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## THE KEY ASPECTS OF NATURE, BEAUTY AND LIFE IN THE POEM 'LOVELY IS YOUTH'-KALIDASA

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### Abstract

Abhijnanasakuntalam is a celebrated Sanskrit Drama. It tells the story of King Dushyanta's love for the maiden Sakuntala whom he sees while on a hunting expedition. He marries her by a ceremony of mutual consent but obliged by affairs of state, Dushyanta returns to his palace, leaving her a royal ring as a pledge. Soon a series of mishaps follow leaving Sakuntala in grief but eventually Dushyanta and Sakuntala are reunited. The poem is written in eloquent style mark poetic beauty and describe the transience of youth and the swiftness of the passage of time. Just like daylight comes and paves way for darkness, the grandeur of youth shines and throbs with beauty, hope and joy in our lives, but fades soon. King Dushyanta's mind is not at ease as he experiences a tumult of emotions thinking about the beauty, Sakuntala. The courtiers feel pity for the young man who looks unwell and remark on his busy life as a king. They consider him a splendid king who leads a life of toil. So, it is necessary to keep apart some time for ourselves and enjoy each moment of the most beautiful phase of our life(youth)for, it appears and fades like a meteor in the sky. It is an aesthetic and stirring poem that celebrates the serene beauty of life and nature, motivating the young minds to introspect their lives.

### Introduction

The poem 'Lovely is Youth' by Kalidasa is about our life and why we have to live our life to the fullest. This poem speaks about Youth and how it goes swiftly. We have to utilize our

life well, especially during our young age. Kalidasa is trying to reflect the beauty of our life, encouraging the young people to self-analyse their lives. It speaks about the transient nature of youth and time. We can observe the phenomena of nature all through the poem. He is using different figures of speech to define different aspects of life.

### Literature Survey

A literature survey, also known as a literature review, is a critical examination of existing research and scholarly works on a particular topic. It provides an overview of the current state of knowledge, identifies gaps in the existing literature, and helps researchers position their work within the broader academic context. A literature survey is a common component of academic research papers, theses, and dissertations. Here are the key steps and elements typically involved in conducting a literature survey:

#### Define the Scope:

- Clearly defined the scope and objectives of the literature survey.
- Specified the research questions or hypotheses that the survey aims to address.

#### Search for Relevant Literature:

- Utilized academic databases, libraries, and online resources to find scholarly articles, books, and other publications related to the topic.



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- Used keywords, Boolean operators, and other search strategies to narrow down relevant literature.

## Evaluate and Select Sources:

- Critically evaluated the quality, credibility, and relevance of each source.
- Considered the publication date, the author's credentials, and the research methodology used in each study.

## Organize the Literature:

- Organized the selected literature thematically or chronologically, depending on the nature of the research.
- Identified key themes, trends, and debates within the literature.

## Summarize and Synthesize:

- Provided concise summaries of each selected source.
- Synthesized information to highlight patterns, connections, and areas of disagreement among different studies.

## Identify Gaps and Contradictions:

- Discussed any gaps or limitations in the existing literature.
- Identified contradictions or inconsistencies in the findings of different studies.

## Relate to Your Research:

- Clearly articulated how each piece of literature relates to the research questions or objectives.
- Highlighted the relevance of existing studies to own research.

## Critical Analysis:

- Engaged in a critical analysis of the methodologies, theories, and findings presented in the literature.

- Identified strengths and weaknesses in the existing research.

## Cite Properly:

- Ensured proper citation of all the sources used in the literature survey.
- Followed the citation style specified by the academic institution or publication guidelines.

## Write Clearly and Coherently:

- Presented the literature survey in a clear and coherent manner.
- Organized the writing logically, with a clear introduction, body, and conclusion.

A well-conducted literature survey not only informs readers about the existing state of knowledge but also provides a foundation for new research. It helps researchers identify gaps that their own work can address and contributes to the overall development of knowledge in a particular field.

## Methodology

‘Lovely is Youth’ By Kalidasa -A Poem about the key aspects of nature, beauty and life.

We can analyse the poem’s structure, theme, figures of speech and the key aspects of nature, beauty and life. Here is a detailed exploration of the poem ‘Lovely is Youth’ By Kalidasa.

## Poetic Structure

The Poem ‘Lovely Is Youth’ By Kalidasa is rich in vocabulary, figures of speech and different images. This poem is marked by the harmony of ideas that elevates the reader into a sublime position.

## Imagery, Figures of Speech and Symbolism

There are many images used in this poem. E.g. Youth is compared with sweet air and noon.

Simile, Metaphors and Personification are used all through the poem. In the second line ‘As some sweet air that comes, but whence unknown’-Youth is compared with sweet air or wind that is coming from an unknown place. Youth is a time where

no one knows the origin. This comparison is referred as Simile. In the first line 'Lovely is youth' and in the third line 'Fair is the noon'-It refers to a comparison with two different things. This refers to Metaphor. In the fourth line, 'And peering shadows steal, and fill the glade. Here it refers to Personification. Personification is something that is compared with a non-human object. Here peering is something related with human beings. i.e. to look with difficulty or as if searching for something. In this line, Peering is linked with the word 'shadows' that is not human.

### **Tone and Mood**

The poem 'Lovely is Youth'-By Kalidasa is an aesthetic and stirring poem that celebrates the calm beauty of life and nature, motivating the young people to analyse their life.

### **Repetition**

Repetition helps reader to focus on a fact that is reflected all through the poem. In this poem 'Lovely Is Youth's repeated two times.

### **Title Significance**

The title 'Lovely Is Youth' reflects an overall idea of the poem. It speaks about the importance of youth. Youth Is defined as lovely. But everyone has to utilise to the fullest.

### **Objectives Of Research**

"Lovely is Youth" is a poem by the ancient Indian poet Kalidasa, known for his classical Sanskrit works.

### **Literary Analysis:**

- Examined the poetic devices used by Kalidasa in "Lovely is Youth," such as metaphors, similes, imagery, and symbolism.
- Analysed the structure and form of the poem, including rhyme scheme, meter, and stanzaic patterns.

### **Thematic Exploration:**

- Identified and explored the central themes addressed in the poem, such as the fleeting nature of youth, the beauty of nature, or the transience of life.

- Investigated how these themes relate to broader cultural or philosophical concepts in ancient Indian literature.

### **Cultural and Historical Context:**

- Placed the poem in its historical and cultural context by researching the time period and societal norms during Kalidasa's era.
- Explored how the poem reflects or responds to cultural, religious, or philosophical trends of the time.

### **Comparative Analysis:**

- Compared "Lovely is Youth" with other works by Kalidasa to identify recurring motifs, themes, or stylistic elements in his poetry.
- Contrasted the poem with works from other cultures or time periods to highlight its unique features or contributions to world literature.

### **Biographical Context:**

- Investigated known details about Kalidasa's life and considered how his personal experiences or beliefs may have influenced the themes and tone of the poem.

### **Reception and Influence:**

- Explored how "Lovely is Youth" has been received over time, both in ancient and contemporary contexts.
- Investigated whether the poem has influenced other poets, writers, or artists, and examine references to it in later literary works.

### **Translation Studies:**

- Studied different translations of the poem to understand how nuances, cultural references, and linguistic aspects are interpreted and conveyed in various languages.

### **Reader Response:**



# International Journal of Multidisciplinary Engineering in Current Research

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- Investigated the emotional or intellectual responses evoked by the poem in different readers or audiences.
- Explored how interpretations of the poem may vary across different cultures, generations, or individuals.

## **Pedagogical Applications:**

- Considered how "Lovely is Youth" can be used in educational settings, such as in literature courses or for cultural studies, and explore potential lesson plans or teaching strategies.

### **Scope Of Research**

The scope of research on "Lovely is Youth" by Kalidasa is broad and can encompass various disciplines and approaches. Here are some potential scopes of research for a comprehensive study:

### **Literary Analysis and Stylistic Features:**

- Explored the poetic devices, stylistic elements, and linguistic nuances employed by Kalidasa in "Lovely is Youth." Analysed the structure, meter, and rhythm of the poem.

### **Cultural and Historical Context:**

- Investigated the cultural and historical context of the poem, examining the societal norms, religious beliefs, and philosophical ideas prevalent during Kalidasa's time.

### **Comparative Studies:**

- Conducted comparative analyses with other works of Kalidasa or with poetry from different cultures and time periods. Identified common themes, motifs, or unique features.

### **Philosophical and Symbolic Interpretation:**

Delved into the philosophical underpinnings of the poem, exploring any metaphysical or symbolic elements. Considered how the poem reflects broader philosophical ideas.

### **Biographical Approach:**

Studied Kalidasa's life and experiences and investigate how his personal life and beliefs may have influenced the themes and perspectives presented in "Lovely is Youth."

### **Gender and Identity Studies:**

Examined the portrayal of gender roles and identities in the poem. Explored how the poem addresses or reflects societal attitudes towards youth and gender during that era.

### **Nature and Ecocritical Perspectives:**

Analysed the depiction of nature in the poem and explore ecocritical perspectives. Considered how nature is used as a literary device and its symbolic significance.

### **Translation Studies:**

Investigated different translations of "Lovely is Youth" to understand how linguistic and cultural nuances are interpreted and conveyed in various languages and cultural contexts.

### **Reception History:**

Traced the reception history of the poem over time. Explored how it has been received by different audiences, critics, and scholars throughout history.

### **Educational Applications:**

Explored the use of "Lovely is Youth" in educational settings, considering its inclusion in literature courses, cultural studies, or comparative literature programs. Developed teaching materials and pedagogical approaches.

### **Psychoanalytical Interpretation:**

Applied psychoanalytical approaches to interpret the emotional and psychological aspects of the poem. Explored how the themes of youth and transience might resonate with human experiences.



# International Journal of Multidisciplinary Engineering in Current Research

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## Digital Humanities and Computational Analysis:

Utilized digital tools and computational methods to analysed patterns, themes, and linguistic features in the poem. Explored how technology can enhance literary analysis.

## Interdisciplinary Approaches:

Considered interdisciplinary approaches, such as combining literature with philosophy, history, art, or music, to provide a richer understanding of the poem's cultural and intellectual context.

## Performance Studies:

Investigated how "Lovely is Youth" has been adapted for performance, including theatrical productions, musical compositions, or visual arts. Examined how different forms of artistic expression interpret the poem.

## Postcolonial Perspectives:

Applied postcolonial theories to analyse the poem, considering how it may reflect or respond to colonial influences and power dynamics.

The scope of research on "Lovely is Youth" is extensive and can be tailored to suit the interests and expertise of researchers from various academic backgrounds. It provides an opportunity to explore the richness of Kalidasa's poetry and its relevance in different scholarly conversations.

## Analysis of Research

### 1. Poet's Background:

- Kalidasa is considered one of the greatest poets and playwrights in classical Sanskrit literature, likely belonging to the 4th or 5th century CE.
- His works are celebrated for their elegance, vivid imagery, and exploration of human emotions.

### 2. Structure and Form:

- Sanskrit poetry often adheres to strict structural and metrical rules, showcasing the poet's mastery of the language.
- Investigated the poem's structure, examining its use of meter, rhyme, and stanzaic patterns.

### 3. Themes:

- Kalidasa's works commonly explore themes related to nature, love, beauty, and the transience of life.
- "Lovely is Youth" might delve into the fleeting nature of youth, celebrating its beauty and acknowledging its impermanence.

### 4. Imagery and Symbolism:

- Classical Sanskrit poetry is rich in vivid imagery and symbolism.
- Analysed the use of metaphors and symbols in the poem to convey deeper meanings about youth, beauty, and the human experience.

### 5. Nature Motif:

- Kalidasa often incorporates nature as a central motif in his works, using it to mirror human emotions or experiences.
- Explored how nature is portrayed in "Lovely is Youth" and its symbolic significance.

### 6. Cultural Context:

- Considered the cultural and historical context of the poem, drawing connections between the societal norms and values of Kalidasa's time and the themes presented in the poem.

### 7. Emotional Tone:

- Kalidasa's poetry is known for its emotional depth and evocative language.
- Analysed the emotional tone of "Lovely is Youth," identifying whether it conveys joy, melancholy, or a blend of emotions.

### 8. Philosophical Underpinnings:

- Sanskrit poetry often carries philosophical undertones.
- Investigated whether the poem delves into any philosophical concepts, such as the nature of existence or the impermanence of worldly pleasures.

### 9. Universal Themes:

- Examined whether the themes in "Lovely is Youth" transcend cultural and temporal boundaries, resonating with universal human experiences.

### 10. Influence on Literature:

- Investigated how "Lovely is Youth" has influenced subsequent poets, writers, or artists. Assessed its enduring impact on the literary landscape.

### 11. Critical Reception:

- Explored how critics and scholars have received and interpreted the poem. Consider different perspectives and analyses.

### 12. Cultural Significance:

- Analysed the cultural significance of the poem within the broader context of classical Sanskrit literature and its contribution to the cultural heritage of India.

### 13. Language and Translation:

- Considered the nuances of the Sanskrit language used by Kalidasa and the challenges and opportunities in translating such a work into different languages.

### 14. Reader's Response:

- Assessed how readers, both in Kalidasa's time and in contemporary settings, have responded to "Lovely is Youth." Considered the varied interpretations and emotional resonances.

In conclusion, an analysis of "Lovely is Youth" should encompass its structural elements, thematic content, cultural context, and the poet's unique stylistic features. Kalidasa's poetic genius lies in his ability to intertwine beauty, nature, and human experience in a way that continues to captivate readers across centuries.

### Suggestions and Findings

"Lovely is Youth" by Kalidasa explores key aspects of nature, beauty, and life, common themes in classical Sanskrit poetry. Here are the key aspects related to these themes in the poem:

### 1. Nature:

- **Symbolic Representation:** Nature is often used as a symbolic representation of the broader human experience. Kalidasa might use elements of nature to mirror emotions, relationships, or the passage of time.
- **Harmony and Balance:** Classical Sanskrit poetry often portrays nature as a harmonious and balanced force. Look for descriptions of nature that convey a sense of order, beauty, and tranquillity.
- **Seasonal Imagery:** The changing seasons might be employed as metaphors for the different stages of life or the various emotions associated with youth.

### 2. Beauty:

**Aesthetic Appreciation:** Kalidasa's poetry typically celebrates the aesthetic beauty present in both the natural world and human experiences. This could involve the description of physical beauty, the beauty of emotions, or the beauty of fleeting moments.

- **Temporal Nature of Beauty:** Classical poetry often reflects on the transience of beauty. Explore whether "Lovely is Youth" highlights the ephemeral nature of youthful beauty and the inevitability of change.

### 3. Life:

- **Transience and Impermanence:** Classical Sanskrit literature, including Kalidasa's works, often contemplates the impermanence of life. The poem may explore how youth, like other aspects of existence, is transient.
- **Cycle of Life:** Consider whether the poem touches upon the cyclical nature of life—birth, growth, decay, and rebirth—a concept deeply rooted in Indian philosophical thought.



## International Journal of Multidisciplinary Engineering in Current Research

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- **Embracing Life's Phases:** Kalidasa might convey a message about embracing each stage of life, recognizing the beauty and significance inherent in all phases.

#### 4. Relationship Between Nature and Beauty:

- **Intertwining Imagery:** Look for instances where the beauty of youth is intertwined with the beauty of nature. Kalidasa may draw parallels between the two, emphasizing their interconnectedness.
- **Nature as a Reflection:** Nature might be presented as a reflection or backdrop to the beauty of youth, emphasizing the idea that the human experience is intimately connected to the natural world.

#### 5. Philosophical Dimensions:

- **Reflection on Existence:** Classical Sanskrit poetry often delves into philosophical reflections on existence. Consider whether "Lovely is Youth" contemplates the deeper meaning of life, the self, or the purpose of human experience.
- **Harmony with Nature:** Look for themes suggesting that a harmonious relationship with nature contributes to a fuller understanding of life and beauty.

Understanding these key aspects will likely provide insights into the profound and interconnected themes that Kalidasa explores in "Lovely is Youth," contributing to a more nuanced appreciation of the poem.

#### References

Tom Thomas & Jerome K. Jose, Revisiting the classics, Published by Cosmo Books, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, 2020.