

## A Short Note on Pathetic Fallacy-

Pathetic Fallacy is a version of personification in which human emotions and attributions are transferred to inanimate objects. This term was coined by John Ruskin keeping Tennyson's poem "Maud" in mind, in his work Modern Painters in 1856. Ruskin coined it as a derogatory term because it is applied to "the extraordinary, or false appearances, when we are under the influence of emotion, or contemplative fancy". It restricts the "true appearances of things to us". To prove his point he cited example from Coleridge's description in "Christabel":

"The one red leaf, the last of its clan,  
That dances as often as dance it can".

In these lines, the human quality or attribution of dancing is transferred to the red leaf. Also, the red leaf is shown to belong to a clan, just like clan of human beings.

Ruskin was of the view that such poetic description as this may look beautiful but it is false and "morbid". Now, this term is used in a non-derogatory sense to describe a common feature in descriptive poetry, in which human attributions are applied to inanimate natural objects. It is neutrally considered a kind of personification.

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