

"SHELLEY'S 'MONT BLANC' IN THE AGE OF THE ANTHROPOCENE: EXPLORING ECOLOGICAL THEMES IN ROMANTIC POETRY"

M. Julien Mary¹ and Dr. Thokchom Sunanda Devi²

¹Research Scholar, Department of English, St. Joseph University, Nagaland.

²Associate Professor & Head of the Department of English St. Joseph University, Nagaland.

Abstract:

In the contemporary era, our world experiences hasty and profound changes, mainly focused by the widespread of advanced technology in our daily lives. Science and technology, once hid in the background, now permeate every moment of our existence, primarily changing our reality. Therefore, we pass through a strange land filled with unsettling situations where the limits between humans and nature blur. The current advancements in technology have become a dominant force in shaping the planet's environment. This influence is primarily attributed to the universal use of technology. The term "Anthropocene," a fusion of "anthropo," signifying human, and "cene," indicating a new geological era, recaps the concept that human actions have evolved into a geological power, substantially reshaping the Earth's intricate systems.

Many people consider the onset of the Industrial Revolution in the late 18th century as the start of the Anthropocene period. The widespread adoption of technology, especially in manufacturing and energy generation, activated sharp emissions of carbon dioxide, deforestation, and the transformation of natural landscapes. These technological treads have left an enduring imprint on the Earth's geology and contemporary climate.

This present paper will analyse one of Shelley's poetic works, "Mont Blanc." As a prominent figure of the Romantic era, Shelley's work reflects his profound admiration for nature and the complicated interplay between humanity and the challenging power of nature, symbolized by "Mont Blanc" as a "voiceless terror" and a "monarch of mountains." Shelley also draws parallels between the mountain and a cathedral, suggesting that nature itself can serve as a land for reverence and contemplation. Furthermore, Shelley contemplates the elaborate connection between the natural environment and human thought. Presently, the natural landscape has enabled the processes of industrialization, resource reduction, environmental pollution, and the global interconnectivity that are defining characteristics of the Anthropocene. Addressing the challenges posed by the anthropogenic era, including climate change and biodiversity loss, demands a fusion of technological innovation, sustainable practices, and international cooperation.

Keywords: Anthropocene, Technology, Environmental Change, Human-Nature Relationship, Industrial Revolution, Ecological Challenges.

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1. Introduction:

Romanticism is one of the prominent periods to be noted in historical events of all the time. It refers to the birth of a new set of concepts; Romanticism began its start in 1789, approximately at the time of French Revolution started. The Romantics braved the scientific and social perspective on life that the enlightenment



adopted. The Romantics emphasized passion and emotion, nature, nature over man, spirituality, intuition and insights more than the enlightenment did on Reason, Human Nature, and Man over Nature, Material, and Laboratory observation. During this time marked as time of revolutions in 18th century, then there existed a marvellous growth of industrialization, mass migration from rural to urban areas, poor labour wages, tiring work which created stress and pressure among people. This is the time few writers emerged turning their passion towards nature where they really found solace and comfort a means to escape from industrialization. The notable figures of the Romantic periods were William Blake, Wordsworth, Coleridge, Shelley and Keats they made substantial contributions to the historical movement, highlighting the importance of nature in human life. Among them Percy Bysshe Shelley, a renowned Romantic poet, conveyed his ability to capture its majesty and power in his poetry. One of his most outstanding works, "Mont Blanc," exemplifies his ability to convey the sublime qualities of nature through vivid and contemplative verse. His work, "Mont Blanc," stands as a leading testament to the Romantic attraction with nature and its influence on human existence.

2. Review of Literature:

Shelley's 'Mont Blanc' is an ode. There are 144 lines in it and they are divided into five stanzas of varying lengths. it doesn't rhyme online but varies. Mont Blanc is the highest point in the Swiss Alps and is located close to the borders of France and Italy. It is thought that the poet is looking at the summit from the Chamonix Valley, from a bridge that spans the Arve River. Shelley said that he wrote right away following the event. To his friend Thomas Peacock, he wrote. The poem was written in response to the intense emotions that the objects it attempts to describe evoked in the poet. Its claim to consent, therefore, is based on an attempt to mimic the uncontrollably wild and unapproachable solemnity from which those emotions originated.

The poet presents nature as an imperative force in the first verse of the lyric, yet this force only seems to have strength in connection to the human intellect. The poet calls the peak "Mont Blanc" and admires its splendor. He characterizes nature as an infinite supply of consequences. The speaker claims that the natural world provides the splendor of nature study. In the second verse the speaker refers to Arve River as a symbol of wisdom found in the natural world. And he says that the surrounding ravine and the river both enhance each other's attractiveness. Further he goes on to describe the ice, its crags, and the mountain, but he claims that the reflection is unable to adequately depict the size of the peak.

The speaker is interested in using tradition for support for a time, but he believes that nature's strength is too great for that, therefore it is best to simply accept nature as it is. Through the third stanza of the lyric, stating that it might seem as though the power had left humanity. But

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the real power of nature may also educate us. By observing to the mountain we can understand that the nature isn't always good or evil but it also depends upon our choices and mainly by our attitudes and relationship with natural world. And in the fourth stanza the poet explains that the greatest force hidden beneath the mountain and he claims that the power of mountain is comparable to the power of the mind, including both creation and destruction.

In the end, the poet comes to the conclusion that the mountain contains the soul of nature. He assures that having this understanding gives him a need of the hour of quiet isolation. Therefore the poem explores the

intricacies of the human mind and its ability to comprehend reality as well as the immense universe. The verses portray how our thoughts are shaped by our perception of nature. On one hand, Shelley encouraged for the idea that humans should be free from external limitations, yet he also acknowledged the existence of a universal force that binds the human mind to the cosmos, influencing our thoughts. Wordsworth, in contrast, embraced the brighter and more romantic aspects of nature, while Shelley found a darker side within it. The poet firmly believes that the ultimate truth can only be extracted in the bosom of nature, and he considers himself fortunate to possess this truth, which he views as a guiding light for humanity. Gazing at the huge mountain and personifies it because he believes that to understand accurately this huge natural wonder, one must acclaim human qualities to it. In doing so, he links a connection between his own thoughts and the mountain. The line "everlasting universe of the things"(Shelley, line 1) carries profound significance as it represents a universal truth. When the poet describes the river, he extols the wonders of nature and emphasizes its enduring nature. He asserts that the river is undeniably eternal and serves as the wellspring of countless elements that shape our lives. Using various metaphors, the poet continues the journey of his thoughts and expresses his desire for his own thoughts to flow as freely and abundantly as the river. In the lines, "to reflect on my own unique imagination, my very own human mind, amid the clear world of things that surrounds me," here we understand from these lines that the poet yearns for his thoughts to harmonize with the clarity of the environment. . In the fourth stanza of the lyric, the speaker examines the interconnectedness of all aspects of nature. He emphasizes that humans are merely a mortal part of the grand fabric of nature. The same river, he notes, can be a destructive force, yet it is also the life force, providing fresh water and sustenance for all living beings and the climate. Our comprehension of nature, he argues, is what nurtures our profound connection with it. The speaker goes on to praise the mountain's power, declaring it to be as vast and unfathomable as nature itself. He highlights that to fully understand the mountain, one must perceive it as a whole, for it wields the commanding force of nature. In a humbling admittance, the poet clearly communicates that the human mind is not everlasting of all things; instead it is nature itself that holds this eternal significance.

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Percy Bysshe Shelley, as a leading figure of the Romantic generation, had existences superficial by using assorted stories in nature that significantly fashioned his ecological focus. Born in Horsham, England, in 1792, he grew up in the countryside, where he developed a deep reference to the nature universal (Cameron 12). Shelley's travels across Europe further prolonged his exposure to numerous natural landscapes. His visits to places just like the Swiss Alps and the Italian nation-state exposed him to the inspiring splendour and energy of nature (Bieri 35-47). It was throughout his travels that Shelley composed his famous images, "Mont Blanc," wherein he contemplated the course of the 'Mont Blanc' Mountain in the Alps. The poem eloquently captures his admiration for the splendid force and beauty of the natural worldwide.

Moreover, Shelley's poetry regularly portrays the complex seeing between humanity and the daunting force of nature. In "Mont Blanc," he evokes a sense of insignificance in the face of the mountain's atrociousness, underscoring the timeless struggle of people to recognize their neighbourhood inside the natural worldwide (Abrams 178-189). The eco-critical analysis of Romantic poetry, such as Shelley's paintings, facilitates extract

deeper ecological meanings of their verses. In "Mont Blanc," Shelley employs extreme language and symbolism to underscore the importance of preserving the sanctity of the environment, offering insights that stay relevant in popular discussions on climate change and conservation (Garrard forty nine-65). The ecological subject matters of the Romantic poets have had an on-going effect on the improvement of cutting-edge environmental concept and movements. Their reverences for nature laid the basis for the emergence of environmentalism inside the 20th century and continue to encourage modern-day discussions on sustainability and conservation (Smith 132-147).

In the poem Shelley is set up as a rebellious person. Every time he gazes at nature, it encourages his irrational curiosity and unsettling caution. He begins to burn from inside out, recalling the injustices society. He believes that nature's strength is creating the rebellious place, where as other Romantics see nature as the source of peace, pleasure, or joy. However he further explains that not everyone will be able to understand what nature is trying to say but rather Nature is best sensed and understood by great and wise.

3. Statement of the problem:

The Anthropocene

The Anthropogenic, characterised through profound human-induced environmental changes, has thrust ecological issues to the leading edge of world discourse (Crutzen and Stoermer 23). This period, marked by using human activities including industrialization and deforestation, reflects the long-lasting impact of human movements on the earth's ecosystems (Crutzen and Stoermer 24). On this context, the ecological issues in Romantic poetry, which emphasize humanity's socializing with nature, have received renewed importance. Romantic poets like

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Percy Bysshe Shelley had been eager observers of the natural world and expressed his deep connections with nature in his works. Shelley's "Mont Blanc," mainly, reflects his profound admiration for nature and its effect on human existence. On this poem, he explores the elegant majesty of Mont Blanc, symbolizing the overpowering strength and beauty of nature, resounding the Romantic fascination with the natural world. (Shelley 17-24).

4. Research Methodology :

Exploring Ecological Themes in "Mont Blanc"

Shelley's ecological attention prolonged to his private existence as properly. He was acknowledged for his advocacy of vegetarianism and his critique of animal cruelty. His vegetarian way of life turned into a manifestation of his perception in living in harmony with nature and respecting all dwelling beings (O'Neill 96-108). Moreover, Shelley's passion for sailing and boating on frames of water like Lake Geneva and the Gulf of Spezia allowed him to enjoy the strength and splendor of the natural universal from distinct perspectives (Holmes eighty one-94). In his works, Shelley frequently used brilliant natural imagery to bring his ecological topics, emphasizing the sensitive stability among humanity and the natural surroundings. These poetic expressions had been closely influenced by way of his non-public reports with nature (Bieri 62-75).

The Romantic poets of the late 18th and early 19th centuries, including figures like William Wordsworth, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, and John Keats, played a vital part in shaping ultramodern environmental study and laying the root for contemporary environmentalism. Their profound reverence for nature and their capability to capture its beauty and significance in their poetry not only told literature but also had a profound impact on how we perceive and interact with the natural world. This essay explores the heritage of Romantic muses in shaping ultramodern environmental study, emphasizing their devotion to nature and its part in the emergence of contemporary environmentalism. The Romantic muses had a unique relationship with nature, viewing it not just as a background to mortal actuality, but as a source of alleviation and a wellspring of spiritual and emotional aliment. They celebrated the beauty of natural geographies, frequently choosing rustic and peaceful settings for their poetry. William Wordsworth, for case, in his lyric "Lines composed a Many Miles above Tintern Abbey," reflects on the restorative power of nature, defining how it can calm and soothe the mortal soul. He writes, "For this, for everything, we're out of tune;/ It moves us not." Wordsworth's words elicit a sense of interconnectedness with the natural world, a theme that would reverberate throughout the development of environmentalism.

In "*I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud*," another famous poem by Wordsworth, the poet describes a field of daffodils in glowing detail. His connection to the flowers goes beyond mere admiration; it becomes a transcendent experience suggesting that the natural world has the power to elevate the human spirit. Wordsworth, along with his fellow Romantics, believed that nature was a source of spiritual renewal and that being in nature could help individuals connect with their inner selves and the world at large.

The Romantic poets also emphasized the basic value of nature. This notion challenged the prevailing anthropocentric view of the environment that had dominated Western thought for centuries. Their belief in the inherent worth of nature, regardless of its utility to humanity, set the stage for the development of modern environmental ethics. Samuel Taylor Coleridge, in "*The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*," introduced a warning tale about the consequences of disturbing the natural world. The killing of the albatross in the poem symbolizes humanity's thoughtless exploitation of the environment and the subsequent retribution from nature.

In "*Ode to a Nightingale*," John Keats celebrates the nightingale's song and its existence for its own sake: Keats suggests that the nightingale exists beyond human purposes and serves as a reminder of the intrinsic value of all living beings. This concept has profound implications for the development of modern environmentalism, as it challenges the notion that nature is only valuable insofar as it benefits human interests.

5. Result and Discussion:

Impact of Shelley's Work Today

The study of Romantic poetry like "Mont Blanc" can also foster critical thinking proficiency. scholars can deconstruct the imagery and conceits used by the poet to convey the majesty of nature. This critical engagement encourages them to reflect on the power of language to shape comprehensions of the natural world and, by extension, human geste towards it.

"Thy voice, which is the voice of all the winds"(Shelley, line 11) this judgment compares the voice of Mont Blanc to the sound of the winds as a whole." The everlasting creation of effects"(Shelley, line 1) this line directly defines the world as an endless reality, emphasizing its eternal and interrelated nature." To a peace which is no peace"(Shelley, line 15) this fable highpoints the ironic nature of a apparently peaceful but worrying stillness in nature. His poems frequently elicit a profound emotional response to the natural world. This connection is pivotal in contemporary environmental conversations, as fostering emotional connections to nature can drive individual and collaborative conduct for conservation and sustainable living. The Romantic emphasis on the emotional experience of nature complements contemporary sweats to engage people in environmental causes.

The lyric's reflection on the creative eventuality of nature and mortal imagination speaks to the determination of environmental stewardship in the face of climate change. The lyric discusses the sublime, an idea that, when faced with the majesty and might of nature, may inspire both fear and wonder. The lyric's focus on the eternal substance of effects and the connectivity of the macrocosm can serve as a helpful memorial of the significance of comprehending the interrelated Earth's systems, including ecosystems and climate, as well as the necessity of addressing conflicts brought on by climate change. The lyric's motifs are applicable to the

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Anthropocene time, which is defined by mortal influence on the terrain, as humans struggle with the goods of their conduct on the earth, especially climate change.

6. Conclusion:

In conclusion, the ecological enterprises and dispatches of the Romantic poets find parallels in moment's conversations on climate change, conservation, and sustainability. The Romantic poets' reverences for the godliness of nature, warnings about environmental declination, calls for conservation and sustainability, and emphasis on emotional connections to the natural world remain largely material. Their ideas serve as an eternal memorial that the relationship between humanity and the terrain is intertwined and that the protection and preservation of the natural world are essential for the happiness of both and everything is connected. The intricate relationship between literature, ecology, and the Anthropocene offers rich occasions for accord and managing the environmental consequences of our moment. It calls for persisted examination and interdisciplinary collaboration to promote a profound regard of the natural world and punch eloquent change in the face of ecological challenges.

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