

Title

“Philosophical and Psychological Investigation on Human Nature in Robert Frost's Selected poems.”

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By,

Nusrat Jahan Mithila

Id: 201-10-2178

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Supervised by:

Md. Ariful Islam Laskar

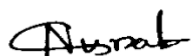
Assistant Professor

Department of English

Daffodil International University

Declaration by the student

I, Nusrat Jahan Mithila hereby declare and assure that, this dissertation titled “Philosophical and Psychological Investigation on Human Nature in Robert Frost’s Selected poems,” is my original work and it has not been published or submitted to any other institute or elsewhere for the requirement of a degree program. The material from other sources and the literature work, done by others, incorporated in this project have been acknowledged in due manner and mention in the reference section.



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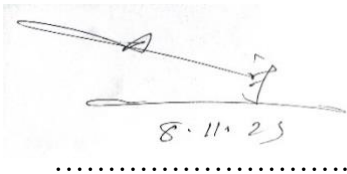
Daffodil International University

Date: 31.10.2023

Letter of Approval

I validate that Nusrat Jahan Mithila, ID: 201-10-2178 from 49th batch of the Department of English of Daffodil International University, under my supervision finished this project as a component of the course ENG 431: Project Paper with Internship. I also assure that this is her original work. I convey my gratitude for her dedication to accomplish the work.

I wish her good luck in future.



.....

Md. Ariful Islam Laskar

Associate Professor

Department of English

Daffodil International University

Acknowledgement

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Abstract

This paper is an endeavor to provide a clear and considerable exploration of human nature and his complexities for existence in Frost's selected poems, one of the prominent poets of early 20th century. Frost embodies the philosophical and psychological insight on human nature unveiling human beings' struggle for existence in this chaotic world. Frost shows an intensive interest in some psychological comprehensive themes such as loneliness, alienation, inwardness, desires in his poems. Besides, he has a profound knowledge of philosophy though it is not polished. The depiction about human existence, duality of mind, limitations, and death which refer to the philosophic elementary reveals the philosophical insight of Robert Frost. Frost finds human beings as lonely and powerless creature in the midst of nature as they are confined with the boundaries made by nature. Frost's poems express how the barriers come to the way of human relationship with nature and others, loneliness and alienation. Besides, the conflict between man's desire and obligations are illustrated in his poems. In essence, Frost's poems depict the conflict of human heart and its diversity. Frost is widely aware of human limitations but he claims that human being must maintain his humility in order to accommodate with the complexities of nature. This analytical study is highly concerned to reveal the humans' complications with these themes by re-evaluating some of Frost's poems. Through this structural approach, we seek identifying the deeper and complex meaning of human nature, both psychological and philosophical perception presented in Robert Frost's poems.

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Introduction

Robert Frost (26 March, 1874-29 January, 1963), an esteemed representative of American literature, was born in San Francisco, California, United States deals with real life and humanistic portrayals of rural life in a lucid way. Frost has developed his career as a leading poet in early 20th century by depicting his distinctive representation of life in his poetry. He exposes himself as a poet of man and displays his optimistic interest in knowledge of unusual philosophical and psychological forces. He is considered as a foremost poet holding a unique position in literature field for his vivid sense in understanding the complexities of human existence. As an expert of human soul, he shows his skillful portrayals with humor, symbol, wit, sympathy. Frost has been regarded as one of the most prominent poets of 'Man,' as he is widely accomplished with the knowledge of human nature and its existence in this universe.

It is beyond question that Frost is demonstrated as poet of region and nature. But somewhere in the landscape of his writings, there is human figure. He has portrayed different forces of human nature which may draw a downhearted view but the real picture of human nature. Thus, 'Human Being' has become the extensive concern in his poetic world. As it is concerned about human nature, his works deal with the theme of loneliness, alienation, human limitations and barriers, human poignant desires and obligations, conflict of human heart, duality, thought and inwardness, extinction or death and the struggle of human for existence. Human being on the earth resisting the whole universe is inevitably connected with these themes that frequently appear in Frost's poetry. If we delve into his poems, we can perceive the harsh and complex reality of human life. This paper aims to explore some of the selected poems of Frost and take an attempt to show Frost's exploration on human nature. Besides, its purpose is to provide a better understanding of Frost's articulation about human complexities in the world. This project focuses on Frost's several poems, "Mending Wall," "Home Burial," "The Road Not Taken," "Stopping By Woods On a Snowy Evening," "Birches", "Desert Places" "Fire and Ice" and "The Death of the Hired Man." Humans' complications with dilemma, loneliness, desire and duty and the darkness of mind are highly focused in the study

Frost embellishes the themes through his poems. "Mending Wall" is the most quoted poem of Frost reflecting the human thought and the rigidity of mind. The wall is used in a symbolic way

which represents freedom, confinement and the barrier between man and man in the world. It highlights human existence is impossible without boundaries and self-limitations. In other way, it is designed as barrier that makes discrimination between fellow beings. One of the speakers of the poem finds it as an error notion and states wall ensures good neighborhood by asserting 'Good fences make good neighbors.' (Frost, 1914). "Home Burial" explores a couple's grief after losing their first- born child where they express mourn differently and individually. It evokes the lack of empathy which leads their relationship to demise. Besides, it reveals the experience of a woman about the brutality of existence who discovers the loneliness by making self-alienation from her husband and from her surroundings by stating 'I must get out of here. I must get air.' (Frost, 1914) The loneliness in the deep of heart of human being is discovered in the poem, "Desert Places."

Frost's most celebrated and criticized poem "The Road Not Taken" depicts a scattered combination of 'inner lyric vision' which indicates the unseen spirit or force keep working on man and the visible contemplative narration. It portrays the undetermined and puzzled human mind that can only make a choice which is motivated by human psychology. "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening," the best known of all Frost's poems brings out a climax of duality, humans' obligations and contrast between poignant desire and the darkness of reality. The symbolic word 'Promise' refers to the responsibilities of human life and 'Sleep' alludes to death. The poem asserts the reality inhibits the self- absorption which is clearly demonstrated in the lines, "But I have promises to keep; And miles to go before I sleep." (Frost, 1923) Both poems envisage the sense of human inwardness and duality. The dark and harsh images of human life is portrayed in the poem, "The Death of The Hired Man", "Fire and Ice." Both of these poems deal with the most important phenomenon, humans' destructive instinct and universal tragedy 'death'. In spite of portraying human being as lonely, alienated, human's limitation and complexities, Frost never becomes disheartened for human nature. Because he believes that humans are capable of overcoming all these obstacles and accommodating with nature.

1.1 Literature Review

Robert Frost is considered as a modern poet. He has an insightful knowledge about human nature. Many critics have remarked on his work with different perspectives. These reviews will help to figure out how the previous scholars acknowledge Frost's inspection on human nature.

The paper Nikola Benin, titled "Robert Frost's poetry" claims that Robert Frost's poetry is an echo of human life including human's feelings, experiences and limitations. The paper discloses that the major concern of his poetry is human and Frost uses natural elements to depicts human life and it's harshest. A statement by Robert Frost is mentioned in the paper, "he had a lover's quarrel with the world," that indicates the human's existence in the natural world. This research has demonstrated some predominant themes of Frost's poetry such as isolation, desire, duty death and human limitations. These prominent themes are extensively connected to my project. This paper aims to explore the harsh reality of human life and the inner and outer sufferings of human beings as portrayed by Robert Frost in his poems. It highlights poet's enigmatic insights into human life and nature's indifferent and unconcerned demeanour toward human misery. The paper reveals Frost's vision on human loneliness in the midst of nature, the conflict between duty and desire, and the darkness of extinction or death through analyzing Frost's poem. This comprehensive study encourages us to investigate Frost's poetry from the psychological and philosophical perspective with a deep understanding.

Pauline Allen Elaine's paper, titled "A Twentieth Century Poet of Man and Nature," discovers Robert Frost as a poet of man as his real subject of his poetry is humanity. This study serves the idea that Frost depicts human character in his poetry with the theme of fear, isolation, mind conflict and acceptance. The paper justifies Frost's knowledge on human instinct and limitations. The critic represents Frost's belief on human beings to build up courage and faith in themselves to cop with unfriendly nature.

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This review depicts the complexities of human beings and their relation to inner-self and other fellowship blending with inward fear, isolation etc. It explores how human's character is reflexed through the use of nature.

The author of this paper discovers Robert Frost as different from the contemporary poets of twentieth century for Frost's unique form of presenting human character and nature together beneath the simple and usual lines in his poetry. Though Frost wants to keep human being and nature separated as both are different entity. The research paper intensively highlights that natural elements in Frost poetry are used as symbol to portray the human condition and relationship to the universe.

"The Concept of Man in the poetry of Robert Frost," a project by William W. Adams excavates Frost's concept of man. Frost's major interest in human beings by establishing their content and limits are clearly demonstrated in the review. This paper covers the background of Robert Frost as a New England farmer where Frost discovers man as individual, self-reliance, struggle with nature, optimism, and establishes faith in human's ability to overcome the barriers. This paper also concerns about Frost's realization to the innate difficulties.

Songling Zhang, a scholar worked on a paper, titled "The Psychological Journey of 'I' in "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening," This paper extensively focuses on Frost's psychological insight highlighting one of his prominent poems "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening." It has employed the Freudian id, ego, superego theory to portray the human psychology in the poem. By connecting with this theory, this paper aims to signify Frost's purpose behind composing this psychological poem. This paper examines that Frost's poem is full of harmony and psychological objective. By re-evaluating the poem, "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy evening," with Freudian theory, it demonstrates the chaotic modern life. It reflects psychological conflict of modern man between shouldering his duties and choosing to enjoy his growing desire. This study mainly highlights Frost's one of the significant themes, duty and desire and how human being balance their life.

1.2 Background of the Study

Robert Frost is an enigmatic and optimistic poet of human being. He is not a decisive poet as he does not expose the direct conception in his poems. Frost's poems seem to be easier and simple to read. He disguises his poetry in simplistic way with the complex and philosophical insight about life. As a result, it makes the readers confused about his portrayal in the poem. Besides, it impels the readers to give a deep attention into his poems to find the deep meaning of human nature. To Frost, human life is a complex blending of darker aspects of life such as alienation, struggle, complications and limitations. Frost has developed his career as poet in New England. He depicts the rural life and the sufferings of New England people in this physical world. Through his volume of books such as 'New Boston', 'Mountain Interval', 'New Hampshire' he insistently projects the theme of alienation, man's relationship with his fellow, human's desires and duty to nature. This study aims to provide a vivid analysis of Frost's selected poems from these volumes. Some of the poems are related to Frost's personal life where he has shared his own experience of loss, grief, indecisiveness. Frost's poetry reveals the psychological and philosophical view on human complexities and limitations. Robert Frost has brought out a unique dimension to the literature world by demonstrating humans' life in his poetry. Though the major concern of his poetry is human being, nature is employed as the background in his poetry. Unlike Wordsworth, Frost's manipulation of natural elements is different as he finds nature as hostile to human being. Frost has made use of natural elements as symbol and metaphor in his poems to excavate the inner insight of human beings, the lonely, harsh and dark reality of human life. Though Frost is criticized as enigmatic poet, his word and language in the poem is very easy. Beneath the simple and symbolic word, Frost exposes the complex and perplexed human nature. This comprehensive study undoubtedly takes attempt to examine the deep meaning of Frost's selected poem to explore his articulation on human nature and its diversity.

2. Research Methodology and Limitations:

This research will be a qualitative and descriptive approach through the deep analysis of the selected poems of Robert Frost, the findings of relevant source. The selected poems of Robert Frost will be analyzed from psychological and philosophical perspective. Critical analysis on Frost's work by critics and scholars are included in this project.

2.1 Data Collection

The selected poems of Robert Frost are used as the primary data for the research. Secondary data includes the pertinent elements, relevant online sources and books by other authors.

2.2 Data Analysis

The research paper is developed with thematic analysis of the selected poems of Frost, evaluating the theme of loneliness, isolation, dilemma, duality

2.3 Significance of the Study

This research aims to draw Robert Frost's vision on human nature throughout his poetry capturing the hardship of life, conflict of human mind and obligations of human life. The paper is highly concerned to provide a comprehensive understanding on a deeper meaning of life focusing on human psychological state and philosophical perspective. By re-evaluating Frost's poems, this study aims to analyze his exploration on human instinct through which human beings are dealing with this apathetic universe.

2.4 Problem Statement and Research Questions:

Robert Frost is the foremost and renowned poet of 20TH century for his distinct and intellectual vision in the depth of humans' state in all walk of life. Yet, it is requisite to delve comprehensively and reinterpret the selected works of Frost's to understand his insight

regarding humans' nature and how they are dealing with their complexities with their obligatory nature. This project addresses this finding by exploring utopian discernment of Frost. Besides, it aims to reveal the significance in understanding the psychological and philosophical approach toward nature.

Research Questions

- How does Frost portray the conflict of human heart?
- Does choice make human life complicated according to Frost's poetry?
- Why is loneliness and alienation is so common in human life though humans are the major part of the world?
- How Robert Frost used the tranquil elements of nature to exhibit humans' nature?

2.5 Scope and Limitations

This research mainly concerns some specific poems of Robert Frost that extensively reflects the themes of loneliness, dilemma of human mind, obligations and darkness of human life. The selected poems expose some poetic techniques such as symbolism, metaphorical language. A deep analysis of the poems provides a better understanding into Frost's perception on human nature. However, this study faces some limitations as the selected works are epigrammatic and whimsical. Besides, the previous criticism and literary works interrupt the main focus of the study. In spite of having some limitations, the paper takes attempt to delve the deep and complex insight of Frost on human existence.

2.6 Theoretical Framework

To justify the concept of human psychology, this paper involves some theories by skilled psychologists. For example, the cognition theory and the psychoanalytic theory are mentioned in the study to expose humans' complex personality, emotional disorder etc. An Austrian psychologist has discovered human personality theory which includes id, ego superego. Besides, the concept of unconscious by Sigmund Freud is included in the poem. The cognitive

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theory which represents the thinking power of human being and generates to make a decision is also implied in the paper. These theories are intensively interrelated to Frost's psychological insight which reflexes on the narrator of his poems. The implication of these theories disclose the complexities of human mind that Frost has sketched in his poetry.

3. Inwardness and Inevitable Sufferings of Human Being:

Human being should discover the basic principles are buried deep in inner self to understand the world using rational introspection. Human life is occupied with many possible options. As a result, human mind is always in conflict regarding thoughts, choice making, indecisiveness, etc. The choices and alternatives drive human mind to a dilemma and make human being fall indecisiveness. To Frost, human mind is complex and distinctive in the time of making choice. Besides, Frost's poetry reveals the emotions of loneliness in the deep of human heart and on earth.

3.1 Choices make life complicated: Dilemma, Regret, Indecisiveness:

Deep analysis of Frost's poem, 'The Road Not Taken' will expose Frost has mistaken whimsical impulse for moral choice. (Yvor Winters, 1962) The poem is a hallmark of the poet which highlights the human issues when a decision has to be made. Besides it reveals the emotional and confusing state of human mind. The title of the poem depicts the melancholy and regret of the narrator. On the other hand, it hints about the audacity of the narrator to choose a different path. The poem is a classic example of ambiguity where the narrator speaks about his experience of dilemma and indecisiveness while facing with an important conscious decision. He had to choose one of roads to continue his journey. He suffered from indecision and finally chooses a path which was less travelled.

‘Two roads diverged in a wood, and I –

I took the one less travelled by.’ (Frost, 1915)

In the poem, ‘road’ represents human life. And ‘Two roads diverged’ is a representation of alternative choices of human life. In essence, the poet reveals the inner conflict of making choice out of all possible alternatives in human life. All humans reach at a crossroad and face obstacles to make a choice. It is portrayed in the poem that human cannot go for two choices at a time through stating the line, ‘Sorry I could not travel both.’ The speaker is confused about his choice and he expresses his feelings through a sigh. There is no alternative to do but to take

one of the paths. He has to make one. An American psychologist, William James states in his book, 'The Will to Believe' "Every dilemma based on a complete logical disjunction, with no possibility of not choosing is an option of this forced kind." (James, 1897) The narrator chooses a less travelled path. A few readers may think, there is no specific reason behind choosing the path. On the other way, it is tempted to be thought that his choice is consciously whimsical. These confusions and the psychological belief evoke a question, 'Is the choice making of the poet is a cognitive procedure?' Cognition is a mental and internal process which involves conscious and unconscious including thinking, perception and making decision. These are the essential elements of cognitive process which help people to respond and interact with the world. Though the poem is criticized as whimsical and for its tricky essence, there is no obscure that the decision is taken by the poet himself. He has travelled his preferred road. The message we can perceive that humans should be compelled by their own thoughts and will. No matter what it makes a sigh in future. Though the word 'sigh' may act as liberation of mind or the repentance of human being. The ending line of the poem creates a controversy among the readers and critics.

"And that has made all difference." (1915)

The word 'difference' does not imply a clear idea whether it is a good choice or bad. The poet keeps a vague idea in the end. The poem "The Road Not Taken" competently portrays humans' common psychological inner issues such as confusion, regret, indecision etc. At the same time, the poem encourages us to overcome all complexities of our mind and make an individual decision in life in spite of unknowing the result of decision for better or worse.

With very simple and symbolic lyric, describing the calm, peaceful and wild beauty of nature, Frost excavates the twisted mind of human beings. The complex human psyche and the paradox of human mind is illustrated in very accomplished mode in his poetry. Though the words and lines are simple and easy, they reveal a perplexed and complex picture of reality. "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening" is one of his lucid descriptive poems which depicts this trait in a vivid way. The poem reveals narrator's enchanted observation of nature, world offering calmness, peacefulness and solitude atmosphere and the sense of his moral responsibilities in life. The narrator encounters mesmerizing and fascinating woods as they are sketched as

'lovely,' 'dark, and deep.' He discovers the profound joy and he is reluctant to resume his journey. At the same time, he shows the urge to abstain from it to fulfill his responsibilities. The struggle of human mind takes place between the narrator's growing desire to stop by the woods and his moral sense to complete his duties.

"The woods are lovely, dark, and deep
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep." (Frost, 1923)

The inner conflict lies here. It is between his instinct and his rational thoughts. The word 'little horse' in the poem is the representation of his conscious and moral sense which reminds him to continue his journey. It is narrator's growing desire to prolong his stay by the nature which strives to refuge there. Dilemma is raised in his mind. The very moment, his compulsion toward his promises console him to restart his journey. In the poem, "Stopping by Wood on a Snowy Evening," the journey of the narrator reflects psychoanalytic theory, discovered by Sigmund Freud, an Austrian psychologist. (Zhang, 2010) According to Sigmund Freud, human personality is complex and it is composed with three elements. They are Id, ego and superego. Id is the first component of human personality which is irrational and unconscious and it is the source of all instinctive and desires. It is governed by the pleasure principle which requires the immediate gratifications of all desires. Ego is rational agency and governed by the reality which strives to balance between two opposite components id and superego. Superego is moral censoring part of human personalities and representative of all moral restrictions. The psychological conflict of the narrator is raised between his desire and moral restrictions. His desire is to enjoy the solitude, freedom and leisure as the 'easy wind.' But the social morality principles encourage him to perform his responsibilities. Id, ego and superego, three personality forces work harmoniously together to end the psychological conflict of the character. The ego, rational and reality principle allows him to have a short time joy on a snowy evening. Besides the reality reminds him to fulfill the moral responsibilities. Frost's intention behind composing this poem is to draw a psychological struggle of modern people who relinquish their pleasure to perform duties in life.

3.2 The Depiction of Unlighted Mind by Alienation, Loneliness:

Alienation belongs to human psychology which refers to the feelings of being detached from the environment, from one own self, from fellow beings in the universe. According to Frost's philosophy of life, human being is fated to be alienated from his own self, from his fellow beings and from the environment of the world and human being is destined to live alone (Benin,2020) and to have a solitary death. By using of simple words with a layer of complex meaning, Frost portrays the harsh reality of human mind. The terrifying loneliness and alienation are a prominent theme in Frost's poetry. Frost is perfectly criticized as 'terrifying poet' by Lionel Trilling (1962) as his poetry of theme of alienation and loneliness is highly poetic that generates a feeling of utter desolation in the human soul. Human alienation is created by the lack of communication, empathy, barriers of the nature. This blazing example of alienation is manifested in Frost's poetry. "Home Burial" is a dramatic monologue and one of the Frost's depressed poems which depicts a tragic picture of alienation. It discusses the emotional detachment between a couple who lost their first-born child. The death of the infant leads their relationship to the demise. Physical and mental alienation is built when the couple is unable to show their grief in same manner. The mother has lost her sense in reality and she claims his husband as brutal insensitive as he has dug the grave with his hands. The husband tries so hard to make her understand but it goes in vain. Misreading his behavior as insensitive and uncaring she refuses his concern through the statement in the poem, "You could not care!" (Frost,1914) The absence of empathy and the lack of communication make a barrier in their relationship. By word inconsolable, the wife becomes emotionally unbalanced and she wants to take herself inward.

"I must get out of here, I must get air." – (Frost,1914)

By holding her grief within herself, she urges to go far away from her husband, from her surroundings. The wife is blind in her grief and makes a wall around herself. According to Frost portrayal, women take loneliness harder than men.

“One is alone and he dies more alone.” (Frost,1914)

The line reflects that human being is destined to be alone in his existence and he has to die a lonesome death. The mother in the poem is helpless to shed her grief of being alone. But she does not want to change her mourn. She states, “but the world’s evil,” which clearly refers to his husband who is accused as inhuman and heartless. She wants to be alienated from this cruel world. An inadequate communication, lack of understanding and friction have become the responsible behind her alienation. Because both are unable to conduct the feelings and grief of each other. The inability to express the emotion empathically, the marriage meets breakdown and the woman grasp the alienation from her beloved and her environment, “I must go – Somewhere of the house.” (1914) She seeks to escape from the brutal existence. From a psychological point of view, all the women intensively desire for their husband’s empathy, love and fellowship. In the poem, “Home Burial” Frost resonates that communication among human beings’ is a tool to prevent the terrifying alienation and despair.

Man-aid barrier makes people alienated from his fellow being. “Mending Wall”, composed in 1914 by Robert Frost is a reflection of North of Boston which is full of isolated people who are physically and emotionally lost. Besides, the poet explores a lack of connection between human being. The poem resonates the consequences of being disagreed about making wall. The word ‘Fence’, used in the poem refers to the physical structure that makes division between two areas. But as Frost excavates a layer of meaning through using simplistic symbol in his poetry, ‘Fence’ holds a complex meaning. It is not only a structural border but also a barrier between human beings. This physical and structural barrier of the fence symbolizes a refutation of a potential human interrelation. The wall, as barrier becomes detrimental to human relationship and it generates physical detachment and emotional imbalance. Frost reveals the contrast of thoughts of two neighbors regarding making a wall. The narrator is against establishing the wall and finds it unnecessary. On the other hand, his neighbor blindly believes and asserts “Good fences make good neighbors.” (Frost, 1914) This repeated statement reveals his perspective to maintain a distance from other people. Moreover, he wants to prevent any future conflict made by human being by making a wall. Whereas, the narrator argues the wall

as a sign of offense. His belief is that wall strongly hampers human relationship and evokes mistrust among people. The contrast of their perspective shows their inability to connect themselves. It demonstrates the unwillingness attitude to understand each other's concept regarding making wall. The lack of understanding and connection between two neighbors lead their relationship to the trait of social alienation and separation. The wall acts as the weapon to separates man from man in the poem, 'Mending Wall.' According to Frost, if human being is apart from his fellow beings, they cannot achieve anything. Besides this isolation may lead a person to lonely madness. But Frost is not a pessimist as he believes, through making a better understanding with others and environment, human being can enjoy a better living. A statement from another of his poem, "A Time to Talk" justifies,

"When a friend calls to me from the road
I don't stand still, I go up to the stone wall
For a friendly visit." (Frost,1916)

This exception example illustrates that human being can shackle the barrier of being alienated and isolated from the society or fellow beings with the willingness of making communication, empathy and love to each other. Loneliness and isolation in Frost's poems are articulated in a gloomy way where the speakers desire for love, communication and seek social interaction. Very exceptionally, one of his prominent poems, "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening" conveys a positive and willingly acceptance of loneliness. In this poem, the narrator is found enjoying a desolate place with the dark woods. The loneliness appears when the speaker states,

"His house is in the village, though
He will not see me stopping here." (Frost, 1923)

The narrator's loneliness in the poem is more physical than psychological. In a calm place with a soft breeze, snowfall, no other sound except the harness of his horse, the speaker enjoys the lonesome and wants to stay for long. Through the smooth description of the nature, Frost conveys the trait of loneliness that is clasped by the narrator to overcome his emotional fatigue.

A harsh example of loneliness is amply exhibited in his poem "Desert Places" where the speaker of the poem experienced the brutal and hostile emptiness of the infinite universe and he uncovers his unfilled soul. (Own desert places). With simple and common images and natural settings, Frost has sketched the image of isolation and the feelings of abandonment of human being. The poem is highly concerned with the internal feelings of isolation and emptiness. The word 'snow' signifies the picture of loneliness and 'woods' refers to the darkly thrilling elements of nature. The phrase 'my own desert places' is portrayed as human psychological landscape that is bound by isolation, emptiness and inability of communication. In the dark, snowy and winter night, the speaker feels detached by saying 'I am too absent-spirited to count.' (Frost, 1934) But the speaker is not frightened by the isolation of the infinite world because he discovers his deeper landscape with full of emptiness.

"I have it in me so much nearer home
To scare myself with my own desert places." (Frost, 1934)

The poem "Desert Places" shows the humans' condition in the outer world and their emotions in the inner world. Human beings are awfully isolated both in their infinite universe and inner self. But, in this unfriendly world, Frost does not lose his hope on human being to overcome any fear in soul or other complications. He is more conscious about the limitation of human being but his stresses that human must have the courage to live in this hostile world.

"The courage in the heart
To overcome the fear within the soul
And go ahead to any accomplishment." (Nitchie, 1962)

Dilemma, loneliness, fear, these are the obligatory of humanness. But human being can build up their courage against these bleak instincts to fit in this world.

4. A Catastrophic Natural Phenomenon in Human Life:

Frost discovered his philosophical orientation, "I am a dualist" through a letter to Lawrence Thompson. (Swaminathan & Valarmathi, 2017) Though he was not a systematic philosopher, he was an auto-didactic philosopher who has invigorated his own independent thought with a layer of meaning. By implying very simple word and symbol, Frost reveals his penetrating insight into reality and the deep significance of it. Beneath the deceptive, simplicity and apparent use of metaphysical language, duality is skillfully balanced and blended into a unity in Frost's poems. The portrayal of contraries and juxtaposition are constantly seen in his poems. Frost's poetry reveals the philosophical wisdom which is a way to understand the truth and harsh picture of human life. Frost finds nature as benevolent but at the same time he is aware of the hostile and disastrous forces of the nature. Frost juxtaposes the contrast forces of nature to portray that human existence is not a smooth journey rather it goes through an interminable chaotic period.

4.1 An Approach of Duality in Frost's Poetry Unveiling Humans' Insight:

The attribution of duality is nowhere more vividly sketched than the poem, "Fire and Ice." It is an epigram by Robert Frost which discloses his speculation about the destruction of the world. He has embellished a unique phenomenon through using symbolic, metaphysical and antithetical concept in the poem. The poem exposes two contradictory meaning of Frost's view on world which refers to binary of human nature and threats to human's existence in this universe. An intense analysis of the poem indicates that the poem is adorned in simple language but masked in perplexing meaning. To exemplify the statement, we can figure out the meaning of the word 'fire' and 'ice'. The word 'fire' stands for loving emotion, intense desire and passion of human beings. On the other hand, 'ice' symbolizes fierce hatred, negation or lack of feelings. To Frost, the universe is ruled by these contrary forces. Frost implies that the destruction of the world is unpreventable. He delineates that the world will be perished by the

fire and he is tempted to think as a witness who are assuming 'the world will end in fire.' Moving to the next, it is again said that 'ice' has the equal power to destroy the world. The

poem states that both forces are equally disastrous to perish the universe within in the wink of an eye. It is difficult for readers to accept these two different concepts in the same light. But Frost, a dualist who progresses his utopian thoughts in his poetry and make readers poured to find the complex meaning. Frost's philosophy regarding human life is well mannered in the poem "Fire and Ice." Human being is combined with two forces one is loving emotions or passion and another is hatred. It is a great example of representing the complex view of human nature. These paradoxes of feelings are obligatory in every human's instinct. The epigrammatic lines of the poem indicate that intense passion and hatred can be destructive also.

"From what I 've tasted of desire
I hold with those who favor fire
But if it had to perish twice
I think I know enough of hate
To say that for destruction ice
Is also great", (Frost, 1923)

Both passion and hatred are identified as destructive forces to human beings as fire and ice are to the universe. Because both feelings are uncontrollable, as much we try to satisfy our desire it gets increased. Similarly, our hatred takes us to some extent we cannot stop. It is said "the intensity of passion, the very thing which makes man human as well as inhuman." Thus, the metaphysical manner and antithetical concept of this short poem demonstrates Frost's philosophy about humans' instinct and humans' existence. Besides, it brings out a new dimension to readers about the new representation of passion and hatred by the words 'fire' and 'ice. Frost conveys his mysterious idea and the regions of duality of human mind in his poem, "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening."

The poem is enriched with simple words but the moving lyrics of the poem are highly symbolic and complex which hold a layer of meaning in reality. It emphasizes the paradox of human mind reflecting on the narrator who is perplexed regarding his desire (to prolong his stay by the nature) and reality (to fulfill his duties). The profound use of symbolic and metaphorical language in the poem, "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening," reveals Frost's philosophical vision corresponded accurately with dualism. In the poem, the desire of the poet is to stay by the woods. On the other hand, the reality refers to the social responsibilities and obligations. In the darkest evening, the narrator stops along woods and encounters the beauty of nature fascinating the snow fall in 'dark' and 'deep' woods. Frost shows the trait of duality in a skillful manner in the poem, through the line, 'The woods are lovely, dark and deep.' (Frost, 1923) The word, 'woods' is represented as lovely, fascinating and mesmerizing element of the nature which attracts the narrator to stay long. It is manifested as a radical power of freedom that makes the narrator free from his social regulations. Again, woods are described as 'dark' and 'deep' which signifies mysterious and threat to human life. The dark and deep woods refer to the desolation and ominous. The paradoxical description of 'woods' is sketched in the poem in an attractive way. Besides, the perplexed human mind is displayed in the poem where the narrator is suffering from the complexities of choosing between his desire (to prolong his stay in the woods) and the reality (promises to keep). But at the end, the desire of the narrator is ruled by the reality through the compelling sentence 'Miles to go before I sleep.' (Frost, 1923) The repetition of the line, 'miles to go before I sleep' signifies speaker's accepting the social obligations as he "chooses the world of humanity." (French 161) Thus, Frost describes the 'terrifying beauty' of nature and 'duality mind' of human beings in this poem. Correspondingly, Frost uncovers his accomplished manner in duality in the poem, "Birches." The concept of duality in the poem is made between striving for transcendence in heaven and the existence in loving earth. The narrator of the poem seeks to have a momentary respite from weary life. The momentary respite signifies to the taste of death. Simultaneously, he wants to return in the earth which is bound by love.

"I'd like to get away from earth awhile
And then come back to it and begin over." (Frost, 1916)

The following lines indicate humans' thirst for withdrawal from burdened life that refers to death, at the same time they are the hunger for love which only exists in the earth. ("Earth's the right place for love", Frost, 1916) Frost has wonderfully depicted the universal desire of human being and duality between imagination and reality in the poem "Birches." The duality in narrator's mind reflexes through the line

"That would be good both going and coming back." (1916)

A universal human instinct is to desire for a burden free life which is bound by love. The urge of achieving these two contrary periods is a great reflection of duality that is designed in the Frost poem, 'Birches.' Another major nature of human being is suffering from perplexity with paradox of mind. This human instinct is liberally manifested in the poem, "The Road not Taken." The opening lines of the poem uncovers the feelings of paradox mind.

"Two roads are diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both." (Frost, 1916)

It is impractical for human being to choose different thing at the same time. As a result, it arises emotional conflict and contradictory feelings in human mind. The narrator of the poem reveals his regret as he could not travel two paths together. In reality it refers to 'choice' in human life. Choices grow duality in human mind. Frost highlights the human's complexity regarding duality of making choice in life. Thus, Robert Frost has flourished his consummate in duality in poetry to emphasizes humans' compulsory phenomena in the world.

4.2 The Images of Darkness, Destruction, and Death in Frost's poetry:

As Frost is the first and foremost poet who shows his intensive concern in human life and human's sufferings in the world. If we delve into Frost poetry, we can notice the hardship of life, grief, allure of death. Frost has used some dark elements to demonstrate the human condition. He uses symbol and imagery elements which reveal the inward insight of human life. He does not only discover the darkness of human outer world but also in the deep inside of human heart.

The enigmatic sight of darkness is illustrated in the poem "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening." This poem reveals the mystery of nature unveiling the harsh reality of human life. Frost has composed the dark images of nature in a symbolic and synchronized way that uncover a layer of meaning. The narrator of the poem is attracted by the wild beauty of the nature such as the 'the darkest evening of the year, 'dark' 'and 'deep' woods, 'frozen lake.' All these symbolic words indicate Frost's fascination with death. 'Darkest evening' and 'frozen lake are implied in the poem to draw the desolation and stillness. Beneath these simple words, Frost tells us that human life is awfully isolated and dark. Besides, the mysterious 'woods' invites the narrator to take rest from the wearing responsibilities. 'Easy wind' and 'downy lake' reflect as a perfect blending with the calm nature to take rest. The rest refers to the 'death'. The word 'sleep' in the poem signifies the ultimate rest or death. Woods, frozen lake, darkest evening, easy wind are the wild welcoming elements in the poem which beckon the narrator to escape from the tiresome responsibilities. Though the intention of the poem is not to indicate escape from life. Rather we can say that, Frost shows, human beings are sometimes burdened with the oppressiveness of life and desire to escape from the tiresome responsibilities of life. Perhaps, Frost demonstrates the theme of 'death' as a rest from living a dark, lonesome and burdened life.

It could be that, the darkness in the deep inside of human mind is nowhere portrayed than in "Desert Places." The symbolic use of nature signifies the lonesome state of human mind in the poem. The poem is extensively concerned with the terrifying loneliness. The poem is written in simple and uncomplicated manner on the surface but in deeper meaning it serves the high complex state of dark feelings of human mind. The phrase, 'desert places,' refers to harsh living condition of human being which is bounded by isolation, emptiness and unproductive motive. The natural elements such as snow, night, woods, deserted place are set to against the darkness of human loneliness. To Frost, nature itself is a terrific to human beings. The symbolic elements in the poem are the representation of brutal and destructive condition of human life. The word 'snow' initially symbolizes the loneliness and isolation. Moving forward to the poem, it can be approached to 'death'.

"And lonely as it is, that loneliness
Will be more-lonely ere it will be less"- (Frost, 1934)

The following statement indicates the melancholy and darker image of human life. As the night will be darker and snowier, human life will be gloomy and unlighted with the image of isolation, barrenness and detachment. Frost suggests that human mind is oppressed by the force of loneliness and human life has no purpose and nothing to express by saying,

A blanker whiteness of benighted snow
With no expression, nothing to express. (Frost, 1934)

Through the statement Frost suggests that human being is not only oriented by loneliness and emptiness but also the human life is like a blank paper, meaningless and human beings are incapable to express their inner sorrow and emptiness. Having experienced the darkness of the outer world, the speaker uncovers his "absent inner spirit" which indicates the feelings of abandonment of the speaker. At the very time, the speaker discovers that the emptiness is not in the surroundings but in his own mind ("my own desert place"). The emptiness of the infinite universe does not terrify him as his inner mind is full of nothing but emptiness and loneliness.

“Desert Places”, a dark vision poem does not only imply the dark picture of physical loneliness but also the unlighted inner soul which is lonelier and portrays the human life as meaningless and unproductive. The darkness of humanity in Frost's poetry leads it to the destructive consequences. “Fire and Ice” is a portrayal of destruction of the world by Robert Frost. To Frost, the world will be demised by ‘fire’ or ‘ice.’ The world is metaphorically presented as the reality of human life which holds two capacities for destruction. Such as ‘passion’ and ‘hatred.’ These two instincts have the equal power which attribute to the destruction of a healthy and productive life. To exemplify the statement, we can review a tragedy, titled, “Macbeth” by famous English playwright, William Shakespeare. In the play, the character Lady Macbeth reveals her intense desire and ambition for her husband's kingship. She manipulates her husband, Macbeth by questioning his manhood to kill king Duncan. Her ultimate aspiration is exposed through a soliloquy in the play,

“Unsex me here

Fill me from the crown to the toe and top

Full of the direst cruelty.” (Shakespeare, 1992)

The soliloquy is a reflection of her blind desire to reach at her ambition. By giving up her feminine characteristics and conscience, she is devoted to gain the rule of kingship. Her blindfold passion leads her to the demise at the end of the play. The passion turns into guilt and make her suicide. Fierce passion and hatred, these both human factors are above all the traits of humanity. In the same manner, a dark and depressed poem “Home Burial” is established by Robert Frost which exposes the demolition of mind and the demise of relationship. The poem at a time is a representation of three tragedies where the first child of the couple is dead, the mother has lost her conscious mind in grief and the demise of couple's marriage. The title “Home Burial” itself reflects the burial of mutual understanding and the conjugal bond of the couple. The wife is indulged in illusion with grief whereas the husband is a man of reality and action. (Swaminathan & Valarmathi, 2017)

“If you had any feelings, you that dug
With your own hand- how could you? – his little grave” (Frost, 1914)

The wife is unable to accept her husband's act. The illusion drives the woman to her unconscious mind. She is awfully suppressed with sorrow and incapable of making consciousness in reality. She seeks for alienation from her surroundings, by saying “I must get out of here. I must get air.” (Frost, 1914) According to Sigmund Freud, an Austrian psychologist, unconscious is a state of mind which is a repository of human's suppressed feelings. It does not provide the access of making sense about reality which means consciousness. The woman in “Home Burial” represents Freud's unconscious concept which develops the conflict with her husband who accepts the universal truth, ‘death’ of their child. The contrary way of expressing their morn to the death of their child leads their marriage to demise. Thus, Robert Frost exhibits humans' internal and external darkness, destruction and departure from life.

4.3 Humans' Interminable Ambivalence and Struggle against Nature:

“Nature is really an image of the whole world of circumstances within which man finds himself” (Lynen 1962,). By considering the nature as background, Robert Frost illustrates the meaning, value and the sufferings of human life. If we delve into his poetry, it can be noted that the symbolism of his poetry begins from nature. Because Frost has planted his unique and distinct knowledge about vivid human condition and existence through the implications of natural elements. His vision on nature is extensively a clarification of human existence in the world exposing the emotions of human beings', the conflict of human heart and the harmony through it. Frost's image of nature is unique and symbolic, unlike Wordsworth. A highlighted statement by John F. Lynen regarding Frost's concern in nature, “Frost is anecdotal where Wordsworth tends to be didactic.” (Lynen,1962). To Wordsworth, nature has a healing power which serves a mystical kinship with human mind, whereas Frost discovers nature as hostile to human beings which causes humans' woe and sufferings in the world. Frost's conception regarding nature is seen as a symbol of humans' relation to the universe in a complex and gloomy way. The symbolic natural elements in Frost's poems reflex the conviction of human experience and existence. Such as 'snow', 'birches', 'woods', 'stone wall', 'moon,' these metaphorical elements of nature represent the complexities of real human life. Though Frost's depiction of human life is inflicted as dark by the world of nature, he never forgets to invigorate humans' endeavor in search of the realty. “Birches” is one of Frost's nature-poems which is perfectly blended of light tone and the dark tone of human mind. The poem reveals the speaker's nostalgia of his peaceful childhood and weariness of adulthood.

So was I once myself a swinger of birches

And so, I dream of going back to be.

It is when I'm weary of consideration, (Frost, 1916)

Frost has used the images of nature to depict the speaker's difficulties and weariness in the existing world. 'A swinger of birches' represents a life, full of joy and pleasure. But the adulthood is burdened with responsibilities which bring about the boredom in life. The speaker's urge to make an escape from the reality and weariness of life is revealed by saying,

“I’d like to go by climbing a birch tree.” (Frost, line 54) It indicates his desire to experience the transcendent feeling of escape. This desire is universal. Every human being wants to get rid of the drudgery of life. But as a social being, they cannot help avoiding the responsibilities and obligations. Though the speaker of the poem rejects the allure of heaven and shows his impulse to be in earthy life again by stating, “And then come back to it and begin over.” (Frost, line 49) Frost poems may carry the ambiguity but do not encourage an escape from life or reality. To Frost, nature is unfriendly but human being must accept it as it is. Because the nature does not have only the destructive power but also has the power of removing darkness of human life. In the poem, “Birches” the speaker claims that “Earth is the right place for love.” Through the line, Robert Frost demonstrates that materialistic world is reality. Human being can be indulged in the imagination of the natural world, he cannot deny the reality. He must fall back to the reality. Beneath these apparent symbolic forces of nature, Frost demonstrates humans’ ambivalence against nature. This trait is skillfully manifested in another poem by Robert Frost “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening,” where the poet displays a conflict between the communion of nature and social liability. The speaker of the poem is deeply indulged in the world of imagination. He wants to prolong his journey in the ‘lovely, dark and deep woods.’ Very similar with the speaker of “Birches” the narrator of the poem “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening,” desires to escape from the real and tiresome life. The speaker discovers the calm and quite beauty of nature with ‘dark and deep wood’, ‘frozen lake’, ‘easy wind’ and the darkest evening. These images of nature do not emphasize the celebration of beauty. Rather it signifies the attraction of death. In that very time, Frost has alluded to the reality with a symbol of nature, ‘harness bell.’ The horses ‘harness bell’ in the poem represents ‘call of reality’ which reminds the narrator of his committed responsibilities. The universal desire of human being to escape from burdened life is reflected in the narrator of the poem. An ultimate escape can be ‘death’ which is symbolized as ‘sleep’ in the poem. But human being cannot deny his responsibilities. The speaker of the poem longs to resign from real life but shows unenthusiastic attitude to accept death until he accomplishes his responsibilities by saying,

But I have promises to keep

Miles to go before I sleep, (Frost, line 14-15)

Frost has portrayed both the world of imagination with the bliss of nature and the world of reality with the harshness of nature in his poems. Marion Montgomery quotes, "His attitude toward nature is one of armed and amicable, truce and mutual respect interspersed with crossings of the boundaries separating the two principles, individual man and forces of the world. But boundaries are insisted upon" (Montgomery, 1962, P 138). Frost sometimes considers the nature benevolent but he is also aware that nature is unconcerned toward the human misery. A glaring example is manifested in the poem, "Mending wall" which presents a lack of connection between human beings. Human existence in the nature becomes complex when he is detached from his fellow beings. "Good fences make good neighbors", represents a refutation of making an ideal human connection. 'Wall' is a reflection of physical barrier that make people insensate to empathize each other. Besides, 'spring is the mischief on me', indicates that the time of spring is hostile as it is time to repair wall. Nature in the poem is described as destruction of human connection. The utmost struggle and ending of human life in the nature is 'death' which is adorned with the blissful elements of nature in Frost's poem.

I'll sit and see if that small sailing cloud
Will hit or miss the moon. (Frost, 1914)

Frost has portrayed these lines in the poem, "The Death of a Hired Man", to indicate the anticipated tragedy of human life that is 'death.' The sailing cloud covering the moon signifies the death of Silas, the hired man in the poem. Death is a mandatory component of nature that comes for every human being. To Frost, 'death' is not a gloomy element of nature, rather it is the end of humans' all obligations, weariness and struggles. Death is universal and inevitable part of human life. Thus, Robert Frost has embellished the elements of nature by keeping as background to sketch the harsh and unavoidable obligations of human being in the world.

5. Conclusion

Overall, this dissertation precisely discovers Frost's exploration on human nature and humans' insight through re-interpreting his poems. The 'man' or the character of his poems is always gloomy, isolated and perplexed. Though Frost has depicted that human beings are bounded by the complexities of inner world and the outer world, he never gives up on human capability to overcome these complexities. Elmer Andrew, a critic comments on Frost's inspection on human life, "For Frost, life holds the potential of beauty and terror. While opening his poetry to darkness, loneliness, wildness, he never loses faith in human nature. Though as he is with wall, conflict, failure and limitation, he is capable of registering wonder and delight in the natural world." (Andrew,1996) All these humans' complications can be vanished through the earthy love.

Human beings are confined in psychological complications which are inevitable. To survive in this chaotic world, humans need to fight against their mind, make decisions, fulfill duties, relinquish their desire. All these complexities are obligatory nature of every human beings. They cannot deny their existence in the world with the complications. Frost poetry reveals the gloomy picture of human life at the same time it shows that human beings are capable of conquering the difficulties. According to Robert Frost, human complications regarding their loneliness, bumfuzzled mind, choosing between inner desire and social duties can be vanished through the earthy love. But while living the materialistic life, death cannot be denied as it is a universal truth of human life. Frost depicts death as the end of humans' obligations to life

By re-evaluating of Frost's poems, we have enriched our understanding about the humans' instinct and insight to the universe. This paper highlights the universal character of human beings seeking love, empathy, fellowship. Besides, in the world of imagination in Frost's poems, he shows his hope to human being to exercise the courage to accommodate in reality. Thus, we can say that, Frost's poetry is a reflection of humans' inner world and their liabilities in the physical world.

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