Comparative Analysis of *Stopping by Woods on A Snowy Evening* and *Lines Written a Few Miles above Tintern Abbey, on Revisiting the Banks of the Wye during a Tour, July 13, 1798*

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**Abstract**— The present paper attempts to compare and analyze two marvelous poems of all time, ‘*Lines Written a Few Miles above Tintern Abbey, on Revisiting the Banks of the Wye during a Tour, July 13, 1798*’ and ‘*Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening*’ composed by the two highly philosophical poets William Wordsworth, who was a stalwart in the galaxy of Romantic poetry and the most celebrated American poet of 20th century, Robert Frost. The comparison has been made based on the themes, structure, poetic temperament and setting so as to bring differences and similarities between the poems.

**Objective of study**
- To bring out the comparative analysis between the poems.
- To understand the poems deeply and understand the essence to see the similarities and differences of the poems.
- To bring out the conclusions out of this comparative study.
- To understand the different structures and styles of the poems to understand its uniqueness.

**Keywords**— banks, poems, Robert Frost, panorama.

**I. INTRODUCTION**

The writings of Robert Frost are connected to a great degree with the life and panorama of New England. In his poems he gives a detailed portrayal of landscape arena by adoption of straight, vernacular expressions. The poems of Robert Frost transpire as reflections on prevalent subject matter. He throws himself into poetic instinct using pure natural world as an inlet in relation to attainment of the all-inclusive.

Although both poets see nature in different ways there are some aspects which are clearly the same. William Wordsworth stands exceptionally as a poet of nature as he is the worshipper of Nature. His view of nature is original, new, and full-fledged. Unlike William Wordsworth, Robert Frost finds no sustaining power or source of joy and moral health in nature. The writing style of Robert Frost displays artistic detachment from his writing and in the case of William Wordsworth there is a clear involvement of himself in the content and themes of his poetry. Robert Frost is skillfully simple whereas William Wordsworth is truly unsophisticated. Robert Frost is sensible, knowledgeable, and rational. On the other hand, William Wordsworth is a dreamer, delightful and enchanting. Robert Frost’s poetry begins with joy and ends with deep insight, whereas William Wordsworth’s poetry starts with amusement and ends with amusement and pleasure.

William Wordsworth is the exemplary personality of the Romantic Movement in England. The Romantic Movement of the 19th century started as a revolt against the classical...
The eighteenth-century poets who had put more emphasis on ‘wit’ and ‘reason’ and William Wordsworth in contrast with them used to prioritize on ‘imagination’. And by usage of creativity and imagination William Wordsworth formed beauty out of common things. In the poem, “Lines Written a Few miles above Tintern Abbey, on revisiting the Banks of the Wye during a Tour, July 13, 1798,” William Wordsworth saw the beauty of the flowing stream, submerged and majestic rock face through his poetic vision. He was exuberantly fascinated at the sparkling resonation of the flowing estuary. Here, he says,

Once again

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

In this poem, the poet seems that the nature as a remedy. William Wordsworth is able to feel and recollect the existence of nature throughout his imagination and memory with high sensibility presented in the form of poetry even in the absence of nature around him. He says,

In lonely rooms and ‘mid the din
Of towns and cities, I have owned to them
In hours of weariness, sensation sweet.

In his poetry Robert Frost expresses the harmonious, all-knowing, and free-spirited Inhabitant whom every Yankee desires of becoming. Robert Frost has exhibited genuineness in his poetry and people acknowledged. He represents the modest life, and individuals in an outrageously complicated society adhere to this. He exemplifies the forfeited vision of the purity in countryside of his fellow citizens who are trapped in the grindstone of sophisticated civilization, who can appreciate that irretrievable earlier time.

William Wordsworth promotes the use of uncomplicated, day-to-day language in poetry. His conception is that the poetry should be written in the language truly used by country men and women. He wants poetry to speak the language of simple truth.

The same kind of similarity we see in Robert Frost’s poetry where he discloses the intricacies of pastoral life in the form of everyday expression. But many of his concise remarks are challenging to decipher as these indicate figurative themes unlike William Wordsworth who prefers simple language. The body of his poetry appears simple and ordinary but covey deep meaning that demands one’s attention to introspect to understand clearly. There is a great art behind the simplicity projected in his poetry. Most of his poems are open to more than one interpretation. The opulent features of his poems gives them a rich texture which gives the poems an ever-lasting status. Undoubtedly the most suitable examples are the poems “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening” and “Birches”.

The philosophy of William Wordsworth on human life describes that the human being is very much part of nature. He believes that usually in childhood the man is sensitive to all natural influences because of the purity he holds during that phase, and he is an epitome of the blissfulness and aesthetics of the world. William Wordsworth explains this delightfulness and this perceptiveness towards Nature by the philosophy that the child comes straight from the Creator of Nature. This premiership with nature and with God and which glorifies childhood, extending through a man’s entire life and elevate it. This is the teaching of the poem “Tintern Abbey” which displays the best part of human life shown due to realistic impact. According to William Wordsworth, people become perverted and weakened due to association with the unnatural life and crowded environment in the cities so the only way to overcome this miserable way of life is to return to a natural and simple way of living. Nature stands supreme in William Wordsworth’s poetry, and he establishes the union between humans and nature as human beings and nature are never distant from each other and are closely related. Whereas in the case of Robert Frost we see that nature has been made subordinate to humans and because of this, it becomes hard to address Robert Frost as the poet of nature in consideration with William Wordsworth. Moreover, Robert Frost himself confesses that: “We have had nature poetry for a hundred years.” He is intrigued in discovering the dealings between nature and humans. It is true that both poets pursued comfort and joy in nature.

Nature is a Healer for William Wordsworth, and he describes healing abilities of nature in his poem “Tintern Abbey”, Nature never betrays the heart that loved her says William Wordsworth. Nature is hostile, malicious and spiteful to Robert Frost as it creates barriers to tranquility and satisfaction of human beings and social responsibilities. Even though he praises the woods in his poetry saying that they are lovely, dark and deep, he is of the opinion that humans have duties to perform and have miles to go before they sleep and should not stay in nature for long.

‘Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening’ is undoubtedly the most celebrated poem of Robert Frost. Here the poet shares with the readers his amazing experience in the woods on a snowy evening.

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.
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.
He gives his harness bells a shake
To ask if there is some mistake
The only other sounds the sweep
Of easy wind and downy flake.
The woods are lovely, dark, and deep,
But I Have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.

William Wordsworth first visited the Wye Valley when he was 23 years old. After His return five years later William Wordsworth composed the poem 'Tintern Abbey' expressing his beliefs about nature, creativity, and the human soul. In Lyrical Ballads composed by Wordsworth and his friend fellow poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge., a 1798 collection of poems "Tintern Abbey" was included as the last poem.

Five years have past; five summers, with the length
Of five long winters! and again I hear
These waters, rolling from their mountain-springs
With a soft inland murmur. — Once again
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.
The day is come when I again repose
Here, under this dark sycamore, and view
These plots of cottage-ground, these orchard-tufts,
Which at this season, with their unripe fruits,
Are clad in one green hue, and lose themselves
Mid groves and copses. Once again I see
These hedge-rows, hardly hedge-rows, little lines
Of sportive wood run wild: these pastoral farms,
Green to the very door; and wreaths of smoke
Sent up, in silence, from among the trees!
With some uncertain notice, as might seem
Of vagrant dwellers in the houseless woods,
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poem were found written in his diary at his table in his death.

In the poem “Tintern Abbey” William Wordsworth is inspired by nature ability to preserve the memories of past and present of one’s life. His experiences with nature are conveyed in the poetry by usage of vivid imagery, narration-based composition and metaphysical figures of speech especially metaphors. This poetry also contains several aspects that might connect to the sentiments of the readers. It is such a beautiful poem that people or readers have retained the effect that it has created through nature that leaves several beautiful impressions on the mind regarding the poetry.

In solitude with nature and in the company of his sister Dorothy, William Wordsworth explored every aspect of nature with complete deep understanding and introspecting his ideas and fascination towards it. And this fascination of poet triggers the senses of the readers to look through the vision of poet and rejoice the experience that poet is trying to convey through his poetry.

The usage of imagery in Tintern abbey lays out a firm base for the readers to look upon the trying to decode the precise point of view and feeling that poet is presenting about nature and the natural environment. It would not have been possible for William Wordsworth to introspect his thoughts and emotions deeply and recreate his perceptions to his readers without detailed exemplification of the scenery within which he is located or positioned.

The following lines depict the poet’s expression in accordance with imperishable imagery.

Once again I see
These hedge-rows, hardly hedge-rows, little lines
Of sportive wood run wild; these pastoral farms,
Green to the very door; and wreathes of smoke
Sent up, in silence, from among the trees.

William Wordsworth is of the opinion that silence is can be an important ornament to connect and observe nature closely. And whatever action has to occur it is within William Wordsworth’s mind and imagination as he perceives nature in its true sense. So therefore, it is clear that it is the nature and natural world that gives him a chance to connect to the quietness and true beauty of nature. The presence of nature acts as a medium for William Wordsworth to understand beauty and propensity to affect the senses of individuals.

William Wordsworth has adapted his mind in such a way that it contributes to his own personal growth in being able to create amazing depictions of the setting even though there is changelessness in impression of the scenery. With the actual portrayal of pictures that William Wordsworth witnesses he is able to present to his readers the true capacity of metaphysical representation of life. It is essential for William Wordsworth to illustrate the scene so that the impact of five years past provides the reader with the way the mind is altered through time and perceptions can be changed as one enters new stages of their life.

II. SETTINGS AND POETIC TEMPERAMENT

Both the poems Tintern Abbey and Stopping by the Woods in the Snowy Evening are encapsulated in the company of nature in solitude, totally distanced from urban life so to entreat a reflective, pensive and recollective mood. Since time immemorial poets have highlighted wild and tranquility as an ideal spot for reflecting one’s own sensibility. The Poets William Wordsworth and Robert Frost have also disclosed the spokesperson to genuine personality in that way they are counseled and enlightened by the Nature.

Themes of the ‘Lines Composed a Few Miles above Tintern Abbey, On Revisiting the Banks of the Wye during a Tour July 13, 1798’ and Stopping by the Woods in the Snowy Evening

Nature is presented as the driving force for morality in this poem composed by William Wordsworth. The poet describes that the association with nature invokes him to perform good deeds and inspires him to make good decisions. He tells us the glories of nature in this poem, and he is convinced by the fact that everything is in relation with nature including human beings. Another important theme discussed in the poem ‘Lines Composed a Few Miles above Tintern Abbey’ is the description of the poet’s past. William Wordsworth here first of all begins the poem by recollecting his past memories mentioning the place that he visited five years ago.

The poet considers thoroughly his change of relationship with nature over time. During his early years his experience with nature was not so deep and profound as the way he looks back very affectionately now. He also relates this fact in relation to his sister Dorothy. With experience William Wordsworth has understood the significance of nature. However, he doesn’t forget his joyful and passionate youthful times.

Human and Nature Relationship

In Robert Frost poetry we come across humans versus nature to be a common theme. At the beginning of the poem “Stopping by Woods in the snowy evening” we can actually see the conflict occurring between nature and humans during the course of the poem where the speaker and his horse halted at the woods in the snowy evening. Whereas
William Wordsworth is asking us to take shelter of nature and explaining us the profound relationship between the nature and human beings.

**Poetic Devices /Techniques, Symbols and Imagery**

It is noticed that Robert Frost is notable for making use of diverse poetic devices in his poems. And, in this Poem ‘Stopping by the woods in the snowy evening’ several devices have been employed to describe and explain the basic understanding of the poem. For instance, the usage of wood in the poem is used for representation of the suburb areas where the applicability of rules and regulations are uncommon as the person is closer to nature and he is all by himself surrounded by pure natural surroundings. And the description of snow and the frozen lake that is mentioned in the poem depict the condition of getting tempted by one’s own senses basically enjoying sense gratification from one’s own senses that leads to numbness of senses just like the snow and the frozen lake. The usage of horse is used to represent the passionate and conquering side of the human being. The usage of ‘Sleep’ in the last lines is used to indicate the metaphor for death and living life is mentioned as ‘miles to go’ in the poem. The snow also brings up the usage of imagery as whiteness indicates stillness and calmness.

‘Lines composed a Few Miles above Tintern Abbey, On Revisiting the Banks of the Wye during a Tour July 13, 1798’ is majorly an ode because it is focused majorly on praising a place in the poem by the poet William Wordsworth who is praising the countryside natural environment. The Five stanza poem is composed of varying lengths and the meter is much more consistent as it is written in blank verse. William Wordsworth effectively uses blank verse in the poem for its rhythmic and balanced flow which is useful for connecting to the readers in an informal tone to see nature as naturally as possible.

III. CONCLUSION

Robert Frost has excelled in presenting prevalent themes like the one given here. He has showcased a prominent flexibility of the theme that conveys a great message to human kind. Both the poems analyze human nature and conclude by the fact that human mentality is naturally subject to uncertainty and has the propensity to alter and transform. Robert Frost was able to glorify the rural setting and natural imagery with the usage of symbolic and metaphysical elements which make the poem very charming with global relevance. Whereas William Wordsworth brings exceptional experience in his poetry that the readers are able to connect to heightened sensibility of the poem through imagination. Therefore, imagination plays a key role in poetry of Wordsworth as it is vital aspect that helps in revealing the truth which can be figured out with the perception of both subjective and objective approach. William Wordsworth’s poetry explains and makes the readers understand the uniqueness of the same as mentioned above.

In the poetry of William Wordsworth, we can learn that we need to connect to nature and be friendly to nature and how we can overcome everyday tensions by seeking solace in nature and associating ourselves with nature. And Robert Frost poetry showcases the approach where we got to seek relief in nature, wildlife and rustic life of rural people and also employ ourselves in constant work and carry out our duties and responsibilities.

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