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**THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MAN AND NATURE IN
 JOHN KEATS' ODES: AN ECOCRITICAL READING**

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Abstract:

This article attempts to talk about the relation between human and nature in John Keats' Odes as the representation of Keats' consciousness in natural world and the changing of nature in the epoch of industrialization, particularly in England. This study will argue three odes, "Ode to a Nightingale", "Ode to Psyche", and "To Autumn" clears during the English Romantic Period. The main concern of this study is to analyze Keats' wakefulness of nature and the relationship between human and nature which existing in these three odes written by John Keats. To analyze the topic of discussion, this study applies Ecocritical theory. This study finds out that Keats expresses nature as the source and the core of this world. He emphasizes that the nature must be confined and preserved to uphold human's life and also the world. This relation between human and nature affects Keats in writing his odes as the representation of his feeling to nature and social condition in his period.

Keywords: *Ecocriticism Awareness; Industrialization; Nature; Ode; Environment.*

The beauty of nature is a unique theme in English Romantic period, when nature was neglected by people because of industrialization. John Keats is different outlook about beauty in his odes. It is understood that this study portrays the state of human and nature that is affected by industrialization and vanishing of the nature as the important part of life in this world. John Keats brings his odes to the reader and society to jog your memory that the environment is very significant for human being. nature must be preserved and confined. Keats' imagination and nature consciousness empower the movement to save nature from the annihilation that can ruin the world.

This study will investigate the relation between man and nature which drives John Keats in writing those poems. John Keats believes in feeling rather than thought and later he is also known as a sensuous poet. He is sensuous because he makes use of that poetic image, which directly affects the sense organs. Keats finds truth and beauty as two aspects which are inseparable. Beauty, for him, is the source of comprehension which is beyond the successive reasoning. His idea of nature derived from his ecological consciousness plays a central role in the understanding of aesthetics, rational, and imagination (Ngiewih 1).

His poems characterize the social condition which people forget the beauty from their senses. Many people forget the beauty of nature such as seasons, sunshine, wind, and joy of nature. In fact, John Keats describes the rapport and the interaction among human, nature, and animal which happened in the autumn and portrays the condition when nature met human. John Keats was simply telling the main characteristics of autumn, and the human and animal activities related to it, a deeper reading could suggest that Keats talks about the process of life (Bloom 24). Autumn symbolizes maturity in human and animal lives. The aim of this study is to analyze the social condition which affects the poet's psychological state and in this study the writer tries to elucidate how imagination could create objectives that are expected.

The following objectives will be intended to answer every question proposed in the statements of the problem are, to find out how Keats expresses nature in his “Ode to Nightingale”, “Ode to Psyche”, and “To Autumn” and to find out how the relation of human and nature affects John Keats in writing these three odes. In analyzing John Keats' odes, the writer would try to apply the ecocritical theory. Ecocriticism is the study of the relationship between literature and physical environment. Both terms are used to denote a critical approach which began in the USA in the late 1980s and in the UK in the early 1990s. In the USA the acknowledged founder is Cheryll Glotfelty co-editor with Harold Fromm. In the 1992 she was also the co-founder of Association for the Study of Literature and Environment. It has journal called-Interdisciplinary studies in literature and Environment. Today Ecocriticism becomes an emergence movement. Since ecocriticism in the USA seems to be strongest in the universities of the east and the west. (Garrard-5) John Keats with his imaginative thought can be described by the ecocritical theory which emphasizes on the backdrop of the poet, social condition, and psychological state which actually determined the feeling and imagination in his work. The use of ecocritical theory in this study will be maximized by analyzing the backdrop of the poet and nature around him, because in some ways, the background of the poet and environmental condition are very significant and should not be left behind.

Background of the poet is a main element in analyzing his works. Thus, this part is going to describe the backdrop of the poet which represents the poet's reaction and world view portrayed in his odes. Keats as an English Romantic Poet lives in industrialization period, when nature is neglected and dying. People in that period concerned on wealthy and social status which make them careless toward his environment. Disorder, over populated, filthy, and sickness harms urban areas because a mass resettlement of people from rural area caused many difficulty in social and environment. They are showed in Keats' odes, especially “To Autumn”, which depicts natural and human condition in some places and times. In this following line, *Until they think warm days will never cease* (10) he portrays social condition that people always relied on nature as source of life.

There are many significant events that occur in Keats' life. Those are the death of his family, his mother's marriage, and his illness. Those events affect Keats' feeling and his interpretation of life. The death of his family makes sorrowful episode in his life. Keats' theme and method in writing his odes were inclined by memory of his family's death. That suffering of his past incident drives him to fear death and life as well. Repetitions and stresses of word loss were applied in his odes. For example “Ode to a Nightingale”, I have been half in love with easeful death (52). Keats was obsessed with an easeful death. Keats' extreme anxiety toward his illness and miserable drive him to die and go away from this world. His hopelessness portrayed his mental state and past memory which was unhappy. The pain of his mother's marriage also gives effects in Keats' feeling and his understanding of love. Keats' mother leaves him and his brothers and sister alone with his grandparent when Keats was eight years old. His mother married again with another man twice after Keats' father died. According to Abhilash, his mother impacts him not only in the matter of death but also his relationship with women (01). It describes his interpretation of woman that is dreadful and frightening. It is because his bad memory of his mother who leaves him unaccompanied affects Keats feeling about woman and about love in general.

“Ode to a Nightingale” Keats creates fantasy world through poetry for accomplish his desire and expressing his imagination and his feeling. He wants to escape from the painful experience of this worldly life. Keats often writes his poem autonomously without any plans. He just wrote everything which came to his mind. Keats is a spontaneous writer that writes everything around him. “Ode to a Nightingale” can be called his natural ode, because when he wrote this ode when he is sat beneath the tree in summer. He sees a bird flying in his head and singing freely, so Keats has an encouragement to write “Ode to a Nightingale” with his poetic mastermind and insight from nightingale, and also nature surround him added with Keats feeling, so “Ode to Nightingale” has been made in very short time. In this ode, Keats describes his own fantasy which stands in green country. Just like the following.

of for a draught of vintage ! that hath been
 cool'd a long age in the deep-delved earth
 tasting of flora and the country green
 ("Ode to a Nightingale" 11 13)

In these lines, Keats supposed a place that is green and there is much vegetation that grows beautifully. He supposed medieval period when the region of England is dense with variety of plants and there is some natural forest. Keats misses this condition, so he creates this condition in his ode. England in which he lives now is awfully varied from England in medieval era. England in Keats era has a lot of changes. The green place has changed into urban area, factory, and houses. It is interpreted that Keats saw a projection of fantasy world, a world that is not in reality. In this fantasy, Keats sees an inexplicable place and makes his curious. Keats imagined the forest, he explains a forest for the reason that of the historical condition. He thinks that forest will be sick and ruined; Forest soon will be lost because of time. In Keats period, country village and green forest area have been turned into urban and industrial area. This is a result of Industrialization which occurred in Europe, especially in England.

The last stanza says that the persona in this Ode is dreaming. His real life affects to his mind. When Keats writes his ode, he freely used his imagination. But, reality wishes to use limitations. In this ode, there are insatiable desires which cannot be completed in this real world. He goes to certain place which is so natural and abandoned. He describes natural place is so energetic and so beautiful because that environmental condition is so hale and hearty. One with nature is only in his dream. It portrays in this following lines: Was it a vision, or a waking dream/ Fled is that music: / do I wake or sleep (Ode to a Nightingale 45 46)

However, when he has an idea of a mistreated place, he expresses the turmoil condition. People live and go away from that place so often and they did not conscious of nature. A balance of nature portrayed in his odes, because the essential and foundation of nature is to find a sense of balance. Nature is ailing and Keats so heartbreaking with that condition. Keats' texts are considered the work of a genius mind because of the way he intermingled opposing feelings In "Ode to a Nightingale", he speaks how hurting is a life. He says that his feeling moves him to die and feels sorrow and misery if he stays in this world as he seen nature slowly dying.

"Ode to Psyche" beauty is natural and original in this ode, Keats describes a beauty that is untainted and natural. He says that Psyche is very pretty and graceful; she undergoes some tests in this world. She should come down to the earth to find inspiration and true love. Beauty is anything that is natural and unique. Psyche who descended to the earth saw a beautiful and wonderful world by visiting various places in the world, such as natural forest, green fields, beaches, and beautiful mountains. Keats' depiction of beauty is implied in the poem as it describes in this following lines:

Upon the midnight hours;
 Thy voice, thy lute, thy pipe, thy incense sweet
 From winged censer teeming;
 Thy shrine, thy grove, thy oracle, thy heat
 Of pale-mouthed prophet dreaming. ("Ode to Psyche" 45 49)

England was at that time experiencing a considerable transformation, where the jungle and natural places have been destroyed and replaced with the advent of settlement and factories that directly caused a negative impact on environmental degradation. Natural environment affects Keats' in his understanding of beauty that is something natural and new. However, Keats' disease is also caused by bad environment and slumming places in which those are being the main reason the spread of epidemic diseases. This is why John Keats loved the natural places covered with variety of plants and cleaned air.

Keats praises Psyche as a gorgeous and natural goddess. The understanding of natural beauty is affected his interpretation of the prettiness of woman. His appreciation of natural environment directly moves him to love and admire someone who is lively, humble, and honest. Keats' imagination of beautiful Psyche was written in "Ode to Psyche" that actually is the representation of Fanny Brawne, his lover. Fanny Brawne is someone who took his heart and began to affect Keats to write several poems which concerned on the nature and life.

"To Autumn" Keats describes his feeling about extreme anxiety which is listed in his ode. He portrays life as hard and painful, he should fight against all the obstacles that blocked his way. Keats was suffered by the situation which makes him desperate and willing to end it all with end up his life. It is described in these following lines: Who hath not seen thee oft amid thy store / Sometimes whoever seeks abroad may find ("To Autumn" 12 -13) Keats' struggle against his sickness and financial troubles are obstacles that always weighed him wherever he is. In line 13, Keats expresses his feeling toward his problems and he speaks himself that creates an end for his condition. In sentence, whoever seeks abroad may find, reveals his reaction to his life that is so miserable and sorrow. Keats tries to defeat his miserable by using his ability to express his emotion through poem. He states that everyone who seeks abroad may find everything they search. Through poetry Keats expresses his emotion and feeling to be more creative and positive things.

Critics criticize his style of writing and abuse him as an unskilled poet and condemn his physical condition. Keats' extreme anxiety of his condition affects his writing and his understanding of life and nature. Suffers and sorrows always be parts of John Keats' life. His sickness makes him so agonizing and eager to end up by suicidal action. It is rather die than live in hurting ill health and grief. It is expressed in his ode that he always mentions death, desperation, and sorrow in his odes, especially Ode "To Autumn". His sorrowful interpretation of life described in his writing is because of his ill health and his bad condition. However, his miserable childhood affected his later life and also his suffering toward his mother who led him to miserable episodes of his love story. Actually, there are many factors that influence his writing skills, such as death of his brother and his mother marriage which gave him desperation toward life

Human and nature bond with nature. Nature gives sources to human and human protects and conserves nature. That relation just like an encircle, we need nature to survive but nature needs our conservation to survive, too. Keats often personified nature as dying and sick which need treatment and if nature is neglected it will die. It assumes that Keats often portrays natural condition based on his interpretation, just like the following lines: Among the river shallows, borne aloft / Or sinking as the light wind lives or dies; ("To Autumn" 28 -29) In that above lines, we can assume that shallows' river and borne aloft portrays environmental condition of nature. Pollution attacks river and endanger ecosystem which will harm our life. Keats always worries about environmental condition which every day become worse, it happens because our omission. People did not care much about nature, they always focuses their desire which concern on wealth and social status.

All of these three odes, "Ode to a Nightingale", "Ode to Psyche", and "To Autumn" portrays a balance of hope and despair. As portrayed in "Ode to a Nightingale", he desires to escape with nightingale, which reflects a freedom and happiness from real world and sorrows to the beautiful world, an ideal beauty of peace and restful world without any negative side of human's greed and also life without lies. In his "To Autumn, Keats illustrates autumn as wonderful moment, just like these following lines: With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eaves run; / To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees, (Keats' "To Autumn" lines 6, 7)

In these lines we can conclude that Keats' expression of beautiful nature is seen in "To Autumn". He describes fruits and trees grow well added by beautiful season of joy which calming heart and making convenient to our heart. Keats praises the joy of autumn as happy hour and presents his feeling about nature in which nature never betrays, not like man. Liar and disturber are man's possession that Keats wants to

express through poetry. Human always makes use of natural sources without any limitation, forgets their responsibilities to conserve nature.

Life will find a balance, if we're imbalanced we will feel so desperate and moreover, we will be brave to take suicidal action or just imagine that dead is the only way to ease our pain. Keats gives us a lesson through his writings or his historical life, that every sorrow and happiness in our life is just like beautiful scenery of the night, completed with glorious starry night and beautiful moon. Life is so wonderful with life and death, with sadness or happiness, that just like a rainbow in the sky. Through his writings, Keats gives portrayal of nature, human, and life. Life is like a beautiful voice of nightingale that flies away with beautiful goddess who brings colors and happiness to the world then flies together through the autumn to witness the beauty of the autumn and return to its creator. Life is wonderful with a sadness and happiness as a balance of this nature and life.

He also believes that the world is full of sorrowful, miserable, and painful. However, his interpretation toward nature and his world view made him write poems concerned with nature. His affection toward nature is presented in almost all of his poems and odes, such as "Ode to a Nightingale", "Ode to Psyche", and "To Autumn". So, human must conserve to protect nature and their own body as a gift from the Creator, the Almighty God. Keats' world view is portrayed in all of his odes, his natural awareness drives him to illustrate and to describe nature as a source of life and the core of the world. People must protect and conserve nature to sustain their life in this world. John Keats also portrays the condition of human and nature in industrialization era. Keats believes, nature and human is in one condition. If human protects and conserves to nature, nature will give the source of life to the human and all living beings in this world.

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