

The Relationship of Nature, Human Endeavor and Reality in “Stopping by Woods on A Snowy Evening”

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Abstract: This study explores the relationship of nature, human endeavor and reality at “Stopping by Woods on A Snowy Evening” which is written by Robert Frost. The research employs qualitative method which includes content analysis as the research tool. The research findings suggest that throughout a description of journey, the poet has depicted an important message of life. Natural world is highly related with human existence and if a person wants to be dutiful towards his life, he must carry his journey. There might be deep forest which may not be favorable to his journey, but one should not lose his hope or forget his duties to make the journey meaningful. The poem from the perspective ecocriticism, discloses that the woods supply different needs of human being easing the life. But similarly with the destruction of woods, the level of oxygen decreases and environmental pollution increases. The relationship needs to be established on harmonious balance. As the isolation is problem of human life, it needs to be adjusted by keeping the connection with kith and kin. When a person faces the troubles of life, he must try to overcome it for the meaningful life

Keywords: Nature, Human, Ecocriticism

Introduction

“Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening” exhibits remarkable aspects of nature (Tyagi, 2015), human endeavor where the theme (Wiranota & Arifin, 2024) revolved around a journey. It widens the personal and social aspects human life while catching the beauty of a forest in the winter. The symbol represents the multidimensional reality of nature and everyday life. Robert Frost, a celebrated poet (Sharma, 2023) and extends his outstanding quotes for realistic depictions based on human experiences and understanding. The beauty of nature and obligations of human life are two-dimensional approach, where Frost depicts the persistence and dutifulness.

While examining the relationship among nature, human endeavor and reality, it is visible that human dominance has environmental effect (Dabirnia, 2021) which is responsible for many unwanted ecological imbalances. The beauty of nature in the Frost’s poem is extremely appealing when it embodies the message of being responsible towards the nature and the person himself in his own life.

Research Objective:

The purpose of this study is:

- To explore the relationship of Nature, Human Endeavor And Reality At “Stopping By Woods on A Snowy Evening”

Research Question:

- What is the relationship of Nature, Human Endeavor And Reality At “Stopping By Woods on A Snowy Evening”

Literature Review

The writing style of Frost is simple but direct and the poems contained symbolism (Adi, Titian, Wiruma, 2020), metaphor with rhythmic expressions. He has built seven collections of poetry where New Hampshire (1923) contains the poem “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening”. In the collection of his poetry, it is found a long narrative style of the writing where he sometimes narrates a story. The language is marked with brilliance and odor of metaphor and symbolic interpretations. Though the incident may seem a part of everyday conversation, it lies the deeper meaning of life (Adi, et. al 2020).

In recent time, there is a concern to relate literature with environmental concerns. Ecocriticism denotes to the concept that “fundamental premise that human culture is inextricably linked to the physical environment, both influencing and being influenced by it” (Glotty, 1996). Ecocriticism’s central concern is the relationship between nature and civilization. A central concept in ecocriticism is the exploration of the relationship between humans and the natural world (Yustisiana & Sari, 2024). These factors include the portrayal of nature and the impact human activities on environment and many ethical issues (Al Fawareh, Dakamsih, & Alkouri, 2023). It exhibits much significance to the place and landscape that include forests, mountains, animals and the influence of the characters. The relationship shows how the social, historical, and ecological contexts (Yustisiana & Sari, 2024) are working from various angles.

In Frost’s poetry, tangible world is brought to the journey of spiritual and mystical dimensions. Throughout the exploration nature, it explores the metaphysical questions and the mysteries of existence, as seen in poems like “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening” (Sharma, 2023).

Methodology:

The study is carried out through qualitative method because of the subject matter itself. Here, the research tool that is used, is content analysis. For the purpose present research, the content of the poem is analyzed by stanzas.

Findings and Discussions

In the beginning of the poem, it is observed that there is a beautiful picture of nature is drawn through words. The visitor relates the story with his unknowingness of the person who owns of the woods. Though the scene is beautiful, it exhibits a culture of privacy and human isolation for finding peace. He describes beautifully the nature, where he contemplates for understanding the reality of existence on earth. The snow is beautiful but it also hinders the process of working, while the visitor ignores the environmental issues and thinks of progressing. Frost beautifully starts:

Whose woods these are I think I know.
His house is in the village, though;
He will not see me stopping here
To watch his woods fill up with snow.

The forest is a hub of ecological balances where different sort of life cycles goes on sometimes without minor observation from human being. It is because of intervene of human; the woods supply different needs of human being easing the life. But similarly with the destruction of woods, the level of oxygen decreases and environmental pollution increases. The relationship needs to be established on harmonious balance. As the isolation is problem of human life, it needs to be adjusted by keeping the connection with kith and kin.

In the second stanza, it is observed the visitor describes his transport system which is namely horse. Horses are the friendly animal with human being. It has been a long tradition to ride on the horse and travel around the world. Horse is a living transport where in this world we find a mutual understanding from the perspective of the visitor. He loves his horse, and ponders over the horse thoughts as a living friend which personifies the care and love for the horse that accompanies with him. The relationship with natural world and human is soothing and effectful. There is a personification by calling the horse as a thinker. The time which is described by the poet is the 'darkest' which has multiplicate meaning. It outwardly describes a seasonal fall but underneath describes the turmoil and insecurities of visitor's life.

My little horse must think it queer
To stop without a farmhouse near
Between the woods and frozen lake
The darkest evening of the year.

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The lines exhibited that the horse opines to the visitor that this place is not a right one as it is middle of forest and there is a frozen lake. The horse wants its rider to continue the journey for the final destination (Wiranota, & Arifin,2024). The following lines contains the message:

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He gives his harness bells a shake

To ask if there is some mistake.

The only other sound's the sweep

Of easy wind and downy flake.

Here, we find the cautious nature of the horse, it gives a shake on his harness bells. This symbolizes, that natural element of the earth has cause and effect situation. As the environment is here cold, the horse feels uncomfortable and wants a change. That's why he signals to the rider by his all-best means to take preparation for the journey. Human life is full of mysteries. A person can get a cautious signal for his safety. The relationship of natural elements with human life is intertwined. The rider can hear only the sound of snowflakes and winds. This says the troublesome weather condition of that time. When a person faces the troubles of life, he must try to overcome it for the meaningful life. The epitome of the poem reaches to the culmination when the poet says the following lines:

The woods are lovely, dark, and deep,

But I have promise to keep,

And miles to go before I sleep,

And miles to go before I sleep.

The responsibilities of a person are important while he sees the life journey a continuous process. Sleep here metaphorically represents death. Before the death, a person must do good deeds. He should fulfill the duties properly. The life journey must be fruitful and effective by not wasting time here and there. Sleep is a short escape from life while death is a final one. The remembrance of this truth, make a person sensible, dutiful and rectify his actions for a better purpose.

Conclusion:

Natural world is an open library for human being. If he observes minutely, he can understand life deeply. It makes a person to be conscious on his actions and duties. It makes the person to be a better person for his life. The relationship of nature, human endeavor and reality in this poem, brings a positive understanding of life. It encourages human to continue the journey with love, respect and duty. As a person does know what is waiting for him in life tomorrow, he should not lose his hope. He should continue his journey for a meaningful life that brings goodness to him.

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