

Environmental, Cultural and Humanistic Perspectives in the Poetry of Robert Frost, Kazuyosi Ikeda and Syed Ameeruddin

Ram Avadh Prajapati

Research Scholar,

Department of English & MEL

The University of Allahabad,

Prayagraj, UP

DOI: 10.53032/tcl.2019.4.4.12

Abstract

The modern world has witnessed radical changes in all sorts of discourses. Different kinds of changes in environment, culture and humanistic approach have brought relevant dimensions in literature. The points are quite interesting, contemporary, burning and have masculine, vital and thought-provoking concerns. Everyone is running after ease and comfort forgetting the importance of nature and environment. This can be reiterated in the words of William Wordsworth that getting and spending we are busy in wasting our powers, health, knowledge, wisdom, human feelings. Further, he says that we have lost all our sensibilities to realize the relevance and grateful towards nature. Actually, we do not even realize the importance of nature in our life. The paper explores the concept of environmental, cultural and humanistic concerns in the poetry of Robert Frost, Kazuyosi Ikeda and Syed Ameeruddin.

Keywords- Ecocriticism, Culture, Humanism, Ecophobia, Environment, New Culture

Environment, culture and humanism are widely known concerns in the literary expressions. Environment and literature have a very good relationship. These are studied and have been a very crucial for each other since the evolution of both. This relationship is studied in Ecocriticism which is a very recent phenomenon in literary criticism. It is an interdisciplinary method of literary studies. It has a close association with other literary, social, gender, religious, moral, political, linguistic and linguistic theories of criticism. It focuses on the points of preservation and conservation of natural elements and the environment from pollution, global warming and other unwanted things. It not only presents environmental problems but also gives possible solutions to the contemporary challenges to nature and human beings.

Robert Frost was an American poet who wrote and influenced others through his poetic creations. He is known and celebrated as the true environmentalist, minute observer of nature and representative of culture. He has very close experience of different dimensions of environment, changing culture and nature. He has represented the harsh realities of seasonal

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and weather changes, environment, and climactic influences on human beings. In most of his poems he seems disclosing one of his several experiences in the lap of nature but he denied himself to be called as a nature poet because he was aware of the fact that a nature poet must glorify nature. He deemed himself to be known as an environmental poet. He has portrayed brighter and darker side of culture, nature and environment. He directly and indirectly denounced the deforestation and fast-growing concepts of technology, science and modernity without proper discretion of future problems. Though he was not against these things yet he valued things which have good sense of life and existence.

Robert Frost has given very important place to landscape in his poetry writing. His spatial pastorals always do not present evidence of the traits of pure and original pastorals. His earthly pastorals also have the same risk and traits of not being true in common sense. The poem "Birches" is his one of the most remarkable poems about human beings and the important of the earth and other objects of nature. In this poem he shows the beauty and images of nature particularly of the swinging on the branches of birches tree. The delineation of trees, shrubs, woods mountains and other objects of nature in the form of landscape and scenes have emotional attachment with Robert Frost. He wants to share all kinds of activities which can bring those moments of pleasures and emotions. Frost presents through his poems how nature is always working to diminish differences between countries, provinces and regions. The benevolent sense of nature has been presented in this poem. But in "Storm Fear" Frost introduces a New England family's susceptibility to ruthless winter weather. The deserted and stinking house in the poem "Ghost House" is domesticated by nature with its various elements. Nature is always active without considering the presence or absence of human beings. As we see various fragrant and stinking flowers blossom in far away regions as in the mid-deep forest without the concern of human beings. Central to the dilemma of environmentalism is the fact that the act of identifying the presumption of human apartness from nature as the problem is in itself a symptom of that very apartness. The identification is the product of an instrumental way of thinking and using language.

Kazuyosi Ikeda was a Japanese poet whose soul is really the one of the souls of Japanese tortured persons where nature and environment were brutally disturbed during Second World War. Ikeda's poetry can be called the savior of nature, culture, humanism and environment. He believes that the environment and nature are in the doldrums but human beings have the capacity to maintain nature and its parts. His environmentalism is based on his genuine love expressed in his poetry, for all things in our surroundings. As a scientist and environmentalist, he has long asserted that scientists should not make, invent, or develop any weapons by which people are killed, and they should not destroy our environment under the name of scientific civilization. He discloses the deeply hidden idea of globalization, urbanization, dislocation, domination, ecophobia, ecocide, migration and environmental justice. He believes that all human beings could attain the vision of "eco-affection" by carefully scrutinizing, analysing and feeling nature's values. Nature is a revolution and

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revelation for Ikeda and his sensibilities. He has created completely a wonderful combination of the old and new ideas. He feels the raptures, despairs, agonies and problems of human beings. Ikeda's poetry is unique and original in all ways. He believes that all natural things were made by God. His poetry has crossed the boundary of his country. Ikeda is one of the poets whom humanity can be proud of and his paradigm, prototype and standards are philosophical, ethical and humanitarian. Ikeda's poetry shares the quality of clearness, precision, simplicity, transparency, explicitness, comprehensibility, lucidity, intellectuality and obviousness. He is able to present the dilemma of human life and their problems in aggregate. He has succeeded in giving us a sacred vision. There is a presentation of visions in his poetry. Ikeda's poetry refers to highly means of liberation, bearing the bird's relation to ecology and aesthetics where life's presence is stored about. He strives hard to save the mother earth from the global environmental crisis. The prime concern of Ikeda's is human beings in the midst of nature and the environment.

Syed Ameeruddin is an Indian poet, environmentalist and humanist. His philosophy of life is centered to the betterment of human beings and natural elements. The poems of Syed Ameeruddin contain passionate love for nature, environment, world peace, Indian culture, his simple and sensuous and impassioned responses to the landscapes and different scenery of nature. According to Krishna Srinivas, "(N)ature to him (Syed Ameeruddin) is a merciless genetic force which transmits to its creatures its own frenzied fury. Man-nature's favourite offering mirrors its riotous cruelty". Syed Ameeruddin has written a lot of nature and culture oriented poems which are the prime concerns of the ecocritical studies. Environmental imagination is associated to those writings and discourses which are concerned with nature, culture and environment. Ameeruddin believes the existence of human beings is only possible when there is favorable nature and environment. Material pursuits and hankerings are very temporary and menacing to the existence of human beings. He assumes materialistic culture as "excess of human stink" and "spiritual destitution" filled with "banality and triviality". His poetry shows love for humanity as well as nature. Through his poetic vision he wants to make this earth a better place in different contexts. His poems are very suggestive, provocative, thoughtful and classical in nature. His expressions are exquisite, forceful and facile. Most of his poems have a fundamental idea of environmental imagination, eco-civilization, culture, human concern, Indianness and biodiversity. Ameeruddin's poetry bears peculiar, unpredictable twists and turns in relation to themes. Exotic flora and fauna, exciting seasons, nature in bloom with renovating sights and scenes cause him to explore the feelings with love and sensations towards nature. His nature poems have the quality of inclusion to all things which he perceives and seeks to penetrate. Cloud, rain, thunder, breeze, animals, flowers, trees etc. give him relief and joy as well as literary imagination. All seasons and phenomena of nature have got proper expression in the poetry of Syed Ameeruddin. He began his creative career with a realistic-revolutionary attitude towards life. With the passing of literary career he nurtured disgust with the rotten social realism and become unhappy with the corrupted

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modes of existence. He became theist and started believing in the redeeming features of the omnipresent God and soon turned away from it to become a seeker of beauty through love of nature and humanity. The poet clings ostensibly to ventilate his desire to escape from reality, but it makes him involved in the affairs of life and body. Realizing the mutability of the physical world, the poet hopes to land on a purple paradise, a griefless world of beauty and innocence and eternal bliss. But he realizes that it is only love which has complete treatment of social problems so he transcends importance of body, temporal benefits and mundane ones. The poet's realization of the fertility of the physical and materialistic ways of living and final acceptance of the presence of a supreme power makes us feel the progress of the wanderer to the new world. A splendid realization of the transcendence of the eternal gets over the real, the triumph of the visionary over a revolutionary.

All these poets bring out a sense of eco-consciousness through their poetic creations. The modern world is a world of industrial activity and materialistic pursuit. And in these worldly pursuits human beings have totally forgotten the importance of nature and environment that are always active without any partiality to any living and non-living objects. The poetry of all these poets has simplicity of expression and construction. There is no complexity in their poetry in general yet philosophical tinges in particular.

Thus it can be said that Robert Frost's ways of representation of nature, culture and environment has realistic visions of human life. His minute observations of landscape and nature have been successfully represented. Several aspects of nature have got perfect observation in his poetry. Dr Kazuyosi Ikeda reflects a true glimpse of Japanese ideology, sensibility towards nature, environment and culture. His poetry is encouraging and inspiring to conserve, protect and preserve them. He very forcefully gives voice to the idea of eco-consciousness. He envisions that without doing this we cannot maintain the existence of human beings. Dr Syed Ameeruddin explores the opportunity of nature representation through using Indian ethos, symbols and metaphors.

The literary imagination of these three poets revolves around the aesthetics of nature and its allied objects. There are all pervasive and contemporary values well explored in their poems. Though studying nature and environment is particularly a geographical entity and culture a subject of anthropological entity yet in the modern age all the subjects have become the entities for other disciplines so there are interdisciplinary studies prevalent in the whole academic world. Globalization, industrialization, commercialization has caused different kinds of discrepancies which are putting heralds in the smooth development of human and other species. Various species have become extinct. So there is a proper need for the study of different things from a different and wide range of angles.

The paper shows how the tinges of religious visions celebrate the protection of nature and environment. Most of the poems written by these three poets have concern to nature, environment, culture, religion and humanity. Each of the discussed poets has his concern, literary history of the concerned country and concluding ideas of the topic.

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