ABSTRACT

The goal of this study is to find out how Robert L. Frost's *The Road Not Taken* and Robert W. Service's *Design* respectively present libertarianism and determinism through the elements of poetry (diction, imagery, rhythm and meter, figurative language, and tone), the ethical implications of these life perspectives, and the poets' expectations through the poems. The analysis has revealed three important pieces of information. First, the two poems are proved to present five characteristics of libertarianism and determinism. Second, there are two ethical implications of libertarianism as presented in the first poem, which are moral responsibility and the importance of human effort. On the other hand, two ethical implications of determinism as presented in the second poem are moral lassitude and the futility of human effort. Third, three expectations are delivered in each poem. Briefly, Frost overall expects the readers to struggle hard and consider every possibility carefully since they must be responsible for their life both to God and other people. On the contrary, Service overall expects the readers to be grateful of and accept their life as the best history that might happen since their success and failure have been predetermined for their own sake.