

Wordsworth Theory of Poetic Diction

B.A. Part III (Hons) English
Paper V

Wordsworth's arguments boils into the idea that in "rustic life" the "essential passions" the "elementary feelings" putting from a communion with nature are simple and easy to comprehend. The conformities between the experience and expression cannot be more than in Wordsworth. The life of rustic furnishes the poet with the sincere feeling and simple expression. The adoption of the language of men leads to the rejection of ~~man~~ certain streak that are conventionally associated with the diction.

Wordsworth dwells at length upon the factors responsible for the creation of the poetic as edited by later and inferior poets. The earliest part of all nations generally wrote from passion. "excited by real events". So whatever figurative expression one finds in these poets is sanctioned by the genuine passion. But poets in later period simply imitated the language unmindful of the fact whether or not it was called for. This language transmitted from one generation to another resulted in the poetic diction. Wordsworth has revived the language of the earliest poets in the return to the language really used by men.

A layman in a common conversation expresses himself not in the poetry but in prose. It is the language of conversation, the language that rustics use in their daily life that Wordsworth adopts with some modification. From this it follows that the language of prose, or of common conversation for that matter and the language of poetry are basically identical. Hence Wordsworth asserts that there neither is nor can be any essential difference between the language of the prose and metrical composition. The only distinguishing feature of the poetry Wordsworth contends is

passion it does not point to any passion associated difference between the two language.

~~Coleridge~~ Coleridge objects to Wordsworth theory of poetic diction on three grounds. He objects to Wordsworth view that the language of prose and that of metrical composition is the same. Secondly Coleridge feels that ~~the~~ a particular image may be well used by a poet. Repetition of images used by other poet is not always a sign of weakness.

But Coleridge's commentary on Wordsworth's concept of language of poet is far from satisfactory. He has done justice to poetry but unjust to Wordsworth.

He considers the language of poetry in general

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Whereas Wordsworth talks about the language of a particular type of poetry

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