

## Dualism of Natural World in the Works of Wordsworth and Kamala Das

Ms. Yazhini. S<sup>1</sup>, Dr. D. S. Parveen Banu<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Research Scholar, PG & Research Department of English, E. M. G Yadava Women's College, Madurai.  
Tamil Nadu, India.

<sup>2</sup>Research Supervisor, PG & Research Department of English, E. M. G Yadava Women's College,  
Madurai. Tamil Nadu, India.

### ABSTRACT

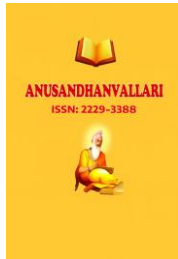
This research paper will look at how William Wordsworth and Kamala Das's poems shows nature in a dualist way. These are two poets who lived very different lives in terms of geography, culture, and cycles, but were both deeply inspired by and connected to nature. For Wordsworth, nature is a good thing; it is a guiding spirit, a soul-soothing nurturer, and a way for God to give us spiritual insight. Nature is often portrayed in his works as a harmonious, beautiful, and kind of friend in times of loneliness and a guide to higher truths. Kamala Das, on the other hand, connects with nature in a deeper and more personal way, and she often projects her own emotional problems onto nature. In her works, nature is also both a place of redemption and repression. On the one hand, it is a place of sexual freedom, and on the other, it is a place of frustration and social slavery. Wordsworth finds balance and unity in the duality of nature in his work; Das has a split identity because of nature's mysteries. Their use of contrast in their poetry is not just about having two different points of view; it also deals with problems of identity, gender, and cultural awareness. The paper adds to one's knowledge of how people have used nature to shape the human experience and also in writing by comparing these different points of view. This research paper will look at how Wordsworth's Romantic optimism and Das's confessional realism are different by comparing how nature can be calm and chaotic at the same time, caring and uncaring. One can look at Wordsworth's poems like "Lines Written a Few Miles above", "Tintern Abbey" and "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud in light", of Das, "An Introduction" and "The Dance of the Eunuchs" to help figure out how each of the poems described the codes nature. Ecocritical and psychoanalytic approaches are used to show how nature can mirror the self in a way that doesn't make it into a state of transcendence or a state of chaos.

**Keywords:** Romanticism, confessional poems, self and identity, cultural background, comparative literature

### Introduction

Natural forms have been and will continue to be the subject of poetic ideas. Depending on the person's mood, philosophical and cultural experience, nature can be both a symbol and a real thing. According to William Wordsworth, one of the most important figures in British Romanticism and London Romanticism, nature has a strong spiritual power that can help people find moral clarity, emotional healing, and a sense of the sublime. The natural world in his poetry is often portrayed as perfect, with peace, harmony, and unity reigning throughout the scene. According to Wordsworth, nature is not just something that happens in the background; it is a living thing that teaches, comforts, and leads him.

Kamala Das, a famous author from Kerala, India, living in a traditional, male-dominated world as a woman, has a much more personal and self-reflective view of nature. Das is a 20th-century writer who writes in a personal style in which nature often shows how people are feeling physically, emotionally, and existentially.



Her descriptions of nature aren't always great or comfortable. To the contrary, nature is changed into a place that doesn't show freedom, fear, beauty, or violence.

There are two sides to everything in nature, and this article will discuss about how Wordsworth and Das's poetry shows this. Dualism in this case means that nature has traits that are at odds with each other, like a force that both protects and harms, frees and chains. Similarly, while Wordsworth sees nature as a moral guide and a source of spiritual uplift, Das sees it as a reflection of a woman's inner battle, sexuality, and the social limits she is forced to face. Different ways of showing this aren't just because of the different cultural and historical settings, a Romantic setting in London and a post-colonial reality in Kerala, but also because of different philosophy and gendered views.

Looking at a few poems by each poet to see how they deal with this topic, this paper will compare how nature is used as a reflection of the mind and a way to achieve better thematic interest. Utilizing a comparative literary method, this research paper sheds light on the paradoxical and intricate role that nature plays in creating meaning in poetry. This helps raise awareness of nature's dual nature in its role in poetry.

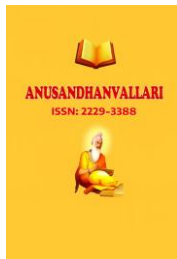
## Objectives

In this study, the main idea is to show how William Wordsworth and Kamala Das, who wrote in different historical periods and cultures, dealt with the dualistic nature in their works. The study's main goal is to look at how Wordsworth's Romantic idealism was shaped by the British world at the time and compare it to Das's confessional and post-colonial outlook, who lived in Kerala, India, in the later part of the 20th century. The author wants to find out how nature, in addition to being a place, can be seen as a symbol of emotional, philosophical, and social problems, and how it can be used to make peace and strife, freedom and restriction. This essay also looks at gender, culture, and life experience, and how these ideas are shown in the writing of two writers. It tries to figure out what it means that their themes and emotions became so different over time. The goal of this comparative study is to find out how nature is used as a living literary tool to show different aspects of personality, emotional complexity, and societal critique in the relationship between people and nature in poetic communication.

## Research Methodology

This study used a method called qualitative comparative analysis of literature to look at the different ideas. Some good poems by William Wordsworth and Kamala Das are used as primary sources. As one could read more closely, one can find themes, images, and words that show how nature is dualistic. One can also learn more about the meanings of the environment through ecocriticism and about how men and women experience nature differently through feminist literature theory. The secondary sources will be things like scholarly papers, critical essays, and books that talk about the works of both poets. More of the research is focused on analysing the texts, finding themes, and comparing them to show how different ideas about the world shape how poets connect with nature.

The varied world of nature has always been an important source of ideas and thought for poets from all times and places. It is common to think of nature as a single thing, but poetic representations of nature often include duality by pointing to opposites, different feelings, experiences, and intellectual points of view. In this article, researcher will study at how William Wordsworth, the classic English Romantic, and Kamala Das, an Indian author, from Kerala, wrote about this contrast in their own poetry. By looking at their different national,



historical, and personal points of view, one can see how nature can bring people together and separate them, bring them comfort and unease, and in so doing, reveal important truths about human life.

#### **Nature as peace and harmony in Wordsworth's poem:**

In the 18th century, when William Wordsworth wrote poems, England was becoming more industrialised. To him, nature was more than just a landscape; it was living and spiritual, and it taught him a lot about right and wrong and gave him spiritual strength. Nature and people seem to have a very good, almost divine relationship in many of his works. Nature is seen as a guide or teacher, a caring friend, and a way to find higher truth. Wordsworth's poem "Lines Written a Few Miles above Tintern Abbey" shows how much he believed in nature's steadiness and goodness: "Nature never did betray / The heart that loved her" (ll. 122–123).

This shows that poet believe in nature's dependability and the ability to find peace and comfort in nature while dealing with the chaos of modern life. There is a light, socially romantic style to Wordsworth's writing that makes things sound so peaceful or perfect that it draws the reader into a deep faith. As a result of living most of his life in the peaceful Lake District, his poetry has a sense of quiet beauty and rural peace.

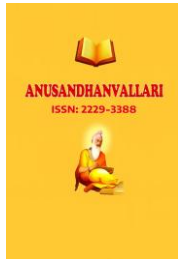
There are many sides to Wordsworth's view of nature. His writings are deep and great when he talks about the strange, overwhelming, and even sublime parts of nature. Nature is a source of comfort, but it also has an uncontrolled force that makes people give up. In "The Prelude", he writes about a scary and almost amazing experience he had with a mountain. Nature has a way of making people feel both small and amazed: "A huge peak, black and huge, / As if with voluntary power instinct..." (ll. 377–378).

Nature here is not only quiet, but also a great and awesome presence that makes people realise how weak they are as people and how thin their defences really are. Wordsworth's poetry is full of this kind of omnipresent dualism, such comforting safety in the face of great immensity. This means that nature has the power to bring people together on a spiritual level and also to bring them back to reality and their place in the bigger, stronger world. He believed in Romanticism, which sees nature as a divine being in and of itself and as a way for people to experience the eternal and the infinite in a way that helps them grow spiritually and understand how everything is linked. Instead of being a contradiction, this will show the complex nature of nature's power, it's something one need to protect while also recognising its ability to amaze us.

#### **Kamala Das's Emotional Realism in connection with nature:**

In many ways, Wordsworth's nature is broad and idealistic, while Kamala Das's nature is much more personal, full of strife, and very connected to the individual. Her poems deal with sexuality, emotional psychology, social oppression, and the realities of being a woman through nature. It is similar to confessional writing in this way. And Das doesn't romanticise nature like Wordsworth did. Instead, she shows it in all its rough, primal, and deeply uncomfortable ways that are inextricably linked to the chaos of human life.

Often, Das's work on nature is a mirror of her own unstable and upsetting feelings. When reading "The Dance of the Eunuchs", the heat is not a calm setting. Instead, it is an active part of the poem, a sign of discomfort, and an emotional burden that is present everywhere: "It was hot, so hot, before the eunuchs came / To dance..." Here Nature is not a peaceful place to be; it is a very real and almost cramped place that makes the characters' pain feel real. Along the same lines, Das uses vivid sensory details to give voice to the nature that is so closely linked to female identity and weakness, as well as the politics of wanting and being an object in the poem, "The Looking Glass": "Gift him what makes you woman, the scent of / Long hair, the musk of sweat..." In this situation, nature is made more feminine, and experience is seen as deeply embodied. This implies



subjectivity because sensuality gives people power and makes them vulnerable to abuse. Scents and physical feelings are not separate from nature; they are a big part of a woman's life. This creates a very troubling duality.

Das's writing often talks about and even criticises the limits that society puts on women. Nature is both a way to escape and get caught up in these social structures. Desire and destruction are linked in the poem "Forest Fire" by a powerful metaphor. Nature can both give and take: "A hunger / To take in with greed, like a forest fire..." Here the oblique imagery also shows both strong emotion and the destructive power of nature, which Das takes in because her conflicts and cravings are very obsessive and explosive. In Das's view, nature is not an abstract ideal. Instead, she sees nature as an extension of herself, full of the problems and contradictions that appear in both her inner and outer worlds. It is a place where the sexy facts of life play out, both tying people down and setting them free.

### **Culture Duality and Identity: A Comparative View Across Races**

The very different cultural, historical, and gendered settings in Wordsworth's and Das's works make the dualism of nature very different. Living in the heart of romantic England, Wordsworth thinks that nature will mostly stay the same, that it is psychologically better than everything else, and that it will be a constant in a world that is changing quickly. His interests are often philosophical and meditative, and he sees the world through the lens of a man who is intellectually and emotionally connected with natural order.

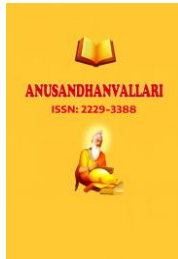
A postcolonial author from Kerala named Das, on the other hand, uses nature to show how the rules of society affect people's feelings, cause social problems, and have a very personal effect on them. She has personal and physical touch with nature, and her outlook is more or less female. She tries to use her own will against social pressure. According to Das, nature is often a place of conflict, both inside and outside, because it contrasts with the uncomfortable state of a woman who doesn't follow the rules.

For both writers, nature is a very important symbol that they use to explore identity, memory, and feeling. Wordsworth wrote a song called "Intimations of Immortality from Recollections of Early Childhood" about the loss of a spiritual vision and memory, as well as a relationship: "The earth, and every common sight, / To me did seem / Apparell'd in celestial light..." At this time of waning faith and longing, people also remember nature as simpler and more innocent when they were kids, as Das writes, with references to immediateness, intensity, and hard truths that can be seen in "An Introduction": "I met a man who loved me, loved my body..."

While Wordsworth looks for oneness and spirituality in nature and often laments a lost golden age, Das feels fractiousness, which is the present moment without any filters. But they both have one thing in common: nature is not a single thing. It is both comforting and upsetting, freeing and limiting, a mirror that shows the delicate dance of human feelings. Their literary works strongly demonstrate that nature is not a single, uniform thing. Instead, it is different for each person, each culture, and each time period in history, and it has a duality that shapes the human experience in important ways.

### **Conclusion:**

Comparing the works of William Wordsworth and Kamala Das has shown that the natural world is not a simple binary reality that can be easily agreed upon. Instead, it is a very dynamic reality that is more like a multilevel existence that depends on the person, the culture, and the time period. For Wordsworth, nature is the main spiritual guide and morpheic compass. It gives him transcendental experiences, peace, and unity. Most of the time, these settings are peaceful, quiet, and give off an air of believing that the world was made by God. This fits with his romantic ideas that nature is good by nature and can heal. But even in this great treasure trove of



respect, there are hints of awe at the might, greatness, and power of nature, as well as the idea that she might be able to command. It's the perfect balance between rest, awe, and contentment, as well as the thrill of wonder and fear.

In contrast, Kamala Das writes about nature in a very personal, physical, and strangely ambiguous way. In her writing, nature becomes a mirror that shows the emotional storminess, sexual passion, and social restrictions that are present. She paints a naked and often disturbing picture of nature, which shows a world that can both free the spirit and enslave the being. This is especially true when one think about the social, cultural, and political contexts of women's identity and femininity. Nature in Das's works is sensual, physical, and full of emotional impact. It is also often a big way for people to rebel against social norms, instinct, and unrestrained desire. Her dichotomy is more about nature and how it can be both a place to escape to one's soul and a place of conflict and struggle, both with oneself and with society's expectations about gender roles and how the self is socially constructed.

Both poets, even though they have different styles, try to show that nature is neither good nor bad, but rather something that can be understood in many ways. These very different pictures show how geography, gender, time period, and changes in the way writers see and write about nature were important to them. London in the Romantic Era and Kerala after independence are not just background scenes; the landscapes shape how people see, understand, and finally write about nature in their timeless poetry.

The main crux of this comparative study is that nature is naturally dualistic, which makes it a very powerful poetic tool for exploring the depths of identity, the variety of human emotions, and the ongoing difficulties of the human condition. By closely looking at how Wordsworth and Das deal with nature as its opposite, as well as its many sides of unending happiness and destructive chaos, freedom and slavery, one can learn more about how different and yet complex literary works show how people interact with nature. This makes their works not only timeless but also deeply representative of how nature shows a lot of contradictions.

#### Work cited:

1. Das, Kamala. *The Old Playhouse and Other Poems*. Orient Longman, 1973.
2. Das, Kamala. *Only the Soul Knows How to Sing*. Katha, 1996.
3. Das, Kamala. "The Dance of the Eunuchs." *Summer in Calcutta*. Everest Press, 1965, pp. 12–14.
4. Das, Kamala. "An Introduction." *Summer in Calcutta*. Everest Press, 1965, pp. 1–3.
5. Das, Kamala. "Forest Fire." *The Old Playhouse and Other Poems*. Orient Longman, 1973, pp. 25–26.
6. Wordsworth, William. *Selected Poems*. Edited by Stephen Gill, Penguin Classics, 2004.
7. Wordsworth, William. *The Prelude: 1799, 1805, 1850*. Edited by Jonathan Wordsworth, M. H. Abrams, and Stephen Gill, Norton, 1979.
8. Wordsworth, William. "Lines Written a Few Miles Above Tintern Abbey." *Lyrical Ballads*, edited by R.L. Brett and A.R. Jones, Routledge, 1991, pp. 116–121.
9. Wordsworth, William. "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud." *Poems in Two Volumes, 1807. The Major Works*, edited by Stephen Gill, Oxford University Press, 2000, pp. 247–248.
10. Wordsworth, William. "Ode: Intimations of Immortality." *The Major Works*, edited by Stephen Gill, Oxford University Press, 2000, pp. 296–300.