

**METAPHORICAL MEANING IN WORDSWORTH'S
POEM "THE SIMPLON PASS"**

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Abstrak

William Wordsworth adalah seorang penyair yang sangat populer, bahkan bisa disebut super populer, dan, puisinya yang dibuatnya nya sangat baik. Pada akhir hidupnya ia mencapai status yang disebut legenda hidup. Sebagai penyair Alam, Wordsworth adalah pemuja alam dan cintanya terhadap alam mungkin lebih benar, dan lebih lembut, daripada setiap penyair Inggris lainnya, sebelum atau sesudah ia mengisi dunia sastra kerajaan Inggris sebagai penyair.

Wordsworth memiliki filosofi kehidupan pandangan baru dan asli dari alam. Tiga poin dalam keyakinannya terhadap alam dapat dicatat sebagai berikut: (1.) Ia memahami alam sebagai kepribadian yang hidup. (2.) Ia percaya bahwa alam memberikan sukacita bagi hati manusia dan ia memandang alam sebagai latihan penyembuhan hati yang dilanda kesedihan. (3.) Wordsworth juga menekankan pengaruh moral Alam. Dia percaya bahwa antara manusia dan alam ada saling kesadaran, persekutuan spiritual atau 'hubungan mistik'

Ada dua teori utama yang diadopsi dalam penelitian ini. Pertama adalah Knickerbocker dan Reninger (1955: 309) yang menyatakan bahwa sebagai langkah pertama dalam memahami puisi, akan sangat membantu untuk membuat parafrase arti yang sederhana. Arti dari setiap bagian dari puisi bisa membantu untuk menentukan makna isi puisi tersebut secara keseluruhan, dan pada akhirnya seluruh isi puisi akan membantu menentukan arti dari masing-masing bagian. Dan yang kedua adalah teori dari Wellek dan Warren tentang pendekatan biografi untuk menemukan hubungan antara kehidupan nyata dari para penyair dengan isi cerita yang mereka katakan dalam puisi mereka.

Melalui puisi ini, Wordsworth ingin menggambarkan perjalanannya melalui Alpen bersama dengan temannya Robert Jones. Trekking dari Swiss ke Italia, mereka berjalan melalui Simplon Pass, puncak besar mengelilingi cakrawala. Saat ini, kita dapat mempercepat melalui dalam mobil, tapi Wordsworth mengambil langkah lambat nya di jalur tanah yang mengingatkan kembali ke Abad Pertengahan.

Kata kunci: puncak, filsafat, moral.

1. Background of the Study

Knickerboker & Reninger, (1963; 307) says that “poetry is the hymn of praise”. Good talk about poetry is nevertheless rare and even the best of it will rest on fallow ground until we ourselves have learned how to penetrate the inner life of a few poem”. Poem is a medium not only to express the feeling of the poets but also to make us enter into these feelings about the things, persons, situations or ideas in the poem. Poetry is able to give entertainment, satisfaction, pleasure and enjoyment to the reader. This is because there is great difference between language in a poem and our daily language, in that poetic language is stylized with aesthetic or artistic effect.

Poetry is narrative, which tells a story. It conveys the meaning in ways that are different from those found in prose fiction. Poetry makes a statement, and the reader should be able to paraphrase that statement, realizing however that the paraphrase is not the poem itself. Most poetry has a formal structure that differentiates it from prose. The language of poetry is characterized by a greater intensity than a prose. It is likely to be more metaphorical and connotative.

Poetry is one of the literary works beside prose and drama where the poet wants to express his/her feelings, mind and emotion of the reality of life. It is a human imaginative experience of what has happened in his/her life and which is never gone away from his/her mind. Then, he/she writes and tells the readers what exists in his/her mind as a poem. So, when the readers read the poem, it is hoped that they will know what the meaning of the poem is, what the readers can catch and find after reading it. And also it is possible that they will know the poet’s personality and his/her life in the past, by reading the poem.

Discovering and describing meaning in a poem seems to be the goal of analysis. That is why biography is also important when the readers want to know the real meaning hiding in a poem. After reading the biography of the poet, it is possible to the readers to get the meaning of the poem easily.

2. Problem of the Study

In this study, William Wordsworth's poem was analysed. The title of the poem is *The Simplon Pass*. In this poem, Wordsworth describes a journey through the Alps that he once made with his friend Robert Jones. Trekking from Switzerland into Italy, they wended their way through the Simplon Pass, huge peaks ringing the horizon. Nowadays, we can speed through in a car, but Wordsworth took his slow steps on a dirt track that dated back to the Middle Ages.

Based on the background mentioned above, some problems could be formulated as follows:

1. What metaphorical meanings are found in Wordsworth's *The Simplon Pass*?
2. What does Wordsworth want to tell the readers in the poem?

3. Aims of the Study

Based on the problems formulated above, there are three aims to be achieved in this article. They are as follows:

1. To identify and describe the metaphorical meanings which are found in *The Simplon Pass*
2. To analyse the meaning of metaphorical word used in the poem.
3. The last is an academic aim that is to apply the theory of literature studied in the English Department and to give contribution to this department, so this article writing can be used as reference for the student who is interested in poetry.

4. Research Method

A method is a systematic procedure in analysing an object of research in accordance with the approach being used. There are three aspects of the research in this study; they consist of data source, data collection and data analysis.

4.1. Data Source

In this article the source of the primary data were taken from the website through internet. The poem used as data source was *The Simplon Pass* written by William Wordsworth Source: <http://www.poetryfoundation.org/poem/174821>

This poem was chosen as a data source because the poem was constructed by the poet's journey which seemed very interesting to learn.

4.2. Method and Technique of Collecting Data

The data were collected through reading the story intensively and noting down all the information relevant to the poem then the data were identified in accordance with their type then they were descriptively presented. They were several types of collecting data:

1. Reading the poem carefully, selecting and taking note the selected items based on the related topic
2. The metaphorical meaning of the poem to be found out.

4.3. Method and Technique of Analysing Data

The analysis correlates to the problems that were formulated. The method for analysing the data was descriptive. The data were collected from the data source and through the data collection, it was analysed by using the theory of Smith, Sybille entitled *Inside Poetry* (1985) and a theory proposed by Knickerboker & Reninger, entitled *Interpreting Literature* (1963)

5. Analysis

The Simplon Pass

By William Wordsworth

—Brook and road

Were fellow-travellers in this gloomy Pass,
And with them did we journey several hours
At a slow step. The immeasurable height

Of woods decaying, never to be decayed, 5
 The stationary blasts of waterfalls,
 And in the narrow rent, at every turn,
 Winds thwarting winds bewildered and forlorn,
 The torrents shooting from the clear blue sky,
 The rocks that muttered close upon our ears, 10
 Black drizzling crags that spake by the wayside
 As if a voice were in them, the sick sight
 And giddy prospect of the raving stream,
 The unfettered clouds and region of the heavens,
 Tumult and peace, the darkness and the light— 15
 Were all like workings of one mind, the features
 Of the same face, blossoms upon one tree,
 Characters of the great Apocalypse,
 The types and symbols of Eternity,
 Of first and last, and midst, and without end. 20

Simplon Pass 2,005 m or 6,578 feet is a high mountain pass between the Pennine Alps and the Lepontine Alps in Switzerland. It connects Brig in the canton of Valais with Domodossola in Piedmont in Italy. The pass itself and the villages on each side of it, such as Gondo, are in Switzerland. The Simplon Tunnel was built beneath the vicinity of the pass in early 20th century to carry rail traffic between the two countries.

In this poem, Wordsworth describes a journey through the Alps that he once made with his friend Robert Jones. Trekking from Switzerland into Italy, they wended their way through the Simplon Pass, huge peaks ringing the horizon. Nowadays, we can speed through in a car, but Wordsworth took his slow steps on a dirt track that dated back to the Middle Ages.

The poem can be naturally divided into two parts. In the first part, it is found a vivid description of the natural scenery in an impassioned style. In this poem by Wordsworth, he describes a journey through the Alps that he once made with his friend Robert Jones. Trekking from Switzerland into Italy, they

proceeded their way through the Simplon Pass, huge peaks ringing the horizon. (Line 1-2) On all sides were tall woods, their height being immeasurable to the human eye. In the waterfalls, the water fell without stop, blasting noise. (Line 4-5) On the top of the hill, the wind blew with a bewildering, confusing noise. A small stream ran down the valley like stars shooting in the blue sky. \

Wordsworth catches this process in a remarkable and baffling series of paradoxes, *woods decaying, never to be decayed, / The stationary blasts of waterfalls / . . . Winds thwarting winds* (Line 5 - 9). The woods change but remain the same; the waterfall appears still while in constant motion: Wordsworth shows the readers at the moment of inception the transforming process that is central to feeling, maintaining identity within difference.

The wayside crags or black rock continuously dripped, and the poet felt as if they were addressing him in their own language (Line 10).

The sight of the stream raving in its bed made those who were travelling in the pass feel giddy (Line 13). Clouds freely moved in the blue sky. It was a fascinating scene and the poet was greatly impressed by these scenes. He felt that whatever he saw around was the manifestation of one, eternal mind, like the numerous flowers and blossoms growing on the tree (Line 17)

The poem can be naturally described as a vivid natural scenery in an impassioned style. The ceaseless fall of water appears to be an unchanging blast. On the top of the hill, winds blow bewilderment. The torrents shoot from the clear blue sky (Line 8 - 9) Black rocks keep continuously dipping. Deep below in the valley, the stream flows noisily. (Line 11) Clouds walk along freely in the sky (Line 14)

An important aspect of these descriptions is the personification of the various object of nature. The brook and the road are fellow- traveller. The rocks mutter close upon the ears. Black drizzling crags speak by the wayside as if a voice were in them. The stream flows on noisily like a raving man sick of life. Winds thwarting winds bewildered and forlorn, the clouds freely move about in the sky (Line 8). The poet later describes these scenes as the feature on the same face. So there is no wonder that he invests them with life.

This poem is the record of that memorable occasion when Wordsworth's fellowship with nature was connected in a mystical experience. This mystical experience is described in the second part of the poem. What Wordsworth had seen was splendid and sublime. He had been fascinated with it. He regards them as the blossoms upon one tree, the characters of the great apocalypse and the types and symbols of eternity (Line 17-19). These scenes are different forms of one life that informs the universe.

Wordsworth depicts a distinct stage in the development of his attitude to Nature. Here nature is described as typical of spiritual life. Later he goes ahead and begins to regard nature as animated by spiritual life and not merely by a symbol of spiritual life.

Simplon Pass is replete with natural energy. The blast of waterfalls, winds thwarting winds, the raving stream, all become unified as the working of one mind.

6. Conclusion

Wordsworth's poem tells the readers his journey through the Alps that he once made with his friend Robert Jones. Trekking from Switzerland into Italy, they wended their way through the Simplon Pass, huge peaks ringing the horizon.

Here, Wordsworth indicates the correspondence in the human realm. His account, in short, points to the common processes underlying the evolution of both Nature and Mind. Wordsworth does not simply attribute human feelings to the scene before him, a technique that evades what is unique or distinctive about the ecosystem in question.

The Simplon Pass begins as a landscape poem but as the poem progresses; we become aware that the language of description gives way to the language of meditation, a state produced by the intense contemplation of nature. We are also aware that the real subject of the poem is not nature as seen at this poem, but rather experiences that are open to the mind which can create and recall at will and mental landscape based on a remembered scene.

7. Bibliography

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