

# Thematic Concerns in Contemporary English Poetry

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## OPEN ACCESS

Volume: 12

Special Issue: 4

Month: May

Year: 2025

E-ISSN: 2582-0397

P-ISSN: 2321-788X

Citation:  
S, Chandrashekhar.  
“Thematic Concerns in  
Contemporary English  
Poetry.” *Shanlax  
International Journal  
of Arts, Science and  
Humanities*, vol. 12,  
no. S4, 2025, pp. 97–99.

DOI:  
[https://doi.  
org/10.34293/sijash.  
v12iS4.May-9162](https://doi.org/10.34293/sijash.v12iS4.May-9162)

## Abstract

*This paper attempts to highlight the growth of development of poetry at the most common genre of language since the beginning across the globe. Poetry, as a genre has had itself defined in as many ways as possible over a period of time and poets all over the world have been attempting to showcase the different functions of poetry in through their creative compositions.*

*Poetry and poets in all languages have been focusing on the issues of the day ever since poetry became the mode of expressing one's shut feelings and giving vent to the emotions by way of recollections both the past and experiencing the present as a route to the future.*

*The paper also attempts to bring out the causes of the poets in different periods of time with special reference to English poets and in English poetry.*

**Keywords Poetry, Concerns, Re-collections.**

Poetry which lacked a proper definition in the beginning got its accepting once as a genre through the versus in great epics and scriptures such as, the Holy Bible, the Holy Quran, Ramayana and the Mahabharata.

The language of poetry notwithstanding the syntactic variations has been focusing on bringing out the social ethics, values interest conflicts confronted and ecological imbalances in the respective environ and societies.

English poetry since the Geoffery Chaucer through different styles and tale formats has been satirizing the different moods of life and existential forms of the humans in their ways of life.

Such tales also carried an implicit message and moral lessons for mankind.

Poetry during the Renaissance period had its role and function clearly cut out in bringing out the shallowness and loss of moral values in the society and worked for a synthesis of the then past and the to be for meaningful and acceptable ways of life. During John Milton's era, the foundation of poetry was to justify the ways of God to mankind – just all the ways of epics “**Paradise Lost, Paradise Regained**” which were written in grand style.

Milton's poetic Drama Samsun Agonistes very clearly brought out the Agonies of man who submitted himself before he lived in the world of darkness. Milton as a puritan used poetry as a medium of inculcating values of man and insists on following the belief systems with reference to belief in God.

William Shakespeare an incomparable poet and playwright used Blank verse to portray the lives of Kings and Queens and the commoner's passions such as lust, anger mercilessness, weakness of man beliefs in supernatural powers and the result of such through myths and historical versions. Shakespeare's philosophy of life as in his tragedy Macbeth,

Life is a tale told by an Idiot.

Full of sound and fury

Signifying nothing

Is an example though they are many so are Christopher Marlowe's plays. Then during the Augustan period, poetry was used to satirize the ways of mankind, the life and styles of societies etc.

During the Romantic period, the function of poetry was more to bring out the features of fragmentation and naturalism.

Romantic poets insisted on the need for a land between man and nature. Romantic poets could define poetry in more clear terms. To Wordsworth poetry meant a spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings and emotions recollect in tranquility. To Shelly poetry meant the combination of the activities of reason and imagination and to him a poet is a prophet who from the present situation exhorts to mentally or imaginatively perceive and poetry reveals great moral terms and global thoughts and thus expand one visions to Shelly poets are they acknowledged legislators.

To Keats the functions of poetry is same as functions of poet who has aroused man's mental powers and through imagination a poet suggest ways and means of reducing or revealing the mystery of the universe the man and poetry must aim at man to speculate upon creation and God's purpose in it.

The Victorian poets like Leonold and Tennyson a scientific meant of mind and a spirit in man which will make him to strive to seek to find out not to yield to the social function of poetry has to be a source of conciliation and comfort when in an age of science and religion dogmatic religions to people, the best policy in characterized by truth and seriousness to an eminent degree, says Arnold.

In the modern era the function of poetry has been highlighted by T.S. Eliot a classicist in literature and Anglo Catholic in religion and royalist in politics. Eliot defined the role and functions poetry by saying that "poetry is not a turning loss of emotions, but an escape from emotions; it is not the expression of personality, but an escape from personality and he further says, the emotion of art is impersonal. A poet should feel his thoughts. In good poetry, which represents unification of sensibility thought is transformed in feeling to steal its way into the readers heart, thought and feeling should be simultaneously the two should not follow each other.

The new school of poetry differed from the traditional school that held the classist view that the poetry as the art of uniting pleasure with truth by calling imagination to the help of reason.

The modern school focused more on the semantic of language and semiotic translation function a modern school of poetry as also been focusing on portraying the realities of a surrounding ecology in terms of the effect of war the meaning of existence, a day today affairs and conditions of solitude and the need for solidarity in from immigration the paradigm shifts in need to address the contextual imbalances towards attempting to find ways for mutual acceptance and other part of the globe in the Asian sub-continent, in the Indian contexts we have poets of excellence who in their significant works dealt with themes such as patriotism, love and life philosophy, realities an existential problems through their lyrics, epics, ballads, sonnets and tales in verse the poetry of Arudutt and Torudutt would portray peaceful thoughts with involvement of their individual personality their poetry of Dutt's are resemblance of Romantic poetry Wordsworth, Shelly and Keats.

Earlier Kalidasa the father of Sanskrit poetry through his views and poetic play could infuse in the readers' spirit of confidence and spirituality, Tagore and Sri Aurbindo contributed a lot to the

development of poetry in English in India Aurbindo who wrote sonnets and the epic Savitri, his magnum opus had his themes as mass evolution towards the achievement of salvation and self-realization in journey from mortality to immortality. Tagore who is known for his plays and poetry modelled is writings on the styles of Milton and others had the themes such as love, patriotism, reality and traditional values which saw God as unbroken perfections as a giver of simple great gifts and infinite gifts following Tagore. We are poets like Sarojini Naidu and others. The pre-independent poets include Shiva.K.Kumar, Jayantha Mahapathra, Arun Koltkar, Dom Moraes and P.Lal. The later day of poets in the 1960's includes A.K. Ramanujan, Parathasarathy, Nissim Ezikeil, Kamala Das and few others. These poets the later day poets like A.K. Ramanajun drew inspiration from their awareness of the racial burden. Indian systematic beliefs and heritage. Ramanujan poetry juxtaposes ironically the traditional Indian ethos which the situations in the present. The motives in the poem include ancestral heritage and memory.

R. Parthasarthy as a poet was conscious of the complex relationship between the hour glass of the Tamil mind and the exact chronometer of Europe; there is something to be said for exile he declares, you learn roots are deep says M.K. Naik. Kamala Das on the other hand, deals with in her poem the theme such as love, gender discrimination metaphysical issues personal experiences nostalgia to reveal quintessential women within. To conclude, poets across the globe and poetry across the continents have been voicing their concerns for the society at large by using different styles meters and lines in order that their voices are heard and be appealing to the needy by hitting the dis-honest the non-believer, the believer and honest alike. They have been also experimenting with different syntactic variation, using symbols and images that are common and comprehensible to all poetry cannot be as spontaneous over flow of emotions recollected in tranquility unless its synthesizes all the binaries and opposites in society and thus make a voiceless also heard in times of confrontations, conflicts are and dis-illusionments.

The functions of poetry is to instruct and create an awareness of the unknown mysteries that still be behind the reason of mankind.