

**THE ELEMENT OF NATURE IN WILLIAM WORDSWORTH'S SELECTED
POEMS: A SEMANTIC STUDY**



A THESIS

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ABSTRACT

The objectives of this study are 1) to identify the symbols of elements of nature which are used in *London, 1802*, *The World is Too Much with Us* and *I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud*, 2) to describe and analyze the meaning of symbols of elements of nature in *London, 1802*, *The World is Too Much with Us* and *I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud*. This study applied a descriptive-qualitative research. The object of this study was the William Wordsworth's selected poem. The transcripts and the data sheets were also employed as supporting instruments. The results of the study showed that The element of nature in *London, 1802* consists of: *fen, stagnant waters, star, sea and heavens*. While *The World is Too Much with Us* consists of: *sea, moon, wind, sleeping flowers and lea*. The last poem *I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud* consists of: *cloud, vales and hills, golden daffodils, lake, tress, breeze, stars, Milky Way and the waves*. Finally, inferring the meanings of the symbols elements of nature in *London, 1802*, *The World is Too Much with Us* and *I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud*. In *London, 1802*, the symbols of elements of nature mostly refer to the country of England specifically in Wordsworth's era. The second poem, *The World is Too Much with Us* mostly refers to the humanity and religion. Then the last selected poem is *I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud* mostly refers to the beautiful, majestic, almost like an angel flowers.

Keyword: *Element of Nature, William Wordsworth, London, 1802, The World is Too Much with Us and I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud.*

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Literature is one of the human creation which represents the feeling and the thought that can be affected by reality, cultural society, behavior and problems or conflict faced by the writers. When we talk about literature, especially poems, it cannot be separated from figurative language, because literature will be more colorful with the figure of speech. The writers often use the elements of nature to express their feeling, thus the meaning of element of nature can go beyond the literal meaning of the symbols.

According to Abrams (1999: 311) state that poet like all of us, use such as conventional symbols: many poets, however, also use “private” or personal symbols”. Every symbol has a different meaning and some of them contains with nature. Nature is the physical world and everything in it such as land, air, water, mountains, oceans, animal, stars which are not made by human.

Since the relation between the poetry and symbols of element of nature cannot be separated, the writer aims to analyze the symbols of element of nature use in William Wordsworth’s poems. The poems that will be analyzed are *London, 1802*, *The World Is Too Much with Us* and *I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud*. Thus, in a

general perspective, this study is designed to identify and interpret the symbols and their meanings in the three selected poems.

1.2 Research Question

1. What are the symbols of elements of nature that are used in *London, 1802, The World is Too Much with Us* and *I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud*?
2. What meanings can be inferred out of the symbols of elements of nature in *London, 1802, The World is Too Much with Us* and *I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud*?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

1. To identify the symbols of elements of nature which are used in *London, 1802, The World is Too Much with Us* and *I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud*.
2. To describe and analyze the meaning of symbols of elements of nature in *London, 1802, The World is Too Much with Us* and *I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud*.

1.4 Scope of the Study

This study is focused on the use of elements of nature in his poetry entitled *London, 1802, The World is Too Much with Us* and *I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud*. A descriptive qualitative analysis is used to analyze the ways elements of nature in William Wordsworth poetry, in *London, 1802, The World is Too Much with Us* and *I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud* are employed.

1.5 Significance of the Study

The results of this study are expected to contribute to the readers of literary work, especially the two poems, that are *London, 1802*, *The World is Too Much with Us* and *I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud*. It is also expected that the results of this study can be useful to help the next generation in University of Mataram who wants to make figurative language as the topics of their study.

1.6 Definition of Key Term

- Poetry
- Element of nature
- Symbolic

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.1 The Notion of Literature

The word 'literature' is from latin word that is 'literatura' meaning that it is form or piece of writing. According to Wellek and Warren (1949) literature is everything in print. Literature is an art that created by human in their life based on experiences, mind or feeling. Literatures are grouped into three genres; they are drama, prose and poetry.

2.2 Poetry

Poetry is a kind of creative writing. According to Nuriadi (2016: 112) the term 'poetry' refers to knowledge, quality, and feature shown by a poem, as a work of art. Poetry has purposes to entertain the reader, but sometimes poetry is used to criticize some issues in life society.

2.2.1 Elements of Poetry

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|-----------|-------------------|
| 1. Simile | 4. Theme |
| 2. Rhythm | 5. Stanza |
| 3. Line | 6. Sounds Pattern |
| | 7. Rhyme |

2.2.2 Types of Poem

- | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| 1. Descriptive poem | 3. Narrative poem | 5. Sonnet |
| 2. Reflective poem | 4. Lyrics poem | |

2.3 Symbolism

According to Nuriadi (2016: 171) symbolism is the use of symbols to signify ideas and qualities by giving them symbolic meanings that are different from their literal sense. Generally, symbols are objects representing another to give it an entirely different meaning that is much deeper and more significance. In literature, symbolism often used to get readers' attention because the literary work will be more beautiful with symbols in it. The used of symbols make the readers think thoroughly to understand the poem and also help the readers to arrange their imagination to be powerful.

2.4 Elements of Nature

According to Safdarian (2015) nature are divided into Internal nature and External nature. External nature refers to the universe that are not made by people and it is controlled by divine power whereas Internal nature is refers to the usual way that a human or animal behaves or it's part of their character or basic qualities of a thing.

2.5 Meaning Inference

According to Israel (1994;1) said that "literal meaning is a commonsense concept- a sort of first principle of meaning itself. It is sort of meaning direct, original, and unadorned". In a brief, literal meaning is the true meaning of word. Figurative meaning is uses simile, metaphor, and personification, to describe something often through comparison with something different.

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODS

3.1 Research Design

Research method is a way to collect data with a specific purpose and usefulness. There are two ways of research method that usually researchers used, such as Qualitative and Quantitative Research.

Thus, the research method that used in this study is descriptive qualitative method. Descriptive qualitative method is qualitative description of the facts, data or material objects. It is not a series of numbers, but merely the expression of language or discourses through the proper interpretation and systematic.

3.2 Data and Source of the Data

The source data of this study are William Wordsworth's poems: *London, 1802, The World is Too Much with Us* and *I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud*. Then the data of this study are the words or language expressions indicating the element of nature.

3.3 Techniques of Data Collection

1. The writer download the poems: *London, 1802, The World is Too Much with Us* and *I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud*
2. Read the poems and identify the data which will be taken
3. Take the data based on element of nature
4. Input the data into the table

3.4 Techniques of Data Analysis

1. Identify every word of the poems which related to the topic.
2. Identify the nature's elements in poems *London, 1802, The World is Too Much with Us* and *I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud*.
3. The writer agglomerated nature's elements based on each stanza.
4. The writer gives explanation of the meaning of nature's elements in the poems *London, 1802, The World is Too Much with Us* and *I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud*.
5. The result of analysis are concluded by the writer

3.5 The Use of Semantics Analysis

There are two types of semantic; (1) denotative semantic and (2) connotative semantic. Denotative semantic means the word that is used has the explicit or dictionary meaning while connotative semantic represents the figurative meaning. Semantic analysis plays the important role of this research since the poet must be affected by the environment and their life. In this research, the writer tries to analyze the meaning of element of nature based on the William Wordsworth's point of view and also connect the words with the situation of him at that time.

CHAPTER IV
FINDING AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Findings

This chapter contains the result of the research about elements of nature used in William Wordsworth selected poems. All about findings and discussions are related with the research questions above. The data will be discussed based on each of the stanzas and lines. Finally, the writer found some element of nature in William Wordsworth selected poems.

4.2 Discussion

4.2.1 The Elements of Nature and Its Mean.

In this section the researcher elaborate the meaning of nature elements which were found. The first is William Wordsworth selected poems entitled *London, 1802*.

Table 1. *The elements of nature and meaning in London, 1802.*

No	Elements of Nature	Meaning
1.	<i>Fen / of stagnant waters</i>	<i>Literal meaning</i> - A type of wetland in a ground water. <i>Figurative meaning</i> - Thing that rotten in the state of England
2.	<i>Star</i>	<i>Literal meaning</i> - Stars are planet like Venus, and Mars

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stars are far from earth - Consist of hard material and shining in the sky <p><i>Figurative meaning</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stars are brilliant people, like smart, intelligence people. - Stars are famous people, as actor and actress.
3.	<i>Sea</i>	<p><i>Literal meaning</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sea is large place of the world - Sea consist of water containing salt <p><i>Figurative meaning</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sea as something unpredictable - Sea as mysterious of thing
4.	<i>Heavens</i>	<p><i>Literal meaning</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Distant sky in which the sun, moon and star appear <p><i>Figurative meaning</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The afterlife - The religion - And the purity of something

Based on words in line 2 and 3, in general, *fen* means land that is covered with water, with occasionally soggy areas. In *London, 1802*, the word *fen* and *of stagnant waters* symbolizes the country, England. It was described that England as a swampy marshland of "stagnant waters" where everything that was once a natural gift (such as religion, chivalry, and art, symbolized respectively by the altar, the sword, and the pen) has been lost to the scourge of modernity

Based on words in line 9, 10 and 11, the element of nature that was found are *star*, *sea* and *heavens*. The word *star* symbolized awesomeness. It showed that Milton's "soul was like a Star," and was separate from all the rest of people in the world. The second symbol, the *sea* represented the artistic voice of Milton. Wordsworth expresses the power of Milton's "voice" in this simile, in which he compares it to the sea. The last symbol is *heavens* that represented the purity of his artistic abilities in all of his poems. So, this poem stated William Wordsworth's need for John Milton to return to England, because England has turned into rubbish without literary talent and he need to bring the happiness back to that country.

Table 2. *The elements of nature and meaning in The World is Too Much with Us*

No	Elements of Nature	Meaning
1.	<i>Sea</i>	<p><i>Literal meaning</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sea is large place of the world - Sea consist of water containing salt <p><i>Figurative meaning</i></p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sea as something unpredictable - Sea as mysterious of thing
2.	<i>Moon</i>	<p><i>Literal meaning</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Moon is pure satellite of earth, - Moon cannot be separated with earth. <p><i>Figurative meaning</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Moon as spirit of people - Moon also use as place for someone feeling lonely
3.	<i>Winds</i>	<p><i>Literal meaning</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One of the five basic element nature <p><i>Figurative meaning</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Symbolize a problem that could be a spirit to face
4.	<i>Sleeping flowers</i>	<p><i>Literal meaning</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A plant with lack of wood <p><i>Figurative meaning</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A figurative speech, an ornament of style - Something calm, peaceful, quiet
5.	<i>Lea</i>	<p><i>Literal meaning</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An open field, like a meadow

		<p><i>Figurative meaning</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Represented a land
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The words *sea* and *moon* (line 5 and 6) symbolized Mother of Nature. The poet elaborates on man's alienation from nature, claiming that humanity is no longer susceptible to the influence of the *Sea* the *winds* (line 7), and basically everything else in nature. The word *lea* (line 11) represented a land. If the speaker were become a pagan, then he could look at the land in front of him and see something that wouldn't make him feel so lonely and sad.

Table 3. *The elements of nature and meaning in I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud*

No	Elements of Nature	Meaning
1.	<i>Cloud</i>	<p><i>Literal meaning</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A visible mass of water droplets suspended in the air <p><i>Figurative meaning</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gloomy or sad or even lonely feeling
2.	<i>Vales and hills</i>	<p><i>Literal meaning</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A remote place, often in countryside <p><i>Figurative meaning</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Represent the journey
3.	<i>Golden daffodils</i>	<p><i>Literal meaning</i></p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A yellow beautiful flowers <p><i>Figurative meaning</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Majestic almost like an angel flower - Something related to angel or fairies
4.	<i>Lake</i>	<p><i>Literal meaning</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A small stream of running water <p><i>Figurative meaning</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A sacred place which often association with goddess, angel
5.	<i>Trees</i>	<p><i>Literal meaning</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A large plant with branches <p><i>Figurative meaning</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A symbol of life itself - Also can be interpreted as a protection
6.	<i>Breeze</i>	<p><i>Literal meaning</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A light, gentle wind <p><i>Figurative meaning</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Symbolize an excited feeling, a flurry of excitement
7.	<i>Stars</i>	<p><i>Literal meaning</i></p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stars are planet like Venus, and Mars - Stars are far from earth - Start consist of hard material and shining in the sky <p><i>Figurative meaning</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stars are brilliant people, like smart, intelligence people. - Stars are famous people, as actor and actress.
8.	<i>Milky way</i>	<p><i>Literal meaning</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Milky way is the galaxy that contains our solar system <p><i>Figurative meaning</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A way linked to heaven
9.	<i>The waves</i>	<p><i>Literal meaning</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - something related to the sea - A moving disturbance in the level of a body of a water <p><i>Figurative meaning</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Symbolize the pressurein life

In the sixth beginning lines of the poem, the speaker, Wordsworth is lonely and then he begin walked (wandering and lost on his own thought without any specific place in mind) around valleys and the hills. *Vales* and *hills* represent the journey itself. Suddenly, out of nowhere he sees a group of daffodil flowers. *Golden daffodils* can be assumed as a host of angels. He sees the daffodils beside a *lake* and underneath some *trees*. *Lake* and *tress* can be assumed as a wild part of the countryside.

The word *stars*, shine, twinkle and *milky way* on the seventh and eighth lines further emphasizes link to heavens. Milky way also reflected a river flowing through heaven which mean that the angels are happy knowing they are close to heaven. The waves in line 13 also dance in the breeze, but the daffodils seem happier than the waves. The waves in line 14 are "sparkle," which creates yet another association with the stars. Everything seems to be gleaming and twinkling and shining and sparkling. Again, the speaker refers to himself in the first person, by his vocation, "a poet". The repetition of "gaze" in line 17 tells us that he kept looking at the flowers for a long time.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

1.1 Conclusion

The result of this study reveals the answer of the two research questions. First, the element of nature in *London, 1802* consists of: *fen, stagnant waters, star, sea and heavens*. While *The World is Too Much with Us* consists of: *sea, moon, wind, sleeping flowers and lea*. The last poem *I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud* consists of: *cloud, golden daffodils, lake, tress, breeze, stars, milky way and the waves*.

Finally, the meanings that can be inferred out of the symbols of elements of nature in *London, 1802*, the symbols of elements of nature mostly refer to the country of England specifically in Wordsworth's era. The second poem, *The World is Too Much with Us* mostly refers to the humanity and religion. Then the last selected poem is *I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud* mostly refers to the beautiful, majestic, almost like an angel flowers.

1.2 Suggestion

The writer gives suggestion for the next literary researchers will analyze the element of nature and symbol in literary works, especially in poetry they have to study hard and learn more detail about the element of nature and those correlations to symbolism in order to understand the speaker's means. They have to develop, improve and expand their ideas, their words and their knowledge.

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