

HISTORICAL INVESTIGATIONS ON TECHNOLOGICAL IMPRINTS ON ENGLISH LITERATURE

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ABSTRACT

The natural interdependency exists all the way across the known history of the living beings! So is the English-Poetry not an exceptional. Evaluator extensive literature survey and significant and comprehensive studies carried out here so far in this noble area of English-Poetry highlights upon its technological aspects and concerns. Critical phase of this study was realized at the time of preliminary investigation when handling the huge amount of information based data in their various forms and kinds was dealt with and in. Technological impacts on literature includes spirit of enquiry, impulse of creativity, desire of innovations and novelty to do, insatiable thirst for knowledge-exploration through universally accepted methodologies. The direct or indirect driving forces in terms of changes in the environmental scenario, advancements in science and technological views, man's attitude and temper are key - pivotal elements considered for analysis presented here.

This study addresses itself to the task of tracing the impact of science and technology on English literature, namely, the Neo-Classical, Romantic, Victorian and Modern and analyzing the nature, kind and effect of this impact – whether it is direction or oblique; positive or negative. The study also identifies various science and technology concepts, events or achievements to which the poets have reacted under its impact. We however, do not intend to go in for any detailed interpretation of the poems or for any elaborate examination of their theme. Our attempt is mainly to identify the science and technology element which influenced the poets and manifested itself in their poetic creations. To fulfill this aim, we examined anthologies of poems, biographies of poets, and history of science and technology.

Socio-cultural specific developments in literature and real-time technological applications have imprinted deeply proved and justified impacts on the inbuilt thoughts of the colonial society of this globe. No doubt that might be considered as a need of the era for closed bond between Science and Technology, and Literature!

INTRODUCTION

The paths to quest for truth are characterized by rigors of human psyche. Manifestations of these rigors take different shapes and directions but strive to reach the ultimately defined destination(s)

that serve as interflow resources of streams of thoughts through unique methods of search and research. The section I of this paper presents a brief historical survey of the diverse activities in the social, cultural, political, scientific and literary spheres of English literature society. It also touches various aspects of integrated and comprehensive picture of impact and to understand the forces acting on the makers of literature imperative to the major changes and developments in these spheres.

The next section discussed about the two branches of knowledge of our concern as 'Literature' and 'Science and Technology'. We have investigated their characteristics, relationships and for poetry in particular. Historical perspectives of impacts of Science and Technology on literary genres – prose, drama, fiction and criticism have been attempted in section III followed by historical sketch of the impact on English poetry written during the period 17th – 19th century!

An attempt has also been made to elaborate the term 'poetry' along with its function and approach that contains the analysis of the individual poems or the lines called out from the relevant poems, which bear references to the concepts, events, or achievements pertaining to Science and Technology. Besides summing up our findings, the last section presents the analyzed poems in tabular form so as to provide an easy reference to the corpus on which the study is based.

The approach is both historical as well as analytical. In a study of this kind, a historical perspective is a must. However, it is not suggested that the results of this study throw any major light on the historical development of Science and Technology or Literature as bodies of knowledge accumulated over the centuries through intense and sustained human efforts.

Though the study confines itself to one major form of literature, it abstracts from the analysis and shows the relationship between two major branches of knowledge, namely, literature and Science and Technology, drawing attention to the processes that are common to both and the kind of intellectual effort or the play of imagination that is required in understanding them.

LITERATURE, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY: A CLOSE INTERDEPENDENCY

One can characterize the literature as not only the effect of social causes but it is also the cause of social effects. It is a device for reporting the multifarious activities of everyday life in this universe and for expressing their various significances artistically. Under the impact of Science and Technology, human life is changing fast; the accepted beliefs, the hardened attitudes and even the emotions and sentiments hallowed by time have been challenged by almost incredible advances brought about by it and so the literature in the ultimate analysis is the frozen experience of individuals.

The notion of Science and Technology could be explained when the word 'scientist' coined by Rev. William Whewell in 1840 superseded the term 'natural philosopher' and its classification in 19th century as biology, chemistry..It is the attempt to understand and interpret the world; technology is the systematic study of techniques for making and doing things. Technology is the application of science to the practical aims of human life or as it is sometimes phrased, to the change and manipulation of the human environment. Technology created new tools and machines with which the scientists were able to achieve an ever-increasing insight into the natural world.

The scientific method, as summarized by Eastwood, (1961 : Xii) is, "first, the recognition of a problem; secondly, the consideration of relevant phenomena by appropriate technique, experimental and mathematical; thirdly, the formulation – and this is an act of invention or imaginative discovery of a theory to account for the phenomena; lastly, the experimental testing and verification of the theory which, if adequate to explain the facts and so long as experimentally and observational un contradicted, is taken as an acceptable working explanation or law of nature until some better explanation is forthcoming. Relationship between literature, and science and technology can be understood as: both are mostly concerned with the experiences of human beings. Both the artist and the scientist seek something which they think is real. Their methods are different. The scientist sets his brain to work and by a slow process of trial and error, after a long experiment and enquiry he finds his answer. This is usually an exciting moment.

CONCLUSION

The results of this study amply prove the hypothesis with which we started the investigation. We have been able to gather sufficient evidence to show the impact of Science and Technology on English poetry over the last three centuries, that is, from 1660 to 1990. We have been able to trace the influence on as many as 115 poems written by 62 different poets. Out of these we discovered a direct impact of Science and Technology in 70 poems and an oblique reference in 45 poems. Among the poets who have reached to the discoveries, inventions or advancements in Science and Technology are some of the major and the most representative poets of their periods.

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