**Coleridge**

**Introduction**

ST Coleridge was a great poet in English literature. He was born at Devonshire in England in 1772. His death made a tremendous impact on English speaking people in 1843. He was born as son of poor parson. He studied in the Christ Hospital that was exclusive for poor children. At the very early age, he was interested in politics. Later period, he changed his mind and interested into poetry- writing. He was the original thinker and visionarian. He published a number of poems which dealt with different subjects especially Romantic thoughts . They are a great combination of illusion and supernatural elements. His poems such as ‘The Ancient Mariner,’ ‘Christable,’ and ‘Kubla Khan’ depict as poems of Romantic spirits. He narrated the historical element with supernatural concept in his poems. His friendship with William Wordsworth jointly published Lyrical Ballads in 1798. Coleridge published poems in Lyrical Ballads only a small amount of poems. After certain period, Coleridge made a controversial opinion against Wordsworth. He did not accept the concept of Wordsworth’s poetic diction and usage of language in the creative works. Later, he became an addict for opium- eater. A long period, he lived alone at High gate. The physical weakness of his health and loneliness of his isolation made him as philosophical thinker. Later he was called as sage of High gate.

**His Theory of Imagination**

As said earlier, Coleridge was a visionarian. He had a different perspectives and opinion about poetry. In the Neo- Classical period, most of the poets strictly followed according to rules of Greek’s classicists. Writers like Dryden and Pope followed a scholarly writing of literary rules instead of taste and feeling of creative – writing. However, Coleridge did not follow as model of his predecessors. He followed the Imagination and the Fantasy as tool of poetic writing. He was a Romantic poet. So, the spirit of Romanticism, he accepted for his creative works.

Coleridge has a great- opinion about two concepts in his creative works- Imagination and Fantasy. He gave distinctive views on the two factors. During the period, ‘the imagination and the fantasy’ did not allow as a poetic language. However, his Romantic spirit made him to think differently. The Imagination and Fantasy seem one and the same, but it has a different vision and perspectives according to Coleridge.

His friendship with Wordsworth published the *Lyrical Ballads*. After Wordsworth’s profound domination on using of language made a controversial opinion against him. Wordsworth practiced the language of Common’s Man; but Coleridge wanted to write the supernatural elements which made a beautification of creative faculty. Therefore, his creative works show a distinctive characteristic of rendering the thoughts of imagination and fantasy. It could be seen in the poems of ‘Ancient Mariner,’ and’ Kubla Khan.’

**Conclusion**

Unlike other English critics, Coleridge was a distinctive personality that was as critic and philosopher. His creative thought and impulsive mind made him to shape poems as chisel for sculpture. His poetic criticism is not as model of Wordsworth. Wordsworth did not make any influences upon him; because his friendship with Wordsworth made a contradictory opinion about poetic language. He believed that he learnt from the nature, which made the coloring his mind. Similarly, the mind coloring the nature made a creation of creative works. It is his poetic and philosophical thoughts in his writing. Therefore, Coleridge is the creator of philosophy and poetic imagination in his creative works.

Further read the following books

Hudson, W.H. An Outline History of English Literature, Maple Classics, 2018.

Prasas, B. *An Introduction to English Criticism*, Trinity, 2015.