

Knowledge and the Theory of Poetry Analysis of William Wordsworth's Poetic Diction

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ABSTRACT

Poetic diction means selection of discourse which accommodates a rare style for distinct minstrel, how particular poet choose his/her own language, then how he/her plays around with them (language, lexicon and make use of phrases terminology, usually trope). Poetic diction means style of writing which is used by poet in poetry like the communication style, frame of reference, and use of tropical language—normally metaphors. This research aims to explore and find out the major and distinct features of William Wordsworth's poetic diction and see how far his theory of diction is applicable in present time. Research belonging to us is qualitative. The researcher will analyze William Wordsworth's poetic diction with reference to preface to the lyrical ballads. Researcher will also analyze variant poems written by William Wordsworth. This paper will help the people to understand that why Wordsworth used so natural, simple, attractive and daily life language in his works, and how he used conceits, images, impression, metaphors similes, initial rhyme etc. Results will also help the readers of the time to understand the theory of simple and rustic poetic diction used by William Wordsworth in his poetry. His singular style added the great beauty to his work, and his style became lofty to all the common people.

1. Introduction

The material or subject matter of literature is something very general, such as man's fate, or human life. This implies that literature can deal with every human activity, or human experience. Some of these activities are peculiar; some are widespread, while some are universal. Therefore, people expect that literature which is the record of human experience, to its subject, make a varying appeal to people of other communities (Frederik, 1988:1). These theories support if there is a statement that all of those experiences can be presented well through literary work. Literature brings some values through people's lives such as the increasing of their sense about their surroundings and the increasing of their sensitivity. And it is helping them to understand better other and themselves. Literature is an interesting field in which the process of its composition needs creative intelligence and imagination performed through language. Frederik (1988) also says that literature is fundamentally an expression of life through the medium of language. There is about not only writing, but also the way of how to perform the expression through words as a vital record of what men have seen in life, what they have experienced of life and all about what they have thought and felt about every single thing which have the most enduring interest of human being. In this case, the writer of literary work from his own experiences—both observed and imagined experiences—selects, combines and organizes to create new experiences for his reader. With his creative thoughts, the readers or the audiences are brought to find more expected experiences. This makes literary work is different with the other field; it is all because even its creation process and interpretation need better understanding and competence of the world of literature. Like human being, each work of literature has its individual characteristics. Poems as well as other forms of literature, besides fiction and drama

have its own ways of conveying the whole meaning. Daiches (1984) states that poetry is at once the most simple and the most complex form of literary expression. It is simple because represent directly and spontaneously. It is complex in its utility of the varied resources of language which is more richly and fully than other works. It is also to be called complex because combines the appeal to the ear with the appeal to the mind equally. And it uses all kinds of overtone and suggestion to convey what might be called the feel and quality of a situation at the same time it presents its overt meaning. It means that the language used in poem is more condensed than the language used in such as fiction and drama which mostly use our daily language.

Language used in poem is different from the language of our daily communication that gives straight meaning of some information. The language of poem consists of many layers of meaning. It has ambiguity, homonymy and connotative words. Determining the sense of a word by its context is probably the most important skill in reading a poem and the first step in achieving that skill is to take seriously about the meaning of the word that is still vague and confusing. The reader should use a good dictionary as reference. It is a skill that one should have in understanding a poem, on the contrary, in daily speech and reading ones are constantly picking the correct one of the many senses that ordinary words possess. For example during a conversation about pet, people automatically know when someone says "dove" that he is referring to a kind of bird. But, when the reader is reading more difficult material like poetry, he sometimes is unable to determine the sense of meaning the word "dove" so immediately and correctly. It may be that the reader does not know the specific sense in which the word is being used because it is "poetic". We can see that the language used in poem is more complex in meaning than daily language. Even

more, the meaning offered is not as clear as the meaning in fiction or even drama which is played on stage so that is easier to be understood. A poem is a composition that makes the readers think about words and their arrangement (Pickering, 1982, 698). Words are the only material of a poem. Sometimes we find a poem less than ten lines; the problem is that how words can, in a view lines, cover the idea that represents the experiences and creates a new experience to his reader. A poem is not only about words in line, but also creativities in arranging and choosing the words so that there is not queer if a word may has so many dimensions of meaning.

2. Works (Principal Publications)

VERSE

- An Evening Walk (1793)
- Lyrical Ballads (1798)
- The Excursion (1814)
- Descriptive Sketches (1793)
- Poems (first collective eds., 1807 and 1815)
- The White Doe of Rylstone (1815)
- Peter Bell (1819)
- The Waggoner (1819)
- The River Duddon, a series of sonnets (1820)
- Memorials of a Tour on the Continent (1822)
- Ecclesiastical Sonnets (1822)
- The Prelude (1850)
- The Recluse (posthumous, 1888).

PROSE

Apology for the French Revolution, in a Letter to the Bishop of Llandaff (1793, posthumously published)

Concerning the Relations of Great Britain, Spain, and Portugal to each other, and to the common enemy, at this crisis, and specifically as affected by the Convention of Cintra (1809)

Two Addresses to the Freeholders of Westmoreland (1818)

A Description of the Scenery of the Lakes (1822, 5th ed., 1835, as A Guide through the District of the Lakes) Kendal and Windermere Railway: Two Letters (1844).

It is said that William Wordsworth idea of poetic enunciation in a response against the criticism of "pseudo classical" theory of poetic diction. In case to support his hypothesis of poetic diction he introduces a fresh speech which was completely partially related to the diction of common or countryside people. He dealt in his epos with rustic and simple life and supported simplicity of theme. Being a poet he relies that a poet must use a language which is a language of common man and which is easily comprehend for ordinary people. According to pseudo classicists the communication style of poetry and prose is different from each other while the great bard William Wordsworth says at the place no essential difference between language of prose and poetry but on the component of rhyming scheme. The poet finds this way more coziness to communicate people by using their mother tongue. He denounces the simulated language. Thus he appoints the pronunciation method of common people. Wordsworth's aims, as he tells in the Preface was, "to prefer occurrences and circumstances from common life", and quite naturally, he also referred to use, "a selection of

language, sincerely exploited by men". He was lover of embarrass and unsophisticated life and so he used the diction of the rustics, shepherds, farmers who were the principal subjects of his poetry. He was to use the speech of real men because the aim of author is to give delight and such language without selection will cause repulsion. The applicability of such a simple diction has lot of benefits. The rustic language in its simplicity is highly sentimental and zealous. This is more so the case when these humble people are in a state of emotional stirs up. It is filled with the feelings of the human heart. Such a language is the native language of the storminess. It is the result of heartily passions, and thus point the way direct to the heart. In different words, through the utility of such diction essential truths about mankind life and sociality can be more essentially and clearly communicated. It is more 'philosophical' language in as much as its use can result in a better and clearer understanding of the basic truths. But in city life emotions are not openly expressed. A choice of the real language in a state of vivid sensation. Coleridge also agreed with Wordsworth idea of plain poetic diction. Without selection of true language we cannot acquire true taste and feelings of poetry in real sense. The language of truly selected poet for poetry is alive with trope and synesthetic metaphor. Wordsworth demands that poetic diction be modeled on primitive, passionate and natural utterance, that is most spontaneous, the product of emotion. Wordsworth always talks about the selection of the language of the lower classes. For the advertisement of lyrical ballads of 1798 he stated that his object in adopting a simpler language for his poems merely to assertion how for the diction of communication in the midriff and the lower groups of society was adapted to intention of poetic luxuriating.

3. Analysis of the poem (from lines 1st-79th)

William Wordsworth's style of writing was blank verse. "Tintern Abbey" was written in unrhymed iambic pentameter. The poem opens up with the speaker telling us how much time has passed since he has been to Tintern Abbey. He is so descriptive that he tells us that it has been five summers and five winters. From the next two lines he tells us that he is there again and the landscape is still the same like the last time he has seen it even though he himself is not the same anymore. He goes on describing what he sees: "*These waters, rolling from their mountain –springs/ With a soft inland murmur*" (Lines 2nd-4th) .

Then he describes the scenery around him and again he tells us that it is just like the way he remembers. He also describes that the cliffs and landscape seems to be connected to his spirit. In the next lines he remembers being under the sycamore tree and was looking at the cottage-ground, orchard-fruits, which in the present time he is there again are unripe. This means probably that it is summer and the last time he visited the place it was spring when fruits were ripening and they could be picked. The speaker goes on telling us the views in front of him: "These hedge-rows, hardly hedge-rows, little lines" (Line 14th) . In this line we can also find that the speaker mentions that this part of the country is not just wild, he says that there are pastoral farms and smoke coming from them, which usually comes from the chimneys. So he is not alone. But in the next lines we see that the speaker refers to the smoke coming from a wandering person

who camps out in the woods or to a "Hermit" who is a religious person who chooses to live alone. (I will talk about this later in the paper). Next we have the speaker portraying his feeling for having been gone for so long. Nonetheless, it would not be the same if he tried to describe this marvelous view to a blind person and his description is only an attempt at representing what he has in front of his eyes.

William Wordsworth is talking mainly about his deep relationship with Nature. Like many other poets in his time, he idolizes Nature. We know that the poem takes place on the River Wye. The author has described it many times. The next important part of the poem is the speaker going in deep description of what he sees. The beautiful hills, the landscape and how untouched it is. Senses are also very important. The speaker seems to have lost his senses and it is due to the fact that Nature is so powerful. The last important part is the one in which the Hermit appears since it is about a person who chooses to live separately, on his own, for religious reasons: "of vagrant dwellers in the houseless words/ Or of some Hermit's cave, where by his fire/ The Hermit sits alone. The hermit supposes the ideal representation of someone who leaves apart social life in order to find with himself in a spiritual way and this is a very Romantic idea. The author seems to sympathize with the Hermit and maybe is even jealous, because the Hermit gets to live in this beautiful part of his country, away from the stressful, smoky city life.

4. Conclusion

William poetry is top quality energy of all knowledge. It is expression of poet full of impression and powerful feelings. It captures its origin from solitude and thoughts in pensive loneliness. When these thoughts are written in form of verses, it makes poetry. Then now these feelings are in their pure form. About poet, he assumes that a poet has greater knowledge of the world and nature. Poet is expressing his experience and knowledge to common men, writing for the

men. He is registering not only for the poets and philosophers, but for the all men, so his language must be understandable for a common man and a countryside reader. According to him poet is a person talking to men, and his thoughts are the thoughts of a common man, and all his wording should be a language of a common man like clown, former and countryman, so that each and every one could read and get equal pleasure. If we talk about poetry, according to him, there are five basic stages to make a poem helping to a poet to utter his feelings to reader effectively. Sensation (feelings and emotions) Contemplation (thinking about; meditation, deep thought) Recollection (memory, remembrance) Recreation (relaxing activity, amusement, leisure) Composition (make-up, constitution; something which has been composed) Here we assume that he gives basic importance to sensation or feelings. As he assumes that all poetry has abundance of strong feelings memorized in solitude. It indicates his importance given to the feelings. He also says that a poet is a man, but superior to other people by his god gifted quality of writing. He also disapproves the Aristotelian theory that plot and situation are the basic elements behind a good poetry. According to him basic thing is poet's feeling and sensation. There exist three main functions of poetry, To afford delight. To leads men to the virtue to enhance the range of thinking. If a poet wants to get all this functions from his work, then he must use rural, a countryside and a language of common people. If the poetic diction is not simple and unsophisticated then the purpose of poetry can never be achieved. By using simple language the goal of poetry can easily be get. So we should say the theory of poetry and poetic diction given by William Wordsworth is applicable and helpful for the modern writer. By adopting this speculation, modern poets can make their work sublime and far lasting effects on the mind of reader. Poet of the time can also rescue and console the afflicted people and can enhance the thinking capacity of modern reader by using the language of the reader.

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