

Brief Analysis of the Characteristics of Robert Frost's Poetry

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Abstract: Robert Frost was a famous American nature poet of the 20th century, a poet who aimed to illustrate a certain philosophy through his poetry. His poetry has a unique artistic charm and contains deep thoughts and philosophies, and is known as "beginning with pleasure and ending with wisdom." Innovation from tradition and the use of simple language to express deep meaning are the most important artistic features of his poetry.

Keywords: American Poetry; Robert Frost; Modern Poetry.

1. Introduction

The famous modern American poet Robert T. Frost (1874-1963) lived at the turn of the century, lived through two world wars, and spent his life as a teacher, farmer. He was born in the United States, but later moved his family to England where he lived for many years. His poetry began as early as when he was in high school, but he really became a poet in his middle age. He was unfortunate in his life, losing his father at an early age and his children died one after another after he started his family. His wife also left him, and these life experiences make his poems have a strong sense of pathos and loneliness.

2. Writing Characteristics of Robert Frost's Poetry

In the twentieth century, American literature, both fiction and poetry, continue to emerge new genres and ways of expression. But Robert Frost's poetic creation neither pioneered new genres nor not to use new methods, but to inherit the tradition and uses the techniques of the old traditional poetry to express the new life. In the use of language, he was good at expressing his thoughts in simple and easy-to-understand colloquialisms, gentle and calm rhythms and familiar rhymes. He combined the traditional rhyming two-line stanzas, three-line stanzas, four-line stanzas and sonnets. Frost believed that rhyme is as important to poetry as a net is to a tennis ball. Therefore, he seldom wrote free verse.

In terms of poetic form, Frost was deeply influenced by the Wordsworth and Browning, and used dramatic monologue and dialogue to express the content of his poems. He specialised in Latin and Greek, and was therefore fascinated by the poetry of the ancient poet Virgil. As he was more interested in botany, he also did special studies. and specialised in botany, his poems contain many references to the nature of the countryside.

3. The Content of Robert Frost's Poetry

3.1. Idyllic Poetry

Robert Frost had already developed an idyllic style in his early poetry. We can feel his attachment and love for nature.

In many of his poems, Frost completes a dialogue with nature and engages in spiritual communication with nature. In these poems, the poet's character, thoughts, and inner concepts are also reflected. Through these poems, the poet explores the relationship between humans and nature, and also inspires people to think about nature and social reality.

The content of Frost's poetry has a strong regional character. Most of his poems describe the rural life of New England, to express the ideology of farmers, with typical characteristics of idyllic poetry, he was also named "New England farmer poet". Frost believes that man and nature are inseparable, and in the poem, the poet's dependence on nature can be felt. The poet gains the experience of beauty from the dialogue with nature, gains confidence from nature, and completes the sublimation of emotion and thought.

In his idylls, Frost uses colloquial language to describe the life and work of local farmers. For example, he describes that after a cow gave birth to a cowboy, she used her tongue to lick away the blood on the calf, which embodies the theme of "mother's love"; he describes that the local farmers salvaged the leaves from the spring; he describes that in the severe winter, people used marble to repair the wall on the cold land and other scenes of life. As Frost had always lived in the countryside, he had a deep affection for its grass and trees, and the poem "Red Pogonias" reflects his love for flowers and plants. In the poem, Frost engaged in a dialogue between his soul and nature. The poet expresses his love for nature in his poetry and calls on people to understand and respect nature. Man and nature are inherently one, and human development cannot be separated from nature. Only by loving and respecting it from the very heart can one truly love and respect it. Only by doing so can we obtain the kindness of nature, and respecting nature means respecting humanity itself.

A saturated meadow,
Sun--shaped and jewel--small
A circle scarcely wider
Than the trees around were tall;
Where winds were quite excluded,
And the air was stifling sweet
With the breath of many flowers--
A temple of the heat.
There we bowed us in the burning,
As the sun's right worship is,
To pick where none could miss them
A thousand orchises;

For though the grass was scattered
Yet every second spear
Seemed tipped with wings of color
That tinged the atmosphere.

And this prayer was to hope that people would be merciful when they cut the grass, and not to get rid of these flowers and plants. This kind of feeling is similar to the "Daiyu's Burial of Flowers" in China, but it is also different. Lin Daiyu felt sympathy and sadness because she saw the flowers falling, while Frost hoped that man and nature could live in harmony and had the consciousness of protecting the environment. In this poem, the poet expresses his love and reverence for nature. Whether it is the grass or the sun, the poet has praised it from the bottom of his heart. This is a grassland covered with red crimson orchids, these beautiful flowers shining like gemstones. From the vivid description, it is not difficult to appreciate the poet's love for them. The poet likened the grassland to the temple 'A temple of the heat', believing that nature is sacred and inviolable; And Red Julian is full of vitality and shining; When bending down to pick flowers, one pays homage to the sun. It is not difficult to see the noble position of nature in the poet's heart, and one can also feel the poet's desire to be close to nature and engage in deep spiritual communication.

Frost's love for Rose Pogonias reflects his positive, optimistic, and upward pursuit of life, full of piety towards nature, and reflecting the ethical feelings of interdependence between humans and nature. In fact, this poem aims to criticize various phenomena that do not cherish nature and damage the environment through the dialogue between the poet and nature. The poet aims to awaken people's love for nature and realize that nature is the home on which we humans rely for survival. The ultimate destruction of nature is our own humanity.

Unlike other poets who depicted idyllic scenes from the perspective of admiration, Frost participated as a labourer, describing his own labours, and his idyllic poems show not the idyllic scenes but the idyllic life. He himself said that his favourite tool, apart from the pen, was the axe and sickle. This is closely related to his early life. People living in the countryside have the habit of idyllic labour. The poem "The Pasture" describes his happy life on the farm. The poem describes farm labour in simple language, but it gives people a beautiful feeling that life on the farm is also very pleasant!

The nature in the eyes of a poet is the nature with the poet's own inner shadow. The feeling of nature is actually a projection of the poet's inner concepts, emotions, needs, motivations, and other psychological characteristics, as well as the poet's thoughts and character. The poet's soul has undergone baptism and formed excellent aesthetic character under the influence of the grandeur, purity, and grandeur of nature. The poet consciously abandons the mundane ugliness from the depths of his soul and seeks spiritual beauty in nature, ultimately forming a natural and simple and fresh poetic style, as well as wonderful and diverse poetic chapters that reflect this style.

3.2. Women in Frost's Poetry

The era of Frost's life was the era of the development of the women's movement, and his poetry also contained content that spoke for women. In Frost's eyes, women are worthy of respect because his mother is a remarkable woman. At the age of 11, his father passed away and his mother raised him and his sister to adulthood. Therefore, he sympathizes and praises

women in his poetry. In "A Servant to Servants", Frost uses an almost crazy female inner monologue to describe her unbearable heavy labor. The women in the poem are busy with repetitive mechanical household chores every day, such as cooking, washing, and washing dishes. These chores are heavy and endless, and often unpaid. Servants are already laborious, and a servant of servants are even more laborious.

Frost's poetry also depicts the marriage of rural women and their confusion about sex. For example, the long poem "The Witch of Coos" depicts a couple who have a bad relationship. The wife would rather sleep in the kitchen than in the bedroom bed with her husband in the cold winter, because without love, the bed looks even colder. This poem is written in the tone of the female protagonist's monologue. Her marriage with her husband was not harmonious, so she found a new lover. However, the husband discovered and killed the lover, and the female protagonist helped him bury the lover. She has been keeping this secret for many years. But later, the lover's bones walked out of the tomb and came to their house. This secret remained with the mistress for forty years until her husband died and her son grew old before she could reveal it. At this moment, she suddenly understood why she relied on her husband so much and didn't live the life she wanted? Unfortunately, this awakening only appeared in her later years and was no longer meaningful.

4. Pathos in Robert Frost's Poetry

Whether it is idyllic poems or poems about women, Frost's poems are characterised by a strong sense of loneliness and pessimism. In his idylls, he loves every blade of grass and every flower, hoping to live in harmony with these flowers and grasses, but in reality, these flowers and grasses are either eaten by cows and horses, or cut by lawnmowers or burnt by wildfires in the end. Therefore, he prayed to heaven that these flowers and grasses would not be cut down! However, this simple and beautiful wish for harmony between human beings and nature is difficult to realise in life. In the poem "Staying by the Woods on a Snowy Evening", the snow in the woods is beautiful, and so is the glacial lake. For those who lead a happy life, enjoying such beautiful scenery on a snowy night is a rare spiritual enjoyment, but for a person whose family is in financial straits, finding ways to earn money to buy Christmas presents for his children is an urgent problem in his life. In his mind, the idea of raising money to fulfil his promise far outweighed the pleasure of enjoying the beauty of nature. "How much further do I have to go before I can sleep?" The question was not about the immediate road home, but about the arduous road of life, with its many problems to be overcome. This questioning of the reality of life is not only to fulfil the promise of buying a gift for the child, but also contains the poet's heavy feelings of being unrecognised at that time.

Frost had two sons and two daughters die between 1900 and 1938, and finally his wife died of a broken heart. The woman in his poems who had no children and died alone was based on his wife; the woman who was busy all day long in cooking and washing dishes for the hired labourers was also very similar to the image of his mother, who had to run around all the time in order to make a living. Frost's father was a hot-tempered man who often scolded Frost's mother and son. After his father's death, his mother took him and his sister, Jenny, to their grandfather, who did not accept them, so she had to take them away again and set up a private school to make ends meet. These are the harms that male society inflicts

on women, like the woman in *The Witch of Coos*, who could not escape from her emotionless marriage, but had to act as an accomplice to her husband's murder of her lover, and hide the secret for the murderer for the rest of her life. This kind of inescapable pain was the pain of most women's lives at that time. It is precisely because Frost's poems reveal the contradictions in real life that they are loved by the readers.

5. Conclusion

Generally speaking, critics consider Emerson, Thoreau and Emily Dickinson to be the most familiar New England poets. Frost added Emerson's prose and poetry, Thoreau's *Walden Lake* to his ten favourite books. He virtually considered Emerson to be a pioneer of modern literature, and devoted two reviews of Emerson's essays, *The Prerequisites* and *On Emerson*. Frost has repeatedly stated that Emerson's "Monadnoc" had the greatest influence on his artistic endeavours as a young man. Thoreau's "Walden Lake" is considered another important character in Frost's literary development. In addition, Frost enjoyed reading the poetry of Emily Dickinson. He not only experimented with Dickinson's aphoristic style of poetry, but also considered Emily Dickinson the best female poet since Shakespeare. Frost had been a fan of Longfellow's poetry for a long time, and at the beginning of the twentieth century, when people were becoming disinterested in Longfellow's poems, Frost not only let his children read Longfellow's poems, but also taught Longfellow's poetry. When we talk about the language art of Frost's poetry which seems to be simple, we should not ignore the fact that in Frost's poetic creations, he paid attention to the use of the vocabulary of his mother tongue. Compared with modernism, Frost is the most determined poet who pursues the simplification of poetic language. His poems are natural, not artificial, they are from the language of daily life. Frost very skilfully puts his personal life experiences into metaphors and its tragic details and emotions to show the nature of New England and society. Although the nature of New England in the modern industrial context is very empty, difficult, sterile and declining, Frost can still live in such a lonely New England countryside as Eliot did in the modern city to build up a metaphor of solitude.

Throughout his life, Frost created a large body of poetry that innovated with tradition, and the innovation of tradition is one of the most important features of Frost's poetry. Frost is often regarded as a transitional poet because he is on the edge of "tradition" and "modernity". He did not make any unconventional or unorthodox changes in the rhythm and form of his poems, but used traditional quatrains with variations and gaps. But he transcends tradition by establishing his linguistic style as simple, conservative, and meaningful, thus mixing simplicity, ease, freshness, naturalness, and topography with an adaptation of the New England English poetic tradition, perfect for dramatic monologue and dialogue. As far as its content is concerned, Frost's poetry is also full of new ideas, as he wholeheartedly describes the natural beauty of New England, expresses common social phenomena and has a colloquial style. The deep meaning of Frost's poems is expressed in a simple and plain form of language, so that even a person without much education can read them. However, he uses a lot of metaphors

and symbolism. His use of metaphor and symbolism is inseparable from the meaning of New England, this particular geography. He wanted to find a place away from the hustle and bustle where he could calmly and more clearly observe the characteristics of American society. As a result, Frost's poetry has a very deep meaning. Not only did he understand nature, but he also understood society, and he gave his poems a wide range of connotations and deep philosophical meaning by using very simple, understandable language, metaphors and symbols.

The fact that the study of Frost has endured in America is a proof of the classic nature of the writer, the poet. The status of the classic writer is an important symbol, which presents different characteristics in different historical and cultural contexts. This is because the typical core has a relatively stable value. Although classical works and non-classical works are in the same specific historical and cultural background, but because the classical works capture human nature and social nature, even if they leave the specific background, they still won't lose their value. In other words, classics have a strong vitality, so strong that they can still maintain their vivid life when they are transported to a new historical and cultural background, and they form an organic whole by combining with the new historical and cultural background.

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