

A Literary Analysis of Love and Liberty in the Poetry of Percy Bysshe Shelley

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Abstract

This research is a comprehensive literary analysis of the themes of love and liberty portrayed in the poetry of Percy Bysshe Shelley. Although, beauty, nature, creativity, sanctified imagination, love, liberty and loss are the common celebrated themes of Romantic period, but here we will have a meticulous inquiry into the Shelley's poetic works and will uncover multifaceted nature of love and liberty as illustrated by this Romantic poet. Furthermore, this research analyzes those ideas and elements which develop the theme of love and liberty. The study is based on qualitative method of research which incorporates Textual Analysis Method of research. The study conforms to theoretical framework of Romanticism and provide a comprehensive solution to the research problem. The framework is developed after reviewing previous literature related to this research. Two types of data are employed in this study; primary data and secondary data. Primary data is taken from five poems of Shelley, while secondary data is collected from online journals, research articles and web pages. The selected poems are analyzed through the theoretical framework of Romanticism. The findings of this research reveal that the themes of love and liberty pervade the poetry of Shelley. The study aims to provide new vistas to the current scholarly discourse on Romantic poetry. It elucidates Shelley's poetical work that revolves around the undying themes of love and liberty that enralls readers across generations. This research is important for its meticulous inquiry into the poetry of Shelley to discover the veiled philosophy of love and liberty. It is significant, because it familiarizes the readers about Shelley's stylistic use of language, imagery and symbolism for better portrayal of meanings.

Keywords: Explore, Theme, Love, Liberty, Poetry, Percy Bysshe Shelley.

Introduction

Percy Bysshe Shelley was an English Romantic poet who was born on 4th of August 1792 and died on 8th of July 1822 at the age of 29 only. He is one of the major English Romantic poets and belongs to the second generation of romantic era of English literature as Byron and Keats. His contributions to English poetry and literature got recognition after his demise. His influence on his era and the subsequent generations of writers and poets, like, Browning, Swinburne, Hardy and Yeats is a proof of his poetical genius. Besides, "a great Romantic Poet, Shelley was also a political radical influenced by thinkers such as Rousseau, Paine, Godwin, Wollstonecraft, and Leigh Hunt" Harold (2004).

Shelley manifests his quest for love in his poetry that acts as one of the major themes. "For Shelley, the upholding and uplifting power in men and their societies is love (or Imagination), whose

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language is poetry or any kind of beauty". In his poetry, he emphasizes the importance of understanding interconnectivity and the fact that the world is connected bit by bit through the spirit of love. He believes that since human are already connected through love, therefore, they should come together as lovers. Love has broadened in Shelley's thought to an ethical principle: "the sole law which should govern the moral world" (Ridenour, 1967, p. 67).

Besides, love as the major theme of Shelley's poetry, liberty also possesses the same thematic value therein. Shelley imagines liberty, leading humanity into the light of wisdom, love, and hope, the qualities linked to human perseverance in the quest toward happiness and creativity. "The theme of liberty is well manifested in Shelley's "Ode to Liberty" that praises freedom as indispensable for human creativity, as a "creative absolute" (Wasserman, 1971, p. 402).

Therefore, the aim of this research is to analyze the more captivating elements; the love and liberty as major themes. The study is confined to those poems that have vast contribution to the spirit of love and liberty. From the literary analysis of Shelley's poetry, it can be concluded that the themes of love and liberty are ornately interwoven in his poetry. Through a meticulous examination of selected works of Shelley, we probe into the rich mosaic of Shelley's poetic vision, to unsnarl the lasting themes of love and liberty that continue to reverberate with readers across generations.

Background of the Study

Romanticism has been a literary movement emerged in the early 19th century with the publication of lyrical ballads by William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge. It is generally accepted that William Wordsworth, Samuel Taylor Coleridge and Southey belongs to the first generation of Romantic era, while, Keats, Shelley and Byron are affiliated with the second generation. This literary movement revolves around reverence for nature and supernatural, the expression of thoughts and emotions freely without any external constraint. According to Davis, A. B., et al. (2012) Romantic period (1780-1860) was not only limited to its pioneers or first generation but continue through second generation till the beginning of Modernism (1870-1950).

Shelley belongs to the second generation of Romantics poets and has followed the very footsteps of early Romantics, like Wordsworth and Coleridge. Besides, love for nature, criticism over political norms, mysticism and supernaturalism, the notion of free love and liberty has also its roots in the poetry of Shelley. In the notes for his poem *Queen Mab* (1813), Percy Shelley declares that "love is free."

The philosophy of free love he also followed when it came to his own intimate relationships: he rejected monogamy, and tried to convince the women in his life to do the same. Shelley viewed that his philosophy of Platonic love implied a rejection, because sexual relationship is exclusive to it. The mere reason behind when we fall in love is beauty wherever we perceive it, indeed we cannot resist doing so, and beauty can be found in many different people in different perspectives. So, it is necessary that love must be free from all sorts of restrictions. The essence of true love is its freedom and thus rebels against platonic love. Sex and love are inseparable, because a lover views his love as complete one, when his /her sexual desires are fulfilled.

The other neglected aspect of Shelley's poetry is his strong will for liberty. In his poem, "Ode to Liberty", liberty is compared to a force of nature sweeping the globe, where "tyrants and slaves are like shadows of night" which will disappear in "the van of the morning light" (1824) Prometheus Unbound, (820). The west wind indicate his strong wish for liberty. The idea that liberty is essential in a life well lived runs through Ode to the West Wind (1819). This is seen especially in the fourth section of the poem, in which the poet praises this peculiar feature of the

wind that it is uncontrollable and free from all types of curtailments and restrictions. He also commemorate his days of early childhood and compares it to the west wind, when he used to be free from all sort of constraints.

Statement of the Problem

A plethora of research has addressed the multifaceted aspects of the poetry of Shelley. It is an open secret that great literary text whether prose or poetry reflects the general beliefs system and social manifestation of the age in which it is composed. The researchers, while exploring a specific literary text keep in consideration it's historical, social, cultural, and contextual background in consideration. Literary texts are produced in a social context, therefore have some affects incurred by the social environment and vice versa in case of a literary giant. Percy Bysshe Shelley is a prominent literary figure, so, attempts have been done to explore various aspects of his poetry. The present study aims to analyze his poetry with respect to the theme of love and liberty. The problem of the study is basically associated with Shelley's poetic work making special reference to his pursuit of love and liberty. This is the precise issue which will be addressed via this research. It is noteworthy that other thematic studies about the poetry of Shelley have ignored the theme of love and liberty as twin. Therefore, we need to know about it in this study at length.

Significance of the Study

The present study is of great importance, because it will open up to new horizons in the existing body of literature about the poetical work of Percy Bysshe Shelley. It will give basic and essential understandings about the poetical work of this prominent Romantic poet with reference to the theme of love and liberty and their inter relationship. Moreover, the study will also familiarize the common about the love poetry of Shelley and the sense of liberty therein. The poet will get a new identity to be called a love poet as well as a free singing bird due to the sense of liberty in his poetry. The study will focus only on those poems which reflects love and liberty. Shelley is regarded as literary giant of English literature and his poetry is also studied for that reason. This study will divert the attention of scholars and researchers to a new thematic studies in the literary genre of poetry.

Literature Review

Love is the most intense feeling and most sought after from conception to death till man finishes his excursion of life on earth (Luhmann, 1986). This intense feeling of love has been chased by Shelley all his life. Therefore, he is known as the poet of love as Keats is of beauty. Of all the romantic poets, PB Shelley sketched out the mystery of love in ethics, a recognizable proof of self with the beautiful and excellent that existed in thought, activity or individual (Kanwar, 2014). His elopement with different girls revealed that he was having a thirst for love, and his different attempts in this regard manifests his quest for love. It has been long acknowledged by the scholars that two major themes such as love and liberty are prevalent in the poetry of Percy Bysshe Shelley. Studies have been conducted to uncover different themes of the poetry of Shelley, but these two themes separately and their interconnection has been ignored at all, but it is still there with more power and energy.

Another prominent aspect of the poetry of Shelley is that his love overpowers the societal norms and values. The reason is that he is such a person, who believes in the dogma of free love, unbound and unchained. He attributed the evils in the world to "humanity's own moral failures and grounded

the possibility of radical social reform on a reform of the moral and imaginative faculties through the redeeming power of love" (Abrams, 1993, p. 700). In his poetical works such as "Prometheus Unbound" and "Epipsychidion," Shelley sets forth love as a liberating and transformative power that has the ability to break down barriers and challenges oppressive structures.

How he explores love, he insists that personal relationship is the source from which the power for social change and individual freedom originates. It is the sole spring of imaginative and emotional faculty that contributes to human perfection. In the perspectives of love, Shelley is deeply influenced by platonic love, but the doctrine of free love by Godwin has also great impact on his personality.

Moreover, Shelley's poetry often portrays the concept of liberty and the pursuit of freedom juxtaposed with the notion of tyranny and oppression. This theme of liberty is also presented in his poems like "Ode to the West Wind" and "The Mask of Anarchy," Shelley commends for political and social reform, calling for a society built on principles of justice, equality, and liberty. He has passionate views to defend individual rights and freedoms, and such a concept reverberates throughout his poetical work. "Liberty is bid lead wisdom out of the inmost cave of man's mind as the Morning Star leads the sun out of the waves" Yeats (1900).

In the views of Shelley, liberty is nothing, but an urge for a better bright, beguiling and beautiful future, and this utmost desire brings out humanity from the sphere of sorrow, sadness and suffering. Crompton – Rickett points out: "So readily does he pass from the personal to the universal, so engrossed is he with love as an abstract ideal, that as a love poet, he is curiously unsubstantial" (Tilak, 21).

In short, the poetry of Shelley reflects different themes and ideas related to love and liberty as mosaic presents different colors. The scholars and readers can get a comprehensive understanding of the poetry of Shelley with reference to love and liberty by meticulously examining the concepts of freedom, justice and love.

Research Objectives

1. To explore the influence of cultural and personal contexts on Shelley's portrayal of love and liberty in his poetry.
2. To analyze the stylistic language used by Shelley in his poetry to convey the everlasting theme of love and liberty.

Research Questions

1. How the cultural events and personal experiences of Shelley influence his depiction of love and liberty in his poetry?
2. How the stylistic use of language by Shelley in his poetry portrays the everlasting themes of love and liberty?

Research Methodology

The current qualitative research is based upon the method of Textual Analysis to analyze the data descriptively. This method is the most commonly used in the analysis of literary studies. Textual analysis focuses on the deliberately constructed elements of a text. It does not only involve the intended meaning of author/poet, but potentially unintended relationship between the texts is also explored. It relies on complex aspects like originality, creativity, inspiration, history and cultures we live in or study (McKee, 73). In Qualitative Textual Analysis the researcher aims to explore the

meaning of texts, themes, motifs or symbols meticulously. The researcher has selected the texts which reflect love and liberty in the poetical works of Shelley. The excerpts have been taken from the selected poems of Shelley. The selected poetical works of Shelley for this study have been collected from the source of internet. Each poem has been given separate heading by the researcher. A well-organized structure is given to the collected data from the study in Findings/Results segment.

Theoretical Framework

This research is based upon the theoretical framework of Romanticism. After reviewing the related literature of this study romanticism was applied as lenses to this research work. The theory of romanticism has been explained as under. Romanticism is defined as a literary and artistic movement marked chiefly by an emphasis on the imagination and emotions. It is not only the study of hearts and flowers, but it refers to a particular way of viewing nature, literature, society, and individuality. It is in fact a reaction against the previous generation's focus on reason, logic and modern civility. In its contrast romanticism is a return to nature and rustic life. The romantics feel powerful desire for emotions, experiences and feelings.

It is known that romanticism is based on imaginations and emotions. Now, the imaginations and emotions of an individuals are further driven by the passion for love and liberty. So, it is justify to announce that it is in fact romanticism which explains the effects of romanticism over love and liberty. Percy Bysshe Shelley is best known for his love poetry in English literature. His poetry is characterized by the effects of love and liberty within his poems. Through the faculty of imaginations and emotions the poet put forward his share in Romantic era by focusing on love and liberty. He just creates poems based around love and liberty which Shelley senses in his heartbeat. Moreover, a poetry rely upon love and liberty rarely includes philosophical topics, but if some are there, they are mixed with logic and reason too. Shelley engages his readers by creating such poetry, which is bright and unique as well as filled with the theme of love and liberty. By these thematic perspectives, Shelley is known as a great worshiper of nature and individualism. As a result, it was his pursuit of love and liberty which sparked his imaginations, leading the poet to understand paramount truths of life.

Analysis of Poems

Shelley, an English romantic poet, portrays the theme of love and liberty in a much appealing and captivating way. Those poems which are very much celebrated in the poetical works are those packed with the gist of love and liberty. It is an accepted certainty that love and liberty have been filled in his poetry to the brim. Only those excerpts have been taken into consideration from the poems of Shelley which reflects the above stated thematic vistas. A literary analysis has been conducted by the researcher to discover the stated motifs of love and liberty. The following selection from the poetic chunks of Shelley instill the themes of love and liberty.

Love's Philosophy

“The fountains mingle with the river
The winds of heaven mix for ever
And the rivers with the ocean,
With a sweet emotion;
Nothing in the world is single;

All things by a law divine
 In one spirit meet and mingle.
 Why not I with thine?" (Shelley, 1819)

The lines quoted above are taken from Shelley's famous poem, Love's philosophy. It is evident from the starting verses that the fusing of a fountain with the river and that of the different sorts of the winds in the air is an indication of love therein. Moreover, the sweet and calm meeting of the river with the ocean reflects an affair of love of the two. Because, love is not feasible in a single entity, as proclaimed in the preceding lines, that it requires two souls to be merged in a single one. The poet further says that this is a universal law that two spirits merge in a single, then why you are not intermingle with me? The poet hunts for an exquisite idea for the understanding of the general about the philosophy of love and he is capable to do so. The poet has provided some logical arguments to inculcate his ideas of love that generates a proper accommodation for its thematic perspective of love. The readers feel a sense of acknowledgment while reading or listening to these verses.

"See the mountains kiss high heaven
 And the waves clasp one another;
 No sister-flower would be forgiven
 If it disdained its brother;
 And the sunlight clasps the earth
 And the moonbeams kiss the sea:
 What is all this sweet work worth
 If thou kiss not me?" (Shelley, 1819)

In the above stated lines the poet announces that there is a love affair between the high mountains and the skies as well as between the waves of river when they clasp one another. Moreover, there would be no sympathy with the sister flower, if it doesn't like its brother. The passion of love also exists between the sunlight and the earth too. The kissing of the moonbeam of the sea too is a clear manifestation of the existence of love and affection between them. In the last line the poet complains to his beloved that all these natural entities love on another, it means that love is a universal truth and in the same natural way thou need to kiss and love me.

Shelley's extreme passion for love has often been interpreted as expressing specific aspects of the artist's nature or understanding of life. Some critics of Shelley's poems claims that thirst for love is lacking morality, therefore adversely affects moral values and spirituality. But, it is immensely admitted that a zest for love in the poetry of Shelley is a beckon, guiding us from imaginations and emotions to reality.

Ode to Liberty

"Like one fierce cloud over a waste of waves,
 Hung Tyranny; beneath, sate deified
 The sister-pest, congregator of slaves;
 Into the shadow of her pinions wide
 Anarchs and priests, who feed on gold and blood
 Till with the stain their inmost souls are dyed,
 Drove the astonished herds of men from every side" (Shelley, 1819).

These lines taken from "Ode to Liberty" declares that the dominant always usurps the rights those who are inferior or slaves. He makes known that the kings and priests who snatch the liberty of

others feed on gold and blood. Until, their inmost souls were stained with the blood of menials. It means that liberty is essential for peace, happiness and creativity of mankind and may not to be traded at any cost.

“As a brief insect dies with dying day,—
My song, its pinions disarrayed of might,
Drooped; o'er it closed the echoes far away
Of the great voice which did its flight sustain,
As waves which lately paved his watery way
Hiss round a drowner's head in their tempestuous play” (Shelley, 1819).

This poem contains a strong urge for liberty and freedom. The poet emphasizes that liberty is like a strong and powerful sound which sustains its flight like a wave of water that is indifferent to all and continue its journey on its own lines. Any interrupter in the way of freedom leads its way to utter destruction.

The Indian Serenade

“I arise from dreams of thee
In the first sweet sleep of night,
When the winds are breathing low,
And the stars are shining bright:
I arise from dreams of thee,
And a spirit in my feet
Hath led me—who knows how?
To thy chamber window, Sweet!” (Shelley, 1822).

The poem has its beginning with a lovely depiction of the rising of the poet from sweet sleep of first night. At that time of the night the wind is winding in a slow and serene motion and the stars are shining bright. Meanwhile, the poet arises from his bed and is led by a spirit in his feet straight into the chamber window of his beloved. It is evident from the lines that awakening at the first night sleep is so much cumbersome, and then going to the chamber window of his beloved is not an easy task in a bright, cozy and serene night. What is the driving force that compels him to do so? Obviously, it is the fire of true love that impels him to visit the house of his beloved. So, it is a perfect instance of Shelley's poetry filled with the theme of love.

“The wandering airs they faint
On the dark, the silent stream—
The Champak odors fail
Like sweet thoughts in a dream;
The Nightingale's complaint,
It dies upon her heart;—
As I must on thine,
Oh, beloved as thou art!” (Shelley, 1822).

The poet now standing before the window of his beloved complains that the wandering air, the silently flowing stream in the dark, and the scent of the “Champak” magnolia tree don't satiate his desires for love, except his sweets thoughts in dream. The champak tree can be found in Asia and is deemed as sacred to Hindus and Buddhists. Through this edict, it is crystal clear that the religious beliefs and spiritualism are inferior to his belief in love. It not only evinces the inferiority of

religion to love, but also accentuate over a sense of liberty unchained from the shackles of religion. So, there is a theme of love and liberty in this stanza of the poem, "The Indian Serenade".

"Oh lift me from the grass!
I die! I faint! I fail!
Let thy love in kisses rain
On my lips and eyelids pale.
My cheek is cold and white, alas!
My heart beats loud and fast;—
Oh! Press it to thine own again,
Where it will break at last." (Shelley, 1822).

In the last stanza the poet dreams to be lying on the ground helpless. His lips and eyelids are pale and he is ready to die, because of his failure in love. He pleads his beloved to lift him from the grass and satiate him to the full by love and affection. The poet is in a desperate condition and begs for love in kisses rain down on him. The immense thirst for love by the poet has been exquisitely narrated via visual imagery and hoping for his beloved to be appeared from the window and will bestow him by the rain of kisses. Such endowment from his beloved side will bring a new life and thrill in his dying body that is ready to die due to the lack of love.

The poem also brings forth the theme of liberty, because the poet in his poem has dedicated his whole life to love only. He has liberated himself from all other responsibilities and duty as human being. Thus, with the theme of love it also caters the theme of liberty by unfettering himself from all other obligations of life.

The Invitation

"The brightest hour of unborn spring,
Through the winter wandering,
Found, it seems, the halcyon Morn
To hoar February born.
Bending from heaven, in azure mirth,
It kissed the forehead of the Earth;
And smiled upon the silent sea;
And bade the frozen streams be free" (Shelley, 1822).

In the given lines the poet tells about the connection of love between the natural entities, like that of spring with the earth, when the spring kisses its forehead. Moreover, how the spring smiles upon the silent sea and how it liberates the streams from the breasts of the mountains? By meticulous observation over this stanza manifests the intermingling of natural bodies via love and then the liberty of those natural entities are the evidence of love and liberty in the poetry of Shelley. Shelley marks the idea of liberty, which is pivotal to happiness. The metaphor of the morning star also gives the impression that the journey towards freedom is a journey towards liberalism and self-realization.

"Away, away, from men and towns,
To the wild wood and the downs—
To the silent wilderness
Where the soul need not repress
Its music lest it should not find
An echo in another's mind,

While the touch of Nature's art
Harmonizes heart to heart" (Shelley, 1822).

The poet proclaims with a loud voice to be away from men and towns, the reason is that both men and town in the first phase snatch your liberty. The man will try to make you his slave, while the rules and customs of the town will also will do the same and will forfeit you from your freedom. Wild wood with silent wilderness will never suppress your soul to produce soft music. Moreover, the touch of the nature's art will create harmony between the hearts, which is a passion of love in its true sense. So, the themes of love and liberty are flowing side by side.

The Flight of Love

"When the lamp is shatter'd,
The light in the dust lies dead—
When the cloud is scatter'd,
The rainbow's glory is shed.
When the lute is broken,
Sweet tones are remember'd not;
When the lips have spoken,
Loved accents are soon forgot" (Shelley, 1819).

"The flight of love" is also a poem written by Percy Bysshe Shelley that reflects the theme of love. The poet says, when the lamp is broken into pieces, its light gets totally extinguished. When the cloud is scattered, the beautiful rainbow also vanishes. When the lute is broken, its sweet melodies are lost. When the end of love comes, the sweet words spoken by the lovers are no longer memorized. As the other worldly things, like; light, beauty of colors and sweet voices that need a well settled object for its yield. Same is the case with love that stands in need of a tangible abode for its fostering and that is heart.

"When hearts have once mingled,
Love first leaves the well-built nest;
The weak one is singled
To endure what it once possesst.
O Love! Who bewailest
The frailty of all things here,
Why choose you the frailest
For your cradle, your home, and your bier?" (Shelley, 1819).

Love relationship between two human beings dies with the passage of time. They feel no more love for one another. Although, at the beginning they used to feel a sense of security in each other's love, their love proves to be a short term understanding. Now, the partner who is more liberate in his feeling as compared to the other one overcomes his feeling of misery that has been resulted from the end of the love affairs. The weaker partner finds it very difficult to forget his strong liaison with the other one, which results in a never ending torment, torture and trauma afflicted by the failure in love. The poet makes it eminent by addressing the passion of love that why it chooses the weak human heart as its abode? Love by itself is blind in its very nature, because it takes up its dwelling in the human heart, which is a growing as well as a burial place for it. Love is also mortal as other entities of this world. Love is nothing more than lament, because it chooses human heart its birth place, its fostering place and its burial place.

Finding/ Results

The very first love poem of Shelley "Love's Philosophy" explains the nature of love by comparing its rules to that of nature. The fusing of a fountain with the river and that of the river with the ocean reflects an affair of love. Love is not feasible in a single entity and requires two souls to be merged in a single one. By providing many instances of the love affairs exist between the natural objects the poet complains to his beloved that all these natural entities love on another, it means that love is a universal truth and in the same natural way he demands love from his beloved. Another important aspect of this natural intermingling is the liberty that makes this fusing of two entities more easy. There is neither impediment for the river while meeting with the ocean nor for the high mountains that kiss the heavens. In the same way the poet groans against the man-made trammels opposed to liberty. It also asserts the idea that love is only possible, when there is liberty.

The second poem "Ode to Liberty" that liberty is the utmost important thing for harmony, happiness and creative talent of mankind that may not to be swapped at any cost. Depriving humanity from its liberty is depriving it from its basic and fundamental rights.

The third love poem "The Indian Serenade" explains in an exquisite way the trek of the poet after awakening from the first night sleep in a bright and cozy night to the chamber of his beloved. Who compels the poet to forgo his first night sweet and soothing sleep and visits his beloved house? Of course, it's the spark of love that compels the poet to respond to the beautiful and attractive surroundings in such a way. The poem manifests the theme of liberty, because the poet has devoted his life to love and has liberated himself from all other responsibilities and duty as human being. Thus, it caters the theme of liberty also.

The fourth poem of Shelley "The Invitation" appeals for universal love and equality. The fusing of natural bodies via love and then the free movement of those natural entities are the open proofs of love and liberty in the poetry of Shelley. Shelley marks the idea of liberty that leads to happiness. The metaphor of the morning star indicates a travel towards freedom and liberty.

The last poem "The Flight of Love" elucidates that same like other worldly entities need well settled abodes for their existence. In the same way love also need a dwelling place and that is human heart. The themes of love and liberty in this poem have been placed in contradiction to one another. The poet says that a heart filled with love has no place for liberty and a heart packed with liberty has no corner for love. That is the reason that the individuals who are liberate in nature forgets the passion of love easily while the others who are not liberate pass their lives in a never ending torment, torture and trauma afflicted by the failure in love.

It is very much interesting to note that whether love is described as a fusing of two separate entities or a passion that deprives the individuals from free happy life, but the theme of Shelley's poetry revolves around it. Moreover, the theme of liberty is also accentuated in most of the verses that it is fundamental for the peace, pleasure and precocity of mankind.

Conclusion

There is the conclusion of this research study. This research is a literary investigation of the theme of love and liberty in the poetry of Romantic Poet Percy Bysshe Shelley. Five poems have been selected by the researcher from the poetry of Shelley as primary data. qualitative textual analysis method of research is incorporated in this research and textual analysis is done of the selected poems. The collected data are analyzed descriptively. The study manifests that besides other themes, love and liberty are the major themes in the poetry of Shelley. Other themes in the poetry of Shelley like, beauty, passions, nature, creativity, and the sanctity of the imagination take its base

from the theme of love and liberty. This is the soul of love that makes something beautiful in the eyes of lover. Moreover, love is the sole spring of all the aesthetics passion produced in human heart. Nature also abides the rules of love. It is the urge of love that directs human minds to creative artwork. The sanctity of imagination also depends on the impulse and stimulus of love. His thirst for love and liberal ideas have brought forth distinction for him as best romantic poet of his age. Moreover, the elements of love and liberty in his poems like Ode to Liberty, The Indian Serenade and Love's Philosophy have earned Shelley as a love poet. Also, he is considered a great critique his contemporary literary giants. His essay "A defence of poetry" made him famous in the world of criticism. He played his role very well as a romantic poet and profound attention from the readers across the world in his short span of life. However, this research may not be considered as endmost and ultimate in its literary investigation, findings, and conclusion. The upcoming researchers and readers are cordially encouraged to impart justifiable and well-founded criticism of this study. They may conduct a more befitting analysis to get more comprehensive findings and conclusions.

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