

The Image of Animals in Ted Hughes's "The Hawk in the Rain" and "The Thought Fox": A Textual Approach

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Abstract. Ted Hughes is thought to be a great poet of the modern period. This study attempts to explain the images related to animals in Hughes's two poems; "The Hawk in the Rain" and "The Thought Fox". It then, explains how images are used to enable the poet to express himself. Also, how the images helped readers understand the poems easily will be shed light on. Finally, analysis and comparison of the selected poems; "*The Thought Fox*" and "*The Hawk in the Rain*" will be highlighted. It also indicates how the poet uses the animal imagery to symbolize something else as a source of inspiration or power in the first poem, and brutality, savagery and violence of nature towards animals in the second poem. Textual and analytical approaches are used in the analysis of the poems. The study unveils the poet's deep feelings of the silent world of the animals in the darkness.

Keywords: Inspiration, Violence, Hawk, Nature, Imagery and Modern Poetry.

1. Introduction

1.1 Portrayal of Animals in Ted Hughes's Poetry

Ted Hughes has been known as an animal poet for the use of animal imagery in his poems. Ted uses animals to express his understanding about the spirituality of nature. He talks about the power of nature that he finds lacking in human society. In Ted Hughes's poetry, one of the most important themes, is the use of animal characters for number of reasons. By using portrayal of animals, Ted wants to show a violent struggle between good and evil that happens in nature every day, also to portray the whole image of nature and to use the wildlife of animals as metaphor for human existence. Hughes's poetry is notable for his use of animal depiction for depicting images and for symbolic objectives such as symbolism, brutality, depicting themes, and analogies. Each image conveys a distinct message his readers, and all of his poems reflect his strong relationship with them. He has the most animal imagery in his poems. He begins a poem with a basic image of an animal later on his subject is discussed thematically using a symbolic method. The poet usually utilizes animals as metaphor to clarify his purpose.

The entire poetry of Hughes is a skillful interpretation of animal images through the use of symbols. Moreover, if anyone reads the poet's biography, he understands that he closely experienced animal's nature from his early age because he loved animals more than any other poets in his time.

According to Ted Hughes's poems, animals don't completely pretend as human beings. But he portrays animals in nature to symbolize different human characteristics. They don't hide their violence and cruelty, but he also shows the differences and similarities between the two different worlds of animals in nature with human life on the universe. His animal world contains a profound philosophical and psychological message for the reader. All his poems have a vivid depiction of a specific animal. Similarly, in the poem *The Jaguar*, the referenced animal is characterized as a specific animal with vitality that contrasts with other creatures. "The eyes of Jaguar are sharp and penetrating, he is deaf of ear because of **"bang of blood in the brain"**". He turns around in his cage which is no cage for him. This long step is a clear sign of the feelings that he is absolutely free even though he is in cage. Here,

the imagination of Hughes is so strong and full of energy that no other poet has ever used in this context: **“by the bang of blood in the brain”**. Ted represents **Jaguar** as someone who is in prison by the humans but its spirit and energy cannot be imprisoned. Like the jaguar remains energetic in the poem. For Hughes, human beings are more imprisoned in their domestic and social environment.”

Also, in his two poems **“The Hawk in the Rain”** and **“Hawk Roosting”**, hawk, sitting effortlessly at a height with his still eyes and in his wings, all creation is weightless. This hawk, in **“The Hawk in the Rain”**, is steady as **“a hallucination in the streaming air”**. In the final stanza of this poem the ultimate fate of hawk is described in a different kind of language: **“the ponderous shires crash on him.”** Ted imagines that one day the storm will force the Hawk downwards to the earth and will be killed by the violence of nature. This shows the power of nature as compared to the power of animals which are being used symbolically.

In the second poem, **“Hawk Roosting”**, the hawk can kill where he pleases because the world is under his control. He is the one who makes final decisions regarding one’s death and life as in, **“The allotment of death”** is his advantage. The one path of his flight is now directly through the bones of living.

The poet in **“The Fox of Thought”** looks at the fox as its poetic inspiration and compares the movements of the fox with the process of writing poetry through animal images, clearly expressing the movements of the fox as an energy factor, and the movements of the fox here they are metaphors for stages. The second is that the poet writes poems, which is the true conflict of the poets' sensibilities. We can say; When Ted portrays animals and birds in his poems, he shows a very strong metaphorical language, using symbols to express other things in his mind, as in his poems (View of a pig, Pike, Thrushes, Cat and Mouse. The Horses, The Bull Moses and Skylarks). We can simply say that Ted compares animals to people through his images of animals and his intelligence, and believes that animals are the best in his opinion.

2.Methodology

Several studies have been conducted about Ted Hughes’s poetry. Not many of these papers tackled the subject of imagery in his poetry. This study is important because it studies two poems by Hughes. In these two poems, the image of animals has been studied relying on textual, historical and analytical approaches for the analysis of the poems to prove the importance of the use of images that will help readers grasp the poems easier.

For the exploration of the used images in the poems data have been taken from the poems along with different critical views.

3. Analysis of “The Thought Fox”

The Thought Fox was first published in Ted Hughes’s poetry collection **“The Hawk in the Rain”** in 1957. This poem is his breakthrough which indicates his turn from metaphysical poetry significant for the inclusion of his main themes and stylistic approaches.

The poem basically deals with the writing process. The beginning of the poem, the paper is black and as we come to the end, the paper is filled. In between, the speaker describes the creative process.

The poem consists of twenty-four lines divided into six different stanzas:-

Stanza 1:- I imagine this midnight moment’s forest:

Something else is alive

Besides the clock’s loneliness

And this black page where my fingers move

The poem begins with the word (I imagine) thus it’s clear that is all about the imagination of the poet. Not something real. The poet imagines he is in the forest in the midnight. He is not alone there as (something else is alive). In the beginning, it seems that he is imagining himself to be in the forest but by the end, we come to know that he is rather on his chair.

The forest there symbolizes his mind in which something else is alive, a thought comes, though he is alone having just running time and a paper as his compassion.

Stanza 2: **Through the window I see no star**
 Sometimes more near
 Through deeper within darkness
 Is entering the loneliness

Now, as there is something, the poet tries to see throw the window (perhaps refers to going into his mind) there is something but not as far as a star but very near, which is “though deeper within darkness” and is entering the loneliness it means killing the loneliness.

The Stanza ends in suspense .However, by relating this stanza to the first one, we can say that is the thought or an innovative idea which is about strike his mind.

Stanza 3: **Cold, delicately as a dark snow**
 A Fox’s nose touches twig, leaf
 Tow eyes serve a movement, that now
 And again now, and now, and now

The something is now visible. It is a fox whose. Cold. Delicately as the dark snow, nose touches twig leaf. Dark snow is an oxymoron because snow is never dark and here means the cold nose of the fox.

The line indicates that is coming near to him and right now only it’s nose is visible which is touching the leaves in the forest. Now two eyes also become visible.

The phrase now and again now, and now means that is coming near but the line has not completed yet.

Stanza 4 :- **Sets neat prints into the snow**
 Between trees, and warily a alone
 Shadow lages by stump and in hollow
 Of a body that is bold to come.

At the beginning of stanza 3 it is clear that “the fox is setting prints”. The lines phrases repeated imply that the fox is approaching the poet slowly.

This visibility is shown by its neat prints in the snow. In a deeper sense, they refer to the words which are being inscribed in the imaginary poem of the poet and which are quite visible.

The footprints of the fox are set between trees in a very smart way. Looking at its shadow can tell the possibility of its lameness as the snow near the stump (bottom part of tree).The shadow is coming behind which is about to come.

The words “bold to come” indicates that fox is careful, this sentences also remains uncompleted which perhaps symbolizes the pausing of the fox near the tree.

Stanza 5:- **A cross clearings an eye**
 A widening deepening greenness.
 Brilliantly, concentratedly
 Coming about its own business

“Across the clearings” implies that the place is without forest. Snow and in the deeper sense the paper. Suddenly, the fox reaches the poet. The poet feels an eye which is getting wider or bigger has “deepening greenness”, brilliance and is concentrated on its own “business”. The two eyes in (Stanza 4) have now become a single wider eye in (stanza 5).

Stanza 6:- **Till with a sudden sharp hot stink of fox**
 It enters the dark hole of the head
 The window is starless still the clock ticks,
 The page is printed.

The fox with its stink (smell, which makes it feel us) suddenly (enters the dark hole of the head, the fox or the creative thought suddenly comes into his mind which was dark or without a clue or idea. All this happened yet. The window is starless still; the clock ticks, everything is as normal (as in the beginning) but the poet’s creative idea is on the paper and hence a poem is written.

A poem begins with (I imagine) Hugh’s used pronoun (I) in the beginning, but the end of the poem (the page printed, we don’t know how printed the page? After that the fox (idea) doesn’t move.

In my opinion, at the end of this poem, the poet wasn't going to mention himself, or the fox stopped for moving can be described as "the breath of author" because the poem separates itself from the author and becomes the object of reading for the readers, may be the fox idea will get a rebirth in the mind of the readers.

4. Exploration of Ted Hughes presentation of the natural world in "The Thought Fox"

Ted Hughes is a poet whose work is very often concerned with the natural world and the creatures that inhabit it. This focus is seen from very start of this career, with his 1957 anthology. The Hawk in the Rain, and in perhaps the best known poem this collection "The Thought -Fox" this poem might be read as one of several animal portraits, such as:(pike) and (An Otter) which would come to constitute a large portion of his artistic output, as we are told excitedly and with a sense of awe what it feels like to be met with the "Sudden sharp hot stink of Fox". Yet this also work about the artistic process, describing not the physical animal of the fox but a semi- mythological "The Thought- Fox" which in (entering the loneliness) of the poet's mind, provides both solace and inspiration. This is a poem, then in which the natural world and the human world bleed into one another, and in which Hughes uses the figure of the fox as a catalytic for a discussion about the nature of imagination and the imagination power of nature.

One striking feature of the poem is the way in which Hughes imbues his fox with a sense of movement. We are told the third stanza how the "fox's nose touches twig, leaf" where the use of ellipsis creates an impression of immediacy, as though we are following the animal's action in real time. This is compounded by the subsequent end- shopping of the line with a semicolon, forcing us like the fox, to pause in consideration of its surroundings. After this moment of stillness comes two and a half stanzas' full of forwards motion, reinforced by the mechanically rhythmic repetition of (now/And again now, and now, and now) The propulsive alliteration of "Sets neat prints into the snow, between trees," and the internal assonance of the (widening deepening greenness, which the fox traverses.)

In which of these cases, the animals movement is set against a backdrop of nature, whether the (twig) which he sniffs at or the snow which he marks with (prints) rather than presenting a harmonious picture of a creature at one with his surrounding, however, this shows the fox as not entirely belonging to this habit. Which he seems both to defile and ignore on his journey towards the human narrator. The fox occupies a liminal space, travelling between the worlds of nature and of mankind without fully belonging to either.

5. Literary Device (Metaphor) in "The Thought Fox"

The poem "The Thought Fox" talks about the production of a poem. Very surprisingly Ted Hughes has presented a fox to be the metaphor of the poem itself. Critics are divided in their opinion that fox symbolizes the poem or the poet himself. In fact, the fox has both the chances: Hughes himself point out that it is "about a fox" obviously enough, but a fox that is both a fox and not a fox. (Hughes, poetry in making .1967). This Animalia in human beings is a very common metaphor. Way back in the Jacobean period Ben Jonson proposed this Animalia in human beings in one of his famous comedies Vulpone or the Fox (Jonson 1967) where the center character Volpone suggests (fox) Ben Jonson used this metaphor just to offer the negative shrewdness in that character. But here the purpose of Ted Hughes is different. Hughes rather presented the fox very positively in this poem.

A.Literature Devices

Language:

-Formal language which emphasizes as an author.

-Understanding that it is written in a house in close proximity to the forest.

-The mood the language creates is quite suspenseful and insidious, this is shown through the gradual details of the fox.

B. Tone: The physical setting of the poem in a dark forest and the slow revolution of the fox together create a tone of great suspense and mystery. Furthermore, The imagery of “the dark hole of the head” adds grotesque element but also indicates that this poem has been largely introspective.

6. Stylistic Devices

Hughes employs a number of poetic devices to describe the futility of the struggling poet and how the (Thought fox) eventually inspires his creativity. The person is struggling to write at night, with the waterfall motifs of the ticking clock and starless night observing his frustration. The “Starless night” is a metaphor for his lack of ideas. The transferred epithet of “The clock’s loneliness illustrates the person’s fragile emotional state” the fox gradual appearance is accompanied by vivid sensory imagery that first describes the darkness of the forest and then later the (widening deepening greenness) the way the fox illustrates the landscape for the persona:

A. Anaphora and Apostrophe

That now, and again now, and now, and now

This instance of repetition evokes the physical action and sound of typing. The repeated movement of marking a page is mimicked by the constant punctuation of (now).

B. Alliteration:- midnight moment’s deeper within darkness

The alliterated (d) sound creates a mysterious tone that implies the persona’s fear of the forest.

“ Sudden sharp hot stink of fox”

The sibilant (S) sounds convey the fluidity and speed with which the fox enters the persona’s brain.

**Starless still
Page is printed**

The plosive alliteration enhances the imagery of the night sky and the blank page.

C. Sensory Imagery: - Where my finger move (tactile) Hot stink of fox (olfactory)

Hughes employs sensory imagery to evoke tangible reality of the fox. The fox is gradually realized from a set of (neat prints) into a living breathing (and smelly) animal.

D. Personification: “The clock’s loneliness”

This example of personification is also an example of a transferred epithet. In which we are given information about the persona’s state of mind. It is the person, rather than the clock, that is lonely.

E. Metaphor: Sets neat prints into the snow:

Hughes uses this metaphor to present writing on a blank page. Like the snow, an empty page is also white, and has taunted the persona since the first stanza.

The “Starless night” is a metaphor for his lack of ideas.

F. Onomatopoeia: “the clock ticks”

The sound of the clock’s ticks contrasts the poem’s silence and emphasizes the speaker’s loneliness.

7. Analysis of “The Hawk in the Rain”

The Hawk in the Rain is one of the Hughes’s most famous poems. The whole volume of poems, Hughes’s first publication (which appeared in 1957), called the “Hawk in The Rain after the title of this one poem.

“I drown in the drumming plough land, I drag up”

On a rainy day in Yorkshire, one can envision Hughes wandering along the edge of a ploughed field. The two alliterative terms drown and pounding express the nature of the rain rather effectively. It is a torrential run – and as continuous and dominant as the beat of a drum. Although there is no tin roof nearby, we have no idea what sound is being created against whatever garments the may be wearing.

There is a pause after I drag up, text, which must flow on to the text of the text line... to be continued... as the rain continues.

Heel after heel from the swallowing of the earth's mouth,

We now have a picture of movement, of difficulty in waking and the earth becomes a mouth swallowing, what it is exactly swallowing is not known at this stage.

From clay that clutches my each step to the ankle

With the habit of the dogged grave, but the hawk

It is now quite clear that the sodden ground is engulfing Ted. The alliterative clutching clay gives personification to the earth. Ted now extends his thoughts to the grave and the ground that will inevitable conquer him. The earth has this habit of taking people, but the hawk... again we have text that must continue, this time to the text of the second stanza.

Effortlessly at height hangs his still eye.

His wings hold all creation in a weightless quiet.

Eye and height define the hawk. In great contrast to Ted who has been focusing on the ground. The Hawk has the entire world below him and moreover it is effortless for him to hover in the adverse conditions.

Steady as hallucination in the streaming air.

While banging wind kills these stubborn hedges

We don't know what has drawn Ted to look at the sky but in doing so we sense a degree of envy for the Hawk while the wind destroys below. By choosing hallucination Ted perhaps wonders whether this is real and whether the hawk can resist nature in this way.

Thumbs my eyes, throws my breath, tackles my heart,

And rain hacks my head to the bone, the hawk hangs,

Emphasis is given to what is happening at Ted's level the wind and the rain taking on the dimension of a murderer, and then reflecting back to the hawk we have to wait after hangs to go to the next line.

The diamond point of will that polestars

The sea downer's endurance: And I,

The ability of the hawk to withstand the weather is emphasized by taking the diamond shape confronting the wind and that diamonds are used for cutting. Polestar is a wonderful choice of word it gives eye to the sky and the polestar is a guide and safety symbol. It is used as a verb giving action to the scene. The weather is such that anyone caught at sea likely to have a most unpleasant time. Then returning to Ted's predicament the stanza ends with another pause.

Bloodily grabbed dazed last- moment-counting

Morsel in the earth's mouth, strain to the master-

Fulcrum of violence where the hawk hangs still.

That maybe in his own time meets the weather.

The stanza splits in two again between the hawk and Ted. Ted is about to be devoured akin to the hawk devouring a morsel from the ground. The key word in this stanza is master- fulcrum- the support, or point of rest, on which a lever turns in moving a body.

In the last line consideration is given to the morality of the hawk and a question is started with a pause at the end of the stanza.

Coming the wrong way, suffers the air, hurled upside-down,

Fall from his eye, the ponderous shires crash on him,

The horizon trap him, the round angelic eye.

Smashed. mix his heart's blood with the mire of the land.

In time the hawk will be caught by nature and meet the same fate and the earth will conquer. The ponderous shires crash on him. This bottom up expression gives strength to the power of the earth to greet the fate of the hawk. Note how this links to the wrong way in the first line.

The angelic eye shows the beauty of the hawk and gives religious tones as of the falling of an angel- even the most perfect of creatures will meet the fate of all- perhaps a cry on the nature from one who had so great an affinity with natural world.

8. Portrayal of Animals and thematic study of “The hawk in the Rain”

The theme of this poem is the contrast between the steadiness, the ability, and the strength of a hawk (perched on some cliff or crag or rock or tree) and the unsteadiness and the sense of danger of a human being when it is raining heavily and when a strong, cold wind is also blowing. The hawk remains unperturbed by the heavy rain and the strong wind, and maintains his equilibrium and poise. But the man struggles through the mud on the ground, feeling afraid lest he should sink into it and be swallowed by the earth. The hawk shows his strong will against the rain and against the violence of the wind, while the man feels that his end is near. However, the last stanza expresses a different idea. The hawk would one day meet his end when, “coming the wrong way,” he might be hurled downwards by the fury of the storm and killed. While the poem shows the hawk’s superiority over man in terms of will-power and the power of endurance, it also shows that the hawk is not immortal or invulnerable.

The poem contains graphic imagery, like the bulk the poems in the same volume, and like most of the other poems which Hughes wrote subsequently. We are given a vivid picture of a man struggling through mud and feeling that he might be swallowed by the earth. We also have a vivid picture of the hawk perched effortlessly at a height, maintaining a still eye. The final stanza presents the most vivid picture of the hawk being hurled down by a furious storm, and dashing against the earth, to be killed instantaneously.

The pictures in this poem have been presented to our minds by means of striking words put together in original combinations. Indeed this poem shows Hughes’s skillful use of the language even though simplicity sacrificed in the process. Some of the most impressive lines the use of language are the following:

While banging wind kills these stubborn hedges,
Thumbs my eyes, through my breath, tackles my heart
And rain hacks my head to the bone, the hawk hangs
The diamond point of will that polestars
The sea drowner’s endurance

The use of simile and metaphor in the poem adds to its interest and also serves to emphasize the particular idea being expressed. Examples of such a use of figures of speech are: “steady as a hallucination;” morsel in the earth’s mouth”; “the ponderous shires crash on him”; “and “the horizon traps him.” We also have alliteration in the poem and this also is a device which Hughes uses in his poetry frequently and with great effect. The very first line and then the last line of the poem provide examples of the use of alliteration:

I drown in the drumming ploughland, I drug up...

Smashed, mix his heart’s blood with the mirror of the land.

Here the “m” sound is repeated, and also the “I” sound (in “blood” and “land”). The last stanza produces a dramatic effect on us because of reversal of the idea of the poem. This stanza comes as a surprise. Throughout the poem contrast is established between the man and hawk. And then the similar to the man’s, if not worse than the man’s.

According to one of the critics, Alan Bold, Hughes believes that the strength of animals lies in their instinct and precis function. Hughes said: “Animals are not violent, they are so much more completely

controlled than man, so much more adapted to their environment.” So, While Hughes is almost swallowed up my mud and is mastered by the earthy element, the hawk “effortlessly at

height hands his still eye.” While the ferocious wind.
Thumbs my eyes, throws my breath, tackles my heart,
And rain hacks my head to the bone, the hawk hangs
The diamond point of will that polestars
The sea drowner’s endurance.

This, says Alan Bold, is a radical note in Nature-poetry. Previous lovers of nature have, like G.M. Hopkins, marveled at the verity and beauty of animals, or, like D.H.Lawrence, seen them as similar to man. Hughes, however, deliberately puts man at disadvantage as compared with animals. In this poem, man exists on a lower earth-bound level than the hawk. For Hughes, animals are pure embodied function; they are not, like man, vitiated by the spurious morality or incapacitated by doubt. A hawk is a hawk whereas a man has ambition to be god-like and is thus permanently frustrated. The hawk is forever in his own element even when he dies an elemental death as he “meets the weather/ coming the wrong way.”

9. Thematic Comparison between the Two Poems “The Hawk in the Rain” & “The Thought Fox”

In the two poems (The Thought Fox and The Hawk in the Rain), the writer uses the first pronoun “I” to take the readers straight into the speaker’s mind. The Thought Fox talks about inspiration, creativity and imagination to write poems, in which the poet metaphorically portrait the image of Fox to the idea outside of his mind or with a sky without stars, but when the fox appears, the writer will be inspired. The poet says writing needs patience, concentration and imagination just as hunter’s stillness and patience. This poem begins with “I imagine” and he shows a very dark scene with quiet, and the speaker’s sneezes to be in a room with a clock and a desk, it’s also late at night, still he is not inspired until that moment of the movements of the fox, when a fox appears outside the window and makes a purposeful journey across the snow, there will be an inspiration for the writer and at this point the “page is printed,” and the poem is complete. He metaphorically uses not only the image of fox, but its movements, paw prints in the snow between the trees with shadow behind it like an injured animal, but the fox moves confidently with eye widens, intense green colors as means as inspiration for the writer to use his fingers to write on the blank page. Obviously, The Thought Fox provides a metaphorical brief look into the act of writing or poet’s struggle to write. The poem clearly mentions the loneliness writing requires, and the late nights many writers spend their times over their work, because it is a waiting time for inspiration to strike, or personally exploring an idea. At the same time, "The Thought-Fox" also suggests that writing is innate and organic: while a specific image or event may inspire a first line, a poem ultimately comes from the dark forest of its poet's mind. Nature also plays a powerful role across Hughes' body of work, and "The Thought-Fox" is no exception. The poem takes place in a home near the edge of the forest on a dark, snowy night. This setting adapts to the loneliness writing often involves, while the dark, dense forest represents creative affect upon inactiveness, and waiting to be activated. The poem suggests that being a writer is like living alone in the middle of this forest, unsure of what lies beyond its clearing, but both anxious and eager to discover what hides in its depths. Specifically, the fox bears a personal significance for Hughes, which will be explored later in this guide.⁽¹⁾

While in the poem “The Hawk in the Rain”, the writer presents a picture faces with a natural difficulties, and says man is too weak and fragile, human beings faces difficulties by nature especially when he says he drowns and clutches in the clay. He also shows that the Hawk’s height and virtue above humans being in the second stanza when he shows the hawk sits effortlessly at height on the branch of the tree with steady in the streaming air, but he also shows the violence of nature even against the birds and humans, here in this poem; the writer compares

the violence of nature with the humans' towards animals and birds, because even the nature (the wind) finally pushes the hawk down on the trees to the ground and unfortunately the hawk will die due to the violence of nature. Ted in this poem "The Hawk in the Rain" describes a clear picture to indicate the society of that time, and hit the point of the problem between man and nature. In the poem, Ted uses hawk to symbolize the nature in general sense, and the person pronoun "I" refers to all the human being. Faced with the natural difficulties and obstacles, "I" appears to be too weak to stand up against them, yet the hawk as part of the natural world can remain calmly and proudly still and strong. Furthermore, the rain, wind and clay all represent the natural advantages over the human. And finally, the will power of the hawk can even serve as the guiding star of the desperate man. So, it is easy to draw the conclusion that in the struggle and conflict between man and nature, the nature eventually takes the preference. And then, human loses its control. In the latter part of the poem, the hawk becomes man's guiding star, and helps him to save his humble life. Then comes the direct conflict between the hawk itself and the nature ("That maybe in his own time meets the weather"). The hawk died because of "coming the wrong way" Finally, we can say of all Hughes' poems, the work of subject matter selection is done within a very large space, and thus his poem will not particularly focus on a certain person or a certain thing. He usually adopts the common object in the nature, especially animals, to demonstrate the profoundest theme. The Hawk in the Rain depicts Hawk as the center of the nature's power, along with the wind and rain to confront human. Here clearly, the hawk as a symbol of the mighty natural force takes the control of its surroundings. The struggling and alone hiker represents our human who is in need of the nature's guidance. Here both the hawk and the man are nothing special, but something meaningful.

10. Conclusions

In conclusion, we discovered that Ted Hughes's animal poems have a humanitarian note about them. These poems made him called an "animal poet". His two poems "The Thought Fox" and "The Hawk in the Rain" are his two most significant poems about animals in which he illustrates the creative process of writing poetry by portraying different images and symbols in "Thought Fox" as means of inspiration, and also shows the violence of nature towards animals in "The Hawk in the Rain". Accordingly, Hughes's interest in use of animal imagery grows, and he intends to draw reader's attention to his poems to demonstrate that the animals have their own identities and characters sometimes different from humans and sometimes identical. Additionally, Hughes indirectly and symbolically describes the contrast and sometimes the similarity between animals and mankind. One can say in most of his animal poems, Hughes has presented the animals with the characteristics of man but with much more strength and energy than humans as seen in the example of hawk or the one of the fox.

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