

A Study of Poetic Element of Earth in Wordsworth's Selected Poems: An Ecocritical Perspective

Bandana Sinha Kumar

Abstract— One of the most enduringly popular and favourite English Romantic poets, William Wordsworth's (1760-1830) works celebrate not just the beauty of nature but also the moralising influence nature had on him. His innate grasp of the power of nature is closely linked with a deeper understanding of the feeling and emotions of common people. Wordsworth's concern with the plight of mankind is reflected in his poetry, which reveals a dread of the 'Industrial Age' and a presentiment that will destroy both man's innocence and the individuality of the human spirit. Wordsworth did not initiate the tradition of environmental consciousness but he has been a vital influence upon it.

'Earth' the poetic element as presented by the French philosopher Gaston Bachelard finds expression in the poetry of William Wordsworth. The poetic element of 'Earth' symbolises stability, permanence, moral values and nature itself. Bachelard's material imagination depicts 'Earth' as, "Matter is the mirror of our energies; a mirror that focuses our strengths by illuminating them with imaginary gratifications" (Bachelard, 2002, *Earth and Reveries of Will*, p.7). Earth or the landscape is a primary concern for Wordsworth. There is a historical basis for the intuitive link that thousands of people still make between the poetry of Wordsworth and the 'natural beauty' of the English Lake District. It is still preserved as Wordsworth wished it to be.

This paper, brings together William Wordsworth and Gaston Bachelard, which will analyse selected works of William Wordsworth. The way Wordsworth portrays 'Earth' will be included as well as the theoretical framework will be Ecocritical..

Keywords— Earth, Environment, Global Warming, Nature