he finds inner peace, solace and spirituality.BY using the word "Repose' William Wordsworth means rest or relaxation but here it meant to be the moment of peaceful reflection and rest from nature. When he come to "Tintern Abbey', he explains his own feelings, thoughts and emotions about nature. The phrase "Dark Sycamore" pointing towards a big tree and the dark symbolizes its dense shadow and shelter of that tree. William Wordsworth argued that human and nature cannot be separated because there is strong and deep connection between them. He also admired nature by expressing his thoughts and feelings for it and also with human life through Eco-critical lens. He describes a landscape; Farmland and orchards are coexistent with grooves and forest naturally which refers towards balance between cultivation and the wild. The phrase, "Unripe Fruits" and the "Green Hue" representing the on-going cycles of growth and renewal in nature. The vision of William Wordsworth resonates with the modern Eco-criticism by portraying nature as a vibrant, and considers it as a living entity rather than just a source of use for human. William Wordsworth about nature is that it is a living entity and it is not just the passive background for the activities of human. By appreciating the landscape, he suggests an early awareness about environmental responsibility and emphasizing the coexistence with nature rather than dominate over it. The study of Tintern Abbey with Eco-critical perspective, it promotes huge respect for nature, Ecological awareness and also stressing the concept that there should be harmony between nature and human. (Laurence Buell, 1995) also holds the same notions about nature as William Wordsworth described in his poem.

The day is come when I again repose
Here, under this dark Sycamore, and view
These plots of cottage-ground, these orchards tufts,
Which at this season, with their unripe fruits,

In the below lines, William Wordsworth explains the powerful effect on his thoughts, feelings and emotions by nature. He is of the view that nature is independent in its own. He also discussed the strong, powerful and deep influence of nature on human brain. When he returned back after five years to Tintern Abbey, then he felt the effect of nature o his thoughts and mind. Eco-critically, he described nature as a lively agent that structuralized and shape human thoughts and emotions. He says that nature is not merely a scenic view and backdrop. The "steep and Lofty Cliffs" shows the linkage or connection between Earth and the Sky an also linking them with each other. He also says that how everything in this nature are connected with each other. By the phrase "Wild Secluded Scene" he describes that it explains the beauty and charming of nature, which is pure and undisturbed. He also explains its existence beyond human control and influence. Furthermore, "More Deep Seclusion" suggests that nature helps us in thinking deep and in providing great peace by spending more time in nature. This shows that nature acted as a great source of wisdom and relaxation. In the last line, William Wordsworth argued that the tall Cliffs linking the Earth with the Sky. Overall discussion shows the main theme of Eco criticism that how our bonds with nature can be reshape by literature.

Do I behold these steep and lofty cliffs,
That on a wild secluded scene impress
Thoughts of more deep seclusion and connect
The landscape with the quiet of the sky

In the following lines, William Wordsworth describes nature, Eco-critically and says that it has a strong power to heal and restore the spirit of human during the extreme tired and exhausted condition. In the first line, the phrase "In The hours of weariness" pointing towards extreme level of exhaustion, physically, due to artificial industries and city life. The "phrase "Sensation Sweet" means improving

blood circulation when immersed in nature, which can be in the blood and heart, that shows humans physical relation with the natural world. The phrase "Felt in the blood, and felt along the heart" refers towards the human relation with nature and humans are deeply associated with nature and can be affected by the environment. In other words, the poet argued that the sweet sensation can be felt in blood and can also influence the heart. This also emphasizes that how nature has influence upon our body and emotions. Through this way, the artificial division between human and environment are challenged. When these sensations reach a "Purer Mind" then it gives birth to an Ecological consciousness, which tells that real mental purity can be obtained by living in relation with nature. This portrayal not only discuss the restorative power of nature but also but critique the disruption of this relationship due to industrialization and also presents and consider nature as a psychological refuge for human health. In the last line the poet pointing the ability of nature to heal the weariness of human. He is of the opinion that immersion in nature can strongly influence the body and brain which refers towards peace and renewal. These lines revolve around the mutual relationship, critique environmental balance and a positive relation with nature. In the below lines, William Ruckert also holds the same view as William Wordsworth explained.

In hours of weariness, sensation sweet;
Felt in the blood, and felt along the heart;
And passing into my purer mind
With tranquil restoration: - feeling too

Unlike William Wordsworth, Ghani Khan Poem "Latoon" depicts a strong and powerful devastation about environment and detachment of human from nature. With the Eco-critical lens, these lines explain the issues like deforestation, pollution and climate change. In these lines, Ghani Khan describes nature as a lifeless and soundless entity. The silence might mean that the animals and birds have left and gone from the environment due to human interference by producing pollution from industries and due to deforestation. He says, that's why there is silence in nature. By silence, Ghani Khan means the devastation of nature. The silence means, the loss of the natural sounds from the environment. Moreover, he is of the opinion that nature is destructed by pollution and climate change, and the nature is no more as bright as before and the natural health is disturbed. The "time stop" shows the on-going flow of flow of life in natural world. He is of the view that possibly something wrong has happened to time by human actions, that's why it seems upset. Like Ghani Khan, William Rekert (1978) also holds the same opinion about nature and environment as Ghani Khan.

ر شمی د شد په ل که داوړی غرمه
(It is noon, but it feels like the night's silence)
خوردے اوق لارے خامو شمی یہ و
(A deep silence has spread all around)
هو عالم چاپ اوچپ ، ک و ک و رک و د ک ور
(The Go-Go noises and voices of Dove, the whole world is hushed)
ن یولے خ په وخت
(The time holds itself stopped)

Like William Wordsworth, in the below lines, Ghani Khan is of the opinion that nature is a great source of directing, self-awareness and moral re-election. In the first line he personifies the world and explains that it has emotions and feelings of sadness. Furthermore, Ghani Khan explains that the silence all around is possibly due to neglecting of habitat by human, which suffered wildlife and the Ecosystem. Overall Ecosystem can be harm through Ecological warning. Ghani Khan is of the opinion that nature I acting like a force that carry and attract human being towards self-reflection and moral awareness. In

the second line, the poet says that there is nature's accounting. This line describes that human can greatly harm and impact the natural world, especially. Like cutting down of trees, Pollution brings about the accountability where lives suspend in balance. It also raises and refers towards awareness about Ecological effects, human non-seriousness and irresponsibility. In the third line, the poet used a strong imagery which critiques the men's aggression and irresponsibility due to which the disruption of nature take place. Poet says that the by smiling, the nature is hiding its pain and destruction. The word "Smile" used ironically which suggests that a fake smile for hiding its destruction and pain. In the last line, Ghani Khan expressed nostalgia for the lost connection and relation with nature. He is of the opinion that Rabab is our cultural instrument which refers towards cultural harmony with the natural world. The poet now because Rabab can listen just in dreams which showed the coexistence between and human, became distant or just imagined. Through its Imagery, the poet suggests that true wisdom comes respecting the natural world and recognizing it's deeper and diving meaning. The natural world serves as just like a teacher, guiding the readers towards humility and deeper connection with existence.BY this way, the poet encourages a spiritual and respectful approach to nature. In the below lines, Ghani holds the same Eco-critical opinion about nature as Dr. Tajane holds in his research work about criticism.

ن يولم غوږته زړګ ی خ پل دِ دُنيا
(The world has turned towards its own will)
اوری ک تاب ح ساب او ژوند د دمرګ
(He listens the account of life and death)
د شان ت وب مسد کے ګ ډی و ف ضاک ښ
(In the atmosphere, there's a smiling one)
اوری رباب ت وک ک ښ خوب پ ۱۵ که
(Like someone hears the Rabab in a dream)

In the following lines, William Wordsworth describing nature as an object that can communicate and he suggesting that it can speaks through sensory senses like sight, sound and touch. In the first line, the poet shares his view that nature has affected his mind and purified his thinking. Eco-critically, this shows that nature is an active force, and has a meaningful presence rather than just a backdrop. In the second line, the poet presented nature metaphorically as an anchor and nurse. Here, the poet personifies the nature and argued that it is a great force for stabilizing thoughts and also act as nurse, which provide us nursing. By the phrase "The nurse" poet declares nature as a caregiver which provides comfort and support to human. In the third line, he is of the opinion that nature is our spiritual guideline and also protects us. He believes that nature is our guardian and protector and also acts as a mentor. He means that nature is our guardian also tells the deep Ecological principles. This discussion demonstrates Romantic Ecology.

In nature and the language of the sense,
The anchor of my purest thoughts, the nurse,
The guide, the guardian of my heart, and soul
Of all my moral being.

Discussion

From the above the comparative discussion between Ghani khan and William Wordsworth with the perspective of their Eco critical approaches, a lot of commonalities and contrast came into front. As they both are from different literatures and cultures but also shared some commonalities and contrasts in their poetries. Eco-critically, they also shared some similar and opposite insights about nature and environment, which can be compared with each other's poetries. Both of them have shared their own perspective and point of view about nature. William Wordsworth considered nature as a source of

spiritual renewal, source of peace and source of healing. While Ghani khan pointing towards the warning to environment due to human interference like climate change, deforestation and pollution. William Wordsworth considered nature as an active force while Ghani khan considered it as a lifeless entity. William Wordsworth considered nature as a friend while Ghani Khan sees it as a victim and asks us to take action.

Conclusion

As from the above comparative study, it can be concluded that both Ghani Khan and William Wordsworth are from different backgrounds and literatures. Despite different ages and cultures, they have shared some similarities and contrast in their poetries. Throughout this research study, their Eco critical approaches have been compared. Wordsworth considered nature as a source of peace and reflection. He considered nature as a source of healing and a power of spiritual renewal. Further, Wordsworth is of the opinion that human and nature has deep relations and it cannot be separated. William Wordsworth argued that nature is an active force which has a strong influence on human emotions and thoughts. He is of the opinion that nature is a great source of comfort and wisdom. William Rueckert also holds the same opinion in his theory about Eco-criticism. Unlike William Wordsworth, Ghani Khan shows warning and hazard towards environment such as climate change, deforestation and pollution. Ghani Khan argued that nature is a lifeless entity. By silence, Ghani Khan means the devastation and destruction of nature due to human interference. He personifies and argued that nature has feelings and emotions of sadness. He considered nature as a great source of guiding.

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