PREFACE

Philip Larkin's poetry have remained more or less impervious to some of the new critical methodologies such as psycho-analysis, post-structuralism and Feminism. The Contemporary Climate of analysis can open up Larkin's writings to a host of new vistas and viewpoints because Larkin's poetry is imbued with a unique and representative individuality; it makes a full response to contemporary life.

This study intends to explore Larkin's poetics on thematic and stylistic levels to identify the binaries. Identified as "the poet nextdoor", Larkin's reputation underwent a profound transformation soon after his death in the year 1985. Larkin's scholarship has become a vast academic strive. The interest in the topic is a result of the same drive. Structuralist ideas and methodologies also helped to promote the eager reception of Larkin's poetry.

Born in 1922, Larkin led an uneventful dismal life. A confirmed Bachelor and a poet disenchanted and disillusioned with life, he lived as "a surly recluse" (an epithet used by Laurence Lerner) He had a modest and provincial beginning as his father Sydney was a city Treasurer. He had only one sister, ten years his elder, therefore missing the blood-bond all through his life. There are scattered autobiographical fragments of his childhood infected by boredom and insecurity as well as discord of his parent's marriage. After his father's death he took care of his mother even though the relationship was severed by the ugly incidences of his childhood yet the sense of duty prevailed over his personal prejudices.

Larkin was sick of his distasteful life so much so that he wished an early death. Larkin's despair in life added qualitatively to his vision embodied as verses. That he ransacked his unruly emotive climate makes him distinctive in his own special way.
The present thesis is spread to a length of six chapters which would embody the intricacies of his creative skills. Here binary opposition like self/body mind/body, culture/nature are identified to establish the pattern of Larkin discourse.

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