

Power, Violence, and Creation: Animal Imagery and Human Nature in Ted Hughes's Poetry

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Abstract

This article tries to investigate how Ted Hughes used the images of animals in his poetry, focusing on some selected poems "The Thought Fox," "Hawk Roosting," "Pike" and "The Crow". Ted Hughes' desire to imagine animals begins as a child throughout his work, where animals are often used as effective symbols of nature's strength besides the complex interaction between humans and wildlife. This study highlights the poet's use of animal pictures and metaphors to see how it represents his feelings toward nature as both awe-inspiring and mysterious, he uses sensory signs to express the presence of these creatures in comparison with human conduct. This essay also studies the role of myth and folklore in Ted Hughes's life and how he describes his feelings toward animals and nature in his poetry, as well as how his poetry shows a deep respect for the natural world's power. The study shows that Hughes's usage of animal imagery proposes a sophisticated perspective on the interaction between human beings and the natural world, this essay proves also some rough similarities between human and animal conduct especially humans' tendency towards savagery and violence.

Keywords: Animal imagery, Wildlife, Metaphor, Myth, Inspiration.

القوة والعنف والابداع: الصور الحيوانية والطبيعة البشرية في شعر تيد هيويز

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المخلص

يحاول هذا المقال التحقيق في كيفية استخدام تيد هيويز لصور الحيوانات في شعره، مع التركيز على بعض القصائد المختارة "الثعلب الفكري"، "صقر جاثم"، "سمك الكراكي" و"الغراب". تبدأ رغبة تيد هيويز في تخيل الحيوانات منذ أن كان طفلاً طوال عمله، حيث تُستخدم الحيوانات غالباً كرموز فعالة لقوة الطبيعة إلى جانب التفاعل المعقد بين البشر والحياة البرية. تسلط هذه الدراسة الضوء على استخدام الشاعر للصور الحيوانية والاستعارات لمعرفة كيف تمثل مشاعره تجاه الطبيعة باعتبارها مثيرة للرغبة وغامضة، فهو يستخدم علامات حسية للتعبير عن وجود هذه المخلوقات بالمقارنة مع السلوك البشري. كما تدرس هذه المقالة دور الأساطير والفولكلور في حياة تيد هيويز وكيف يصف مشاعره تجاه الحيوانات والطبيعة في شعره، وكذلك كيف يظهر

شعره احتراماً عميقاً لقوة العالم الطبيعي. تُظهر الدراسة أن استخدام هيز للصور الحيوانية يقترح منظوراً متطوراً للتفاعل بين البشر والعالم الطبيعي، كما يثبت هذا المقال بعض أوجه التشابه التقريبية بين سلوك الإنسان والحيوان وخاصة ميل البشر إلى الوحشية والعنف .

الكلمات المفتاحية: صور الحيوانات، الحياة البرية، الاستعارة، الأسطورة، الإلهام

1. Introduction

Ted Hughes, a British poet, is largely recognized as one of the most important and influential poets of the twentieth century. His poetry is vivid and strong in its use of imagery, which lures its inspiration from the natural world. Throughout his career, Hughes investigated a variety of subjects, including the relationship between humans and nature, the cycles of life and death, and the artist's position in society. To explain Ted Hughes' use of animal imagery in *The Thought-Fox*, *Hawk Roosting*, and *Pike*, it is necessary to emphasize how animals function as important symbols and metaphors, standing for both the natural world and the complexities of human cognition. Ted Hughes, employs these animal images not just literally, but also as a tool to explore instinct, power, violence, and control. His animal descriptions go beyond traditional depictions of wildlife, revealing wild forces, predatory tendencies, and emotional depths (Habib, 2018, p.306).

In each poem, the poet tries to imbue the creatures with autonomy, strength, and mystery, alluding to the sinister forces which dominate both the natural world and the human experience. For instance, in *The Thought-Fox*, the fox is the mysterious course of artistic creativity, while in *Hawk Roosting*, the hawk signifies the power, the raw strength of nature and control as well. The *Pike* dives into the dark to show the predatory side of nature, depicting the fish as both lovely and dangerous, this sense of wild nature emphasises the violent scene in the natural system (Habib, 2018, p.306). Hughes' use of these creatures is considered a bridge between the outward natural world and the internal problems of humanity, these animal imagery makes an effective tool for addressing themes of power, instinct, and existential reality. This technique will pave the way for a more in-depth investigation of how the poets employ animal imagery in future to negotiate the boundaries between wilderness and awareness among human beings.

Ted Hughes, is considered one of the finest poets of the twentieth century through his use of animal features in comparison to humans, he has been praised for his superb use of animal imagery in his work. He is fascinated with the natural world, as well as his wide knowledge of animal life, has allowed him to produce a unique collection of artworks. He examines the human condition through picturing the animal world. Hughes' employing animal metaphors has been highly debated in literary analysis, with many scholars contending that it is an essential part of his

artistic vision. Some critics have highlighted Hughes' use of animal imagery to reflect his view of nature as a powerful and unexpected force, while others find these animal pictures as symbols of might, liberty, and instincts poetic features in his work (Ahmad, & Kayani, 2021).

Many scholars try to find the impact of myth on Hughes' poetry, examining how he uses myths besides folklore tales and stories to weave a rich tapestry of symbolism into his poems. Furthermore, other critics examine the role of animals in Hughes' influential experiences, demanding this in his contacts with animals as well as his awareness of wildlife. Poems like, "The Thought Fox," "Hawk Roosting," and "Pike," all include foxes, hawks, and pikes as imagery of wild animals, and have been the subject of readers' analysis (Ahmad, & Kayani, 2021). In addition to the use of first-person narrative to portray the animals' perspective, scholars have also looked at how these creatures serve as symbols of human instincts in his poetry.

1.2 Definition of imagery

Imagery is considered one of the poetic devices that signifies the use of figurative language to suggest a sensual experience through images full of thoughts. The poet uses effective language and figurative words, these metaphors please the reader's imagination, passion and inner feelings. So, imagery is not limited to visual signs or rational imageries but also contains physical sensations. (McNaughton, 2018)

Types of Images in Literary Devices

Visual images: These kinds of images cover basics that appeal to the view, the sceneries give a poet the capability to paint an incident in the reader's mind.

Auditory Images: In contrast, the basics of auditory images focus on the audible part of realism. These items can be shown in onomatopoeia. Words like - "Asho!" "cacaw!" "pop!". (LiteraryDevices Editors, 2014)

Olfactory images: This kind of literary device describes a specific smell of a food or fruit that can help readers imagine the taste.

Tasteful images: In this device, elements are approved when the writer desires to describe the taste of something.

Tactile: this kind of device deals with sensitivity, i.e. the sense of touch

Gesture pictures: This device describes the movement of things or people. It helps to describe the event accurately.

Organic Images: It deals with suggesting some kind of feeling in the reader's body. Words that make people feel happiness, grief, terror nostalgia even loss are all very organic images.

1.3 Ted Hughes' Inspiration in creating animal images:

Ted Hughes' poetry is characterised by involving animals in most of his poems. The poet has received largely excellent reviews, with many specialists complimenting his ability to produce vivid pictures of animal symbolism that speaks to the human experience, it becomes clear that his use of animal imagery will be a lasting part of his literary legacy in modern poetry. Ted Hughes' sense of nature as a primordial power that is simultaneously captivating and dreadful. This animal imagery leads us to convey the unadulterated and intuitive energy of the natural world because he thinks, it is the unexpected force that could both build and destroy (Istiak, 2016, p.5). He often uses metaphors for the essential forces of nature, evoking the raw strength and energy of animals through their physical characteristics and activities. He portrays an image of the Crow as a dark and mysterious entity, it simultaneously produces a metaphor for the primordial, elemental forces of nature. Hughes also acknowledged that humans often have a tense and uneasy connection to nature through their activities (Istiak, 2016, p.7). He can create fantastic images in his verses as both interesting and horrifying. Hughes stresses the conflict between our awareness of the natural world's incredible strength. He helps the readers to understand the real connection among creatures.

1.4 Hughes' fascination with animal's instinct features:

Ted Hughes had a great interest in animals, as shown by his poems. He argued that animals were a vital part of the natural order and played an important function in keeping the ecosystem balanced. Hughes uses depictions of animals in his poems to explore humanity's primitive and instinctual nature, as well as the complicated connection that humans have with the natural world. One of Hughes' finest collections, "Crow: From the Life and Songs of the Crow," uses the character Crow to be nature's fundamental and elemental powers. Hughes used the dark and enigmatic figure of Crow to investigate the raw strength and energy of the natural environment, as well as the basic instincts that exist within all humans (Piciucco, 2017, p.178-180). Hughes also had a passion with birds, which appeared in his poetry. He saw birds as symbols of the human desire for flight and transcendence, and he used their flight to stand for the human pursuit of spiritual awakening. Hughes, for example, employs the perspective of a hawk in his collection "Hawk Roosting" to address humanity's predatory nature as well as our yearning for control and authority over nature (Piciucco, 2017, p.189). Hughes' fascination with animals reflects his deep reverence for the natural world and his belief in the interconnectedness of all living things. Through his poetry, he invites us to explore the complex and often mysterious relationship between humans and the natural world and to contemplate our place within this vast and awe-inspiring ecosystem.

1.5 The Influence of Myth and Folklore in Hughes's poetry:

The impact of myth and legend on Ted Hughes' poetry is an important part of his creative endeavours. Throughout his entire life, Hughes relied significantly on his native England's rich mythical and folk traditions, blending old stories and symbolism into his poems to investigate universal human themes and experiences. The crow in his poem as a symbol, is considered as a notable example of this effect. Ted Hughes employs this image to observe important issues of mortality, power, rebirth, and the cycle of life. The crow is in many cases connected to death as well as metamorphosis in Celtic mythology. Hughes also draws the rich legacy of English myth through depicting the wild world, imbuing his scenes with a feeling of enchantment and mystery. In many poems, Ted Hughes portrays animal creatures as a source of both awe and peril, belonging to ancient hidden powers which are lurking beneath the surface. Hughes is fascinated with the ancient world of legends and fairytales; this makes him imagine these mysterious instincts using animal spirits. He believes in the timeless ability of these old stories and symbols to communicate with the most profound parts of human existence, he urges us to engage with these old stories and delve into the enduring mysteries of nature.

Ted Hughes' works try to make the readers find the link between human tendencies toward violence through animal imagery as strong depictions of nature and humanity's experience. In these selected poems, animals are often depicted as primitive, instinctual beings, they reflect the raw power of the wild world. Hughes' work tries to show the readers through the use of animal pictures, the interaction among different kinds of creatures, as well as the important role that animals play in developing our awareness of ourselves and our place in the world. These poems employ the symbols of freedom, instinct, and control. Moreover, the poet tries to show the real struggles among humans to dominate the world order. For instance, in his poem "Hawk Roosting," he utilizes the hawk as a symbol of primal force, mighty and authority (Singh, 2018, p.4). The poet uses the hawk to portray a vicious predator, hunting weaker species while exerting its authority over the natural environment. Hughes' artwork emphasizes the link that humans share besides the sheer power and innate desire that underpin all of nature. In his poem "Pike," Hughes employs the idea of a predatory fish to investigate the dark, primeval forces on the surface of the wild world. The pike is shown as a violent creature, standing for the wild, uncontrolled animal, it could stand for the savage conduct of some evil people in the world. Hughes' use of animals to reflect strength, freedom, and instinct, proves his deep regard for the natural world and his faith in the enduring power of the fundamental forces that form our existence.



2. Hughes's Animal Metaphor in "The Thought Fox":

"The Thought Fox" is one of the finest poems by Ted Hughes, throughout the poem, he uses an analogy of a fox's vision to depict the creativity of writing poetry. The fox image is used to stand for the poet's creative thinking process, as it breaches the speaker's mind and forms, The wild picture of "The Thought Fox" also symbolizes strength and independence. This animal is an untamed creature that moves freely in the natural world, and its existence in the speaker's mind implies that the poet's vision is also free (Shekhawat, 2012). At the same time, the fox's vision displays its ability to invent something new, this mysterious power encourages the poet to write a fine poem. Moreover, the poem highlights the fox's instinctive nature, he describes the fox's moving "in the dark hole" across the window in the snow, it is a midnight journey implying the basic power that cannot be tamed or controlled. This animalistic character is reflected in the poem's spoken language. This poem is a fine example of Hughes' creativity in writing poetry, full of animal imagery to express issues like strength, freedom and, control. The fox in the poem is a powerful sign of the poet's imagination, as well as a reminder of nature's raw force and unbridled vitality.

Ted Hughes's poem, "The Thought Fox" explores the creative process through a fox coming in a dark wintry scene in the forest. In terms of spoken language, the poem is full of animal imagery, implying a basic, intuitive strength besides the irregular lines and variety of lengths. The use of onomatopoeia, such as "brushing, scraping" and "sudden sharp hot stink of fox," provides the reader with a realistic sensory experience by conjuring the noises and scents of the fox's presence. The poem's animal scene acts as a symbol for the inspiration process, with the fox's motions mirroring the poet's difficulties in finding motivation and imploring the ideas into words. The fox stands for the poet's inner perspective, and feelings (Shah, Etal. 2024, p.092). The verse's use of animal metaphors emphasizes also the conflict between humanity's desire for control and nature's instinctive force. The fox's sudden arrival in the speaker's consciousness depicts the unpredictable influences of nature, which can inspire as well as frighten us. This mysterious inspiration in his animal metaphor makes the reader wait for the unpredictable and ambiguous future.

2.1 The Fox is a Metaphor for The Creative Process:

Ted Hughes's vision finds out that the fox is interpreted as a process of serious thinking, the poem finishes with the fox's physical appearance, having started with a silent scene while the author is waiting for the chance to grasp the inspiration. The use of metaphor is enhanced by the language and organization of the poem. Because

of the poem's free verse form, Hughes can capture the spirit of uncertainty and freedom that characterizes the creative process. The description of the fox, "a quick sharp scorching stink of fox," is especially important because it evokes the strength, vigour, and passion that are often connected to creative inspiration. The fox may be interpreted as a representation of the uncontrolled and wild natural world, which often serves as an inspiration for authors and artists. One way to interpret the fox's appearance in the poem is as a reminder of the value of nature and the inspiration it can offer (Singh, 2017, p.417).

2.3 The Use of Sensory Imagery to Convey the Fox's Presence:

Ted Hughes used sensory images to portray the fox's presence in "The Thought Fox," which is a metaphor for the creative process. Three stanzas make up the poem's structure, and each one describes a distinct phase of the fox's arrival (Singh, 2017, p.419). The speaker sits by the window in his room, waiting for any movement outside, in silence, he is looking at the sky, watching the snow, the stars and the fox's vision. The inspiration starts in the first stanza by expressing the poet's feelings of mystery. The fox is mentioned in the second stanza when the speaker hears someone else / Dragging itself into the darkness. As the fox moves into the pitch-black hole within its head then the poem is finished, the third stanza depicts the culmination of the creative endeavour.

Hughes's use of physical images in "The Thought Fox" creates a vivid metaphor of the fox's presence, this vision gives the readers a sense of fear creation, The poem's structure, language, and imagery work together to convey the energy sense of mind creation. Hughes vividly succeeds in depicting the fox's existence by using physical images. The poet at the same time, uses terms like "brushing," "scratch," and "splintering" to convey a sense of intensity as it describes the roar of the fox running through the pitch-darkness. The poem portrays full descriptions of the fox's eyes as "points of burning / yellow" and its fur as "hot" and "bright." The physicality of the fox is also vividly evoked by these sensory images, and it functions as a metaphor for the poet's inner artistic force while he works (Whitley, 2017).

3. Hughes' Animal Imagery in "Hawk Roosting"

Ted Hughes' "Hawk Roosting" is a poem in which the speaker tries to take the identity of a hawk to speak from its perspective, exploring its worldview beside its strength. The poem contributes significantly to the development of this persona besides the exploration of power. The animal image depicts the hawk as a metaphor for strength, capable of controlling both its environment and its prey. This image underlines the idea by portraying the hawk's physical characteristics, such as its

hooked beak and sharp claws, as well as its ability to fly freely and see its surroundings (Singh, 2017, p.218). The use of visuals also contributes to conveying the hawk's authority, The poet depicts the hawk's "hooked head and feet" as well as its "perfect killing machine" eyes, which paint a vivid picture of a strong and relentless predator. (Singh, 2017).

The symbolism emphasizes the hawk's sense of supremacy, the poem portrays a clear image of the hawk's surroundings control. "Hawk Roosting" is a powerful examination of nature's power dynamics, the Hawk invasion is the voice of a predatory bird. The poem's structure produces a realistic portrayal of the hawk's worldview. (Hasan, & HamaRauf, 2021, p.2). In "Hawk Roosting," Ted Hughes employs hawk images to stand for dominance. The hawk views himself as the world's master and everything exists to serve him. The hawk feels proud when he refers to himself as possessing "the allocation of death" as well as the "perfect killing machine." The poem is written in free verse, giving the hawk's ideas a sense of flow freely. Hughes' artwork plays an important role in communicating the hawk's sense of dominance. For instance, the expression "the earth's face up for my inspection" implies that the hawk has complete control over the world, with even the earth giving to his will (Hasan, & HamaRauf, 2021, p.5). Additionally, the hawk's usage of the word "I" throughout the poem underscores his sense of self-importance as well as his assumption that everything exists to serve him. A hawk is used in the potent poetry "Hawk Roosting" to examine themes of dominance, control, and strength. Hughes portrays the hawk's attitude of superiority.

3.1 The Hawk is a Symbol of Power and Domination.

The poet presents the Hawk image as an aggressive, domineering animal, it sees itself as the focal point of the world in "Hawk Roosting," the poet uses the first-person viewpoint of a hawk. Hughes stresses the hawk's function as a symbol of authority over other creatures' surroundings. The tone of the hawk's narration is assured and somewhat haughty, implying that it considers itself to oversee everything it sees. Short, declarative words that exude confidence and resolve and show the hawk's unchanging belief in its superiority are used to explain its views (Najma, & Syafitri, 2022, p.92). The reader may better understand the hawk's intentions and ambitions thanks to Hughes' choice of the first-person viewpoint, which also helps to humanize the bird. Hughes allows the reader to empathize with the hawk's need for dominance and power despite its predation of other creatures by giving the hawk's point of view in such an honest and intimate way. Hughes employs the first-person viewpoint in "Hawk Roosting" as a potent rhetorical device that enables him to compellingly and viscerally examine difficult subjects like domination and power.

Hughes' "Hawk Roosting" makes extensive use of first-person narratives. The poem is told from a hawk's point of view, so the reader is given a full understanding of its thoughts. As the hawk declares its mastery over other living things, the poem's general impression of strength besides the domination, is enhanced by the usage of the first-person perspective. The reader can also feel the hawk's sensation of possession over the area. (Najma, & Syafitri, 2022, p.95).

4. Hughes' Use of Animal Imagery in "Pike"

In Ted Hughes' "Pike," the poet uses powerful imagery to create poignant effects to highlight the unique power of the predatory pike. The imagery he uses focuses on the wild ferocity inherent in this creature. Hughes describes the pike as a combination of captivating beauty and deadly danger. At the beginning of the poem, he describes it as "perfect and deadly," this phrase reflects the contrast between its beauty and its danger as a predator. The imagery he paints in this poem emphasizes the tension between beauty and brutality. The speaker employs images that are simultaneously serene and eerie when describing the aquatic environment where the pike lives. The water is dark and deep, it looks like a separate world beneath the surface. The imagery Hughes presents makes the reader feel like they are looking into a mysterious and dangerous place. Hughes skillfully focuses on the pike movement in the water, depicting it as it glides calmly before transforming into a swift, ruthless hunter (Padhi, 2014, p.84). This transition between calm and violent movement enhances the power of the mental imagery as well as bringing the scene to life. Hughes pays attention to the details of nature by describing the environment surrounding the pike, including aquatic plants and the light that filters through the water. These images help to enhance the natural atmosphere surrounding the predator and create a scene that emphasizes the delicate balance in nature between living things. Using these rich images, Hughes brings the reader not only to see the pike but also to experience the harshness of nature and its inherent beauty.

4.1 Analysis of the poem's themes and language in Ted Hughes's Pike

In Ted Hughes' poem "Pike," the poet explores a range of melodies related to wildlife, as well as the interaction between humans and the natural world. One of the most prominent themes in the poem is the brutality inherent in the natural world. The pike fish represents innate strength, as it is a ruthless predator. This brutality is not something to be condemned, but rather a natural part of life. Hughes presents nature as a force unaffected by human morality or social notions of good and evil. The pike fish embodies also the daily struggle for survival in the natural world. It is characterized by stillness and beauty, but at the same time, it is capable of immediate violence to catch its prey. The struggle is not only among fish but between humans

and nature, as it suggests that humans may be strangers in this violent natural world. In the poem, the speaker suggests that there is a natural balance, as each living thing plays its part in the ecosystem. The pike fish embodies this stability. These images reflect the nature of the world where every creature has a role, whether at the top of the food chain or the bottom (Padhi, 2014, p.286).

4.2 The pike is a symbol of primal violence and survival.

The poem reflects the idea of "aesthetic horror", where natural beauty meets brutal violence. The pike is described as a beautiful yet frightening creature, and Hughes makes the reader feel the tension between admiring the beauty of nature and feeling fearful of its brutality. While humans view predators like pike with fear and respect, the poet expresses that nature is not designed for humans or adapted to suit their feelings. This theme reinforces the feeling of human helplessness in the face of the raw power of nature. Ted Hughes highlights death as part of the cycle of life in nature. Pike live and kill to survive, and death is an integral part of the survival of the species. Through this, the poet expresses the idea that life and death are closely linked in nature. These themes make the poem a profound meditative work on nature and its laws and demonstrate Hughes's deep understanding of the natural world as a place filled with tension, beauty, and violence (Padhi, 2014, p.82).

5. Hughes' animal imagery in "Crow":

In Ted Hughes's collection of poems, "Crow," animal imagery appears extensively to reflect his vision of nature, humanity, and existence. "Crow" is a creature with deep symbolic dimensions, and Hughes uses the imagery of this bird to evoke complex philosophical and emotional concepts. In "Crow," the crow often symbolizes chaos, darkness, and death. The crow is associated with death in many cultures, Hughes uses this symbolism to reflect existential chaos besides inner conflict. The crow is not just an ordinary bird; it represents an essential element of human existence, appearing as an entity that defies order and rationality. The animal imagery in "Crow" expresses the tension between raw natural forces and human cultural structures. Hughes depicts the raven as a primitive creature with strong instincts, in contrast to the complexities of human life that attempt to organize the chaos of nature. This image highlights the animalistic and chaotic nature of the raven in contrast to the organized and civilized human life (Whitley, 2017, p.210).

Hughes uses the raven as a symbol to challenge traditional religious and mythological ideas. In poems such as "A Raven Under the Tree of Life," the raven is shown as a creature that mocks the concepts of divinity, showing the world as chaotic, and full of futility and suffering. The raven here represents the animal image that challenges human faith and asks questions about the purpose and meaning of



life. One of the prominent features of Hughes' animal images is the focus on basic animal instinct (Whitley, 2017, p.209). The crow in this collection is often driven by its instincts, whether related to hunger, survival, or sexual desire. These images make the raven appear primitive and devoid of moral judgments, reinforcing the idea that the natural world, apart from humans, follows different rules that are not based on moral concepts. It is a symbol of destruction but also linked to creation. In some poems, the raven appears as a creative element in the chaos that nature creates, contributing to the reshaping of the world through the sheer power of nature. This animal imagery expresses the balance between construction and destruction which is an essential part of the cycle of life.

The animal imagery in "The Crow" often reflects the inner state of man. The raven stands for the dark side of the human psyche, showing the brutal nature of man. By depicting the raven as a chaotic creature. Violent animal imagery appears in the poems as an essential part of Hughes' message. The raven embodies raw power, as the poet uses scenes of animal violence to survive. This animal violence reflects Hughes' view of the world as a harsh and unstable place. In ancient mythology, ravens often represent wise or prophetic beings, Hughes exploits this symbolism to create the image of a raven challenging the cosmic order. Through his use of this bird, the poet reflects the chaos that defies heavenly and religious laws and uses the raven to be a voice for nature that refuses to comply (Padhi, 2014, p.287).

5.2 The Crow is a Multifaceted Symbol of Regeneration and Human Folly.

The raven in Ted Hughes's "The Raven" is a multifaceted symbol, combining the meanings of renewal and human folly. This interplay enhances Hughes's complex vision of nature and human life. In many poems, the raven symbolizes the process of renewal or creation out of chaos. Although the raven may initially seem to be a symbol of darkness, it has a creative aspect that drives rebirth. Hughes uses it to suggest the power of nature to recreate itself through conflict and chaos. The raven stands for violence and power, but at the same time, it represents nature's ability to renew itself after this destruction. In mythology, the raven is often associated with death but is also part of the ongoing cycle of life, being a symbol of re-creation (Shekhawat, 2012). The crow as a creature in the natural world has a great capacity for survival. Hughes uses this creature to highlight the idea that nature, despite its cruelty, always can return to life. The raven here becomes a symbol of life's resilience and renewal. It also appears as a symbol of human absurdity. Hughes depicts man as a weak and limited creature in comparison to the primitive nature represented by the raven. The raven in Hughes' poems often challenges the cosmic order and religious values. Through this challenge, Hughes reflects on the folly of humans in their quest to understand the universe or impose a moral order on it. The human folly lies in trying to find an explanation for the inexplicable. The raven

stands for nature that is beyond human understanding and control, highlighting the futility of human efforts to control or comprehend cosmic nature. Humans, in Hughes' poetic world, do not understand the lessons of nature, as man remains immersed in his follies despite the clear evidence around him. "The Crow" embodies an overlap between the innate wisdom of nature and human folly. In mythology, ravens are considered symbols of wisdom, as they are intelligent birds capable of adapting and surviving. However, Hughes uses this bird to highlight the gap between wise and instinctive nature and human folly, which tries to organize the universe according to its limited concepts (Shekhawat, 2012).

Conclusion

To Conclude this paper, Ted Hughes' use of animal imagery in "Crow," "Pike," and "The Thought-Fox," reflects profound ideas about nature, creativity, and human conflict. Each poem offers a unique insight into the relationship between man and nature, exploring the vital and primal forces that control the world. Hughes uses the crow as a multidimensional symbol, combining chaos and wisdom, reflecting the mysterious side of nature. The crow represents existential chaos that defies logic and human values. Nature in this poem is shown as an irrational force, one that humans cannot fully control. Through the crow, Hughes offers a critique of human helplessness in the face of greater natural forces, using the bird as a symbol of human folly, as well as of renewal and creative chaos. In the "Pike: Hughes depicts the pike fish as a symbol of the primal violence that prevails in nature. The fish is described as both beautiful and deadly, reflecting the contrast between beauty and violence that is evident in nature. The poetic imagery in "Pike" reinforces the idea that nature is based on the struggle for survival, with brutality being an essential part of the cycle of life. Hughes deepens this tension between beauty and cruelty to highlight how nature is indifferent to human morality, and that life depends on the survival of the fittest. In "The Thought-Fox", the fox becomes a symbol of poetic inspiration and creativity. The fox slowly emerges from the darkness, reflecting the process of artistic creation that emerges from the depths of the subconscious. These images express the moment of the birth of an idea or creativity from the depths of instinct and are an invitation to connect with inner instincts to achieve creativity. Hughes presents nature here as a positive force that helps in creation, but at the same time, it is mysterious and moves in the shadows, out of sight.

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