

## **Nature and Environment in William Wordsworth's Selected Poems: An Eco-critical Approach**

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### **Abstract**

*In recent years, studying connections between the human being and environment along with nature has been looked at as a topic of significant value for literary researchers. Thus, the emergence of eco-critical approach in the countries, which use English as their first language, holds the first position in this respect. This harmony of the two has been discussed for a while in world literature. This research studies literature review and pinpoints the positive view been presented by looking at eco-criticism. The methods used are textual analysis approach and eco-critical approach. The major points of this study are to investigate the main theme and shed light on it and the way William Wordsworth used his writings to protect the environment from destructions and the writer used eco-criticism or ecology in his works in his time. The environment and ecology in William Wordsworth's poems are the two things which have been dealt with because poems can serve human beings and make them aware of protecting the environment from pollution. This research consists of several essential points about the literature and nature as well as ecology. Besides, the paper presents an introduction about England in the nineteenth century, romanticism, and characteristics of romanticism as these are interrelated with eco-criticism.*

**Keywords:** *Eco-criticism; Romantic Poetry; William Wordsworth and Nature;*

## **Introduction**

The nineteenth century was a period of political and social transformation because all countries witnessed large changes in general; slavery, industrial revolutions, high productivity and prosperity. The industrial revolution allowed to enhance trade between countries at that time, economic changes happened at the end of the nineteenth century, and people moved to urban areas in search of employing. After the Failure of the French empire, French arts had been disrupted by Napoleonic wars. But the Russian Empire expanded in central and eastern of Asia, and the British Empire grew in the Century, rapidly (Curran 2010: 217).

William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge are considered leaders to the new school and launched a new style of writing with publication of “Lyrical Ballads” in 1798 (Thornley and Roberts 91). In nineteenth-century literature especially the romanticism flourished in Europe for example in France, Germany, and in England which mirrors individual and social issues (Mohammed 2017: 828). A sort of writing developed during the queen Victoria was known as the Victorian writing and the two extraordinary artists delivered Alfred Lord Tennyson and Robert Browning. Furthermore, Darwin’s theory of evolution changed the idea of people at that time, he challenged the society, and he published a revolutionary book *On the Origin of Species* (Thornley and Roberts 1991: 137-138).

## **England in Nineteenth-century**

In early of the nineteenth century Romanticism had the international vision of the world but the use of Romanticism in England was emphasized by several authors by using their imaginations, emotions, their sense of idealism, individualism and love of nature. “Romantic literature seems an excellent starting point. As an artistic movement taking place at the dawn of industrialization, in the midst of political revolution, and besides many advancements in the realm of natural science, romantic literature provides an intellectual landscape ripe with insights into the relationship between human consciousness and the natural world” (Huntington 2017: 2). It is also said that “romantic poetry is the true expression of the nostalgia of human being as a result of man’s separation from nature, mother earth (qtd. in Ramazani and Bazregadeh 2014: :1). The language was used in Romantic age was very simple especially the language of William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge’s works “Wordsworth was so filled with the love of nature that, in later editions of the *Lyrical Ballads*, he said that the language of poetry ought to be the same as the language of a simple farmworker. Yet he could not keep to this idea himself;

his imagination led him far beyond the life and thoughts of a countryman” (Thornley and Roberts, 1991: 91).

In England, Victoria became queen in the age 18, (1837- 1901). This time was a period of economic, industrial power, significant social and technological changes. England progressed in literature; the most famous writer who wrote about the society in this period was Charles Dickens. He was the greatest Victorian novelist. His novel is *Oliver Twist* which showed the reality of life in the nineteenth-century (Thornley and Roberts 1991: 120).

### **Romanticism**

Romanticism was an artistic movement took place in the late of the eighteenth century and in the early of nineteenth century as a reaction against the industrial revolution “sharing a general historical situation but not necessarily held together by any essential or prescriptive characteristics” (Simpson 2010: 1). Many writers appeared at that time, they wrote their writings in their in own style for instance William Wordsworth the most of his works were about nature. “Nelson defined romanticism as imagination as contrasted with reason and the sense of fact” (Furst 1976:15). The authors expressed their emotion in their writings Rousseau said “romanticism is the return to nature” (Furst1976: 14) because nature always closes within human beings. “Romanticism was a revolutionary intellectual and artistic movement that generated some of the most popular and influential texts in British and American literary history” (Day 2011: 1). The way of thinking was changed which was influenced writings. “William Cronon and Paul Fry , among others, remind us that romantic representations of nature reflect not so many actual places and encounters as virtual landscape and experience that mirror their writers’ project desires and culturally mediated values “(Harrison 2006: 1). Many authors believe that culture and society had a great impact on a raising romanticism. “Free expression and revolutionary will along with radical confrontation with rational are unique characteristics of which sees poetry as a deeper personal and somehow mystical medium where it can echo human imagination, natural world as well as human emotion that are vital features defining romanticism. The interest of English literary artists in the natural environment dates back to the romantic period (1798-1832), when England was transformed from an agricultural society into an industrial one. At the period the destruction of landscapes and general chaos changed. Romantic writers celebrated freedom in nature and individual experience. Ronald Carter and John McRae’s view that the romantic period embodies: Many of the conflicts and ideological debates which are at the heart of the world; political freedom/repression, individual/collective

responsibility, masculine/feminine roles, past, present and future. It was a time when ideologies were in the melting pot, when radicalism and tradition, change and stability, the old and the new were just as vital as the more traditionally literary themes of innocence/ experience, youth/ age, country/city, man/ nature, language/ expression” (Mohammed 2017:830). Romanticism opened all entries to gain freedom of opinion and expression”. The impending environment crisis has motivated many Romantic scholars to reconsider the Romantic’s love of nature. Though it has often been mischaracterized as escapist, many writers, such as Johnathan Bates, James McKusik, Seth Reno, and others, take a point of view, arguing that Romantic poetry is actually the first instance of western proto-ecological literature. This “Green Romantic” perspective stands in stark contrast to earlier views held by new historicist scholars such as Jerome McGann, Marjorie Levinson, and Alan Liu who argues that the “romantic idealization of nature serves primarily as a mode of displacement of the political failures of the French revolution” (Huntington 2017: 1). “The romantic ecology reverence the green earth because it recognizes that we live neither physically nor psychologically can we live without green things. With the inception of the theory of the eco criticism, William Wordsworth has become the iconic figure of the theory. The relationship between human beings and nature is very powerful. “Romanticism poetry engages urgent issues that face us today about the relationship between human consciousness and nature, and about the structures of consciousness and feeling that predispose us to act in certain ways within our environment. Rather than turn to romanticism as a guide to current environment practices, our interest is in romanticism as a site for the emergence of eco poetics and as a discourse that opens up critical questions and lines of investigation about our human place in the life world” (Harrison 2006: 2). Romanticism occurred in the second half of the eighteenth century. Romanticism includes human’s expression subjectivity, an exaltation of nature, childhood, human’s emotion. In the late of the eighteenth century and the early of nineteenth-century romanticism stood up against industrial revolution William Wordsworth and Holderlin saw the French revolution as a guide to arise a new period of individualism and social liberation, and they struggled for human freedom and demand knowledge. The characteristics of the romantic period are: love of nature, imagination, emotion, individualism, exotic, and breaking convention. Some have been regarded as the first generation of romantic poets such as: William Wordsworth, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, and Robert Southey. The second generation of romantic poets such as: John Keats, and Gorge Gordon.

## **Representations of English Society in Romantic Poetry**

In the nineteenth century, English society developed-the middle class became more intellectual. French revolution, social system, and economic changes played a crucial role in converting society. Many writers were innovated in their writings because they wrote in romantic period. Romantic and famous authors wrote poetry in romantic trend such as: William Wordsworth, William Blake, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, John Keats, and Mary Shelley (Gilroy 2010: 14-20).

Poetry though celebrated as surpassing national and even temporal boundaries. Wordsworth characterized as a distinctly British passion, or resource. The other countries did not lack their poets, but no nation in modern Europe had the sustained tradition of greatness, generation by generation, over several centuries that the English language could boast. In poetry only did the country express its heart and soul, preserve an unique national heritage. It was the symbolic center of the nation's spirit to those who never had a chance to breathe the actual atmosphere at that center or to young intellectuals like Coleridge and William Wordsworth (Curran 2010: 221).

English poetry is described as an encyclopedia, publishing phenomena of its age (Curran 2010: 223). In the romantic period not only poems but also prose such as a novel, epics wrote in a romantic way were well educated (Curran 2010: 224-228). There are many factors affected all literatures for instance, social changes, economic developing, and political repression accompanying the war impact on the nature of romantic poetry.

These phenomena objectively are to recognize once again how intensely privileged the status of poetry has become, how almost professionalized is the role of the contemporary poet, and how well educated whatever down-to-earth and democratic allegiances Wordsworth may assert the common reader is expected to be (Curran 2010: 230).

In the romantic period British society developed in many aspects especially in the writing of poetry. Wordsworth wrote many poems about nature. His works established by a deep love for the natural world (Curran 2010: 234).

### **Characteristics of English Romantic Poetry**

Romantic period was an artistic movement originated in Europe; appeared in the late of eighteenth century and in the early of nineteenth century. The writers invented a new style of writing in poetry such as “Lyrical Ballads” which was written by the two famous writers William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge. The poetry in romantic period distracted from logical, reason, scientific observation of the world, and traditions. The romantic poets followed several distinctions or principles that they distinguished romantic poetry from the poetry of the previous ages. Their characteristics were focused on from love of the nature. The poets described the physical world and nature in their poems. The other characteristic of romantic poetry was to shed light on the individualism, the poets expressed their emotion, feeling and self-experience in their works. Moreover, another important feature of romantic poetry especially of English romantic poetry was imagination because they expressed intuition, instinct, and emotion of human beings, also the poets used a simple language to describe landscapes, great history, and heroes. They escaped from social, political, and economic issues (Schneider 2007: 14).

Wordsworth’s poetry who borrowed from philosophers’ writings in Germany, also involved vital, deeper distinction, the Distinctions between higher and lower degrees of understanding, and concentration of subject matter in his work. This different mood helps critics to measure Wordsworth’s works that they find his poems full of sensibility, spirituality, intimate consciousness of natural things, and independent work (Bloom 1914: 174-175).

### **William Wordsworth’s View of Nature**

The French revolution made William Wordsworth use writing as a self – defence of war and returning to the nature which he used as a premise element in writing. William Wordsworth was one of the prominent of romantic poetry, he expressed his feeling in the natural world rather than in reason because he always tried to build a better future for the world (Gilroy 2010: 61-62). William Wordsworth’s writings about a series of cultural practice with photography, his writings were early instructor for art museums. In his writings he was used simple language to describe geographical places or special places as painterly landscapes in the nineteenth century. William Wordsworth’s description of nature was not the nature of Darwin, or Isaac Newton, neither the nature of Stephen Hawking. William Wordsworth’s nature created in his mind, his desire for writing, upbringing in a middle class, and his education at Cambridge. In the

nineteenth century Wordsworth created a new version of nature, “it was mostly male, white, upper-middle class, very literary, and very romantic” (Hess 2012: 289). Wordsworth was from England, a pastoral person, he believed that there is a strong relationship between human and nature (Hess 2012: 291). He always tried to declare the power, the blessing of nature in our lives, and he had personal experience about nature in everywhere, he said behind each his poem has a valuable purpose. Moreover, Wordsworth regarded as a great poet of nature because most of his poems asserted of human being’s dependence on nature. “The World is Too Much with Us” which was written in 1802 and published in 1807 in this poem Wordsworth frustrated of human’s treatment of nature, and deny the natural elements of nature:

The world is too much with us; late and soon  
Getting and spending, we lay waste our power:  
Little we see in nature that is our;  
We have given our hearts a way, a sordid boon!  
This sea that bares her bosom to the moon;  
The winds that will be howling at all hours,  
And are up-gathered now like sleeping flowers; (lines 1-8).

“The Prelude”, “Lines Written in Early Spring” (1798) in this poem Wordsworth described that the nature is loyal to man:

I heard a thousand blended notes,  
While in a grove I sate reclined,  
In that sweet mood when pleasant thoughts  
Bring sad thoughts to the mind.  
To her fair works did nature link  
The human soul that through me ran;  
And much it grieved my heart to think  
What man has made of man? (lines 1-8).

“The Tables Turned” (1798) is a good example for William Wordsworth’s believe about the power of nature:

Up! Up! My friend, and quit your books;  
Or surely you’ll grow double:  
Up! Up! My friend, and clear your looks;  
Why all this toil and trouble? (lines 1-4).

Are William Wordsworth's poems which he expressed his feeling of nature in different ways (Swami 2016: 71-74).

### **Wordsworth's Description of Nature in Different Moods**

William Wordsworth was born in (1770), his father John Wordsworth introduced English poetry to his children such as classics as Don Quixote. William Taylor encouraged Wordsworth to share his love of poetry (Bloom 1914: 245). William Wordsworth was expressed his feeling in his poems very honestly, most of his poems are about nature but in different situations. For instance, Tintern Abby's poem, deals with Wordsworth's experiences that nature influenced the poet when he was a child, he visited this place (a bank of river), after some time he visited this place again, he has expressed his feeling toward nature and his thought in different ages. But in the poem "Lucy", William Wordsworth narrated a story about a girl lived in a cottage with her father far away from town, one day in winter her father sent Lucy to meet her mother but she got lost and never reached town, in this poem the major theme is nature and loss of the loved one. In "My Heart Leaps Up" known as "The Rainbow" when he saw the rainbow in the sky, he felt delight. Moreover, in "Solitary Reaper" he described a girl with a place that the girl worked in. The writer wrote many poems in romantic period and used "Lyrical Ballad" style in a simple structure and simple language. William Wordsworth in the other poems described the nature according to his own thought in different moods (Mason 2010: 70-87). At the beginning of this century some English critics deal with concerning of some distinctions estimate of poetry, they thought these distinctions were very important in William Wordsworth's poetry. Walter Pater addressed the distinction between fancy and the imagination in Wordsworth's poetry who borrowed from philosophers' writings in Germany, also involved vital, deeper distinction, the Distinctions between higher and lower degrees of understanding, and concentration of subject matter in his work. This different mood helps critics to measure Wordsworth's works that they find his poems full of sensibility, spirituality, intimate consciousness of natural things, and independent work (Bloom 1914: 174-175).

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### **William Wordsworth’s Feeling about Nature in “My Heart Leaps Up”**

This poem is one of the greatest poems in English literature. He wrote this poem in 1802 in a very simple language and structure to describe nature when he saw a rainbow:

My heart leaps up when I behold  
A rainbow in the sky:  
So was it when my life began;  
So is it now I am a man;  
So be it now I shall grow old,  
Or let me die!  
The child is father of the man;  
And I could wish my days to be  
Bound each to each by natural piety (lines 1-9).

When we read this poem we know that the poet used his beautiful emotion to express his feeling towards the love of nature. He also told us how simple language can connect human beings and other living things with nature, because “the language enables us to converse with nature” (Harrison 2006: 24). We know literature is a work of art that consists of a piece of writing. Poetry is a genre of literature which was influenced by many factors to become more interesting. These factors are senses, figurative language, imagery, symbols and rhyme. In this poem, William Wordsworth used imagery and figure of speech is also called metaphor, and gives human characteristics to a non-human entity which is called personification, and also used paradox (are types of figurative language), metaphor is common in William Wordsworth’s poems. In “My Heart Leaps Up”, the poet described rainbow as a symbol of nature and his feeling when he saw a rainbow in the sky and recollect an experience of childhood day and

adulthood feeling when he saw a rainbow again in the same way ( Patel2014: 1:650-653). William Wordsworth in this poem tried to say he had the same feeling in childhood period and when he became a man while he saw a rainbow, according to his poem he was not only a poet because he knew that a child is one of human's characteristics and according to Freud people's personality include of (id, ego, and super ego). It is a great part of personality consists of all natural powers in human beings and each human has a small child inside his inner, which makes a great part of human's unconsciousness, this is a psychological analysis theory according to Freud (Bloom 1914: 25-26). He used paradox in his poem "the child is father of the man" used this contrary statement to convey another meaning to the audience behind this statement as I mentioned above. Moreover, William Wordsworth described nature in a nice sense, wanted human beings to approach nature, especially in eighteenth century the industrial revolution covered European societies, according to William Wordsworth's view of nature was that nature can protect human beings because human's survival is dependent on nature and used literature especially poetry to announce his message, and also human beings can save the earth at the same time, so human beings and nature are connect to each other (Ramazani and Bazregarzadeh 2014:2). The poet of nature, William Wordsworth tried to teach human beings the worth of humanity, goodness, and express their feeling and stay away from corrupted culture, because of the industrial revolution at that time changed many things (Mohammed 2017:835). However, his pastoral writings have been realized as mystical and philosophical aspects of nature, and he was admirer of nature, from his poetry restored the connection between human beings and the environment (Sultana and Saleem 2016: 9-10). We believe that William Wordsworth's "My Heart Leaps Up" is the best example of showing the charm of nature and through which the poet intends to convey a message through his poem to human beings that nature and humans are close to each other, when you look at the stunning view of nature feel comfortable and optimistic towards things at any age in your life, the evidence for that is when people feel tired from daily routines, works, and noisy places they want to go away from them and live for a while in nature to keep a balance of their mood. William Wordsworth emphasized that human beings could not live without nature, because it can be dangerous for both human beings and nature, if one neglects the other, human beings can enjoy themselves when they see the beauty of nature, as we know rainbow is a phenomenon that happens rarely but at the same time it gives human beings a nice feeling, in this poem he described his emotion towards this phenomenon. So William Wordsworth loved to describe the appearances of nature, its grandeur in color with keen moral and eco critical insight because after the industrial revolution the

environment became more polluted most of the trees were cut, William Wordsworth one of the poets who were worried about nature, through poetry, he informed people about this phenomenon to save nature. In this poem William Wordsworth tried to explain to all human beings that we cannot live alone without incorporation with surrounding things in our environment and in nature all human beings and non-human things in nature complete each other, as the poet pointed it out in his poem “My Heart Leaps Up”, the rainbow as a beautiful phenomenon happened in our lives naturally on the sky, as we know, rainbow consists of several colors, they together make a beautiful and fantastic view that makes all people have a nice feeling when they see this view; William Wordsworth used a rainbow to convey his message to mankind that we can live with nature more happily and feel comfortable simply, if we protect environment from pollution, corruption, and disruption.

### **What does nature decide about Lucy?**

In this poem William Wordsworth retold his story and feeling as a narrator and described his emotion toward his lover and nature at the same time, Lucy was as “a rose in June” young and beautiful, described his lover as a flower, to see Lucy the narrator rode his horse under the moon to her cottage. In “The Lucy” the writer described the nature rather than his lover and his emotion that he had toward nature, said passed the path, it was so dear to me and also describe the hill, and orchard he passed through them nicely, during on his way to Lucy’s cottage, the moon accompanied him when he walked to her cottage, the moon descending and became near and near, this view of the moon gave William Wordsworth a special meaning, when the narrator arrived and meet his lover, moon “dropped” disappeared, and he had a feeling that Lucy would die and he knew that Lucy could not avoid the death, decided gave Lucy eternal life through his poem, that was very common at that time and the idea reflected in Shakespeare and Spenser’s work, when William Wordsworth was a child his father persuaded him to memorize some Shakespeare and Milton’s poem. In the next stanza, the poet also described his lover and made the analogy between his lover and the violet flower which is common in everywhere behind the “mossy stone” that the violet obscure as his lover in the society “half-hidden from the eye!” because his lover lived in far away from people. And also portrayed his lover as a star (the only one star appear after sunset is Venus which is the goddess of love and beauty in Greek mythology) “is shining in the sky” as we know the most beautiful view in the sky when you look at the sunset or look at before the sunrise the first star

shining is Venus. However, Lucy was important to William Wordsworth but her death did not influence the society as he wrote in his poem “few could know” her because she lived in an isolated place. As Wordsworth said in this stanza:

A violet by a mossy stone  
Half-hidden from the eye!  
Fair as a star, when only one  
Is shining in the sky.  
She lived unknown, and few could know  
When Lucy ceased to be;  
But she is in her grave, and, O!  
The different to me! (stanza ii).

In the next stanza William Wordsworth described Lucy as a young died soon and made similar between his lover and a flower “grew in the sun and shower” but at the end could not grow on the earth and nature decided to took her and be her own, and Lucy had the characters of silence, calm, and “the breathing balm” . She became the “Lady” of nature (Wang and Zhang 3:1005-1008).

Three years she grew in sun and shower;  
Then Nature said, ‘A lovelier flower  
On earth was never sown:  
This child I To myself will take;  
She shall be mine, and I will make  
A lady of my own (stanza iv).

In this poem, “The Lucy” William Wordsworth tried beside the description of his lover give a beautiful image of nature to his readers “Lucy is used to reread nature and develop a new understanding of the environment” (Jackson 1). And human beings after their death became a part of nature “after her death, “Lucy” became an indistinguishable part of Nature’s great universe (B. Das 64). In my opinion William Wordsworth represented an amazing picture of nature besides describing his lover and reminded his readers about the attractive vision of nature and how human beings are connected with nature. Ultimately, the human being is a part of nature either alive or dead, and nature or a place that human being lives in determines how human beings can live and the style of life; nature decides about that, for instance “Lucy” in

an isolated place and how nature left an impact on her life and her death without Lucy's desire for death. William Wordsworth tried to tell us indirectly that nature has a beautiful view, which can help human beings feel refreshed when having a glimpse at the nice scenery in the physical environment but also nature has a great power behind this beauty that human cannot control, as he mentioned in his poem that his lover died but he could not do anything about it. However, on the earth, human beings have superior power and used it to control everything yet this power is limited. Accordingly, human beings can be well balanced psychologically and physically if they protect nature from pollution, and live in nature to enjoy their lives.

### **William Wordsworth's Poetic Diction**

Poetic diction includes two basic parts, the first one is rhythm and sound patterns the poet makes it by using words and the second is language. In this section I am going to present some critical views about William Wordsworth's works, William Hazlitt said William Wordsworth's poems were written lyrical ballad "were both politically changing and more difficult than popular verse" and in his works used feeling and ideology to describe nature incidents and situations in his life either consciousness or imagination in the portrayal of the lower class and laborers because his poems have a valuable purpose and it is to make readers "feel about real rather than abstract" (Mason 2010: 46-48). Moreover, William Hazlitt commented on William Wordsworth's works and said his works are most original, are not dependent on tradition, or old works but they came from his mind and internal not external and gave poems a good tone (Bloom 1914: 65). Bate announced that William Wordsworth was the first ecologist and originating a holistic view of nature, interested in non-human and he describes William Wordsworth as a worshipper of nature. Mckusick wrote about Wordsworth and said Wordsworth emphasized on the relationship between human beings and nature, and human beings for their survival reliance on nature. However, he was one of the founders of English Romanticism and also he had vivid influence in essential idea of "modern environment movement" because William Wordsworth "believed that human feelings and emotions played an important role in the artistic productions" (Ramazani and Bazregarzadeh, 2014: 2-3).

Thomas Peacock criticized Wordsworth and declared that he was a great leader of description of nature because he could describe a scene that he saw exactly and also used his mind. In 1820 Walter Scott wrote a letter and sent it to Allan Cunningham described William Wordsworth in this letter said he was genius, God gave him noble features. Henry Taylor praised William Wordsworth, wrote he was a philosophical poet with "a vast and expansive analytical mind

possessing an ability to articulate the general” but Taylor criticized William Wordsworth that he did not create any new “perspective, ethical, or metaphysical description” he was not genius and he was not able to be famous like Shakespeare. However, Taylor judged Wordsworth’s poetry according to some limited aspects but he said that William Wordsworth had a modesty character and worked independence on himself “without thought of public gain or glory” (Bloom 1914: 66-68). John Stuart Mill in 1873 argued that William Wordsworth’s poems had miscellaneous, soothing, and palliative criteria properties that could reduce his depression and solve abstract problems by expressing his feeling in his works and Mill praised William Wordsworth’s poems that he could describe the real humanity: in his works and tried to renew society and human conditions (qtd. in Bloom 1914 79-80). Harriet Martineau commented on Wordsworth’s works which were selected from her autobiography of her youth when she met William Wordsworth, she admired him as a poet and he was important to Martineau at that time of her life, she considered him a philosophical poet and she admitted that several of William Wordsworth’s poems are significant and beautiful, at his time they were examples of metaphysical contemplation, his works broke all traditional eloquence, rhetoric that used to write poems before, and Martineau compared William Wordsworth’s work to the works of Shelly, Tennyson, and Keats (qtd. in Bloom 1914: 81-82). David WastonRannie, in his work *Fellow- Workers in Romanticism* in 1907 described Wordsworth as a “landscape poet” who invented new style of writings and had a deep interpretation of spiritual, especial belief of things (qtd in. Bloom 1914: 90). In my opinion many writers and critics commented on William Wordsworth’s works according to their experience but at the end we know that William Wordsworth could do new things in his works and tried to tell all human beings through poetry as an eco-critic to save nature from pollution.

### **Eco-criticism**

For the first time the term of ecology in 1869 used by a great professor and philosopher Ernst Haeckel, it is a Greek word “oikos” etymologically means place to live, home, or household and “logy” means logical, together mean criticism. It is a study which deals with the “relations of organisms to one another and to their physical surroundings” or the relationship between the environment and human beings, later on in 1878 the term of eco-criticism used in his essay “Literature and Ecology” by William Rueckert (Mohammed 3:829). In this world many disasters take place on the earth, in our environment many authors think that technology and all sciences are not enough to protect nature from the ecological crises we face every day, and tried

to change human behavior towards nature by using eco criticism in literature and understand nature broadly, we cannot simply say eco criticism is just about the study of nature; it is also realized by ethical stands, the relationship between human beings and non-humans. There are two kinds of ecology: shallow ecology and deep ecology. The shallow ecology simply means protecting nature from pollution, to serve human beings, and remain the master of nature. However, the deep ecology means keeping nature in its original shape, without human interference of nature, or we can say the deep ecology is a movement and reflects all problems that will happen in the relation between human and nature. Many writers tried to have some effect on human being's attitude towards the environment and protect nature from all pollutions caused by industrial and commercial forces, change human beings from "ego-consciousness to eco-consciousness, and eco criticism" learn people live happy in nature by presenting the problems and working on these problems to solve them that exist in environmental crises (Mishra 6:168-1170).

### **Eco-criticism in Literature**

After developing literary criticism the term of eco-criticism sophisticated in 1990 and became a genre of literature, some groups were organized their associations such as "ASLE (Association for the Study of Literature and Environment). Their journal the ISLE reader Eco-criticism 1993-2003 edited by Michael Branch and Scott Slovic (Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment" (Tosic3:43). Furthermore, one of the great texts about eco-criticism was written by Lawrence Buell who depended on some criteria to identify either this text is environmental or not, for instance, this text should present non-human environment and some ethical directions exist in the text (Das 2). Eco-criticism is emphasized on the relation between human beings and environment in literature, the term of ecology or eco-criticism came from the combination of science, the physical environment and spiritual to the aim of protect and serve human beings and we can say eco-criticism is a way that human beings fight to survival in this world (Tosic3:43-44). Cheryll Glotfelty and Harold Fromm defined eco-criticism as "the study of the relationship between literature and the physical environment" in the modern era (Mohammed 2017:829). Eco-criticism portrayed basic perception between culture and physical environment in the nineteenth century according to Glotfelty and Fromm. Moreover, eco-criticism is a study of "representation of physical world in literary text and social contexts of their production or we can summarize it as the examination of nature through words," (Mohammed 2017:829). Eco-criticism tried to return rural, Romantic poetry to

influence the natural world, return to it, concentration nature because civilized people respect nature and environment. Rigby is one of the critics who wrote about “Parchment”, a poem by Michelle Boisseau, she believed that “God created human beings as a center of universe” human beings are not always the cause of destruction of the universe and eco-system and developing in “civilizations have grown” that helps humans to protect nature (H. Das 9:2-3). Moreover, Kathren Jones one of the writers who emphasized on eco-criticism in her essay “Getting Rid of Children’s Literature” said children should be aware of this kind of literary culture because they can grow with the idea of eco-criticism to live healthily and she believed “children are more than adults treat animals and birds as a part of their world” (H. Das 9:3-4).

### **Ecological Consciousness in William Wordsworth’s Poetry**

William Wordsworth was one of the poets who admired nature, description of nature was reflected in most of his poems, many critics paid attention to Wordsworth’s works, especially after 1990, and they read Wordsworth’s poems from his ecological estimation. Bate, Kroeber, and Mckusick are a group of critics who have positive views about William Wordsworth’s ecological works and they support Wordsworth’s work (Sultana and Saleem 2016:7). Wordsworth was one of the founders of English Romantic poetry. He was considered one of the major ecological writers in nineteenth century because Romantic poets in their writings presented interconnection or the relation between humans and nature, ecologically. Subsequently, William Wordsworth’s ecological point of view was reflected in his poems; he taught human beings in his writings “how to live as a part of nature” because Wordsworth and the other Romantic poets respected the green earth, especially after the industrial revolution of the eighteenth century, tried to connect human beings with nature again as that harmony has been shattered (Kaur 2017:411). Wordsworth’s opinion about the aims of his writings or his task as a poet of nature was to use feeling and emotion to comprehend things more deeply and understanding about the “natural world” because feeling and emotion can connect man’s inner self with the natural world. Wordsworth portrayed the natural world in his poems as seen in most of his works he adopted nature and remembered nature as a “source of inspiration” his experience of his life helped him to see the nature or natural world as a main power for his works, to warn human beings of all environmental problems that occurred in his time, especially after the industrial revolution. Moreover, Wordsworth believed that nature has a great power and “the force behind the world that goes through everything” (Mohammed 2017: 830-833). It is obvious that Romantic poets were conscious of the significance of nature and may be

Wordsworth comes first in his awareness of the role of nature and connect it to the life of every individual. One can see this influence through the titles of his poems and the words which are about connected to nature and individual, the two neglected ones of the previous ages.

### **Conclusions**

After reading diverse sources about all developments took place, romanticism emerged in literature in the late of eighteenth-century and in the nineteenth century as a reaction against industrial revolution, and many writers tried to inform human beings to protect physical environment from destructions and pollution, especially William Wordsworth who was one of the pioneers who wrote about nature in particular in a simple language to convey his message to all people that nature besides its beauty and power can serve human beings psychologically and physically. Several critics described him as a great ecological poet, admirer of nature in the nineteenth century, in his most works he described nature which shows the aesthetic of Romantic poetry.

However, ecological and eco-criticism found sophisticated by some groups, they organized some associations in the twentieth century to promote the relationship between human beings and the physical environment through literature to serve human beings in a safe nature. Eco-criticism has an important role in our lives because it emphasizes the impact of nature on human beings and conversely is true. Eco-criticism can have an effective role in culture and climate by cooperating between anthropologists, writers, critics, scientists; eco-criticism can teach writers to how to work in nature in a literary work or text and ecologists encourage the writers to support human beings to have ethical treatment with nature. Eco-criticism exists in William Wordsworth's works, he wrote several poems about nature and described nature more precisely, his writings to be noticed by many critics in the twenty-first century and they are still studying his works attentively, especially "The Lucy", "The Prelude", "Tintern Abby", "The Tables Turned", and "My Heart Leaps Up".

As the link has been demonstrated between human beings and nature, it is an inherent connection; each one can complete the other. Another important point is that human's love for nature exists in our inner that is not related to the time and age of man or the development of science and technology. Wordsworth's poems are great evidence for that. In addition, human beings could not live without nature, because human can live in urban areas for a while a long way from nature, but at the end human beings will return to nature, we are a part of nature when being alive, or dead.

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