

Nature as a source of joy in william wordsworth's poem "I wandered lonely as cloud".

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ABSTRACT

William Wordsworth's poem I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud is the subject of this investigation, which examines the portrayal of nature as a source of pleasure. The objective of the research is to ascertain the manner in which nature is depicted in the poem and to elucidate its impact on the speaker's emotional experience. An ecocritical approach was implemented to apply a qualitative descriptive-analytical methodology. The primary data was composed of words, phrases, lines, and stanzas from the poem that depict natural elements and expressions of pleasure. The data were collected using documentation techniques and analyzed using the stages of data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing. The results show that nature significantly influences the speaker's emotional state. The speaker initially feels isolated and lonely; however, the golden daffodils evoke emotions.

Keywords: Nature, Happiness, Ecocriticism.

A. Introduction

Literature is a branch of art created based on ideas, feelings, and creative thoughts related to cultural elements, expressed through language (Sukirman, n.d.). Literary works are rich in the values derived from life experiences, such as religious, psychological, sociocultural, and moral values, which form the basis for the development of character and attitude education. A habit-forming model that involves engaging in appreciation activities teaches these values. Literary works can serve

as an educational medium to develop, transform, and shape the character and attitudes of students. Character formation is evident in spiritual, intellectual, charitable, and social dimensions. Additionally, literary works can serve as a recreational tool that fosters inner peace (joy, tranquillity, and comfort) and reduces feelings of boredom during the learning process. Consequently, such activities positively influence the formation of character and attitudes in a humanistic direction.

Several previous studies have examined the poetry of William Wordsworth, highlighting the relationship between humans and nature that frequently appears in his work. One of the most frequently discussed poems is "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud". This poem describes the poet's experience of walking alone and then seeing a field of daffodils growing by the lake and beneath the trees. This scene illustrates how nature plays a vital role in shaping the meaning and atmosphere of the poem (Rizqan, 2019).

In the poem "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud", Wordsworth presents various elements of nature, such as flowers, lakes, wind, and trees, which are vividly depicted through poetic language. The presence of these natural elements demonstrates how the poet uses vocabulary related to the environment to describe the beauty of nature while simultaneously creating a specific atmosphere in the poem. The daffodils' depiction, swaying with the breeze, creates the impression of nature as lively and dynamic.

Through this depiction, the poem illustrates the closeness between humans and nature. Nature is not merely a backdrop in the poem but also a source of experience and reflection for the poet. The poet recalls the happiness and tranquillity evoked by the natural scenery he observed. This observation demonstrates that the beauty of nature can have a profound emotional impact on humans.

Thus, the poem "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud" demonstrates how Wordsworth portrays nature as a central element in his poetry. Through the use of language that vividly depicts natural elements, this poem provides a description of the environment and conveys the inner experience that arises from the interaction between humans and nature.

The beauty of the scene left a deep impression on the poet. He felt a spontaneous joy as he watched the flowers move in harmony with the surrounding nature. Through this description, Wordsworth shows that nature has the power to bring peace and happiness to those who are able to experience it with full awareness.

The scene offered a delightful firsthand experience and had a lasting impact on the poet's memory. The final section of the poem explains that memories of the daffodils often resurface in his mind when he is in a calm or solitary state. These memories bring back the sense of happiness he once felt when witnessing the scene firsthand. This demonstrates that the experience of observing nature can have a lasting emotional impact even after the event has passed.

Through this poem, Wordsworth illustrates that the relationship between humans and nature does not only occur physically when someone sees or is present in the natural environment. This relationship can also take place in the form of an inner experience stored within memory. Nature becomes a source of inspiration that can enrich feelings and provide tranquillity in human life.

Thus, the poem *I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud* demonstrates how

the beauty of nature can transform someone's mood from a feeling of loneliness into joy. The depiction of daffodils dancing in the breeze becomes a symbol of natural harmony that can provide a profound emotional experience for humans. Through this depiction, Wordsworth emphasises that human closeness to nature plays an important role in bringing happiness, serenity, and inner reflection into life.

Every piece of research necessitates limitations to facilitate a more focused and in-depth discussion. Therefore, this study has several limitations aimed at clarifying the scope of the analysis and maintaining the focus of the research. The eco-literary approach in literary studies limits this study. This approach helps us understand how the poem represents the relationship between humans and nature. Through this approach, the researcher attempts to uncover meanings related to human experiences when interacting with nature and how nature is depicted as a source of inspiration, tranquillity, and emotional reflection. This study does not utilise other literary theory approaches, such as structuralism,

the psychology of literature, feminism, or historical approaches. By limiting the use of theory solely to the eco-literary approach, this study can focus more on analysing the meaning related to the relationship between humans and the natural environment, as found in Zaib et al. (2025).

This study focuses only on the persona or speaker in the poem *I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud*. The speaker is understood as a representation of the poet's experiences and feelings when interacting with the natural environment. This study does not discuss other characters extensively because the poem places more emphasis on the poet's personal experience in observing and feeling the beauty of nature around him. Therefore, the analysis is focused on how the speaker depicts feelings of loneliness, admiration, and happiness that arise when seeing the stretch of daffodils (Amin, n.d.).

This study only analyses the aspect of meaning related to the depiction of nature and its influence on the speaker's emotional state. The analysis is focused on how nature is

represented in the poem and how this experience provides meaning for the poet. This study does not discuss all literary elements in depth, such as poem structure, rhyme scheme, rhythm, or detailed linguistic analysis. This limitation is in place to keep the research focused on the poem's depiction of the human-nature relationship. What is the description of nature in William Wordsworth's poem *"I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud"*, and how does the speaker engage with it?

The limitations established in this study aim to keep the discussion focused and prevent it from becoming too broad. This study, which has limitations regarding the theory used, the character analysed, and the specific aspect focused on, is expected to provide a deeper understanding of the meaning of the relationship between humans and nature in the poem *"I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud"*. Furthermore, these limitations also assist the researcher in structuring a more systematic analysis, so that the research findings can provide a clear contribution to literary studies, particularly regarding the relationship

between humans and the natural environment.

B. Methodology

1. Research Design

This study employs a qualitative research design with a descriptive-analytical approach. This design was chosen because the primary objective of the study is to understand, interpret, and describe the meaning contained in William Wordsworth's poem "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud," particularly in its depiction of nature as a source of joy.

A qualitative approach was used because this study focuses on data in the form of literary texts, rather than numbers or statistical data. In literary research, the meaning contained in a work cannot be measured quantitatively but must be analyzed in depth through interpretation. Therefore, this approach allows the researcher to explore linguistic elements, imagery, symbols, and the hidden meanings within the poem.

A descriptive-analytical method is used to systematically and thoroughly describe how the natural elements in the poem contribute to evoking a

sense of happiness. The researcher will describe relevant excerpts from the poem and then analyze them to identify the connection between the depictions of nature and the emotions felt by the poet.

In addition, this study also employs an ecocritical approach—an approach to literary analysis that emphasizes the relationship between humans and the natural environment. Through this approach, nature is viewed not merely as a backdrop or setting, but as a vital element that plays an active role in shaping the emotional experiences of the characters or the poet. In the context of this poem, nature is depicted as a source of inspiration, tranquility, and inner happiness.

This study is also interpretive in nature, meaning that the results of the analysis depend on the researcher's understanding and interpretation of the text. Nevertheless, these interpretations are grounded in relevant literary theories and supported by evidence in the form of direct quotations from the poems. Thus, the findings of this study retain a strong academic foundation.

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2. Data and Data Source

The data in this study consists of qualitative data drawn from the poem "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud" by William Wordsworth. This data takes the form of words, phrases, lines, and stanzas that contain elements of nature and expressions of happiness, which are the primary focus of this study.

The data sources in this study consist of two types: primary data and secondary data. Primary data is the main source analyzed directly by the researcher, namely the text of the poem "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud." This poem was chosen because it represents the relationship between humans and nature and clearly

depicts nature as a source of happiness.

Meanwhile, secondary data was obtained from various relevant sources, such as books, scientific journals, and academic articles discussing ecocritical theory, literary analysis, and qualitative research methods. This secondary data serves to strengthen the analysis, provide a theoretical foundation, and support the interpretation of the primary data.

In this study, data obtained from both sources were used in an integrated manner to produce a systematic and in-depth analysis of how nature is represented as a source of happiness in poetry.

3. Data Collection Technique

The data collection technique used in this study was the documentation method. This method was chosen because the main source of data is a literary text, specifically the poem I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud by William Wordsworth.

The first step of collecting the data was reading the poem carefully and repeatedly to gain a deeper understanding of its meaning and content. Through intensive reading,

the researcher was able to identify important elements related to the main topic of the study, which is nature as a source of happiness and emotional comfort.

After that, the researcher identified and highlighted relevant parts of the poem, such as words, phrases, lines, and stanzas that describe natural elements and emotional expressions. These findings were then classified into several categories, including the representation of nature, expressions of happiness, and the relationship between nature and human emotions.

In addition, supporting data were also collected from books, journals, and academic articles related to literature and romantic poetry. These references were used to support the analysis and provide an appropriate theoretical foundation for the study.

By applying the documentation method, the data collected in this research are considered reliable because they come directly from the primary text and are supported by relevant academic sources.

4. Data Collection Technique

This study uses qualitative analysis based on the model proposed by Matthew B. Miles and A. Michael Huberman. The model consists of three main stages: data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing or verification.

The first stage is data reduction. In this stage, the researcher selected and focused on data from the poem *I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud* that are relevant to the research topic. The researcher focused on words, phrases, and poetic expressions related to nature and feelings of happiness experienced by the speaker in the poem.

The second stage is data display. The selected data were then organized systematically into descriptive explanations and grouped into categories, such as natural imagery and emotional expressions. This step helped the researcher understand the connection between nature and the emotional transformation shown in the poem.

The final stage is conclusion drawing and verification. In this stage, the researcher interpreted the meaning of

the poem based on the collected data. The conclusions were continuously reviewed and matched with evidence from the text to ensure that the interpretation was accurate and relevant to the research focus.

Through these stages, the analysis was carried out systematically and deeply to achieve a clearer understanding of how nature is represented as a source of happiness in the poetry of William Wordsworth. This qualitative approach emphasizes meaning, emotional experience, and thematic interpretation found in the poem.

C. Result and Discussion

1. Introduction to Findings

This section discusses the findings of the analysis about how nature is represented as a source of happiness in the poem *I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud* by William Wordsworth. The research focuses not only on the description of nature in the poem but also on how the speaker's experience with nature affects his emotional condition.

Based on the analysis, nature in the poem plays an important role in changing the speaker's feelings from loneliness to happiness. At the beginning of the poem, the speaker describes himself as feeling lonely and emotionally empty. However, this feeling changes when he sees a beautiful field of daffodils dancing in the breeze.

The study also shows that the happiness created by nature is not only temporary. The experience remains in the speaker's memory and can be remembered later, even when he is alone again. This idea reflects one of the important concepts in Romantic poetry, which is "emotion recollected in tranquility," where emotional experiences from the past continue to give comfort and happiness when remembered.

Therefore, nature in this poem does not function only as a background or visual image but also as a source of deep emotional experience and inner peace. The poem shows how nature can influence human emotions positively and leave a lasting impact on memory and feelings.

2. Research Findings

Theme	Data (Quote)	Form of Representation	Impact (Effect)
Nature Representation	"A host of a golden daff"	Nature is depicted as abundant and beautiful	Attracts visual attention and creates a sense of awe
Nature Representation	"Fluttering and dancing in the breeze"	Nature is alive and dynamic	Builds emotional closeness
Emotional Expression	"I wandered lonely as a cloud"	Initial state of loneliness	Shows the condition before interacting with nature
Emotional Expression	"My heart with a pleasure fills"	Spontaneous happiness	Emotional change into a positive one
Emotional Intensity	"They outdid the sparkling wave"	Comparison with other elements	Strengthens happiness

	s in glee"		
Memory	They flash upon that inward eye"	Inner reflections	Happiness can reappear
Memory	"And then my heart with pleasure fills"	Recurring effect	Long-term emotional impact

Based on the data presentation in Table 1, the findings indicate that nature in the poem acts as the main element that influences the poet's emotional experience. The representation of nature is not only descriptive but also shows a dynamic character through the use of personification, such as "dancing" and "fluttering".

From a cause-and-effect perspective, the presence of the daffodils becomes the primary factor causing the change in the poet's emotion. The initial condition marked by loneliness turns into happiness after the interaction with nature.

When compared to views that see nature merely as an aesthetic object, these findings show that nature plays a more complex role, namely as a source of a sustained emotional experience.

Theme A: Nature as an Immediate Source of Joy

Analysis shows that one of nature's main roles in the poem is a source of happiness that comes directly. It is obvious when the poet describes it. The experience of seeing a life full of daffodils.

In poetry they are represented with words such as dancing, dancing, and splice, which suggests that nature is silent, but active and energetic. The flowers are even personified as if they had life and were able to "dance with the wind."

These phenomena suggest that the poet sees not only the physical realm but also feels emotionally. Such natural beauty directly effects the good her feelings. From those initial lonely conditions, the poet felt happier and happier, feeling connected to its environment.

This is also supported by the analysis that the presence of daffodils makes the poet feel no more, for one thing, it's part of "company" or "fun-loving" togetherness. In other words, nature is able to replace loneliness with a sense of community and excitement.

Moreover, the experience was spontaneous. Poets don't plan on feeling happy, but such happiness comes naturally in response to natural beauty. It shows that nature has the intrinsic power to affect human emotions without any need for deliberate effort.

Theme B: Nature as a Source of Lasting Happiness through Memory

While giving happiness directly, research also shows that nature serves as a source of long-term happiness through memory. This is the most important aspect of this poem.

At the end of the poem, the poet explained that when he was in a certain condition, like when lying down or dreaming, the daffodil's shadow reappears deep in his mind. This process is referred to as the pupil, which is the ability to remember and relive the past experiences.

Interestingly, when such memories arise, the poet again feels the same happiness as when he first saw those flowers. It shows that experience with nature does not stop at one moment, but it can continue to have an emotional impact on the future.

According to the literature analysis, the ability to recall this experience is part of the power of imagination in romantic poetry. Imagination allows the poet to "enlive return" the experience and feel it again.

Thus, the nature of the poem not only serves as an external source of happiness but also as a source of internal happiness derived from memory and reflection.

3. Discussion

A. Interpretation using Comparison Technique

Compared with the two themes found, it shows that there are two kinds of happiness which are different, which are direct happiness and reflective happiness.

To some theme, happiness comes to life when poets interact with nature. This happiness is spontaneous and depends on visual experiences that are occurring. Meanwhile, to some, happiness arises through memory, which means no more depends on the physical presence of nature.

This comparison suggests that nature has two main functions in this poem. First, as an external source of happiness obtained through direct experience. Secondly, as a source of internal happiness obtained through a process of reflection and imagination.

It also shows that experiences with nature are not only temporary, but they can last a long time. In fact, in some cases, that happiness coming from memories can be stronger because it involves a deeper reflection process.

B. Interpretation using Cause–Effect Technique

From a causal standpoint, the happiness experienced by the poet is caused by some major factor. One such factor is the visual beauty of nature itself, which is described in great detail and vividly.

Moreover, the tranquil and harmonious nature also plays a role in creating conditions for positive emotions. An environment away from social pressure enables poets to focus more on the experience they are experiencing.

The result of that experience is the emotional conditioning of the poet. He no longer felt lonely but instead felt a sense of happiness and serenity. In fact, the experience leaves an impression so powerful that it can be recalled in the future.

Furthermore, these causal relationships indicate that nature has an important role to play in human emotional health. In this context, nature can be considered the source of "healing that is natural and does not require complex intervention.

C. Novelty of the Study

The novelty of this study lies in the focus of analysis that not only sees nature as objects in poetry but also as a source of happiness that has two dimensions, that is, direct and reflective.

This approach provides a deeper understanding of how romantic poetry can not only describe nature but also explore the emotional connection between humans and nature.

Furthermore, it also shows that simple experiences, such as looking at flowers, can have an enormous emotional impact if understood and buried deep.

4. Implications

Practical Implication

Practically, this study may help the reader to understand poetry better, not just in terms of language, but in terms of emotion. Readers can learn that simple experiences with nature can bring real happiness.

In addition, in the context of education, these findings may be used to help students understand poetry in a more relevant and contextual way.

Theoretical Implication

Theoretically, this study strengthens the view that nature has an important role to play shaped human emotions, especially in romantic literature. Nature is not just a backdrop, but it also became part of the inner human experience.

5. Researcher's Perspective

According to researchers, this poem is particularly relevant to modern living conditions. In the middle of increasingly busy and stressful lives, humans often lose contact with nature.

With this poem, Wordsworth reminded us that happiness does not always come from big or complex stuff. In fact, happiness can be found in simple things, such as seeing flowers or savoring natural beauty.

Researchers also think that maintaining contact with nature is vital

to guarding emotional balance. Nature can be an easily accessible source of serenity but is often neglected.

D. Conclusion

Based on the analysis of the poem *I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud*, it can be concluded that nature has an important role as a source of happiness and inner peace. Through the description of daffodils, lakes, wind, and beautiful natural atmosphere, William Wordsworth shows that nature is able to give a positive emotional influence to humans.

This poem describes the change of my character's feelings from lonely to happy after seeing the beauty of the surrounding nature. The experience gives a deep impression and is not only felt at that moment but also kept in the character's memory. When the memory reappeared, the same happy feeling also reappeared in him.

In addition, this poem also shows the close relationship between humans and nature, which is one of the characteristics of Romantic literature. Nature not only serves as a backdrop in poetry but also becomes a source of inspiration, comfort, and emotional calmness.

Thus, the poem *I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud* shows that the experience of sharing nature can give a deep and lasting emotional impact on humans.

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