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JALT

THE PRESENTATION OF SPIRITUALITY THROUGH NATURE IN THE POETRY OF ALLAMA MUHAMMAD IQBAL AND ROBERT FROST: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

AYSHA AYUB
BS English 8th Semester Student, Department of English and Modern Languages, UST Bannu
ayshaayub965@gmail.com
***Dr. IHSAN ULLAH KHAN**
Chairman Department Of English And Modern Languages, University Of Science And Technology Bannu
ihsanlakki@yahoo.com

ABSTRACT
This paper attempts to investigate the presentation of spirituality through nature in poetry of two renowned Poets. It is a comparative study of Allama Iqbal s' "Aik Arzoo" and Robert Frost s' "A Prayer in spring". This study attempts to address the question of how the ideas in the poetry of Robert Frost and Allama Iqbal match. It also explores the elements of spirituality in their poetry, and the role of nature in the exploration of spirituality. Through textual analysis, this study examines how Robert Frost and Allma Iqbal present the same idea of spirituality through nature imagery in their poetry. Robert frost and Allama Iqbal, two poets from different cultures, have expressed the same meaning of spirituality. They use nature as a metaphor for spirituality. The comparison shows that humans can find spirituality and contentment in natural places and, when one is spiritually connected to God, one can find true purpose in life; show thankfulness to God, and find satisfaction. Therefore nature has a great influence on humans and enhances our spirituality.

Introduction
Allama Iqbal was a poet, politician, and philosopher. He wrote his poetry in Urdu, Arabic and Persian, and was one of the greatest poets of modern era. He played a vital role in the vision of an independent state for the Muslims (Amanullah 2023). The Iqbal poetry portrays khudi. Khudi means soul. The basic theme of his poetry is that those who realize their own self can change the world, and those who know their own secrets can solve the secrets of the world (Asim S et al, 2020).

Robert frost was an American poet known for his realistic depictions of rural life in "New England and for his Command of American Colloquial Speech". As he is known for realistic depictions of rural life, that's why his poetry is about ordinary people in everyday situations. He is the first most honored American poet of 20th century who received four time Pulitzer Prize for poetry (Gerber 2024, p. 1). In Robert Frost poetry we can find the spirit; it may be the spirit through which we can explore the meaning of life. He wrote about the nature because at that time nature was ignored; importance was given to money and materialism (Yang 2017).

Spirituality means one's inner self and one's positivity; it's the inner relationship of oneself with god or transcendence. "The etymological root of the word 'spirit comes from the Latin root 'spiritus,' meaning breath, courage, vigor the soul life, or from spirare; to blow or to breath" (Rajesh, Nair 2012, p. 2). "David hay (1998) suggested: he was referring spirituality simply to sensitive awareness. We sometimes speak of a person as spiritual because they have a delicacy of appreciation for poetry or music, or perhaps a compassionate concern for people around them." Spirituality may be the relationship of one with human also, and in religion with God, it's about one's self-realization, or identity, and about our responses to challenges, human worldly desire, death, suffering, beauty, and disappointed. Being spiritual means, being sensitive, calm, positive, compassionate (Hay, 1998, as cited in Pike 2000, P. 178).

The study attempts to answer the following research questions:

1. How do ideas match in the poetry of Allama Iqbal and Robert frost?

ISSN E: 2709-8273
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JOURNAL OF APPLIED LINGUISTICS AND TESOL

2. What elements of spirituality do we find in the poetry of Allama Iqbal and Robert frost?

The study endeavors to achieve the following research objectives:

- To compare the poetry of Allama Muhammad Iqbal and Robert frost.
- To explore the elements of spirituality in the two poets.

Statement of the problem:

Spirituality is a very important aspect of human life. Spirituality is the essence of human existence. The purpose and meaning of human life can be determined by spirituality. Regrettably, people today are unaware of the importance of spirituality. Spirituality is related to the soul and the soul is related to the God. Human beings can create a society full of love, peace and humanity by having a spiritual essence in their soul. The research will feature Allama Iqbal and Robert frost, poets from different cultural backgrounds, who used nature as a universal catalyst for the pursuit of spirituality and transcendent ideas in poetry. This study shows poetry as a universal language, sharing the same emotion and feelings of spirituality.

So the exploration of spirituality through nature in poetry invites readers towards the journey of self-discovery, relation with God, gratitude towards God; and foster a deeper understanding and empathy among individuals from diverse cultural backgrounds.

Literature Review

When a human being is born, they require numerous material aspects to farm their physical appearance, but there is also a soul (spirit) that connects them to the spiritual realm.

Allama Iqbal and Spirituality

The whole world is under the influence of materialism, and Iqbal proposed a solution to this problem. “Humanity needs three things today a spiritual interpretation of the universe, spiritual emancipation of the individual and basic principles of a universal import directing the evolution of the human society on a spiritual basis” (zeffer 2020, p. 260). Allama Iqbal’s poetry establishes a profound connection with the divine through symbolism, drawing heavily from the Quran, Islamic history, Sufi mysticism, and nature. This intricate web of symbolism leads to spiritual thoughts, revealing the deeper meaning of the text. Iqbal poetry is remarkably rich in themes of divine love, the transience of the material world, and the exploration of the soul. Through his vivid imagery and symbolism, Iqbal invites readers to embark on journey of self-discovery and spirituality. He frequently employs the term of “khudi” in his poetry, emphasizing the important of self-awareness and self-actualization in spiritual growth.by drawing upon both the Islam world and tradition, Iqbal symbolism represents profound spiritual truth (Hanif, Akram 2023).

Robert Frost and Spirituality

Like Allama Iqbal, Robert frost was also a philosophical pastoral poet, and like allama Iqbal, he uses natural symbols to explore the nature of human and meaning of real life. He never romanticizes these things, but uses the forest, flowers, spring all to show human nature. He wrote his poetry in a philosophical way that provides guidance to people, guides actions. The condition of that time full of materialism and consumerism. In these conditions, he wanted to show the beauty of life and nature, which was ignored by the people of that time (yang 2017). He was also a traditional poet and his poetry depicts the tranquility of natural places where one can find spirituality or inner peace. He shows harmony with nature in his poems and uses simple language to show the harmony between people and nature (Zeng 2024).

By spiritual element we mean a particle that is not physically present, but in the form of spiritual energy, is associated with the concept of the soul or the divine. The concept of spiritualty is varies from tradition to tradition. Sometimes it is about sacred leaders, sometimes about holy spirits, about various forces that control the universe. These energies are beyond the metaphysical world and are related to consciousness and matter. The goal is to awaken one

ISSN E: 2709-8273
ISSN P:2709-8265
JOURNAL OF APPLIED LINGUISTICS AND TESOL
JALT

through the soul (spiritualty). One can seek it as a connection with the universe, self-realization, goals or purpose, or through love and compassion (youvan 2024). It is related to the desire for perfection, where the desire for external perfection leads to internal perfection. By perfection we mean a desire where a person establishes a perfect relationship with themselves, the world, and the divine (thadathil 2010).

Nature

Lust for power, materialism, artificiality, money game, as soon as all these things come into the life of modern man, as a result, man starts suffering from problems and difficulties of life. And then this debate starts about what is essential for life and man. Then as a result, man returns to nature, to his soil. Wordsworth invites all people to nature to remember all the truths of life from it. Poetry and nature are related to each other.in traditional literature, nature means the praise of god, and "the assorted objects of nature were personified as gods nod goddesses. Chaucer, the father of English poetry, has also expressed his love for nature in his poetry. The word nature has been taken in two meanings, one is that it refers to all things like the sea, animals, nature etc. Such as production, growth, sea, mountain, plants etc. The second sense is that it is the power or force that organizes or regulate the world. Both these meanings can be seen in the poetry of eighteenth century. Nature plays a very important role in poetry. Writers often express their feelings through nature in the form of concepts such as life and death, love, spirituality, joy, inspiration, joy, inspiration and wisdom etc (Sharma, chundawat 2021, p. 8).

Methodology

Research Design

This research employed a qualitative research design rather than quantitative research. Qualitative research is a type of research approach that allows us to gain a deeper understanding of a phenomenon or issue through non numerical data, such as text, images or observations (ugwac 2023). Instead quantitative research a research approach that deals with questions such as "how long", "how many", and "the degree to which". It focusing on a numerical data (ghanad 2023). The researcher used qualitative research because the research is not based on any numerical data, rather it is opinion based on a comparative study of the poetry of Allama Iqbal and Robert frost, both of whom share the same theme of spirituality and nature in their poetry. The application of qualitative research is an excellent aid for comparative studies, through which researcher can identify similarities and differences between the two poets. Primary and secondary data was required for the study. Primary data is the original data which came directly from the poems while secondary data from other articles and published research (ajayi 2023).

Data Collection

The data for this study has been collected from the poems of Allama Iqbal and Robert frost. Specifically, data is collected from the poem "Aik Arzoo" by Allama Iqbal in the book "Bang-e-Dara".

The second poem used for data collection is "A Prayer in spring" by Robert frost.

I chose these two poems because through them, researchers can easily study the theme of spirituality through the nature of both poets in a comprehensive way. And both poems contain content that can highlight the same themes of spirituality in nature.

Data Analysis

This data has been analyzed through textual analysis. Textual analysis is a research methodology in which we analyze and interpret text. It may be written documents, images, videos, or oral transcripts. Textual analysis involves systematically examining and interpreting the language structure, meaning of the text to find out the themes, and messages within a text (Frey, Kreps 1999).This is a thematic analysis approach. The text has been analyzed through

ISSN E: 2709-8273
ISSN P:2709-8265
JOURNAL OF APPLIED LINGUISTICS AND TESOL
JALT

various methods such as themes, imagery, and symbolism. Through this textual analysis, the central theme of nature and spirituality has been compared.

Both poet shows nature as a source to gain spirituality.

Robert Frost in his poem "A Prayer in spring" has spoken in a very simple way on the subject of spirituality, as:

Oh, give us pleasure in the flowers to-day
And give us not to think so far away.

Here by "oh" he refers to God, or something supernatural, that created the whole world (nature). And he connects his relationship with God through the help of nature as shown by "flowers today". He wants to enjoy the God's great creation and uses nature as a connection between himself and God.

While here the "us" represents the common people, all humankinds, because it is a prayer. This prayer presents a demonstration of affection, love and tenderness towards others, which gives a broad sense of correction and connection between society and people. So Robert frost just wants to enjoy these days and connect with his God through nature and not think about or complain about the bad days of life.

Iqbal's poetry is also full of natural imagery through which one can find spirituality. He pray to invite people to a spiritual journey as:

راتوں کو چلنے والے راہ جائے تھک کے جس دم
When night's travelers falter behind with fatigue
امید انکی میری ٹوٹا ہوا دیا ہو
Their only hope my broken earthenware lamp may be
بجلی چمک کے ان کو کٹیا میری دکھا دے
May the lighting lead them to my hut
جب آسمان پہ ہر سو بادل گھرا ہوا ہو
When clouds hovering over the whole sky be

Here we learn a lesson of love for humanity. As "night travelers" are those who are in trouble, or in despair, have no self-realization or not on the path of God, that's way Iqbal is praying here that those who have lost courage, make me a means for them too. He says that they too have seen my courage, my lamp, even though his lamp itself is broken, because he too is in search of spirituality, peace and self, but he still wants others to have courage, so this also a prayer. He uses the natural phenomena of the "lighting sky" to establish his connection with God and says that when someone is surrounded by darkness, you will show them my hut, so that he can find himself and you (God) in tis peaceful environment, Iqbal has described a beautiful natural place as a means of meeting God.

Both poets have shown natural places in their poems where they want to live in peace and be grateful to God.

In the stanza below, Robert Frost writes on the theme of peace, happiness, spring and shows gratitude.

As the uncertain harvest keep us here
All simple in the springing of the year

He just wants to enjoy the present moment, which is a place full of natural things as he mentioned as "in the springing of the year". He did not want to think about the future, the upcoming difficulties and worries of life, but wanted to connect with god by appreciating this beauty of nature. And he advises all the people to do the same. By "uncertain harvest" he means that he does not know what is going to happen next, but he wants to enjoy the current environment (spring). So the poet says that keep us happy, and keep us always thankful, without being worried about future. And uses the world "us" which means he wants everyone to connect with God.

ISSN E: 2709-8273
ISSN P:2709-8265
JOURNAL OF APPLIED LINGUISTICS AND TESOL
JALT

Iqbal also mentions the same theme of happiness, enjoyment, and spirituality in peaceful place, while focusing on his self and connection with god.

مرتا ہوں خاموشی پر یہ آرزو ہے میری
I vehemently desire silence, I strongly long that
دامن میں کوہ کے ایک چھوٹا سا جھونپڑا ہو
A small hut in the mountains side May there be
آزاد فکر سے ہوں ،عزلت میں دن گزاروں
Freed from worry I may live in retirement
دنیا کے غم کا دل سے کانٹا نکل گیا ہو
Freed from the cares of the world I may be

He says that "I vehemently desire silence" a natural place in the mountains where there is only a "small hut" without worldly material desires, Iqbal wants to live there, and he wants to be free from the fear of the future or the worry of the present. And he wants a deep connection with God through spirituality. Which is achieved when a person is free from the worries of the world as "freed from the cares of the world" and sits in a spiritual place and establishes a connection with God, and trust in God and this spiritual place and pleasantness are present in nature, as "a small hut" in mountains, where anyone can make a connection with his God without worried about worldly desires.

In the below lines, Robert frost describes natural phenomena in more depth to find the theme of joy, thankfulness, and spirituality.as:

Oh give us pleasure in the orchard white
Like nothing else by day like ghost by night
And makes us happy in the happy bees
The swarm dilating round the perfect trees

Robert describes the process of finding joy in the spring as in "orchard white", reflecting the fact that nature has a great influence on the humans mind. When a person is spiritually connected to God, he always thanks God, as the poet wants to be connected to God; then he asks God to make me such a person that I am satisfied in the "orchard white", when I see the garden full of white flowers. The poet is spiritually connected to God, and he thanks even though the fruits are still in its early stages, but he thinks that even the fruits are come and this shows his faith in God, because he does not worry about how and when these white flowers will turn into fruits, and he is happy in today's time and is not worried about the night of life, how things appear in night; all this also metaphorically shows the cycle of life, so that a person does not worry in the early stages of sorrow and suffering but instead enjoys the day, not thinking about the darkness of the night. Here the repetition of the same word "oh" reveals God, meaning that one can find oneself and ones joy in natural places and then he finds satisfaction there which ultimately leads man to spirituality. "Like a ghost in the night" this line shows the satisfaction of Robert frost that he is very grateful to god. He is sitting in nature and finding himself and not worrying about future and even the poet finds satisfaction in the night like a ghost. Robert frost talks about various natural phenomena such as bees, a proof of God and God's great creation "spreading over the perfect trees, all of which reveals a subtlety, satisfaction and love towards nature and shows their satisfaction because their nectar is enough for them. And this all things lead him to talk to god through nature in the form of prayer (i.e. spirituality).

Iqbal's poetry is also full of natural imagery, just as Robert frost enjoyed spring he also enjoys spring. The lines below indicate that Iqbal finds happiness in nature and that is what leads him to spirituality as:

لذت سرور کی ہو چڑیوں کے چہچہوں میں
Birds chirping may give the pleasure of the lyre

ISSN E: 2709-8273
ISSN P:2709-8265
JOURNAL OF APPLIED LINGUISTICS AND TESOL
JALT

چشمہ کے شورشوں میں باجا سا بج رہا ہو
In the spring's noise may the orchestra's melody be
گل کی کلی چٹک کر پیغام دے کسی کا
The flower bud bursting may give gods message to me
ساغر ذرا سا گویا مجھ کو جہاں نما ہو
Showing the while world to me this small vine cup may be

Iqbal also enjoys siting in natural places shown by the "chirping and tweeting of birds". Iqbal easily connect with God in places where there is water, trees, flowers, birds and other natural scenes. He finds satisfaction and joy in even a small sign of nature, and he is grateful to see this beautiful creation of God, such as the opening of a bud, and he says that getting this small sign from God is everything to me and he feels that it is as if God is talking to me and that is enough for him as "showing the while world to me this small vine cup may be", it shows spirituality. It means he takes nature as a symbol of meeting God and this is the best example of finding spirituality through nature.

At the below lines Robert Frost describes the environment he near, he wants an environment away from the materialistic world where he can find happiness through nature and establish his relationship with god to show his gratitude. He says:

And makes us happy in the darting birds
That suddenly above the bees is hear d
The meteor that thrust in with needle bill
And off a blossom in midair stands still

He himself rejoices in spring and in natural places, and wishes happiness and joy for all. Spirituality is gratitude to God, and birds also rejoice in thanking God, as they circle around the perfect trees, they are very happy, just like Robert frost also wants to be happy like birds. Birds, flowers, and bees all these present nature as a human friendly environment, through which man can find contentment, spiritualty and happiness. He point out the very small symbol of nature as the fall of the leaves is characterized by meteor. While enjoying the spring season, they are so happy that they touch the flowers with their beaks, which makes their leaves line up in a row that looks exactly like a "meteor". Robert also wants the same kind of happiness. And this peace and happiness is actually spirituality. Its shows the wisdom of one when someone connect with nature and satisfaction. Frost finds spirituality and joy in all these natural things, escaping from the materialistic world. He repeats "we" which shows that he wants all people to reconnect with nature, and to find themselves, and the true purpose of life, and spirituality.

Iqbal also wants a place full of natural imagery that is far from worldly desires and wants satisfaction in nature, which eventually leads to spirituality.

ہو ہاتھ کا سرھانہ، سبزے کا ہو بچھونا
My arm may be my pillow, and the green grass may bed be
شرمائے جس سے جلوت ،خلوت میں وہ ادا ہو
Putting the congregation to shame my solitudes quality be
صورت سے میری بلبل مانوس اس قدر ہو
The nightingale be so familiar with my face that
ننھے سے دل میں اس کے کھٹکا نہ کچھ مرا ہو
Her little heart harboring no fear from me may be

Iqbal here point out and criticizes the materialistic lifestyle, saying that he wants "the green grass to be my bed", and says that perhaps it is a source of shame for the people of world, but I want to do this when I am alone. This shows his contentment and satisfaction in nature. When someone connects with god or is on the path of self-realization, he expresses love and affection for all things, and finds wisdom in everything and a hint from God in everything. Similarly,

ISSN E: 2709-8273
ISSN P:2709-8265
JOURNAL OF APPLIED LINGUISTICS AND TESOL
JALT

Iqbal expressing his love for God's creation, says that the little heart of a nightingale should not feel afraid of me. So he shows self-realization and spirituality through the reflection of nature.

In the last lines, Robert Frost has summed up the whole meaning of spirituality the expression of nature in his poem.

For this is love and nothing else is love
The which it is reserved for god above
To sanctify to what far ends he well
But which it only needs that we fulfil.

He is talking about love that should be reserved for God alone. And the definition love is to trust in God, to find satisfaction in his company, to express gratitude towards God etc. And this is exactly what Robert frost is saying, that love should be reserved to God, as spirituality, trusted in God ,satisfaction in his company and to show gratefulness towards God and not blaming the bad days of life, and believe in God is the complete form of spirituality. He further says that if one practice it, then all the requirement s of love are fulfilled by it. The true form of spirituality, the love and the satisfaction, connection, gratefulness believe in God, the poet already tasted in his poem, through many natural concepts in his poetry, which ultimately lead to spirituality.

Allama Iqbal also shows the true intentions of his poem by dedicating it to god, as:

پھولوں کو آئے جس دم شبنم وضو کرنے
When the dew may come to perform the flowers ablution
رونا میرا وضو ہو ،نالا میری دعا ہو
May wailing May supplication, weeping May ablution be
اس خاموشی میں جائیں اتنے بلند نالے
In this silence may my hearts wailing rise so high
تاروں کے قافلوں کو میری صدا درا ہو ۔
That for stars caravan the clarions call may wailing be

Here he is very content and in a high state of relationship with God. He uses the metaphor of flowers and dew in the context of ablution. This is the best example of nature and spirituality. Here the crying and lamentation do not show the poet s worry, sorrow, trouble but it is the language of contentment, greatness and love, of those who feel a high connection with god.so behind this crying is gratitude for the blessings, gratitude for the connection or spirituality and gratitude for the wisdom of gaining knowledge. In the context of ablution, this crying also shows these tears as a spiritual act that cleanses one from bad thoughts, ego and sins. Iqbal only wants to cry and lament which is compared to ablution, a cleansing act and an act of purity for Muslims. This is a prayer, and here tears are shown as a language or a mean of connection with god. Therefor it is also a way of purification. The poet wants to cry loudly that reaches beyond the stars, that is, directly to God. Further lines of this poem indicate that he wants all people to wake up and connect with god by ending wordily desires in natural places, so he wants to meet god in natural places, which mean a connection and the connection is called spirituality.

So the poetry of both poets is imbued with natural places and spirituality.

Discussion

This comparative study of Allama Iqbal "Aik Arzo" and Robert Frost "A Prayer in spring"" reveals that both the poets use natural imagery to express deep theme of spirituality. Despite the difference that both belong to different cultures, both present the same idea of spiritualty. They both use nature as a source of satisfaction, gratitude towards God, self-realization, self-discovery, love for God, wisdom, affection for all. To reject world desires, the both poets has depicted nature in a way that brings satisfaction. In both poems, the poets use natural phenomenon. Robert frost gives his message through nature, in the form of sparing season in

ISSN E: 2709-8273
ISSN P:2709-8265
JOURNAL OF APPLIED LINGUISTICS AND TESOL
JALT

which spirituality, rebirth, satisfaction, gratitude to God and prayer are manifested. That all people should turn to spirituality, live a life full of satisfaction, and establish a relationship with God through the nature this is the message and prayer for everyone. Iqbal also shows a place full of natural scenery and desires the same place, the natural phenomena he shows are a symbol of spring. Iqbal also give the same idea and message of spirituality, a life full of satisfaction and connection to god for all people in a form of message and prayer. Both the poets present the same meaning and theme through the same subject which is natural scenery, it is true that both the poets talk about the same spirit of spirituality without any cultural and religious connection, and both the poets present the connection of natural phenomena with human life through their poetry. Iqbal's poetry is closely related to Islamic Sufism and mysticism, while Robert frost poetry is influenced by western philosophical traditions such as romanticism and transcendentalism. Despite this difference, the poetry of both poets has a common theme of spirituality. Both depicts similar natural phenomena and human situations that offer deeper meaning and purpose. Both seek to initiate people's journey towards spirituality. Both poems highlights similar shared human experiences and seek to transform people worldly materialistic desires through the natural world spirituality, and contentment. This shows that nature and spirituality are very closely related. Nature is a source of satisfaction, pleasure, and self-realization. It give us wisdom about the world, force us to think, leads us to truth, help us to understand the real goals of life, and ultimately leads to gratitude to god which lead s to spirituality.

Summary of Findings

This comparative study of Allama Iqbal and Robert Frost highlights the theme of spirituality through nature in their poems "Aik Arzo" and "A prayer in spring. Both Iqbal and frost express the same theme of spirituality through natural imagery. Both poets use metaphors and symbols such as birds, light, trees, mountains and many other natural phenomena to show the relationship between nature and spirituality. This poetry is in the form of prayer for everyone, and both of theme themselves have the same desire and prayer that they too can connect with god peacefully in natural landscapes they also express their love for god and find satisfaction, and this spirituality achieved through nature also becomes a source of love between people. Despite the lack of any culture similarities, both poets present the same theme of spirituality in their poetry in the form of prayer for all and use nature as a means of strengthening the connection with god. Both poets reveal the same theme of self-discovery and then establishing a connection with god in the context of natural phenomena. They both express felling of gratitude towards god, and express their love for god, for themselves (khudi), and for other human beings by using nature as a medium.

Conclusion

Finally, this comparative study of Allama Iqbal "Aik Arzo" and Robert frost "a prayer in spring" shows the concept of spirituality through natural imagery in poetry. This comparative study also show the relationship between these tree elements poetry, nature and spirituality. From perspective of two different poets. Both these two poets enhance the perception of spirituality and one can find true purpose of life, self-awareness, satisfaction through natural imagery, it shows that man should always be grateful to god, and in connection with god, and show gratitude which is the language of love and loves god and shows affection for the creation of god. So this study show that one can find satisfaction in nature, and can find spirituality. Therefore, this comparative study highlights the same theme of spirituality through nature in the poetry of the two poets in different cultural contexts.

Recommendations

Exploring spirituality through nature in poetry is an effective means, as this study also shows, it is clear that nature plays a very important role in the spiritual experiences of man. This

ISSN E: 2709-8273
ISSN P:2709-8265
JOURNAL OF APPLIED LINGUISTICS AND TESOL

comparative study of Allma Iqbal "Aik Arzo" and Robert frost" "a prayer in spring" reveals the same theme of spirituality.

Here I am giving some recommendations based on the results of my research.

Implications of nature based spirituality in institutions: This research suggests that nature plays a very important role in the search of spirituality. Nature based spirituality can be enhanced if we include nature based poetry in our curriculum. This can be achieved by including poetry and literature that is nature based. Outdoor activities also promote self-development and spiritualty.

The Idea of Nature and Spirituality with the Context of Culture: The researchers can broaden this idea of nature and spirituality by looking at cultural differences that do not affect this phenomenon, nature and spirituality.

The Effects of Nature Poetry on Society are as follows: Nature leads us to spirituality, so natural poetry can enhance spirituality, and it is the role of nature based poetry that creates love between people and helps them understand the true purpose of life. This can also be achieved through classroom activities in institutions so that this idea can be implemented in them or in a particular community.

Future researchers can study Robert frost and Allama Iqbal in more depth to explore this topic and their similarities in other topics.

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