

ABSTRACT

Dylan Thomas, a famous poet, playwright, short-story writer, screen writer and novelist is one of the spectacular poets of English literature. His works are universally known for musical quality of language, comic and visionary scenes and unique imagery. He is widely regarded as one of the 20th century's most influential lyrical poets and amongst the finest as such of all time. His acclaim is due to the force and vitality of his themes and techniques in his poetry, which are uniquely brilliant and inspirational.

Dylan defined poetry as "Poetry is what makes us laugh or cry or yawn, what makes my toenails twinkle, what makes me want to do this or that or nothing. All that matters about poetry is the enjoyment of it however tragic it may be." He further adds that "the joy and function of poetry is and was the celebration of man which is the celebration of God." Thomas's poetry is marked by vivid metaphors, symbols, use of Christian and Freudian imagery, musical quality and celebration of wonder and growth and death. He applied an opaque style to get perfection. His obscure poems contained elements of surrealism and personal fantasy, which is what draws readers to them, to reveal the universality of the experiences with which they are concerned. His life had little relevance to his poetry; his love for it came from words rather than ideas.

Dylan Thomas is indeed the central figure of Anglo-Welsh literature. By birth he was a Welsh but as a writer he was British even he preferred English language over his own Welsh language, which he could speak scarcely. Despite this, his poetry is remarkable for the richness of Welsh culture and tradition. Thomas has used the Celtic Bardic tradition in his poetry which depicts the very influence of his Welsh heritage.

Arataf

P Tyagi

His poetry was impacted not only by Welsh culture but also by British and American cultures. His poetry was a rejection of the trends of the 20th Century poetry. He devoted himself to his passionately felt emotions while his contemporaries were writing about contemporary serious issues. He was more associated with the romantics than with the poets of his own era.

Thomas also followed the trends of British culture like Eliot, Auden and others. His existential humanist quality also focused on death and immortality which led him to the recognition of religious sense. He has been associated with 'spiritually orphaned generation' like Auden and other modern writers who were trapped between the two World Wars. Thomas was very conscious about his craft and it was painstaking art for him. When he struggled with painful and tyrannical feelings, he turned his suffering into thoughts and expressed it through his poetry which was full of mysticism. Due to his painstaking efforts he could win the great acclaim and respect of the large audience in America. Dylan was greatly impacted by the cultural trends of America. He believed in transcendentalism and individualism like Americans. Also his poetry reflects a revolt against the established traditions of society, which is the chief attribute of Americans. His representation of self and soul, and his experiments with the forms and structure along with metre, rhythm show other tendencies of American literature. He was influenced by American poets like Walt Whitman, Robert Frost and Emily Dickinson etc. Though he was influenced by many writers but his art is quite distinguished from others, it is unique and brilliant in itself. Nobody can deny the fact that he was one of the great writers of the twentieth century. He sang only for himself, his fears and terrors of his gothic horrors and his own decay and disintegration. Though there are some faults in his poetry but he owes his permanence and universal appeal due to his artistic sincerity.

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