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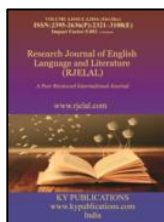
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## TEACHING AND DEVELOPING LANGUAGE THROUGH POETRY WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO *THE DAFFODILS* BY WILLIAM WORDSWORTH

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### ABSTRACT

Literature can play a significant role in teaching and developing language skills in the language classroom. Literary texts are rich in language and are deeply rooted in the culture, people and society. They offer an opportunity to use and learn the authentic language in different contexts. Literature provides learners with a wide range of language patterns in a creative and varied styles. This paper highlights the integration of poetry in language classroom to hone the different language skills and also for developing grammatical and lexical knowledge of students at the undergraduate level. Poetry which is considered highly rich in language offers a rich opportunity for learners to develop their language in a unique way. This paper provides activities to teach language skills and grammar with special reference to the poem "The Daffodils" by William Wordsworth.

### Introduction

Literature and language are closely related. It is through the knowledge of language and linguistics that different writers are able to create the great works in literature like novel, drama and poetry. Literature is constituted by language and it represents one of the most recurrent uses of language. Brumfit and Carter emphasized the role of literature as "an ally of language". (1) This signifies the role of linguistic knowledge in producing the literary works in different genres of literature. The language of literature is authentic as well as interesting for any lover of literature. It has the power of moulding the emotions and feelings of a common reader. It develops the cultural understanding of readers by having a cross-cultural communication with a text. As pointed out by Northrop Frye, "So you may ask what is the use of studying the world of imagination where anything is possible and anything can be assumed, where there are no rights or wrongs and all arguments are equally good. One of the most obvious uses, I think, is its encouragement of

tolerance." (77) He further states that, "It is clear that the end of literary teaching is not simply the admiration of literature; it's something more like the transfer of imaginative energy from literature to the students" (77) Thus, using literature in the language classroom not only develops the linguistic knowledge of students but also is useful in promoting the cultural harmony across cultures and languages. Reading literature widens the mental horizons of readers for the better understanding of the world.

The debate whether we can use literature for teaching language has a long history. There were arguments which were against about using literature for teaching language. However, with the paradigm shift from traditional methods of teaching like grammar translation method to communicative language teaching, English language has developed novel methods and techniques of teaching language. The use of authentic language, supplementary material and developing the communicative competence of learners has shaped the attitude of teachers. Hence, the importance of using literature