

Autobiographical Notes in Once More to the Lake

Dhiraj Acharya

Department of English, MMAMC, Biratnagar

Email: dhirajacharya44@gmail.com

Abstract

This paper depicts “Once More to the Lake” is related to autobiographical theme. Autobiographical memory is taken as the main problem of this research paper. For the analysis of this paper memory, experience and feelings about nature has been presented as research questions. This research is related to library work. It is applied on the basis of qualitative methodology and text based explanatory method. This paper is based on autobiographical narrative theory. Autobiographical narrative transparently explore the constitutive process of autobiographical subjectivity. They are: memory, experience, identity, agency and embodiment. This paper discuss about narrator’s experience of visiting to lake with his father and narrator revisiting the same lake with his son and reminds him about his past experience. It reflects about the natural environment of the lake and it shows the relationship between nature organism and human beings. It shows how fragments of experience change over time and those experience reminds about the individual life.

Keywords:

Memory, experience, romanticism, feelings about nature

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Introduction

The title evokes about the autobiographical theme of the essay “Once More to the Lake”. White’s memory of visiting to the lake represents his dual existence. His experience of visiting to the lake is connected with his love towards the natural environment of the lake Maine. This essay is associated with nature because it depicts about the natural environment of the lake. It is applied on the basis of qualitative methodology and text based explanatory method. This research is based on autobiographical subjects. Autobiographical theory is applied in this research work. Autobiographical theory is a genre of

academic writing that weaves personal narrative. Autobiographical theory incorporates how memory reminds about fragments of experience. In Once More to the lake by narrator evokes about his individual memory through the medium this of essay. Once More to the Lake was originally published in Harper’s Magazine in 1941. E.B. White authored seventeen books of prose and poetry and was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 1973. E.B. White has written children’s literature, poems, essays and he has drawn sketches for The New Yorker Magazine.

This essay “Once More to the Lake” is an autobiographical notes. Shreedhar Lohani claimed that the relationship between fact and perception is evident in “Once

More to the Lake”, in which he remembers about boy-hood summer holidays in Maine. He describes the place with amazing vividness and offers unsettling speculations about the meaning of his memories. The writing is rooted in the crucial act of vision, a vision which sees into and beyond the surface of his subjects. He depicts the role of memory and realizes about death. (Lohani, 2021, p.224). Lohani depicts about the memory which is associated with individual identity. He tells about the power of remembering in “Once More to the Lake”. Above mentioned study focuses that this essay is explainable as an autobiographical narratives.

Visiting with his friends and family became an occasion for White to remember about his past where he used to spend holiday in his childhood with his family. Narrated memory of White’s travel to the lake with his family is expression of his past life which can never be fully gained. White visit to lake with his son organize fragments of memory which visualize his past life. Memory is associated with situation in which narrator’s memory of spending holiday in the lake with his father and he revisits the same lake with his son. As he visits the lake in different condition, his role differs though he visits the same lake which tells memory is connected to the situation. White’s experience is the process through which his experience became a certain kind of subject owing certain identities. White claims about his individuals experience which becomes his subjects of particular kinds to visit a lake as a ”child” and ”father”. Autobiography is associated with individual truth rather than a fictional representation of person’s experience narrated by self. Autobiography evokes about act of exploring about self-imagination and an act of self-reflection. Audience will be able to notice how individual experience is represented in autobiographical narratives.

Statement of the problem

This paper focuses on E.B. White’s essay “Once More to the Lake” which is based on autobiographical narrative. The analytical tool of autobiography is based on memory, experience, identity, embodiment and agency. All these tools related with meaning of life, history, context, remembrance, trauma, materialistic life and so on. To solve the problem in this paper. On the basis of these questions:

- a. What kind of memory is reflected in an essay?
- b. How individual’s experience accompany in an essay?
- c. Why this essay is associated with nature?

Author speaks about autobiographical understandings. Individual experience and memory of author’s has been presented. He tells nature, memory and experience are related to context. Memory represented in autobiography is specific to situation and individual experience of spending that specific moment. Interpretation of the past memory.

Methodology

This research is applied on the basis of qualitative methodology and explanatory method. This research paper is based on autobiographical narrative theory. This research is related to library work.

Theoretical Framework Analytical Concept

Autobiography evokes about general reaction to inquiry chiefly about personal narrative which is basically related to truth rather than a made up exploration of an individual’s life written by self”. We learn from our experience where imaginary exploration of self formally determines and so takes priority over the supposed truthful direction.” (Cox, 1971, p.254). About biography Northp Fyre (1957) says -

Autobiography and America evokes about connecting the narrator’s lived experiences and his own explanation of phenomena, the autobiographical description is beholden to certain essential things of creative discourse”. Michael Ryan’s Journal of English Literary History says “Autobiographical writing explores the narrator’s awareness of his or her life becoming private even as he or she brings it into the particular situation Francis R. Hart’s Notes for an Anatomy of Modern Autobiography says “The expression of autobiographical writing becomes a reflection part of the narrator’s experience. The self-narrator not any more completely explore his life to the present, systematically thrust of describing or concerning conventions; rather he understand how his writing is inadequate, reasonable rendering his life. Every individual may reflect to oneself while allowing references to others. (p.307-308).

Autobiographical writing depicts about an important challenge or event in narrator’s life. Autobiography helps to understand the lives of others who came from different backgrounds.

Autobiography is a record of own self and a written form of self-experience activities. It is also defined as the exploration of self. Autobiography mirrors that individual’s memories are connected to vocal senses. Autobiography present an inner critical point which is determined by the narrator’s findings of his own identity and feelings. (Abrams, 1999, pp. 23). Autobiography explores about identity crisis which is determined by individual findings of drastic changes in individual’s life. It is a medium of exploring the personal things in a self-written form. “Autobiography depicts about self-description of his or her life which is different from personal records such as journals or diaries and it is also described as autobiographical writing which is written for a targeted group of people. (Cuddon, 2013, p. 61)”. Autobiography is a written report of an individual’s life written by that specific person. Autobiography depicts about individual’s experience. Steven Kepenes) (1992) *states, that*

“The process of creating changes in life, or about sharing experience in the actual condition in which it was

lived. Its essence of interest is the self not the outside world. Autobiography is remembering about the past experience and memorizing. It take advantage of pattern of existence which establish logical narrative.” (p. 106)

Similarly the modern autobiographical essay is a record of significant experience, in which the narrator attempts to persuade the reader to a certain viewpoint. Modern biographers states that autobiographer are suspicious about the assumption of findings the truth. “Modern biographers declaration seems suspicious if we make contrast with the technique and assumption with the autobiographer, who also asserts to speak the complete truth and nothing but the fact (Child Fowler, 2005, p. 20)”. It is related to autobiography because it reveals about autobiographical subject truth and identity.

Autobiography is related to self-narrative because it tells about individual experience and memory. Autobiography studies about the individual experience and context of individual's life and imaginative activity to express self-narrative. (Panta, 2022, p. 437). Autobiography is about individual feelings and about reflection of individual behavior because autobiography reflects individual context and experience. Autobiographical narration is about a way of exploring events remembered from an individual's existence. Autobiography evokes about personal experience of self which is connected to context of remembering. Autobiography also represents the bonding between nature, human and organism. Major autobiographical study tools are memory, experience and love towards nature. On the basis of this tools we can analyze the text.

Discussion and Finding

This paper attempts to analysis about the memory, experience and feelings about as an autobiographical tools. This paper is also based on the ability of remembrance and about the realization of death which takes place in Belgrade Lake, Maine .The narrator gives an account of his recollection of the part of a memory to visit in the same location and in summer season. He gives an account that takes with his son and recalls how he express his experience with his father a generation ago. However, this essay considered as one of brief recollection of memory in which White presents his personal experiences and why the lake is special for him. Along with this, he highlights the mortality of human being in this physical world. Memory is person or thing remembered or kept in the mind by the people. Memory is the faculty by which things are recalled. Memory creates the meaning of the past. Memory is organized differently in different context. We memorize certain things in certain situation. Memory is related to particular place and circumstances. Meaning is connected to specific events and things with particular meaning for the author.

Memory

Memory is an ability to store and remember ideas, experience and information. Memory is the power to recall past experiences and recall information. It is related to the truth of remembrance due to which data and details of certain things and situation can be memorized. Memory is the conscious storage and recollection of data. It is associated with context, situation, events and time. It depicts about the storage of things that has happened or experience as evidenced by modification of structure. It is the fact or condition of being remembered. It is the time within which past events can be remembered. Memory reflects the fragmented phenomena of individual. Memory is influenced by the author's emotional experiences. (Cuddon, 2013, p. 62). Memory is the ability to remember information, experiences, events and people. Memory is the power to remember and recall information and past experiences.

Memory evokes about personal experience which recalls one's essential life story (Abrams, 1999, p. 23). Memory is the act or process of recalling to past experiences or events. It is the capacity to store and retrieve information. “Memory is collection of wisdom of a lifespan and also an action of determining specification” (Child, Flower, 2005, p. 21). Memory is the ability to summing up or recall past sensations, thoughts, knowledge and experiences. Human memory involves the ability to both preserve and recover information. Individual's life related events and thoughts are recalled to be expressed and represented as form of memory. (Pant, 2079, p.442). E.B. White evokes about the memory of visiting to the Lake. His memory of visiting to the lake shows dual identity of White as being father and visiting the same lake as a son during his young age. His memory of visiting lake reminds him about the beauty of nature.

White further states about the lake “I wondered how time would have marred this holy spot the cones and streams, the hills that the sun set behind, the camps and the paths behind the camps.” (White, 2013, p.280) All the sceneries of the lake like streams, hills, camps and the paths around the beautiful area are mesmerizing to him. The time has passed with its unstoppable nature and it takes change in each and every matter but there is no effect of time in these places. All the physical and geographical locations and matters are as it is which he saw so many years ago with his father. Now he is the father and his son is with him. With the present relation, he got nostalgic and recalls his past days with his father. Each and every event and the scenarios around the place take confusion in him to clarify whether he is his father or his son is himself. This is all due to his past experience of visit the same place with his father. Thus White is questioning for his actual identity in the present and the past experiences and memory. He transforms dual experience of ideal boyhood and being father visiting the same lake.

Some of the specific examples are too given related with natural elements which show the sameness of the

atmosphere. The example of dragonfly is the best one to recall in the essay. A creature is seen in his fishing rod which really confused him to accept the reality of the present time. The author further explains: "There had been no years between the ducking if this dragonfly and the other one – the one that was part of memory. I looked at the boy, who was silently watching his fly, and it was my hand s that held his rod, my eyes watching. I felt dizzy and didn't know which rod I was at the end of." (White, 1997, p. 281) Here individual experience has been represented through memory in which representation on the passage of time has be shown. His illusion with the creature dragonfly is a symbol of natural reflection of its beauty. But comparatively the memory from his past and the experience of his present is making him confusion on the existence of the time. For some sort period of time he lost his identity of father and turns himself into his child and visits his past hood. We also see the identity crisis of White due to his double experience of same place in different time periods.

Once summer, along about 1904, my father rented a camp on a lake in Maine and took us all there for the month of August. We all got ringworm from some kittens and had to rub Pond's Extract on our arms and legs night and morning and my father rolled over in a canoe with all his clothes. White remembers about the past event of visiting to lake with his father. He remembers about his visit to lake where he has rented a camp on the Lake Maine. He presents his memory of the past. White concern the description of his visit to lake with his father. It is strange how much you can remember about places like that once you allow your mind to return into grooves which lead back. It shows the power of memory (p. 281). Memory is rooted with past experience which is embedded in the personal life. You remember one thing and that suddenly reminds you of another thing. I guess i remembered clearest of all early mornings, when the lake was cool and motionless, remembered how the bedroom smelled of the lumber it was made of and of wet woods which scent entered through the screen. White projects the memory of the clearest early mornings. He describes the memory of the cool and motionless lake. (PP.281) This extract deals with the memory of the White's visiting the natural environment of the Lake Maine. Memory is associated with the past experience of people. It reminds personal life of people which projects the observation of individual identity. Memory is connected to experience because memory reminds about personal experience. Memory recalls about self-experience.

Experience

Experience is associated with a direct observation of participation in events. Experience is connected with a variety of closely related meanings. Experience evokes about observation of facts or events of individual. Experience is connected to the context of remembering. Experience explores personal account of self. Experience is the contest

or incident which structure an impression on someone. Experience is the medium of knowledge or skill in a specific context that you have gained through doing something in a certain period of time. Individual experience is the way to express personal life story. (Abrams, 1999, p.223) Personal experience is the direct experience of an individual. Occurrence of individual experience represent particular activity. Self-exploration of personal account is intensely interconnected to spiritual experience. (Cud-don, 2013, pp.60-61) White's Personal experience is the perception of events filtered through a particular human being's. Personal experience reflects the flow of thoughts and meanings persons bring to their immediate situations. Major events of life are connected to individual's experience as per context, emotion and subject. (Panta, 2069, p.452). White reflects upon the experience of visiting the lake as a child and experience of visiting the lake with his son many years later. White's experience of being at the lake brings him back to his childhood when he experiences the lake.

The essay deals with the recollection of memory and experience. White presents his dual experience of visiting to the lake Maine in summer time. White remembers about his visit to lake by which he was totally lost in natural beauty. He further describes "about the joy of enjoying vacation outside in the lake Maine because he was attracted by the natural beauty of the lake. He remembers about their visit to lake summer after summer always on August (White, 1997, p. 279) He loves to visit the place every year in summer time which he mentioned in these lines. By his past experience with his father, he knows the beauty and comfortable of the location so he urges to visit the same place even with his son time and again. His past experiences are helping him to choose the location for spending the vacation in summer time and he prefers the same lake Maine which is best for him. He finds happiness in his visit to lake with his son. It paradoxically reminds him about his past experience of visiting the lake. His existence of a father reminds him the reality which is established by the span of time. He is now in the place of his father and one day his son will be there. In the lines "I began to sustain the illusion that he was I, and therefore, by simple transposition; that I was my father" his illusion we can see clearly dealing with his double exist person having dual experience (p.280).It shows about the dual existence of the narrator. I would be saying something, and suddenly it would be not I but my father who was saying the words or making the gesture. It gave me a creepy sensation." (p.280)The effect of his dual experience is creating his dual existence in the same place.

In the same way, when he takes his son for fishing he feels every single things and the whole atmosphere 'same' in nature. This shows the lines-

"Beyond any doubt that everything was as it always had been that the years were a mirage and there had been no years. The small waves were the same, chucking the rowboat the same boat, the same color green and the ribs

broken in the same places, and the floor-boards the same fresh water leaving and debris". (p.281).

Narrator's experience of visiting the lake repeatedly indicate to his experience in the lake side. But as we know this is all his vision of illusion while visiting the same place with his son. In the essay the personal source and the autobiographical elements are presented by its concrete and specific language. The use of sensory perception in the lines "the accumulated heat of the little bed room after the long hot day and the breeze would stir almost imperceptible outside and the smell of the swamp drift in through the rusty screens have shown the specific examples of his experience"(p. 283). Along with this, the lines "The red squirrel would be on the roof, trapping out his gay routine. I kept remembering everything, lying in his bed in the morning – the small steamboat that had a long rounded steam like the lip of a Ubangi" are too used by White to show the concrete and specific nature of language (p. 283). His experience and the memory is clearly presented through this sort of language. Along with this, the use of narrative technique in past experience in past form is also supportive to highlight the past experience of White in this essay.

Narrator memory of visiting to lake becomes identical to the lake of his boyhood, his experience of newness in the lake, motor boats disturb the natural environment at the lake. In the whole essay, the only change he mentions which he experienced is the sound of motors in which we can see in the lines: "The only thing that was wrong now, really, was the sound of the place, an unfamiliar nervous sound of the outboard motors. This was the note that jarred, the one thing that would sometimes break the illusion and set the years moving." (p. 282) By this, he sometimes realizes the changing nature of environment and its elements due to the time period. This also reminds him that even though the lake in its existence remains unaltered, Narrator himself is distinct and so he finally accepts a basic irony of life which is the natural cycle of birth, childhood, maturity and death. Similarly in the last paragraph, narrator understands the passage of time and its changes in each and every living and non-living beings. To support this argument he states, "I watched him, his hard little body skinny and bare, saw him wince slightly as he pulled up around his vitals the small, soggy, icy garment. As he buckled the swollen belt suddenly my groin felt the chill of death." (p. 284) The essence of time and nature is clearly presented by narrator while relating the last phrase "the chill of death". It is an unavoidable reality which must be accepted by everyone else. His experience of his father's death is creating a sense of chill and coldness in himself to accept the reality of death.

Feelings about Nature

By being on the natural environment or watching natural beauty, make joyful, reduce pain and suffering and people get pleasure. Natural environment not only gives you pleasure and joy but it also improves our mental health.

Human beings find nature essential and interesting. We can naturally focus on what we are experiencing out in nature. If we just walk in the woods or a stroll by the river on a sunny morning can awaken the inner most feelings of happiness and peace. Nature connects people with personal happiness and helps to discover personal identity (Abrams.1999, p. 224). Human beings are part of nature. Nature have been crucial to the development of human beings. Human beings and nature are interconnected to one another. Nature has provided humans with variety of resources and services that are essential for our survival. Nature represents the bonding between human beings, animals and organisms. (Cuddon, 2013, p. 63) Human beings and nature are connected to one another. Human beings are attracted by the beauty of nature. Human is very closely dependent on nature. Without nature human beings cannot survive. Nature is a device for summing up the accumulated wisdom of a lifetime and a means of defining identity (Child and Fowler, 2015, p. 20). Nature evokes about human identity.

Human beings and nature are connected to one and another. Nature connect people with personal happiness. Nature and nature related autobiography writing develop events and events create picture. So, nature becomes part of autobiography (Panta, 2079, p.453). Nature reflects individual's life events. Viewing natural beauty and being in the natural environment, reduces fear and increases pleasant feelings. Narrator express about the feelings of love towards nature has been shown. During his visit to lake narrator enjoy fishing, boating and becomes happy by seeing the natural beauty of the lake. In White's essay feeling about nature.

Once More to the Lake is an essay that explains about the beauty of nature. The content of this research focus on the White's perspective of describing the beauty of the Lake. It reflects about the interconnection between nature and human beings. Feelings of love towards nature is reflected by White by remembering about his visit to lake. Narrator makes an attempt to explore the interconnectedness between nature and human being. During the visit White enjoy the natural beauty of the lake and memorize the events that has happened in the past. He sets the relationship of nature, human beings and organism. White describes the fishing and old haunts of the lake which reminds White about the natural environment of the lake. It is associated to nature because it entails about the bonding between nature, organism and human. It reminds about the condition of lake during the month of August. There is description about the cold water, wind that blows there in Lake and restless tides which evokes about the beauty of nature. Narrator visit to lake every summer after summer -always on August 1st for one month. Narrator becomes nostalgic by remembering his experience of visiting lake in summer there are days that natural environment, fresh water, fishing experience across the afternoon and into the evening make him nostalgic. It depicts the ecological condition and the environment of the lake during summer season. White shows the beauty of the tides and the fear-

ful cold water in the lake. He describes the winds that blows across the afternoon and into the evening.

It is related to the nature because it depicts about the fresh water, waves and the fishing environment of the lake which is directly connected to the natural environment of the Lake. The natural environment of the lake such as fresh water, boat, insects and plants. White explore the natural beauty of the small waves that visit lakes. It directly linked and interfaced to the identity of the nature. This extract presents the relationship between nature, organism and the environment. It reflects the concern regarding the direct relationship of human beings, animal and nature. It reveals about the environmental condition of the lake where dragonflies use to visit and people enjoy fishing in the natural environment of the lake. We stared silently at the tips of our rods, at the dragonflies that came wells. I lowered the tip of mine into the water, tentatively, pensively dislodging the fly, and come to rest again a little farther up the rod (p. 282). White describes a very descriptive, yet beautiful lake where he used to visit as a child. White describes the reality of the relationship between nature, organism and human beings. This marks the condition of the lake where dragon flies, people enjoy fishing in the fresh water and White and remembering the old memories where he used to visit as a child.

It is connected to nature because it tells about the beauty of evergreen shrub during summer time. The descriptions about the unbroken woods and sweet fern explores about the beauty of nature. Summertime, oh summertime ,pattern of life indelible, the fade proof lake, the woods are unshatterable, the pasture with the sweet fern and juniper forever and ever (p. 283). It discusses the summer time in the lake. An evergreen beauty of the nature marks the importance of nature. It shows that the beauty of the nature cannot be removed and it remains forever. The fresh water, clean sand and reflection of individual shadow in water shows the natural beauty which is associated with the nature. In the shallows, the dark, water soaked sticks and twigs, smooth and old, were undulating in clusters on the bottom against the clean ribbed sand, and the track of the mussel was plain. A school of minnows swam by each minnow with its small, individual shadow, doubling the attendance so clear and sharp in the sunlight (p. 284). It attempts to project the bond between nature, human and organism. It expresses the nature and organism are interconnected to one another. The depth importance of the direct interactions between individual people and nature has been reflected. The direct interactions of people with nature can make people refresh and joyful.

Conclusion

This research attempts to unfold White's memory of visiting to lake with his father during holidays and share his experience of revisiting lake with his son. This paper submits that the autobiographical narrative is mediated through memory and experience. The essay reflects about

the changes in the natural environment of lake due to development and advancement of technology. It represents dual experience of visiting to lake as a son and father. As White revisits same lake with his son, it reminds his past when he used to visit with his father during his childhood. White's essay explores how fragments of experience change over time. White's essay tries to construct memory as temporal. This paper depicts to clarify the relationship between nature and human and determine the experience of White's experience of being in the natural environment. White remembers about his experience of enjoying the natural beauty of the lake and becomes nostalgic. In the essay White projects the description of his visit to lake when he was young and camper how changes are going on due to the effect of modernization. In the essay White's reflects his experience of enjoyment while visiting the lake, where he projects the relationships of nature and human beings.

This research focuses on descriptive analysis of "Once More to the Lake". It depicts how memory, experience and feelings about nature have been explored by White in the essay. It tells autobiography deals with access to memory to explore about the past memory and present within that experience. The experience is connected to self, mediated through remember and it is an elaboration of the past. White goes back to an old campsite with his son. The same site his father took him to at that same age. They go fishing and have a great time at the beautiful lake in their cottage. During their trip to the lake, he realizes how much he misses being a child again. The lake is something of beauty and cleanliness which reflects the feelings of nature. The experience with nature reminds old memories, White recalls his visit to lake where he grew up every summer he enjoy the natural environment of the lake. The narration of his visit to lake and reflection of his view relating to the beauty of nature has been shown. This paper constantly focus how memory reminds individual experience at special place and in specific situation. The past memory frequently haunted to the subject and interrupts the present moment. Certain varieties of experience are bonded to distinctive identities. We can conclude that after presenting the experience of narrator back to the present condition, Narrator explores that time has actually realizes about the passage of time and he been to the same lake with his father and now he has been to the same lake with his son which create his another. He remembers about his childhood experience of visiting the lake and become nostalgic visiting the same lake when he visit with his son. White's identity is related to his experiences of innovative development, the expression of memory and the passage of time. He is just a man on his last stage of his life. All of his individual experiences and memory which is making him self-conscious towards the natural phenomenon of death. Thus, this is the personal experience, bounded by time, situation and self-conscious in the autobiographical essay. He remembers about his childhood experience of visiting lake in which he finds greater contrast when he visit the same lake being father.

He is conscious about the passage of time and the change brought by the development of technology.

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