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Picturesque Journey in Mimicry: Nature Culture Resemblance in Dorothy Wordsworth's Recollections of a Tour Made in Scotland

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Abstract

Nature-culture mimicries are exotic in Dorothy's travelogue where she zooms the images from her tour to Scotland. This paper discusses on the issues of Scottish landscapes and Dorothy's excitement while travelling there with her brother Wordsworth and Coleridge. Radical and sensitive potentialities of Dorothy's travel narratives empower the women travelers that is zoomed in Dorothy's Recollections of a Tour Made in Scotland. Though facing some challenges in the journeys to mountains, jungles and sea-shores; the travelers are busy to study the nature and take some photographs in the beautiful environment that is discussed in this paper. Objective of this paper is to excavate on nature-culture relationships and travelers' exoticism, and so this paper is prepared on the basis of travel narratives. This paper follows a qualitative research method and so it is prepared on the basis of the primary and secondary resources for which texts and relevant references are studied comparatively. Methodological implications of Brain G. Wolff, John Hemming, Henry Bates and Alexander Von Humboldt's theories help to excavate environmental beauties and the risk factors shown in Dorothy's narratives in a comparative framework. Picturesque collection helps to critique Dorothy's narratives based on ecological environment and challenges that might come in its future. Finding of this paper is that the tour literature is a part of eye observation whereas the writer travels himself/herself and writes about his /her own observations and experiences that refreshes mind and the body both.

Keywords

Picturesque tourism, Women travelers, Exoticism, Mimicry, Scottish ethnography.

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1. Introduction, Text and the Context

Recollections of a Tour Made in Scotland is a travelogue written on the basis of factual mimics of Dorothy Wordsworth. The travel begins from August 14th Sunday 1803 and that continues for six weeks. It begins from Keswick-Grismod-Hesket that follows the Caldbeck Falls. Rose Castle and Headhills are the other beautiful places that they visited in the mimicry. John Campbell Shairp praises their journey and writes, "upholding presence of one on whom the soul's dark foundations rest" ("Preface" xxx). According to Shairp, Dorothy's imagination on the nature-culture relationship is toned to poetic expressions of the true soul that understands the naturalistic mood and spiritual language. Her eye witness is much authenticated with the supportive statements of her brother William Wordsworth and S.T. Coleridge as they recite the poems there. She speaks about nature-culture beauties of the ecological environment where she compares the beauty of Kilchurn Castle with an Alps and the jungle that they visited on the way to Scotland. Shairp perceives their Scottish travel experiences as a joyous part of life and writes, "delightful country looking out on the distance sea" ("Preface" xii). It was all covered with the natural things what Shairp likes a lot. He is also lost in this imaginative framework of the real land and writes again, "The hills that cradle these valleys are either covered with fern and bilberries, or oak woods" (xiii). Shairp critiques Dorothy's travelogue what she and her friends observe in Scotland and entertain the things there. According to him, the travelers resemble nature-culture dichotomies with the mimics which Dorothy accompanies the things in her tour to Scotland.

Dorothy's first week travel is much exciting. It starts on the hot day of August but it is amusing because of the chilling environment of the hills, covered with snowfall in the high altitude. People riding horses and singing songs on the way nearby the public houses is exciting for the travelers. Walking on the green grasses; observing

beautiful flowers by the side of streams gives shining images to their lives whereas imagining about the chill winter white land covered with snow brings a complexity. Dorothy writes, "The air was very cold, and one could not help thinking what it must be in winter, when those hills, now 'red brown', should have their three months' covering of snow" ("First Week", 11). The statement clarifies that, it is not easy to travel in the high geographical altitudes because of the ecological and environmental conditions; however, ".....it is exciting to them who accept the challenges" (Bates 36). Bates's statement about the challenges that the travelers have to face re-glorify Dorothy's narratives. Dorothy re-states their difficult journey within that beautiful sceneries in these lines:

The trees told of the coldness of the climate; they were more brown than green-far browner than the ripe grass of the little hay-garths. Here, as at Wanlockhead, were haycocks, hay-stacks, potato-beds, and kail-garths in every possible variety of shape, but, I suppose from the irregularity of the ground, it looked far less artificial-indeed, I should think that a painter might make several beautiful pictures in this village. It straggles down both sides of a mountain glen. As I have said, there is a large mansion. There is also a stone building that looks like a school, and the houses are single, or in clusters, or rows as it may chance. (*Recollections of a Tour Made in Scotland*, "First Week", 12)

Dorothy talks about climate change, air condition and whispering sound of the trees. She historicizes some changing aspects of the natural things and their artistic values as she mentions that the "painters might make lots of pictures there in the village" (14). The roads are designed beautifully and decorated by the local inhabitants. Well architecture buildings painted in different colors by the side of the natural beauties of the 'Sal bushes' and 'nut trees' make the travelling more exciting whereas Coleridge composes and recites the poems despite of his difficult health condition. Travelers enjoy horse riding on the way to Clyde river banks that cross the Lanerk town from the right angle. Trees, herbs, grasses and the potato plants are amazing there on the side of the trekking roots. They seem sometimes greener and sometimes colorful like the things of women's collections elsewhere even in the bareness of the neighboring hills. It is a difficult travel but a memorable experience to the travelers who had been climbing upwards the hills, mountains and the villages covered by the snowfall where the people have to suffer of the chill cold.

Second week's travel begins on Sunday, 21st August, that is much exciting as it passes by the side of a waterfall, in front of the lady-like house. The house looks really beautiful with a moderate size garden in a very nice-looking place. Tower like mountain in front of the majestic waterfall is a desirous artwork in the pleasing ground of Scotland. In addition, the cultural references included in the travel account make it more historical as she writes, "The lanes were full of people going to church; many of the middle-aged women wore long scarlet cardinals, and were without hats: they brought to my mind the women of Goslar as they used to go to church in their silver or gold caps, with their long cloaks, black or colored" ("Second Week", 23). Pretty stone house and the lanes by its side from where the people were going towards the church are memorable. On the way to churchyard travelers could see the huts, scattered trees and the green fields with hedgerows. The lakes on the laps of the hills in Ben Lomond are the sources of the fresh water. Dorothy and her co-travelers have delightful feelings while crossing the mountains, lakes, Himalayas and observing the mesmerizing beauties of the nature. They enjoy taking snapshots in front of the waterfall, ferry house, castle, caves and the Clyde in Loch Lomond.

Third week's travel begins on August 28. It is pouring with a heavy rain. They cross the Glengyle to Glenfalloch mountain above the Loch Lomond. Milking cows by a Highland Girl on the Garrison house of the Scottish farmland makes them spellbound. The girl narrates the stories of the Church of England and the lonely parts of Scotland. They cross the open fields, mountains and high hills under rocks where William composes a poem:

Sweet Highland girl, a very shower
Of beauty is thy earthly dower!
Twice seven consenting years have shed
Their utmost bounty on the head:
And these grey rocks; this household lawn;
This fall of water, that doth make... ("Third Week", 71).

They cross the beautiful scenes by the side of the silent lake with that beautiful girl in a romantic mood. Fishermen's nests hung in the foaming streams seem mysterious to the travelers. Duke of the castle allows them to observe the thing that makes their travel researchable. Observing on the shape of the castle and cultural connections of the fashionable things decorated there make their travel really meaningful. Finally, they return back to the place where Coleridge

was passing out his painful days because of his illness. They talk a lot, share their experiences, take their dinner and have a good sleep.

Fourth week's travel is rather fresh and exciting after their accompany with Coleridge. They eat boiled eggs in the breakfast with other Egyptian foot-travelers that refresh and provide an energy to them from the tiredness. They pass the ways out from King's house and cross the Black Mount hill. They start discussing about their artworks and the cultural differences on the way to Tyndrum. The journey continues up to Grasmere and Wytheburn from where they are able to view Loch Tay and Dochart falls. After few minutes they cross the Dochart and go towards the road at Duke of Athol. Wordsworth and Coleridge, both, compose the poems about geography, natural beauties, traditional arts, culture and the wars, and recite them. In the meantime, Dorothy writes and recites a poem:

In this still place remote from men
Sleeps Ossian, in the Northern Glen,
In this still place where murmurs on
But one meek streamlet, only one.
He sung of battles and the breath
Of stormy war, and violent death,
And should, methinks, when all was pass'd,
Have rightfully been laid at last
Where rocks were rudely heap'd, and rent
As by a spirit turbulent;
Where sights were rough, and sounds were wild,
And everything unreconciled,
In some complaining, dim retreat
Where fear and melancholy meet;
But this is calm; there cannot be
A more entire tranquility. ("Fourth Week", 134-35)

The above noted lines re-historicize stillness of the natural things, artworks, cultural practices, wars and their reflections. This poetic expression celebrates Scottish beauties on the one hand and destructive wars on the other hand. The lines valorize the forests, streams, rivers and their calmness on the one hand and human stupidities who go on wars on the other hand. She writes, also, about a dirty public house named as a hill's cottage where they took their breakfast and started their Fifth week travel.

Fifth week's travel begins on September 11 immediately after the breakfast. They walk towards ferryman's house to lodge the things there. A boy helped them to get a horse and a car to get back to the Callander from Loch Achray where they can see a delightful scene of the Loch Ketterine and Loch Vennachar. They make the travel fun for whole day in Doune village, Teith river, Loch Voil with the fellow travelers, highland girls and the fun makers. Dorothy writes, "The interesting feelings we had connected with the Highland Sabbath and Highland worship returned here with double force" ("Fifth Week", 143). They enjoy the natural beauties in the lake districts, dales, mountains, river banks and the valleys. The Glenfalloch village is interestingly mentioned as a most beautiful place among the places of their visit. The moments cannot be forgotten easily when they crossed the green fields and the beautiful rivers. Finally, they reach to the inn, viewed an Architectural beauty of Chapel of Roslin and passed their night in an old-fashioned public-house.

The final tour week is the sixth week that begins on 18th September 1803. They start their journey along the side of Neidpath Castle, upon the green hill, after breakfast. They enjoy the sight scenes of the grass land where the farmers graze their sheep, Dorothy composes a poem:

A brotherhood of venerable trees,
 Leaving an ancient Dome and Towers like these
 Beggar'd and outraged! Many hearts deplored
 The fate of those old trees; and oft with pain
 The Traveller at this day will stop and gaze
 On wrongs which Nature scarcely seems to heed;
 For shelter'd places, bosoms, nooks, and bays,
 And the pure mountains, and the gentle Tweed,
 And the green silent pastures yet remain. ("Sixth Week", 159)

She describes well about the beautiful mountains, dales valleys, castle and other pleasing parts of the nature. The greenery of the beautiful trees in both the sides of the roads and the clean water of the rivers near by the road have glamorous images. Echoes of the mountains, dales and rivers create a harmonious environment there. Pretty Peebles of Scotland is much memorable town that they have visited in the borderland. The place is historically connected with the scenic of Edinburgh beauties.

24th September 1803 is a second last day of their travel's closing for this time. They start travelling very early in the morning to Longtown before breakfast. The road is rather narrow and steep. It is covered with oak leaves and the thorn bushes. They don't get good food to eat on the way, however they have to pass the difficult journey, anyway. They travel to a far distance nearly more than six miles and stop their travel for the day. They close this journey on 25th September 1803 having their breakfast at a public-house by the road side. They meet lots of people, places and things on the ways and the houses where they live. Despite the facts and fictions of their travel experiences, they end the Scottish travel this time with the mixed experiences of some melancholies, tiredness, pain, suffering on the one hand and some emotions, excitements, joys and pleasing moments on the other hand.

2. Theoretical Underpinning

Dorothy Wordsworth's travelogue *Recollections of a Tour Made in Scotland* interconnects the parts of the nature-culture and the human relationships. Her travelogue creates a space in travel literature with Scottish images in the different landscapes. Narratives are based on ecological environment and the characters discuss on the challenges that might come in its future because of the human stupidity. Brain G. Wolff in "Environmental Studies and Utilitarian Ethics" asserts, ".....challenges the inferior moral standing of other species" (6). Wolff critiques anthropocentrism and the disasters that causes in the biosphere. The beautiful environment as described in this travelogue is in risk in the days ahead because of the negligence in the environmental ethics and the human activities that invites deforestation. It ultimately finishes the water resources, too. Easily understanding, nature is a backbone of human life, and so Wolff asserts again, "an adequate environmental ethics must be holistic, as opposed to individualistic, and make ecosystem and species the subject of direct moral concern" (7). Ecological environment and its connection with human beings is great as written by Wolff.

In the same line of Wolff, Dorothy Wordsworth focuses on environmental ethics and writes about her memories which she collected in travel with her brother and the other travelers. Michel Foucault in *The Order of Things: An Archaeology of the Human Science* focuses on the power politics and discusses about human supremacy. Edward Said in *Culture and Imperialism and Orientalism: Western Conception of the Orient* both the texts discuss about the cultural practices and politicizes the issues. Challenging to

the Foucauldian discourses and Said's politics Ahmad Aijaz creates a different perspective. He questions the environmental issues of ecological consciousness whereas "people try to classify their positions" (34). They fight in each-other for their arts, culture and literature whereas they forget to save their own life as an environment itself is a part human and the humanity. Ahmad takes the power and practices, both, as an interdependent element of human-nature relationships. Thus, Dorothy's mixed-matched memories of traveling to the nature-gifted Himalayas, forests and the river banks create emotional triggers on the one hand and environmental disaster caused by human stupidities on the other hand. This travelogue can be studied from multiple perspectives as discussed by the above-mentioned theorists.

Dorothy's travelogue describes a picturesque journey both in the exciting and a melancholic tone. The mimics of the high Himalayas, rivers, lakes dales and the dense forest of Scotland create an exciting environment to the travelers on the one hand and melancholic ecological disaster on the other hand. She writes, "The city and neighborhood of Carlisle disappointed me; the banks of the river quite flat, and, though the holms are rich, there is not much beauty in the vale....." ("First Week", 2). Dorothy has both the joyful and disappointing experiences of travelling and collecting memories in the Scottish geography. She seems happy enough while climbing the Himalayas and travelling in the beautiful environment. Meanwhile, she has some terrifying memories while observing the disastrous city environment.

Dorothy's observation has mixed remarks on the issues of nature, culture and human relationships. Life is not as easy as we perceive and so we have to face the challenges in every mode as Chinua Achebe claims. Regarding the complex journey, Achebe in "An Image of Africa: Conrad's Heart of Darkness" writes, ".....journey is blending reality with personal imagination" (375). Achebe writes about individual accounts prepared while travelling. As Achebe's claim Appadurai in *Modernity at Large: Cultural Dimension of Globalization* highlights the power and takes it as "a cultural practice in travel" (12). Appadurai's references and recordings are close to the colonial writer's remarks. Dorothy suffers both mentally and physically; mentally in the sense that her friend Coleridge is sick and she is also disturbed to write and physically in the sense that her group has to cross the miles of difficult roads. Travelling and writing

in this sense is a difficult task that mixes the multiple memories and experiences collected from the ups and down movements.

Dorothy's impression in the travel of Scottish geography, especially travelling by the side of river bank, is close to John Hemming as expressed in *Trees of Rivers: The Story of the Amazon*, "The river is world's greatest river" (328). Amazon is geographically located in the different zones and the countries as said by Hemming however the river banks what she observed rounds are in the Scotland periphery. The environmental aesthetics of the river, mountains, hills and and jungle create a beautiful space in the Scottish literature. Dorothy in travel literature has generated multiple views for the conceptual changes as Slater in *Dance of the Dolphin: Transformation and Disenchantment in the Amazonian Imagination* writes, "geographic entity and province of the imagination provide space to think differently" (115). Slater highlights the imaginative geography. He makes a statement about Amazonian space in travelling and writes, "it is vast, incomprehensible, filled with wonder, and rich in life and culture" (125). The geographical observations in literature create the discourses on marvelous forest and the river as Stephen argues it as, "the unfamiliar, the alien, the terrible, the desirable, and the hateful" (23). Arts, culture and the literature-based travel account of Neil L. Whitehead are spell-bounding elements of the romantic history they are interlinked in Dorothy's narratives as a traveler and the romantic writer.

Romantic echoes of the mountains and forests in Wordsworth's writing re-echo the bubbling, sounding and thundering of rushing water that one can enjoy in the heart of the mountains, valleys and ditches. Alexander Von. Humboldt in the *Views of Nature: The Sublime Phenomena of Creation* writes, "people can delve and roar in the rain-foreboding howl of the bearded ape" (19-20). Humboldt's statement about the journey imposes a view to rethink on the travelling and learning differently. Humboldt suggests the people to be conscious about ecological environment and give a high value to the biosphere. Like Humboldt, Henry Bates is also talking about environmental ethics in *The Naturalist on the River Amazons* and writes, "marvelous diversity and richness of trees foliage in flowers" (180). Bates's concept is close to Mary Campbell, who in *The Witness and the Other World: Exotic European Travel Writing 400-1600* writes, ".....seeing is believing, [and] the impossibility of full enumeration" (179). Campbell focuses on travelling and writing as a

subject of eye witness whereas one can see himself/herself write about an objective truth. He/she gains the knowledge and writes confidentially and so it is much trustworthy and/or authenticated to write on the basis of self-observation and the collected experiences.

Dorothy is thus writing about the ecological-environment of Scotland through her own observations and experiences that she collected while travelling with her brother Wordsworth and a close friend Coleridge. This travelogue is a kind of first-hand knowledge collection and sharing material which is concerned with environmental ethics and the natural beauty. Dorothy's concern is on natural beauties that she has deeply studied about the mountains, dales, rivers, river banks, roads and the other environmental things in Scottish geography. Viewing the beauties with flora and fauna, Dorothy and her group members are applying the concepts of environmental ethics in this travelogue.

3. Methods and Materials

This paper is prepared in qualitative research method. The study is based on the text, library materials and online resources. It discusses and analyzes Dorothy Wordsworth's *Recollections of a Tour Made in Scotland* from environmental and ecological perspective. Though facing some challenges in the journeys to mountains, jungles and sea-shores; the travelers are busy to study the nature and take some photographs in the beautiful environment and so this environmental study approach is connected with the mimics. Brain G. Wolff, John Hemming, Henry Bates and Alexander Von. Humboldt's theoretical concepts help to excavate environmental beauties and the risk factors shown in Dorothy's narratives in a comparative framework. Picturesque collection helps to critique visual images mentioned in Dorothy's narratives which are based on ecological environment. Ahmad Aijaz, Edward Said and Michel Foucault's ideas are applied as additional support to critique the textual references. Critiquing the ideas of control over the natural resources, this researcher interconnects the views on environmental ethics of the theorists who speak against such authoritative voices.

4. Results and Discussions

Dorothy's concern in her travelogue *Recollections of a Tour Made in Scotland* is on enjoying the beautiful nature and writing about it. The document can be a fresh memory to her on the one hand and the useful guideline to the travelers and the others who want to know

about Scotland on the other hand. She is much engaged to observe the things, take the photographs and note down the events in her diary. Viewing the beauties with flora and fauna, Dorothy and her brother William are applying the concepts of environmental ethics in the mixed method approaches. Their friends and the fellow travelers are discussing about nature, culture and the literature. This study, thus, is prepared in comparative method about environmental issues on the basis of travelers' remarks, critical reviews, online resources and the textual analysis. Dorothy and her group members in this journey are observing the forests, rivers and Himalayas from the traveler's eyes as said by Wolff but this researcher is applying the different tools and techniques in a comparative way to analyze the challenges seen in the environment. This study thus discusses on the travelling, observations, analysis and their results as a critique on environmental ethics that is applied in a comparative way.

This study discusses, critiques and brings some results on the basis of travel documents and again discusses on the results from an alternative perspective which plods the entire travel of Dorothy and her team in six weeks period. The travel of Scotland territory is made in August-September 1803. Dorothy Wordsworth, her brother William Wordsworth and ST Coleridge planned to travel in the different parts of Scotland and study on the environmental issues but Coleridge suffered of ill health on the way and he has to leave the group for few days. Dorothy's travel account highlights ecological environment-based concepts. She writes about the forest, rivers and the road condition of Scotland. The travelogue is often regarded as reality what one sees in the forests and the banks of the river and compares his/her imagination with the real world. Overwhelming natural resources and their beauties in Scotland are mentioned in this travelogue to exemplify eco-environmental ethics. She collects some differential memories and note downs them for the documentation of their experiences.

Dorothy has some mixed memories in an excitement on the one hand and melancholy on the other hand. She has the numbers of exciting events while travelling on the side of the river banks, horse riding and taking photographs in the beautiful sceneries. She has some painful memories, too, when Coleridge felt sick and they have to leave him from the group. She observes anthropocentric activities which are inviting the natural disasters and she is dissatisfied with the human stupidities. The activities which invite the environmental disasters surely create some disbalances in the near future. She is

worried that the people will be aware timely or not and how long this Scottish beauty will remain fresh. This travelogue gives us knowledge about environmental ethics and suggests to launch the things from biosphere perspective.

5. Conclusion

Dorothy Wordsworth in her travelogue writes about her observation, imagination, and the collected experiences of Scotland tour made in August-September 1803 for the six weeks period. Her excitement of the travelling is disturbed from the anthropocentric activities and so she writes about environmental ethics. She suggests to rethink from biosphere perspective for which picaresque journey and the mimicries are lively presented in her travel document. She writes about her collected experiences and the memories of the Scottish roads, river banks and the mountains where she learned a lot about nature, arts culture and the literature. Fresh experiences and memories that she collected from her trekking, tours and travels, in the river banks, high Himalayas and the dense forest with her brother Wordsworth and Coleridge enhances her knowledge in travelling and writing. Pictures taken while travelling are supporting documents to authenticate the narratives. Her travel account is prepared on the basis of her observations and imagination matching with the photos taken in Scotland while travelling there to note down the beauties of the forest and the rivers. This paper is prepared on the basis of the text, library materials and online resources. It discusses on the nature quests in search of aesthetics and critiques an anthropocentrism. She is worried about stupid activities of the people that bring possible dangers in the near future. Dorothy's beautiful memories of traveling to the nature-gifted Himalayas, forests and the river banks create emotional triggers that can be studied from multiple perspectives. Her narratives about the ecological-environment are covering the natural beauties on the one hand and human stupidity on the other hand.

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