



Available Online

Journal of Education and Social Studies

ISSN: 2789-8075 (Online), 2789-8067 (Print)

<https://www.scienceimpactpub.com/jess>

PHILIP SIDNEY'S 'AN APOLOGY FOR POETRY': A SCHOLARLY ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

In this article, an attempt was made to present a scholarly analysis of “An Apology for poetry” written by Philip Sidney. Sidney in his work expressed critical guidelines to create understanding about the poetry among readers. According to him, poetry is a particular form of communication, particularly when addressing complex relationships that require additional rhetorical effort, such as persuasion and art. He subdivided the creative poetry to make a clear sense to his readers and made strong arguments about the creative nature of imitative poetry. Poetry is noble to all sciences and it comes from the poet’s heart and ideas of imagination. He defended the accusations against poetry and established the environment of understanding about poetry’s importance and excellence for his readers for the sake of the audience’s stronger development in understanding and deep effective learning.

Keywords: Poetry; Linguistics; Apology; Readership; Learning; Imagination.

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<https://doi.org/10.52223/jess.2024.5306>

Received: June 02, 2024; Revised: August 27, 2024; Accepted: September 07 2024

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CONTEXT

“An Apology for Poetry” is one of the greatest Literary Works in the field of “English Literary Theory,” which was later called “Literary Criticism,” by Sir Philip Sidney in the Renaissance Period.

Seskauskiene (2022) contrast how metaphors organize literary criticism in English and Russian cultures to examine the metaphoric nature of literary criticism discourse about poetry. This is done by employing modern metaphor studies, especially the conceptual metaphor theory. Results show that while the person is used as a fundamental metaphorical domain in both languages, English emphasizes it more. On the other hand, metaphors from the fields of sound, music, painting, and travel are widely employed in Russian criticism. These metaphors frequently serve evaluative purposes and reveal the sentiments of the author. Rooshink (2016) claims that Plato implied in the Phaedo that poetry is necessary for proper philosophical self-examination because it enables philosophers to evaluate their beliefs from an alternative angle. This approach pushes the boundaries of conventional philosophical discourse by incorporating poetry as a tool for self-criticism, thereby enhancing philosophical practice.

When coming up to Philip Sidney name, there are many questions arise in the mind of a reader but the first thing and the most critical question is who is the Sir Philip Sidney?, it is indispensable, first of all, to know about the well-known author of that prestigious literary piece of work the Essay of Literary Criticism. It is come out from that to learn about his well concerned “Biography” and other important points about him.

Biography

Biography plays a significant role in the canonization and decanonization of authors, influencing how literary figures are perceived and remembered within cultural and historical contexts (Sotkauskyte, 2024).

Sir Philip Sidney ,who is considered as a popular English Poet ,a well-concerned soldier, a famous connected courtier, a person of diplomatic nature and a figure of dramatic realization , was born in 6th century during the period of (1554-1586) in the Renaissance Age ,known as a very loyal,brave and universal gentleman in the History of English Literary Criticism and Rebeca Helfer (2022) explored Philip Sidney's literacy theory and practice of memory as a mnemonic poetics, extending from Plato to Petrarch. It examined works like "Apology for poetry" and *Astrophil and Stella*," highlighted poetry's sophisticated art of memory.

Born: Sir Philip Sidney was a son of a noble-connected family and a perfect idealized man; he was born in Pinehurst, an estate of his father in Kent. Sidney got his early formal education in 1564 at Shrewsbury. In 1568 Sir Philip Sidney moved to Oxford Christ Church. Still, with unfavorable health conditions, Sidney returned from Oxford without having a Degree in Christ Education, with the crisis of these unexpected uncertainties.

Education: Sidney got his Degree by making his tour of three-year (1572-1575) visits to these five series of the continent countries via, Austria, Germany, France, Italy and Poland. Then he returned to England and made his time to serve to Earl of Leicester and Countess of Pembroke. In 1576, Philip Sidney had a meeting with Lord Deputy of Ireland, along with this debatable meeting, he keenly got the Social, Political, Economic, Cultural and Educational and Soldier Power of Ireland. On his return to England, he addressed "A Discourse On Irish Affairs" to Queen Elizabeth-I. At that spot, Sidney has defended his father's Administration from many critical reactions by several critics. In 1576, he joined Diplomatic Mission in Germany dealing with opposition parties of Protestant faction and Catholics.

Literary Influence: Along with the Diplomatic and Courtier interest , Sidney has also contained a Literary taste in is natural interests phenomena , however, like he even having these diplomacy ,he enjoyed the company of many Literary writers and has connection of well-known literary figures such a Thomas Drant, Edmund spenser, Dyre and Fulke Greville . Due the diverse influences, he absorbs in himself the strong effort to attempt to create a new form of writing such as he wrote in experimental, non-rhythmic and quantitate writings.

Sidney has contained a natural phenomenon under the shadow of famous literary criticism about poetic essays writings that is why, one cannot deviate from that defensive type of Sidney's writings.

Stanford (2024) explores Sir Philip Sidney's evolving views on rhetoric, revealing three phases: initial enthusiasm, deepening understanding, and eventual skepticism. Sidney views rhetoric as more immoral than moral, highlighting unethical purposes in orator's techniques. Despite criticism, Sidney is knowledgeable about rhetorical structures and their ethical implications.

Works: Philip Sidney wrote fabulous and remarkable literary works which included "Lady Of May" in the honor of Queen Elizabeth-I in (1578) ,others works are such as "Astrophel And Stella", "Arcadia" and the most popular well known his work is "An Apology For Poetry" in the reaction of the " School Of Abuse" in (1579) by Stephen Gosson. "Arcadia" First published in (1590). In Sidney's works there are elements such as "Pastoral Tradition, Heroic Epic, Chivalry Romance, heroic ideals and a verse and prose style of writings in a combine form. An Apology for Poetry was first published in 1595. Astrophel and Stella was printed in 1591. His significant contribution was the creation of the first proper sonnet sequence in the Petrarchan mode, "Astophil and Stella." The work, deeply intertwined with Sidney's personal life, narrates a story of obsessive desire, ranging from admiration to love, culminating in Astrophil's banishment and his expression of hopeless desire. (Hamedinasab, 2022)

Style: Sidney has followed the Petrarchan tradition in his writings, for instance, he used the elaborative style in Arcadia with Complex plot Structure along with that he used the delicate verse form and classical poetic defense. He focused on creative writings with ethical values or art of ideals. In Sidney's works there

are elements such as “Pastoral Tradition, Heroic Epic, Chivalry Romance, heroic ideals and a verse and prose style of writings in a combined structural style of new creative writings.

Sidney envisioned a politically upright, militarily secure, and culturally vibrant state, as shown by his emphasis on moral principles, military prowess, and national culture. Sidney sought to establish a political poetics that benefited the state by using poetry to criticize politics while imagining a glorious, cohesive England (Braden, 2022).

Marriage: In 1583 Sidney married the daughter of Sir Francis Walsingham but Penelop Devereux was his beloved, she married Lord Rich in 1581, instead of Sir Philip Sidney.

Death: In 1585, Sidney was sent to Flushing as a governor after Elizabeth-I. There was a battle by troops of Dutch Netherlands and Spanish at the Several month long period. Sidney has fought for Earl of Leicester in Flanders. Sidney was a vulnerable and fully devoted armer and sincere knight. At Zutphen battle Sir Philip Sidney has fatally wounded and died on September 22, 1586. His biography has written by his friend Greville.

INTRODUCTION

“An Apology for poetry” is the most excellent Literary Piece Of Work by Sir Philip Sidney in the era of Renaissance Period. Prescott (2024) Philip Sidney's "Apology for Poetry" explores David's psalms, arguing for their importance in poetry despite their divine inspiration. This dualism aligns with a tradition of psalm commentary dating back to early theologians. Sidney believes these psalms captivate readers, elicit imitation, and combine moral principles with beauty. He likely learned these concepts from Matthew Parker's Psalter. Sidney's "Apology" lacks biblical material, possibly because he believed he could write such stories independently.

“An Apology for Poetry” was a creative work as a Literary Criticism Essay by Sir Philip Sidney, in a reaction against the Stephen Gosson’s “The School of Abuse” and in honor of Sidney, he presents to him as full-fledged tribute him. "A Reply to Stephen Gosson's School of Abuse, in Defence of Poetry, Music, and Stage Plays" responds to Gosson's morally dubious criticism of the arts. It offers historical background from the Elizabethan era while defending the cultural and moral significance of poetry, music, and theater plays. The text is taken from a copy held by the Huntington Museum and cross-referenced with the Elizabethan & Jacobean Pamphlets 1892 edition (Lodge, 2008).

Stephen Gosson, who made the significant charges on Poetry, which are as follows:

Charges on Poetry by Gosson

1: Poetry is a waste of time.

Stephen Gosson's criticism of poetry, calling it a "waste of time," is part of a larger cultural discussion concerning the importance of artistic expression.

2: Poetry is the mother of lies.

Stephen Gosson is credited with saying that "poetry is the mother of lies," which prompts a critical analysis of poetry's function and intrinsic veracity. On the other hand, Gossoon's viewpoint implies that poetry is false and misleading.

3: It is the nurse of abuse.

Stephen Gosson's criticism of poetry, which refers to poetry as "the nurse of abuse," expresses his opinion that while poetry can be enjoyable, it can also result in moral decay.

4: Plato takes the poets far from his ideal world.

Plato's expulsion of poets from his ideal city in "The Republic" reflects his conviction that poetry is a poor replica of reality that deceives people and erodes moral integrity. This viewpoint stems from his more comprehensive philosophical system. Plato described poetry as a "secondary reflection" of the sensory world, implying that it lacks the legitimacy of philosophical investigation (Bartol, 2012). Poetry can still contribute positively when aligned with philosophical ideals (Cooper, 2009). Poetry can serve as a vehicle for ideological expression, reflection societal truth or critique, thus challenging the notion of it being merely a "lie" Jones (2016).

Benisty (2022) explored Mary and Philip Sidney's use of textile metaphors to describe poetry as an "embodied" and "clothed entity, highlighting the gendered roles of poets and translators, particularly through their collaborative translation of the psalms.

According to Philip Sidney, these charges on poetry by Stephen Gosson's School of Abuse are very senseless and baseless.

Here wrote...

Sidney has said, as in these words:

"Gosson Cross the infinity of corruption to condemned poetry".

According to Sidney in response of protecting the self-esteem nature of poetry, that:

"Gosson has corrupted the true nature of poetry as, exceed by Plato in his Republic, Why that hath something submissive towards the real and actual worth of poetry?"- (Gosson)

In orderd to reply to Stephen Gosson's charges, Sidney offered his clear views about poetry and provided the clear face of poetry to his contemporaries in the era of Renaissance. He has represents the Defence of Poesy or as also known as "An Apology for Poetry". Because of He known the true Nature and Function of Poetry, when we see that Gosson had the objection towards poetry then in the reaction of Philip Sidney against him, he Defence the Poetry.

Prescott (2024) Philip Sidney's "Apology for Poetry" explores David's psalms, arguing for their importance in poetry despite their divine inspiration. This dualism aligns with a tradition of psalm commentary, dating back to early theologians. Sidney believes these psalms captivate readers, elicit imitation, and combine moral principles with beauty. He likely learned these concepts from Matthew Parker's Psalter. Sidney's "Apology" lacks biblical material, possibly because he believed he could write such stories independently.

The English Renaissance's poetic theory, focusing on Sir Philip Sidney's Apology for Poetry also defends the value of poetry and suggests it as creating nature, rather than imitating it. It influences Romantic writers like Coleridge, who share similarities with Sidney's concept of creative imagination and second nature. Sidney's work paved the way for human creativity in English Romanticism (Bonchul, 2016).

Objectives

Against these charges Sidney has said, Poetry is the most significant source of knowledge and a man is to become a civilized person with the help of poetic knowledge, in the society as well as poetry is the source of knowledge and cultural civilized force. Sidney believed poetry's importance lies in its ability to liberate individuals from self-love and the control of self-loving sovereigns, suggesting a more emancipatory role for poetry than previously acknowledged (Stillman, 2016).

For this purpose, Sidney has remember an ancient Greek and said in against the first charge on poetry by Stephen Gosson and said as that:

"Poetry according to Greek is remember as respected as the "Holy-verse", and poets in ancient days regarded as respected as prophet' poetry is Often to be looked up, poetry is not a waste of time."

Moreover, in the reaction of the second charge of poetry he defense in the following comments as:

"A poet can never lie because he never assure and affirm about his fiction is true and he can never in state of lie either his truth is true and not."

Again he said that:

"Poetic truth is always universal and ideal, and he said Poetry is not the mother of lies."

Sir Philip Sidney also rejects the idea of that, poetry is the "Nurse of abuses" he answered that:

"These are the only masses of people man to abuses the poetry not the poetry itself. Abuses are more nurse by history and philosophy than by the poetry, as violence, bloodshedding and battle are more concerned with these two than poetry, because poetry brings peace, morality, virtue and calm, avoiding the battle, bloodshedding and violence."

In the fourth charge on poetry Sidney has said that:

"Plato in his Republic abuses the poetry not the poet because he declared the true nature "And function of the poetry, according to Plato, he never banish the poets rightly, he said: Poetry bring the light of knowledge, he only banished those inferior poets who are unable to inject the true spirit of knowledge and instruct the reader."

According to Philip Sidney:

"Poetry is the art of imitation but it is the creative imitation not the slavish imitation of Nature."

Sidney had also puts the Plato's views about poetry and art, who called the poetry is the slavish imitation and nature in this world is ugly and dull, it is the only artist who create the new something pleasant for man in accordance to the taste of the reader and the same idea about that sir Philip Sidney as put forward to the era of his age and released the true sense and nature of the poetry in the creative imitative art of esthetic approach .it is the only artist who turn the ugly nature into brightest colors .We see that ,Philip Sidney has followed the concept of the imitation and as well as had followed the Aristotle's concept of 'Mimesis" ,along with that the nature and function of the poetry in order to reject the Gosson's views against poetry ,he declared that poetry is not the mother of lies and not the nurse of abuses. Furthermore, he also said that:

"Poets always go beyond the art of imitation and nature, but the creative thing and buildup another natural phenomena for the reader and pave the further paths for other poets, more beautiful than real."(Gosson).

Because we know that,a poet portrays the signs of human beings related to every object that does not exist in the natural world Nature can never have created such a beautiful thing and memorable man, with and excellent personality like the poet figure for instance, Pylades who is famous for his valor such an Orlando. The poetic truth always remains at the core of ideality and at the heart of universality; therefore, Sidney said poetry is not a lie but a source of amusement and knowledge instead of a pack of lies. A poet cannot lie because he has no bundle of lies and confirmation about fictional and nonfictional poetics works.

There are five sections division about Sidney's an "Apology for Poetry", these are:

ANALYSIS

Section One

The first section describes the importance of this essay and in the very first section, Sidney has tried to provide the true definition of poetry and poet both to his readers.

Philip Sidney's secular poetry primarily explores the genres of lyric and pastoral, which inherently involve relationships based on differences—gender in lyric poetry and class in pastoral poetry. This suggests that poetry is a particular form of communication, particularly when addressing complex relationships that require additional rhetorical effort, such as persuasion and art. Sidney's work demonstrates that poetry

often fails to resolve these differences. Still, this failure highlights poetry's unique role in distinguishing itself from ordinary speech by navigating and reflecting on the complexities of human relationships (Scerif, 2022).

Sidney acclaimed that:

1. Poetry is the best resource of all philosophical and scientific knowledge as well as books because scientific books and philosophy's books in Greece were written in poetic rhyme, in Renaissance period that was too used.
2. Poetry is count as a part of all Age's civilization.
3. Poetry in Greek and Room takes its importance very much as its place can be measured in its worth that these two states use the word "Prophet" for the figure of poets.
4. Room and Greek philosopher even wrote their scientific works in rhythmic form.

Philip Sidney has described the importance of poetry with the referring concept of poetry by Aristotle that, poetry is the imitation or mimetic works from imaginative ideas in man's mind. This shows man's mind is influential, it's a mimetic use of language or imitation.

Mainly the critical task of this study is to find out the similarities in Aristotle's and Sidney's concept of poetry, therefore the main focus of this Article goes to explore the main streamline which is represented in Sidney's essay "An Apology for Poetry" as well as along with that also develop the critical analysis views with the keen observer use a critique eye-lenses for the purpose to pave the path for future study researchers. According to my perception here are some analytical questions:

1. What is the basic purpose of "An Apology for poetry by Sidney?
2. Why Sidney called poetry "is a representation of, it is balance counterfeit, it is a figure-forth way to articulate in a manner of metaphorical and it is a speak image in with this end and to taught as a delighted way of pleasure."?
3. What is the meaning of these two representing terms "with this end", "taught and delight"?
4. For what extent it is fruitful, would be even it apply for 21st century poet or for future poetic life?

Sidney has provided three types of poetry, which are classify as:

1. Religious Poetry
2. Philosophical Poetry
3. Imitative Poetry

He also further subdivided the creative poetry to make a clear sense to his readers and makes strong arguments about the creative nature of imitative poetry, such as:

"These be subdivided..." p.332

Although he provided the clear cut of that poetic phenomenon but along with all poetic categories, he represented a visual difference among these:

1. Comic and tragic poetry
2. Rhyme and unrhymed
3. Lyric and iambic form of poetry
4. Verse form of poetry

These are the following types but Sidney said:

"All not poets who write in verse form are the poets."p.332

According to him:

"Many poets write but their poetry is not rhyme, they are still poets."p.332

Sidney has written for reader's understanding, therefore, he has established the environment of understanding about poetry's importance and excellency for his readers for the sake of audience's more strong development in understanding and deep effective learning. Therefore, he makes an extra effort in the form of his poetic defence to convey his poetic purpose to the readers and audiences very beautifully, that's why he has the creative art of poetry.

Philip Holdgins uses "landspeak" in his poetry to explore the Australian environment, separating known from unknown terrain. This method challenges colonial viewpoints and creates a dynamic relationship between the speakers and surroundings, evoking a sense of mobile space and engaging reads in cultural discussions. (Cooke, 2014).

Section Two

In this section Sidney tried to compare the poetry with philosophy and history. Here readers always come up with the representation of, there is a comparison between poetry and philosophy, and then there is a comparison between poetry and history. He described history and its characteristics, similar to philosophy and its characteristics. Therefore, he said:

"Philosophy is useful only for those who are well-educated, it is an exclusive and difficult to understand, it is not an easy discipline for all quality of knowledge people".

On the other hand poetry contained concrete ideas. About history he said:

"History is not a creative work, it provides us existence of already works or events, it doesn't contained open ideas like poetry, it presents facts without imagination and universal truth like poetry".

Because according to Sidney:

"Poetry is more pleasurable to teach the moral lesson to men in the form of pleasurable facts along with effective influence on men's deep thoughts. Poetry is noble to all sciences".

P.337 " ... For conclusion, I say the philosopher ... " The style may be little bit difficult, but the ideas are straightforward.

P.339 "So then the best of the historian"

"Bound to recite" means to tell". With its imitation, poetry takes any historical matter and makes it its own.

Stillman (2016) highlighted in his study of "Sidney's Defence of Posey" how Sidney's poetics address historical ills, introduce new concepts of reading and writing, promote ecumenical piety, and political support also integrates literary, religious and political history to offer a broader understanding of Sidney's work in its cultural context.

Section Three:

P. 346 "Sith then poetry ..."

Here he described the techniques, and methods used for poetry's definition from Aristotle's point of view as he said:

The name "maker" is best in manner of suitable for the poet. That is, the poet makes a matter out of a conceit "story", and not a story out of a matter. If one is a poet, he will not need any other things. Poetry always comes from poet's heart and ideas of imagination. (P. 346)"Sith then poetry lines ..."

"Aqueveque (2020) explores the relationship between "tragic logos" and "verisimilitude" in Aristotle's "Poetics," arguing that comprehension of tragedy requires a grasp of tragic logos' rhetorical nature. One important requirement for making tragedy understandable is verisimilitude, or the appearance of truth,

which implies that events should seem realistic. The article highlights the function of "lexis"—style or expression—as a rational principle and contends that the veracity of this concept is essential to tragic discourse. By putting what could reasonably occur above literal truth, this method defends Aristotle's poetic theory against accusations of irrationality and, in the end, establishes the tragic plausible as necessary to support Aristotle's aesthetic theory.

Section Four

Here Sidney, in P.348 "'Now then ...'" has described his answers against poetry. He defended these accusations against poetry which are represented in school of abuse.

Section Five (Last Section)

In the last Section on pages as : p.356 – 357, he provided a practical description to his readers and his contemporary writers who did not follow the Greeks three rules about comedies and tragedies in three units 1).Time , 2).Place and 3). Action. Sidney's essay is very similar to Aristotle's literary poetic work whose principle lacks the central action. Here we see Sidney attack on contemporary's writer's immorality. Again we see in this section on the page of (p. 366 " Now of time ... ") he described about plays plots, therefore, he said:

"Those, who ask how a story with many places and times can be set, forget that tragedy is literature, not history". (p.366, Now of time)

CONCLUSIONS

In a conclusive way, as a deep reader of Philip Sidney's views in his essay "An Apology of Poetry" I have observe that, Sidney defended poetry in a natural and solid universal way. And in according to my own perception it would be say truly as, it is beautifully summarization of whole essay by Philip Sidney in a form of very simple, natural way as it provides whole poetic phenomenon to readers very easily. The writers could get approach to his principle in an easy understandable manner, it seems as to justify the all poetic developmental thought structure of contemporaries which could be change from difficult to easy, from complex to simple as phenomena of poetry. It would have to sum up of all ideas to readers in a cohesive manner of understanding as to common men's approach of perception, which accusations, on poetry, all these charges have been proposed in detail wise answers by Philip Sidney in his contemporary era. It appeals to common sense of perceptions as it catches the reader's attention from all area of around.

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