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Symbolism and Imagery in Robert Frost's Poetry

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Abstract : *Robert Frost remains a distinguished figure in twentieth-century American poetry, often praised for his deceptive simplicity and vivid portrayals of rural New England life. This paper asserts that Frost's enduring relevance stems from his sophisticated, dualistic symbolic economy, which transmutes localized, concrete imagery into vehicles for exploring universal existential and pragmatic dilemmas concerning human agency, responsibility, and mortality. Utilizing qualitative textual analysis grounded in semiotics, this study decodes key symbolic clusters—roads, walls, woods, and celestial imagery—to reveal their deeper philosophical implications. The core finding is that Frost's signature technique, often termed ulteriority, systematically transforms regional realism into a stage for profound philosophical inquiry. This process illuminates the complex tension between the individual's perceived autonomy and the vast, often indifferent external forces of nature and custom, reinforcing Frost's position as a poet of the cosmic and universal.*

Keywords: Symbolism, Imagery, Robert Frost, Dualism, Existentialism, Pragmatism, Ulteriority, New England, Choice, Consequence.

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