



## Poetic component in the novels of D.H. Lawrence

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### Abstract

The poetic component is a basic tool in literature which is used by the writers to evoke the feeling of unconscious desires and to stir subjective emotional states. Such device is used to explore deeper human experience. Personification, Imagery, Symbolism, Metaphor, Rhythm are some of the key components of such type of writings. The poetic atmosphere in a novel is usually evoked by such poetic components. The poetic novel is the term used not for a tale told in poetry or for a verse novel but for a prose narrative conceived poetically, having some features of poetry. In broader sense it possesses the very essence of poetry. In the 1950's this new type of genre gained more prominent attention with the publication of Leon Edle's 'The Psychological Novel' and Walter Allen's monumental study, 'The English Novel'. Virginia Woolf, was in fact the true exponent of poetic novel as she has given more convincing view than any other writers. Woolf asserts that, the novel should be a mixture of prose and poetry. It should neither be a prose poem nor a verse novel, but should be a combination of best prose and verse. In the novels of D.H. Lawrence, we find the culmination of poet-novelists' romantic belief in projecting vision of life. Lawrence has enriched poetic fiction by dint of his highly creative and suggestive art.

**Keywords:** Human psyche, immortality, culture, poetic presentation, profundity, relationship, salvation

### Introduction

The creative impulse of D.H. Lawrence is poetic and suggestive. In his poetic style of writings, Lawrence, brings the readers in immediate and intimate contact with his characters. He succeeds in capturing the moment of life itself both in human psychology and in non-human world. He penetrates deep through the surface and delve deep into the human psyche, and to record life and manners with vividness. In the works of D.H. Lawrence one finds the amalgamation of Victorian poet-novelist belief in projecting an individual's vision of life. He takes delight in nature and puts the right emphasis on the life of senses and intuition.

Lawrence poetically conceives and executes man's grand efforts in establishing relationships with other living objects including various creatures from nature and the non-human reality within and without on the other hand. There is no doubt that he is an outstanding champion of romantic poetry, whose prose style fully matches his vision. The symbolic richness and beauty springs from a poetic fervour, which was the result of the natural talent in him which makes him stand apart from other writers.

### Lawrence first experiment of poetic technique employed in *The White Peacock*

The title of the novel is symbol of many metaphors. Some interprets in a positive term, linked to the concept of purity, rebirth and spirituality. But on contrary Lawrence has presented the other facet of it by subverting the traditional symbolism of the peacock. The title doesn't represent the beauty and immortality of the peacock but rather of the dead, stuffed white peacock in the novel which becomes the symbol of decay and decline of natural life. The novel in a whole is critique of the modern machine age, impact of industrialization, and the masked face fake people where the real feeling of humanity is missing. It shows the conflict between primitive and culture, between life as transcendence, escaping into the skies, and life as

immanence, rooted in the world. The artificial society is juxtaposed with the vibrant and natural world. Lawrence has successfully presented the poetic and psychological treatment of love in it. The comprehensive description of dominant dramatic idea necessitates the poetic conception and description of major characters and situations. George, the central male figure in the novel, is in the beginning an earthbound young farmer living a contended life, marked by callousness and brutality but soon he feels an urge for higher needs, particularly through his intimacy with his friend Cyril and Lettie. Soon he is made to see another plane of existence- the world of music and painting he is awakened to new consciousness by the continuous efforts of Lettie who in order to lift him above the life of mere good dinner and warm hearth, tells him forcefully and passionately:

"You are blind; you are only half-born; you are gross with good living and heavy sleeping. You are a piano which will only play a dozen common notes. Sunset is nothing to you- it merely happens any-where. Oh, but you make me feel as if I'd like to make you suffer" (page 71)

The novel is poetic not only in its basic theme, and in the conception and description of characters, but also the beautiful and mesmerising picture of nature. Lawrence places man very close to nature which is the expression of the very eternal spirit. The natural scenes and sights are described and presented in such a way that contributes to the poetic nature of novel. The poetic presentation of the human and the natural world as the extended parallels between these two is the striking feature of the novel. Lawrence poetic style in 'The White Peacock' is highly reflected in his exquisitely style. Lawrence was fully conscious of its being quite decorated and charged, but he believed that it contained some memorable pieces which he might not write again. It may be stated that his first novel excelled in delineating the poetic style of the novelist.

### **Sons and Lovers, Lawrence first masterpiece as poet-novelist**

'Sons and Lovers' is undoubtedly, D.H. Lawrence the greatest work which is rich in poetry. The novel presents a highly imaginative and emotionally complex world of life, and fully presents the novelist's power to translate passion into words. The very first review of the book, highlighted the poetic note of the novel by stating that the novelist is "to often the lyrical poet making his creatures speak his thoughts". There is no doubt that this novel was largely autobiographical which acquires poetic profundity from this intensely complex situation which was also a reality of the novelist's original life.

The central idea of the story has the quality of highly moving tragic poem. The theme is described with lively feeling and present insight into life. Veritably, its basic theme of the novel is commonplace of our emotional life, for it deals with a son as a lover of the mother and vice versa. Sons and Lovers is a unique poetic novel that has the basic theme of the novel which is more expressed via imagery and symbolism. The novel is throughout interspersed with scenes and situations which are charged with emotional fervour, imaginative intensity and profound suggestiveness, usually associated with poetry of the highest order. Even in small, homely simple affairs, Lawrence poetic genius is reflected.

### **Dramatic poem in prose- The Rainbow**

'The Rainbow' is one of the finest novels in the English literature. Its original title was 'The Sisters', which later became 'The Wedding Ring', and finally 'The Rainbow'. Its further splits into two novels, The Rainbow and Women in Love. But unfortunately, the charge of obscenity was levelled against it. But the novelist was very confident of the merits of the book right from its inception. The novel in a very vivid, poetic manner explores the man-woman relationship, with all their tension and conflict. The novel explores how men and women can achieve fulfilment and salvation by leading a life of creative relationship. It demonstrates how women of the earlier generations might have found limited salvation and fulfilment in their sexual lives, but for the modern woman like Ursula, the simple, mechanical sexual experience alone do not have salvation. Thus, to attain salvation in true sense, he has to care for the flesh and the spirit. While writing this novel, Lawrence evolved a new method of characterisation, which gave unique emotional and mental depths to the people, thus making them poetic figures.

### **The pinnacle of the Lawrence's poetry- Women in Love**

D.H. Lawrence considers 'Women in Love' to be "a serious and profound piece of work... a much finer book than The Rainbow". Undoubtedly, it is the most complex and the most densely organised of all his novels. The detailed study of its very first few pages convinces the reader that it is a work of a first-rate novelist. Many critics regarded it as the best work of Lawrence. The novel is sequel to The Rainbow. The novel as indicated by its very title, deals with 'women in love, i.e. the theme of love and marriage as a means of achieving fulfilment in life and the resultant integrated being through fruitful individual relationship. All these individualised men and women are figures of a poetic novel, and not of realistic or naturalistic fiction, because they are portrayed from within with focus on their instincts

and the innermost recesses of their minds and souls. This story of the novel was unconventional and much ahead of its time where the women rejects the conventional bond of marriage. They no longer see the set social system as the means of happiness and fulfilment. This is evident in the very opening scene of the novel in which the two girls discuss marriage is remarkable for its thematic exposition with dramatic and poetic force. They are teachers in a grammar school and are disillusioned about marriage as a solution to their problems, they reject the conventional mode of love and marriage as reflected in the lives of their parents.

As the story progresses, we carry with us not merely a line of action or a thread of ideas, but also a sensuous vocabulary of images with its own syntax and perfection of logic, and this is the great experience embodied in symbols. Lawrence imparts unconsciously an inner logic and imaginative intensity to the picture of life he portrays in this brilliant narrative which is truly his great achievement not only as a poetic novel but also in many other aspects.

### **Conclusion**

There is no doubt that D.H. Lawrence is a great poet-novelist with many novels to his credit. The subconscious mind, packed with unfamiliar emotions and thoughts, can best be presented by poetry than prose. Since we clearly find these qualities at their best in his novels. He believes that the novel is very much poetry as it proceeds from the writer's inner urges spontaneously, and it is first and foremost an outcome of the passionate or deeply felt experience.

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