

Rhetorical Use of Ethos and Pathos in John Burroughs's Wake-Robin

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ABSTRACT. *The literary sentimentalism plays a significant part in Burroughs's notion of naturalism. This paper mainly focuses on the use of ethos and pathos in Burroughs's Wake-Robin, trying to explore how Burroughs illustrates his experience about nature.*

KEYWORDS: *Ethos, Pathos, Sentimentalism, Nature*

1. Introduction

In *Wake Robin*, Burroughs uses different approaches and styles to express the sensation and perception of nature, so it was necessary to evoke the rhetorical analysis and the way it connects nature and people. I choose to write about the ethos and pathos in the text as it shows the importance of using the art to convey the iconic message about nature and how to develop art that outlines the necessity to conserve the ecosystem.

2. Rhetorical of Ethos and Pathos

The literary sentimentalism plays a significant part in Burroughs' notion of naturalism. Burroughs uses pathos to express his experience about nature and the adverse impacts on the violations of the rights of birds. Burroughs in the "Return of the Birds" states that "The word that best expresses my feelings, on hearing the mocking-bird, is admiration, though the first emotion is one of surprise and incredulity". This alludes to the emotional aspect of Burroughs in his nature writing and also premised on the philosophical and emotional feelings in celebrating the human connection to communal and personal values. In *Wake-Robin*, Burroughs adds an emotional element to define naturalism when he states that when science is mixed with emotion, it appeals to the imagination and heart to be transformed into literature. The feeling created in the birds in the ecology is to appreciate the natural world far more than the intertwined poetic sensibility.

The impacts of public activities are hazardous to the environment, especially to non-human beings and ecology. Burroughs' nature writing uses various rhetorical devices in gaining appreciation and sympathy for birdlife. Among the methods is Ethos that is used to portray the extent of the beauty of birds and natural balance within the ecosystem, and establish the narrator's reliability. Additionally, the pathos is used in the description of birds over their disappearance to depict bonding with particular birds in maintaining the enthusiasm for a common species and diversity. The use of childhood trope helps to establish a sympathetic analogy that is created between human and birds. It expresses joy over the presence of birds' migration and flocks' patterns. These techniques emerge in the chapter "Spring at the Capital" which is evidence of Burroughs' effective skills in crafting rhetorical strategies to communicate with the audience and share his personal experiences. The essay connects birds to Burroughs' early life on the farm as well as depicting his emotions during his observations. For example, his description of the increasing breeding of birds brings out an emotive image to the audience when reading the essay because of the dangers exposed to birds.

The use of pathos in literature is important because it portrays personal feelings and suffering that connects authors or the narrators with the audience to make it easy to understand the intention of the story. The pathos indicates the existence of the destructive effects of human activities that create an imbalance in the environment. The sense of sentiment in Burroughs' essays is associated with "festival" and glad "heart". The major aspect that must be considered by authors is the physical happiness experienced from witnessing the spectacles of migration of birds from a personal narrative. For example, authors write about the migration of bluebirds; they signify the dawn of a new season. In terms of appreciation, Burroughs views the natural process through birds' migration, and the subsequent implication is that the migration could cease due to inappropriate human behavior. Then, the readers are engaged in a sympathetic tone as migration is a memorable event, and life and blossoming broods symbolizes the loss of fertility. The impressive structures evidenced on Burroughs' texts show the fundamental aspect of pathos as the slushy sensation of loss. It also illuminates a dynamic destructive modern state, that is, the extinction of species due to interference and error of human beings.

The pathos and ethos promote ethical and moral considerations in the conservation of the environment. It implies that the process of nature writing and its philosophical approach aims at making alignment to ethics view as separate or discrete ideals. These ideals are moral principles embedded in human values, and people may even feel them when they see or hear or touch the natural world around them. Then, the naturalists create a place that is viewed as a moral liability but can be elevated by the emotional affiliation that should be constructively restored to become reliable conduct to actions. *Wake-Robin* shows the efforts of restoring love, admiration, and respect to birds and other animals such as grazers. In the end, it creates a mutual relationship that could help conserve the environment and act against human interference with the biodiversity.

The naturalists acknowledge the need for protecting species and biodiversity. They advocate for human beings involved in the conservation of the environment. One of the approaches is through creating awareness and informing human beings on the adverse impacts of their activities which endanger birds' habitats as well as conserving birds breeding ecosystems. Conservation should be considered as a moral obligation to protect wild life. According to Leopold, there is a need to motivate and disseminate knowledge on why and how people must preserve and cherish the environment. Burroughs also uses metaphor to portray the beauty of the birds, the way they fly, migrate, and breed. He pointed out that the initiative to save species and the environment cannot be won without forging an emotional attachment to nature. The reason is that a person cannot fight what is not necessary, but strives to win what is grounded or founded by love. Burroughs' ability to connect with the readers and create bonds of species and ecosystem serves as an essential ingredient for the protection of the environment.

In connection to political action, Leopold argues that emotion remains a factor that can shape the political theory through developing a proper legal structure. The sentiments of Burroughs in the "the cultivation of sentiments" cannot be overlooked because there is a need for the environment conservation. Birds' habitats such as forest should be conserved by humans and be kept free from human activities. Additionally, the environment should be considered because it creates a calm place that raises emotional awareness as well as it helps in appreciation of its beauty. The emotional affiliation might drive people to establish legislation aimed at protecting the environment. Moreover, fostering the emotion reveals ethical values can be protected by the political prerequisites to inform about the appropriate behavior toward the natural world. The emotions depicted in *Wake-Robin* to the birds and environment is fundamental in the reorientation of environmental ethics towards its conservation.

The juxtaposition of time is seen through the introduction of the figurative image of pigeons and Burroughs' experience of nature in his childhood. However, creating the imagery connection of the nature of birds and their beauty improves the audience's attentiveness. Considerably, the personification of "death and destruction" enacts stressing needs for protection. The implication of the sentiment is to create a time-lapse that develops within the environment and failure to understand the importance of securing and preserving the ecosystem. The chapter "Birch Browsing" establishes a direct connection of hunters and the falling population of birds. The most crucial aspect that emerges as a rebuttal is the debate that denies the link between the practices that cause species reduction. Burroughs states that "the loss of my companions now I had found the lake,-a favoring breeze brought me the last echo of a response". The old age is reflected through the young generation to the falls of the pigeons' migration passage hailing in the joyful hours while enjoying the beauty of nature. The experience is hugely joyful because of the copious life of animals, along with the fertility in the air and wilderness that makes the heart to be glad.

Burroughs illustrates sentimental feelings in *Wake-Robin* as the use of the "gentle" and "loving" nature of human and nonhuman relationships. The birds in

the essays are presented as charming and thriving creatures that acknowledge the beauty of the ecosystem. The birds perch on the tree branches and hibernate during the winter. The intensely interpersonal sensibility which is created towards the domestication birds is associated with the natural world. It occurs as an essential factor that helps Burroughs to narrate his experience with the birds and their relationships emotionally. 3. Conclusion

Wake-Robin combines the understanding of science with the sensibility to create ecological feelings. Burroughs acquaints with the reader about the beauty of interacting with the environment as a way to explore and discover what nature has kept for humans. *Wake-Robin's* aesthetic perception perceives a narrative that concord with the actual sensory along with the emotive experience.

References

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