A Study of the Use of Visual and Peripatetic Imagery in the Poetry of Seamus Heaney

by

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Abstract

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Seamus Heaney's regular deployment of both visual and peripatetic patterns of poetic representation is one major, noteworthy idiosyncrasy which manifests itself as being a means of rewriting one wanderer's perception of, and close association with, a locale of pastoral beauty and lurid history. With a singular bent for demonstrating an aesthetic of pictorial disposition, that rewriting tends to pass beyond the mere simple visual recording of the territorial. Visual representation in Heaney's poetry is a technique which the poet utilizes to depict and document one peripatetic person's observation of reality.

Heaney's poetry also establishes an association between the peripatetic and the epiphanic. The peripatetic in Heaney's poems represents a path to intellectual and aesthetic maturity. His peripatetic personae pass through moments of inspiration, and that concludes with acts of self-examination and self-empowerment.

Keywords: Modern Irish literature, contemporary poetry, contemporary Irish poetry, Seamus Heaney, visual imagery, peripatetic imagery.