

Chapter II

Review of Related Literature

In this chapter, the thesis writer explains the literary theory, which is applied in analyzing the poem. The literary theory includes some elements of poetry and dramatic monologue. This literary theory is needed to find the development of the speaker's relationship with Nature in the poem.

2.1 The Elements of Poetry

The elements of poetry that are used in analyzing Wordsworth's poem, Tintern Abbey are diction, imagery, tone and figures of speech such as metaphor, simile, personification, apostrophe, symbol, synecdoche, and paradox. They are all used to trace the development of the speaker's relationship with Nature.

Diction, according to Laurence Perrine in his book Sound and Sense, is the choice and use of words by the poet (Perrine 38). This choice and use of words by the poet are related to meaning. In this thesis, the thesis writer will always consult Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English in order

to find out the meanings of some important words used in the poem. The thesis writer analyzes the important words to know and understand its meaning concerning the speaker's relationship with Nature.

Imagery, as what Harry Shaw defines in his book Dictionary of Literary Terms is the forming of mental images, figures, or likeness of things; the use of language to represent action, persons, objects, and ideas descriptively. Any effective writer, especially a poet, is a maker of pictures in words, but he can, and does, appeal to senses other than sight (195). There are many kinds of imagery such as "the imagery of sight, sound, smell, taste, and tactile experience such as hardness, wetness, or cold; and an internal sensation, such as hunger, thirst, or nausea; or movements or tension in the muscles or joints" (Perrine 54). For example, Wordsworth in Tintern Abbey applies the imagery of sound, "and again I hear/ These waters, rolling from their mountain springs/ With a soft inland murmur" (2-4). Wordsworth also employs the use of imagery of sight in lines 4-7, "Once again/ Do I behold these steep and lofty cliffs, / That on a wild secluded scene impress/ Thoughts of more deep seclusion." Thus, understanding the use of imagery of sound and sight in the poem helps the thesis writer see the speaker's relationship with Nature through his senses.

Metaphor and simile are comparisons between things essentially unlike. They are different in that a simile is always marked by the use of a word or a phrase such as like, as, than, similar to, or resemble, while the comparison in a metaphor is implied. Sometimes, the figurative term is substituted for or identified with the literal term (Perrine 65). Wordsworth is using a simile in lines

67-8 when he writes. “When like a roe/ I bounded o’er the mountains.” The use of simile is clearly indicated by the word “like.” Furthermore, Wordsworth is using a metaphor when he recognizes “In nature” (107) “the anchor of his purest thoughts, the nurse, / the guide, the guardian of his heart and soul / of all his moral being” (108-110). Wordsworth identifies nature with the anchor, with a nurse, with a guide, a guardian of his heart, and soul of all his moral being.

Personification is giving the attributes of a human being to an animal, an object, or an idea. It is really “a subtype of metaphor”, an implied comparison in which “the figurative term of the comparison” is always a human being (Perrine 67). In Tintern Abbey, Wordsworth uses personification in line 122-8 when he writes.

. . . Nature never did betray
The heart that loved her; ’tis her privilege.
Through all the years of this our life, to lead
From joy to joy: for she can so inform
The mind that is within us, so impress
With quietness and beauty, and so feed
With lofty thoughts, . . .

(122-8)

Here Wordsworth gives Nature the attributes of a human being that can never betray the heart of people that love her. Also, Nature can lead the speaker from joy to joy, and inform and feed his mind with lofty thoughts.

Apostrophe, closely related to personification, consists of addressing someone absent or something nonhuman as if it were alive and present and could reply to what is being said (Perrine 67). The speaker is clearly apostrophizing the

Sylvan Wye or nature when he cries, “How oft, in spirit, have I turned to thee, / O Sylvan Wye! Thou wanderer through the woods, / How often has my spirit turned to thee!” (55-7). Here in line 116 and 121, Wordsworth applies the use of apostrophe by addressing someone absent that he calls as “my dearest Friend, / My dear, dear friend” and “My dear, dear sister.”

Symbol is something that means more than what it is (Perrine 83). For example, a rose is a symbol of youth or beauty. The cross is a symbol of Christianity (Shaw 367). Actually, image, metaphor, and symbol shade into each other and are sometimes difficult to distinguish. In general, however, an image means only what it is; a metaphor means something other than what it is; and a symbol means what it is and something more too (83). The symbol is the richest and at the same time the most difficult of the poetical figures due to its imprecision (85). Therefore, accurate interpretation of symbol requires delicacy, tact, and good sense (90). The thesis writer analyzes the use of symbol in the poem to find the speaker’s meaning concerning his relationship with Nature. In line 64, the word “food” symbolizes a source of growth, which Nature has provided for the speaker.

Synecdoche, according to Harry Shaw, is a figure of speech in which a part is used for the whole or the whole for a part, the special for the general or the general for the special (Shaw 369). Wordsworth uses a synecdoche in line 128 when he writes evil “tongues“ for evil “men“.

Paradox is an apparent contradiction that is nevertheless somehow true. It may be either a situation or a statement (Perrine 109). The use of a paradox can

be seen in the following phrase, “aching joys” (84). The words “aching” and “joys” are both contradictory, for how can the speaker experience joys that is aching. However, the verbal paradox above is not strange because Wordsworth is merely adding emphasis to what he really means, that is, painful enjoyment.

Tone is defined as the writer’s or speaker’s attitude toward his subject, his audience, or himself. It is the emotional coloring, or the emotional meaning, of the work and is an extremely important part of the full meaning (Perrine 162). Almost all elements in poetry go into indicating its tone (163). In Tintern Abbey, the speaker’s delighted tone towards Nature can be detected by the choice of words and metaphor in lines 106-7, “well pleased to recognize / In nature and the language of the sense.” The word “well pleased” here clearly indicates the speaker’s delighted tone.

2.2 Dramatic Monologue

Tintern Abbey is a dramatic monologue. Dramatic monologue, as what Harry Shaw writes in his book Dictionary of Literary Terms, is “a poetic form in which a single character, speaking to a silent auditor at a critical moment, reveals both a dramatic situation and himself “ (Shaw 124-5). The essential features of a dramatic monologue include a speaker, whose speech is the poem, and also a listener or listeners, whose presence in the poem is or are inferred from what the speaker says. Dramatic monologue is a technique used by the author. The author uses a dramatic monologue in order to provide an understanding of the speaker, of his or her character and temperament (Murray 49). The dramatic monologue is

one voice of a dialogue. Its voice conveys as much as possible of the speaker's life and experience (50).

In Tintern Abbey, the poet describes the speaker in the poem through the dramatic monologue of the speaker, in which the speaker's life and his experience with Nature is communicated. The Wye landscape depicted in the poem naturally does not speak, but it plays a part in extracting certain statements from the speaker as he talks to himself. Thus, the speaker's solitary statements in the poem indirectly reveal the expression of his personal, subjective feeling or thought towards Nature that he contemplates upon. In other words, the speaker's solitary speech indirectly provides an understanding of the speaker, his life and his experience with Nature.

The thesis writer, therefore, applies this literary device to her analysis. The dramatic monologue of the speaker in the poem helps the thesis writer to learn more about the speaker and his experience with Nature. She analyzes the speaker's speech in the poem so as to find out the development of the speaker's relationship with Nature.