

Nature in Tennyson's Poems

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ABSTRACT

Nature, existence of animals and world are interrelated. World is a place to live and she without Nature, cannot be imagined. This Nature is the center of all activities of all people and animals of this world. Writers of all ages have praised, worshipped, painted, narrated or depicted this Nature in their works. Thus, some poets are called poets of nature, others are known as worshippers of nature, while some are presenters of nature, including human nature. Lord Alfred Tennyson (1809-1892) is a great Victorian poet of Nature. But he is not like William Wordsworth or Robert Frost. His attitude towards Nature is as it is. He is a dualist. He is both a lover and a pessimist. He takes Nature scientifically and philosophically. He is not a pantheist like Wordsworth or a pessimist like Thomas Hardy. He is a Victorian poet who faced the Victorian Compromise, - the compromise between science and religion. He admires the beauty, peace and power of Nature along with its cruelty and indifference. His treatment of Nature is complex and realistic, which it is not like William Wordsworth, Robert Frost and Thomas Hardy or like other Romantic poets. To him, Nature is beautiful and inspiring, yet at times cruel and indifferent; it is a source of philosophical and spiritual questioning about God, life, death, and immortality, a means of expressing human emotions and ideas, and a realistic representation of the natural world. If we study some of his famous poems like- "*Oenone*", "*The Lotos- Eaters*", "*Ulysses*", "*Tithonus*", "*Locksley Hall*" and "*The Palace of Art*", his attitude towards Nature and her presentation in these poems will be clear to us.

Keywords: Nature, worship, Alfred Tennyson, dualist, pantheist, pessimist, indifference.

INTRODUCTION



Lord Alfred Tennyson (1809-1892)

Lord Alfred Tennyson, the poet laureate of England, was born on 6 August 1809, at Somersby, Lincolnshire, England and died on 6 October 1892 at the age of 83 and buried at Westminster Abbey with great honour in the Poets' Corner. He was a poet of rich- musical language. His enchanting description of Nature, strong rhythm and melody, emotional depth and psychological insight, themes of love, loss of faith, doubt, death, heroism, conflict between science and religion, symbolism and imagery have made his poems practical and relevant to his time. He was greatly influenced and inspired by classical myths, medieval legends, and Arthurian romances. Tennyson is a famous poet of Nature. His Nature pictures are vivid and transparent. His descriptions are as lively, sensuous and visual as those of John Keats. He has used myths in his writings in such a way that Greek myths, medieval legends and Arthurian romances have got eminence through his pen. The Victorian period was marked by religious doubt, loss of faith, and a growing conflict between scientific

thought and traditional religious beliefs. The influence of the novelists, French Revolution, Renaissance, political unrest -due to religious intolerance, and upcoming modernism, virtually made this period a complex one. Tennyson, along with Matthew Arnold, Robert Browning, E B Browning, Christina Rossetti, G M Hopkins, Thomas Hardy, Charles Dickens, Emile Bronte, Charlotte Bronte, Anne Bronte, William Makepeace Thackeray, George Eliot and Elizabeth Gaskell upheld this period as a time of wisdom and prudence. Each of these writers dealt with Nature along with Victorian literary concerns in their works. Tennyson's attitude towards Nature is different from that of other writers of his time. I have chosen Tennyson's six (06) renowned poems- "*Oenone*", "*The Lotos- Eaters*", "*Ulysses*", "*Tithonus*", "*Locksley Hall*" and "*The Palace of Art*", to analyze his use of Nature in them.

Research Questions

This research work faces some questions while dealing with the subject matter. The questions of this research work are as follows-

- a) Why should Tennyson be regarded as a poet of Nature?
- b) How does Tennyson use Nature in the poems-- "*Oenone*", "*The Lotos- Eaters*", "*Ulysses*", "*Tithonus*", "*Locksley Hall*" and "*The Palace of Art*"?
- c) How does Tennyson's treatment of Nature comply with his poetic diction?

Objectives of this Study

- i) This study aims to examine how Alfred Tennyson delineates Nature as a source of beauty, comfort, peace and spiritual inspiration in these selected poems.
- ii) This study also aims to analyse the relationship between Nature and human emotions in the above mentioned poems.
- iii) This study further aims to explore the Victorian socio-political, religious and scientific influences in the poems- -- "*Oenone*",

"The Lotos- Eaters", "Ulysses", "Tithonus", "Locksley Hall" and "The Palace of Art".

LITERATURE REVIEW

Tennyson, a poet laureate, reigned the whole half century as a great Victorian poet. His devotion to art and culture is unimaginable. About Tennyson, Long, William Joseph (1867-1952), an American writer, naturalist and minister tells- "*Tennyson is essentially the artist. No other in his age studied the art of poetry so constantly or with such singleness of purpose; and only Swinburne rivals him in melody and the perfect finish of his verse*" (English Literature Its History & Its Significance). The same author again tells about the poet in the following way- "*For a full half century he was the voice of England, loved and honored as a man and a poet, not simply by a few discerning critics, but by a whole people that do not easily give their allegiance to any one man*" (English Literature Its History & Its Significance). Stopford A. Brooke, in "*Tennyson: His Art and Relation to Modern Life* (1894)", in chapter- "*The Nature Poetry*" argues that Tennyson presents Nature primarily as she appears to the senses, with remarkable accuracy and descriptive skill, rather than conceiving Nature as a living spiritual presence in the Wordsworthian manner- p. 469. Nicolson, Harold, in "*Tennyson: Aspects of His Life, Character, and Poetry* (1925)", emphasizes Tennyson's intimate familiarity with actual landscapes. He observes that the backgrounds of Tennyson's poems are frequently- landscapes that he himself had visited and that his natural imagery is drawn from things he had personally observed. If we go through Tennyson's these six poems namely--- "*Oenone*", "*The Lotos- Eaters*", "*Ulysses*", "*Tithonus*", "*Locksley Hall*" and "*The Palace of Art*"-from our eco-critical perspective, we will see that Nature here exposes a complex relationship between human beings and the natural world. Here Nature serves not merely as a decorative background but as a powerful presence that challenges human ambition, discloses the limitations of human existence, and reflects the consequences of isolation from the natural order of life. So, to evaluate the

role and function of Nature in the study-*“Nature in Tennyson’s Poems”*, we have to explore each of these poems step by step and meticulously.

Presentation of Nature in “Oenone”

“Oenone” is long exotic poem of Lord Alfred Tennyson on Greek mythological character “Oenone” a nymph of Mount Ida, daughter of Cebren, the river god of the Troad. Through this poem, the poet has beautifully narrated the pangs of Oenone and the basic story behind the fall of Troy. **The Nature description of this poem is so vivid and lively that when we go through this poem, the total scenery of that area becomes visible. The Ida valley and mountain, swimming vapours, pine bough, flowery meadows, mountain brooks, peak of Gargarus, the peak of Troas and its surroundings, all are the objects of Nature. The pangs of Oenone’s love sick soul is reflected here through the vibrant portrayal of Nature. Nature is here not a benign mother; it is just as she is actually. Tennyson in the first stanza, creates a setting for expressing Oenone’s sorrows through the description of Nature in the following way-**

*“There lies a vale in Ida, Lovelier
Than all the valleys of Ionian hills.
The swimming vapour slopes athwart the glen,
Puts forth an arm, and creeps from pine to pine,
And loiters, slowly drawn. On either hand
The lawns and meadow-ledges midway down
Hang rich in flowers, and far below them roars
The long brook falling thro’ the clov’n ravine
In cataract after cataract to the sea.
Behind the valley topmost Gargarus
Stands up and takes the morning: but in front
The gorges, opening wide apart, reveal
Troas and Ilion’s column’d citadel, The crown of Troas.”* (Lines-01-14)

Nature gets associated with Oenone’s sorrows and pangs of desertion. It seems that Tennyson here follows Wordsworth’s theme-e.g. he (W.Wordsworth) can hear the *sad music of humanity* in Nature. In stanza-3, the *the hill at noon, the silent grasshopper, the shadowy lizard, silent wind, the purple coloured flower, lily cradled golden bee*, are all narrated here by Tennyson through Oenone. Nature is here her shelter, her mother to disclose her wounded mind. She beseeches-



Oenone: The Oread Nymph and First Love of Paris

*“Dear mother Ida, harken ere I die.
For now the noonday quiet holds the hill:
The grasshopper is silent in the grass:
The lizard, with his shadow on the stone,
Rests like a shadow, and the winds are dead.
The purple flower droops: the golden bee
Is lily-cradled: I alone awake.”* (Lines-24-30)

Tennyson, in this stanza, again gives the description of Nature, that is- *the trees, boughs, cataracts, fields, beauty of the valleys, mountain peaks*, and the like. In Stanza 10, Tennyson's depiction of Nature even beautifies the immortal goddesses. Nature is here live objects and the harbor of everything even gods and goddesses. The live show of the appearance of the three Goddesses- Here (Juno), Athena and Aphrodite is described by Oenone in the following lines with ample Nature presentation.

*“Dear mother Ida, harken ere I die.
It was the deep midnight: one silvery cloud
Had lost his way between the piney sides
Of this long glen. Then to the bower they came,
Naked they came to that smooth-swarded bower,
And at their feet the crocus brake like fire,
Violet, amaracus, and asphodel,
Lotos and lilies: and a wind arose,
And overhead the wandering ivy and vine,
This way and that, in many a wild festoon
Ran riot, garlanding the gnarled boughs
With bunch and berry and flower thro' and thro'.” (Lines-91-102)*

In the following lines, (110 to 119,) the poet has described the Nature picture when Here (goddess) comes before Paris in the lap of the Valley of Ida Mountain.

*“She to Paris made
Proffer of royal power, ample rule
Unquestion'd, overflowing revenue
Wherewith to embellish state, 'from many a vale
And river-sunder'd champaign clothed with corn,
Or labour'd mine undrainable of ore.
Honour,' she said, 'and homage, tax and toll,
From many an inland town and haven large,
Mast-throng'd beneath her shadowing citadel
In glassy bays among her tallest towers.” (Lines-104-119)*

Oenone, while wailing, gives the nice and enchanting Nature description-that upholds the grandeur of this poem as an ornament. So, Nature, in this poem, is a source of beauty and consolation.

Nature in the poem “The Lotos-Eaters”:

“The Lotos-Eater” is another legendary poem based on the journey of great Greek hero Ulysses, his friends and the fellow soldiers cum sailors. They came to an unknown island of Lotos Eaters on the way back home. All the natural objects, including the environment, are lazy and slumberous here. In the first stanza, the poet describes *the weather, languid air, weary moon and the pausing brooks* of this island in the following way-

*“In the afternoon they came unto a land
In which it seemed always afternoon.

All round the coast the languid air did swoon,
Breathing like one that hath a weary dream.
Full-faced above the valley stood the moon;
And like a downward smoke, the slender stream*

Along the cliff to fall and pause and fall did seem.” (Lines-03-09)

In line number 10-13, the poet repeats the description of the above mentioned Nature objects. And from 14 to 18, the poet describes the *seaward going gleaming river* from the far off *three mountain tops, three silent pinnacles of aged snow flushing at dusk, and the long shadowy pine trees of the mountain valleys*. These are all

Nature-objects and they are the source of fundamental energy of this island. Tennyson has shown that Nature exists in our life in different forms. Tennyson, in this poem, has depicted similar type of Nature picture repeatedly.

*“They saw the gleaming river seaward flow
From the inner land: far off, three mountain-tops,
Three silent pinnacles of aged snow,
Stood sunset-flush’d: and, dew’d with showery drops,
Up-clomb the shadowy pine above the woven copse.” (Lines-14-18)*

In line number **19 to 27**, the poet has given exquisite description of Nature. *The charmed sunset- lingering in the west, the mountain clefts and valleys, the far inland yellow down bordered palm, zigzag valleys, winding valley and meadow full of galingale, mild eyed melancholy Lotos eaters*, all are the objects of Nature. The poet depicts Nature as-

*“The charmed sunset linger’d low adown
In the red West: thro’ mountain clefts the dale
Was seen far inland, and the yellow down
Border’d with palm, and many a winding vale
And meadow, set with slender galingale;
A land where all things always seem’d the same!
And round about the keel with faces pale,

Dark faces pale against that rosy flame,
The mild-eyed melancholy Lotos-eaters came.”*

In **lines 28-45**, the poet gives the description of the *enchanted stem with flowers and Lotos fruits, the gushing of the wave, yellow sand, the sun and moon upon the shore, barren foam, the Island* etc. These Nature objects are having inducing power and Tennyson has highlighted a thing that is whenever we feel tired, everything around us becomes slow, indolent and tired. It means that Nature’s role depends on man’s mood and spirit.

In the **Choric Song, Stanza- 1st and 2nd**, the Nature description is also striking. *The sweet music of the falls, the petals of the blown roses on the grass, night dews on the still waters, shadow of the granite, gleaming pass, deep cool mosses, ivy plant, long leaved flowers in the stream, poppy on the stone*, all are objects of Nature in different shapes, These descriptions are so vivid that we can see them before our eyes. In line number **-70- 83**, the poet gives the description of *leaves, sun, moon, dews, beautiful juicy apple, autumn night, and the fading flowers*. Tennyson’s such type of Nature presentation is absolutely fascinating. But, we have to believe that-Nature to Tennyson in scientific and natural. Her real beauty is delineated by the poet perfectly in this poem.

In **line number-99 to 113**, the sound of the downing stream, young amber light, myrrh bush of the height, the Lotos fruits, ripples on the beach, lines of creamy spray, mound of grass, and handful of white dust-all are the objects of Nature. In the last two **stanzas -VII, VIII, line number-133 to 173**, the poet gives the references to-*bed of amaranth and moly, long bright river, fountain from purple hill, thick-twined vine, emerald colour water, woven acanthus, sparking brine, large pine, bloomed Lotos below the barren peak, winding creek, hollow cave, yellow Lotos dust, wallowing monster, valleys and clouds beneath the mountain, natural disasters, Elysian valleys, beds of asphodel, slumber, shore, deep mid ocean, wave and the like*. Through the application of these objects of Nature, Tennyson has professed the attitude of human being. They want to get rest, pleasure, security without making any hard work- but rest is must after toil. So, Tennyson wants to tell that mood of Nature depends on the mood of human soul. When we are in good mood, Nature is lovely to us; but when we are in sullen mood, Nature is boring to us.

Nature in “Ulysses”:

“Ulysses”, published in 1842, is an exquisite creation of Lord Alfred Tennyson. It is often said that- Homer has created Ulysses and Tennyson has made him (U) popular. **John Churton Collins (1848–1908), a British**

literary critic, scholar, lecturer, and professor of English literature, has pointed out that- *“the germ, the spirit and the sentiment of this poem are from the 26th Canto of Dante’s ‘Inferno’.”* In this poem, the poet has used legendary characters Ulysses, Penelope, Telemachus, and mythological characters- Cyclops, Circe and sea nymph Calypso. Various images of Nature are used in this poem. The *“Barren crags, sea, sky, stars, wind, moon, sunset, changing weather, rainy Hyades, the dim sea and the windy Troy”* are used to narrate the dangerous appearance of Nature. In the final section of this poem, the poet represents Nature’s vastness and mystery. Ulysses’ descriptions of the *“dark, broad seas,” “thunder and sunshine,” “the long day wane,” “the slow moon climbs,” “the sounding furrows,” “the sunset,”* and *“the western stars”* have symbolic and metaphysical significance. The sunset and western stars indicate the boundary between the known and the unknown. The sea becomes an image of infinite possibility, source of knowledge, and lurking danger ahead. Tennyson’s Nature is symbolic and simultaneously beautiful, mysterious, and potential. The nature images persuade Ulysses to think that human life is transitory and the scope of gaining knowledge is limited. So, there is no time to waste time.

Nature images in “Tithonus”



Tithonus with Goddess Aurora

Tithonus is a famous legendary, mythological and exemplary moral instance for the past, present and the time ahead. Tithonus gave the message to all human beings that man should not exceed his limit and before demanding something, he must have to be cautious, intelligent and practical. This poem starts with the eternal lamentation of Tithonus. Here Tennyson’s use of Nature objects is very appropriate to represent the consequences of the wrong demand of Tithonus. This dramatic monologue describes Nature in the following way-

*“The woods decay, the woods decay and fall,
The vapours weep their burthen to the ground,
Man comes and tills the field and lies beneath,
And after many a summer dies the swan.
Me only cruel immortality
Consumes: I wither slowly in thine arms
Here at the quiet limit of the world.” (Lines-01-06)*

In these lines the- ‘woods’, ‘decay and fall’, ‘vapour’ and ‘long lived swans’ are symbolic and they stand for temporary life and mortality as Nature is. When someone violates the law of Nature, he/she becomes the victim of Nature law. Tithonus is immortal because of his unwise demand. He wanted immortality but not eternal youth. So, naturally he became old but could not die like a normal man. In line number 18, he tells Aurora-*“But thy strong Hours indignant work’d their wills”*. Here ‘strong Hours’ indicates the passage of time- that cannot be stopped. It is natural object and beyond the control of human being. In line number 23, the speaker uses the word ‘ashes’ an object of Nature; but here it stands for the lost vitality, lost power, lost youth of Tithonus. It is symbolical and metaphorical. ‘The silver star’ in line number 25, stands for Nature object-moon. Tithonus could understand that- going against Nature is not the law of man. So he urges his beloved Aurora-

“Let me go: take back thy gift:/Why should a man Desire in anyway/ To vary from the kindly race of men,/ Or pass beyond the goal of ordinance/ Where all should pause, as is most meet for all?” Tithonus is now

repented and wants to bring a change to his wrong gift- but it is not possible; because the Gods themselves cannot recall their gifts. Tennyson, here shows another role of Nature. Nature to itself is sometimes helpless.

Looking at his birth place from the palace of Aurora, Tithonus- laments over the thing and tells -***“A soft air fans the cloud apart; there comes/ A glimpse of that dark world where I was born.”*** The ‘soft air’, ‘cloud’, ‘a glimpse of dark world’ ‘beloved’s eyes’ ‘the stars’ are all objects of nature. In this stanza, ‘wild team’ stands for Aurora’s horses, and ‘twilight into flakes of fire’ indicates the first sun rays of the morning. In line number 54, the poet while describing the beauty of Aurora by Tithonus, compares the beauty curves of her body to the rings of the sun. In line number 59, the poet compares the kisses and balm of the kisses to the balm/honey of the half opening buds of April. This exquisite and unprecedented use of Nature is applied to mean the sensual pleasure of intense kisses. Tithonus then realizes that- people who have taken their birth in the world and died in that place are lucky. They have got grassy graves - but he is suffering from the pangs of immortality.

Nature in-‘Locksley Hall’

“The Locksley Hall” is a renowned dramatic monologue of Lord Alfred Tennyson. Sir William Jones’ prose translation of ***‘Moallakat’- the seven Arabian poems hanging up in the temple of Mecca***, is the basic inspiration for Tennyson to write this poem. Many critics tell that this is a personal poem of Tennyson and here the hero (speaker) is Tennyson himself. While writing this poem, the poet gives special care to the use of Nature. Nature is here very dominant and present everywhere. To give the situation of Locksley Hall, the speaker uses lively nature description of *the bird -curlews, dreary gleams about the moorland, sandy tracks, hollow ocean ridges and the cataracts*. In **lines-03-06**, the speaker tells-

***“’Tis the place, and all around it, as of old, the curlews call,
Dreary gleams about the moorland flying over Locksley Hall.
Locksley Hall, that in the distance overlooks the sandy tracks,
And the hollow ocean ridges roaring into cataracts.”***

The next **04 lines (07-10)** are just the representation of beautiful nature. Here, a broken- frustrated heart, wailing for his lost love, finds everything gloomy -recollecting the dating events of the past. The speaker gives the references to *night, ivied casement, great Orion- sloping slowly to the west, the Pleiads- like the swarm of fire flies, and silver braid*. All these are the objects of Nature. The speaker tells-

***“Many a night from yonder ivied casement, ere I went to rest,
Did I look on great Orion sloping slowly to the West.
Many a night I saw the Pleiads, rising thro’ the mellow shade,
Glitter like a swarm of fire-flies tangled in a silver braid.”***

In line number 1-20, the poet mentions *the beach, the natural landscape, spring season, crimson colour of robin’s breast, playful lapwing or peewit bird, colourful dove, and fancy- youthful love*. All these are objects of Nature and they are closely associated with the mode and expression of the depressed lover. In line number 28, the poet describes the beauty of Amy’s eyes using the phrase- *‘in the dark of hazel eyes’*. In line number 32, the poet uses the passage of time like the sand of an hourglass. Here he uses the phrase- *‘golden sands’*, another metaphor of Nature. In line number 35-40, the speaker uses different objects of Nature to depict their feelings of past love and his present frustration. Here the poet uses- *‘morning’ ‘moorland’ copses ring’, ‘evening’, waters (sea), ‘dreary moorland’, and ‘barren shore’* to describe his emotion. In line number 50, the poet uses a mean word *‘dog’* to describe the vile- husband of Amy. In line number 189-193, the poet invokes the negative forces of Nature to destroy the Locksley Hall. The speaker urges-

***“Comes a vapour from the margin, blackening over heath and holt,
Cramming all the blast before it, in its breast a thunderbolt.
Let it fall on Locksley Hall, with rain or hail, or fire or snow;
For the mighty wind arises, roaring seaward, and I go.”***

Nature in “The Palace of Art”

“*The Palace of Art*” is an allegorical poem. This poem deals with the theme “We cannot live in art” and of the belief that “the Godlike life is with man and for man”. Before writing this poem, Tennyson took the advices of his two bosom friends namely- R C Trench and F.D Maurice. R C Trench told-“*Tennyson, we cannot live in art.*” And F D Maurice told, “*the poet cannot be a scorner, or selfish, or luxurious and sensual.*” Art, craft, contemplation of beauty and aesthetic refinement can give a man temporary pleasure and contentment- but they cannot be the main source of living. So, the poet here being conscious of it, writes this poem. In “*The Palace of Art*”, Nature is used as a source of idealized, artistic, luxurious and beautiful thing. In this poem, Tennyson uses-*gardens, mountains, rivers, flowers, trees, music, different colours, lights, birds, and water*, as elements of Nature to satisfy the soul- but the soul itself is very powerful and it possesses an extraordinary, beautiful palace which is the abode of Art .Yet the soul eventually becomes lonely and unhappy because of being isolated and spiritually empty. So, Nature is beautiful a source of pleasure but she is invalid without the presence and connection of human being. Tennyson’s use of Nature in this poem is very sophisticated and lofty. He covers a vast area to indicate art that is necessary but nor mandatory for human life.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research study adopts a qualitative and analytical approach to explore Nature and natural objects in six well-known poems, namely “*Oenone*,” “*The Lotos-Eaters*,” “*Ulysses*,” “*Tithonus*,” “*Locksley Hall*,” and “*The Palace of Art*.” The methodology is designed to investigate the representation and functions of Nature in different forms in these poems and to evaluate them from an ecocritical perspective. Textual analysis, thematic interpretation, and eco-criticism are employed as the principal frameworks of this study. The study closely examines the selected texts to identify how Tennyson represents Nature, human beings’ relationship with the natural world, and the consequences of human attitudes towards Nature.

Research Design

This study follows a descriptive- analytical research design with a view to exploring the uses, and functions of Nature in the poems--“*Oenone*”, “*The Lotos-Eaters*”, “*Ulysses*”, “*Tithonus*”, “*Locksley Hall*” and “*The Palace of Art*” as primary texts. This research scrutinizes Tennyson’s use of Nature in different forms, its narrative function and its symbolic and metaphorical uses and significance in each poem. Secondary critical works and scholarly articles are consulted as literary support to contextualize this analysis.

Data Collection

Tennyson’s famous poems -“*Oenone*”, “*The Lotos-Eaters*”, “*Ulysses*”, “*Tithonus*”, “*Locksley Hall*” and “*The Palace of Art*” are systematically assessed to examine the uses and functions of Nature in them to complete this study. Different reference books and scholarly articles on Tennyson’s treatment of Nature have been consulted to collect relevant data for this study.

Secondary Sources

Relevant literary criticism, journal articles, and above mentioned poems are studied and consulted to get a clear concept and notion on the topic ‘Nature in Tennyson’s poems’. This study greatly owes to Long William, Joseph’s (1867-1952), work- “*English Literature Its History & Its Significance*”, M. Shameem’s article- “*Alfred Tennyson’s Attitude towards Nature and Human Life*”, Hair, Donald S’. –“*Domestic and Heroic in Tennyson’s Poetry. Reviewed by David Staines*” ESC: English Studies in Canada, Volume 10, Number 2, June 1984, pp. 226-228, Stone James Stuart’s article- “*The concept of nature in the poetry of Alfred Tennyson and*

George Meredith”, Mohammed K. Harmoush’s (English Department, Faculty of Arts, King Abdul Aziz University, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia) article “*Tennyson’s vision of nature*”, Brooke, Stopford A.’s “*Tennyson: His Art and Relation to Modern Life*”. G. P. Putnam’s Sons, 1894, especially “*The Nature Poetry*,” pp. 469–86. Nicolson, Harold’s. “*Tennyson: Aspects of His Life, Character, and Poetry*” Houghton Mifflin, 1925, and other literary works to provide a critical framework.

Analytical Framework

The analysis is mainly based on a descriptive- analytical framework. A close reading of Alfred Tennyson's selected six poems- namely "*Oenone*", "*The Lotos Eaters*", "*Ulysses*", "*Tithonus*", "*Locksley Hall*" and "*The Palace of Art*" are textually and thematically analyzed. This study examines the uses and functions of Nature in different forms in these poems. Special emphasis is given on the descriptive, symbolic, metaphorical, emotional and philosophical applications of Nature here.

Procedure

A detailed textual analysis of the above-mentioned six poems is conducted to identify and catalogue instances of natural elements, such as *mountain, river, cataract, wilderness, sun, moon, peak, Lotos fruit, its steam, weather, shore, waves, crags, stony country, perilous sea, clouds, different times of the day, season, mist, colour, world, grass, grave, morality, immortality, moorland,, ruined building, different kinds of birds, songs, nature images, art on Nature*, and other features of the natural world. Comparative evaluation, data collection, eco-criticism, thematic analysis, symbolic and metaphorical instances and analysis of the above mentioned scholarly articles are done to reach the goal.

CONCLUSION

Lord Alfred Tennyson's all poems are excellent in quality. Nature is present in most of his poems. His pictorial quality, narrative style, suitable language application, use of figurative speech are very praise worthy. He has depicted lively Nature and her different objects in his poems. His depiction and narration are so perfect that Nature becomes visible and sensuous to us. Nature in his poems is not a subsidiary element; rather a vital source of inspiration to disclose his poetic thought. Nature narrated in the poems- "*Oenone*", "*The Lotos Eaters*", "*Ulysses*", "*Tithonus*", "*Locksley Hall*" and "*The Palace of Art*", is brisk and vivid. We are bewildered at his narrative style. Even most of the Romantic poets could not represent Nature like Tennyson. William Wordsworth, Robert Frost, Walt Whitman and Thomas Hardy have treated Nature widely in their writings and they are specially recognized for that. But Tennyson is not a poet of Nature; even though, his description of Nature to some extent surpasses the above mentioned writers' skill. In this respect, we can say that Nature in Tennyson's poems is exotic, bewitching, and lively as Nature herself really is.

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