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English 102  
Song Analysis

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“Gollum’s Song”  
The untold story of Smeagol

Through the classical novel “lord of the rings”, came a song that describes one of its main characters that led to the triumph at the end. This character was named Smeagol, a hobbit who became enslaved by the ring of power. His role in the story was confusing for most of the audience. Some people pity him, some other fear him and others want to kill him. Gollum’s song shows two opposite sides of Smeagol.

Gollum’s unfortunate story has not only started from that novel. In fact, Tolkein, the writer, had created Gollum's character long time before in his novel "the hobbit" which was an introduction to his lord of the rings classical epic. This song was written in the book by Tolkein himself and was performed by Emiliana Torrini who had a beautifully childish voice. The song was introduced in the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of lord of the rings.

The song was titled Gollum's song because it dives so deep in Gollum’s story and it tells us the way he really felt from the beginning. It shows feelings he had always kept inside. Feelings that even the movie did not show clearly. Before looking through the song, we must look at a brief summary of Gollum.

To know Gollum, we must know Smeagol very well because he is the origin of Gollum’s character and he is included in the song as well. Smeagol

was a little hobbit who found the ring of power and used it to be invisible and to steal valuable things from his people. When his people found out, they threw him out their area. He lived in the mountains alone for more than 500 years. The ring made his life overcome its natural limits. Through that time, Smeagol has developed a split personality, a pity poor one which was Smeagol himself and an evil one which was Gollum.

The ring of power then was stolen from him by one of the hobbits. Smeagol and Gollum spent about 72 years trying to take it back. But finally, they met Frodo and Sam who were having the ring and trying to destroy it. Here, Smeagol offered those help and guide but Gollum was trying to convince him to steal the ring back.

The voice of the song is Gollum's voice speaking to Smeagol. The timing of the first part of the song seems after smeagol was captured by a group of men while he was guiding Frodo, the ring bearer. Smeagol thought that his master, Frodo, tricked him and put him in a trap for that group.

"Where once was light"  
"Now darkness falls"  
"Where once was love"  
"Love is no more"

In the beginning of the song, Gollum describes the change that happened before and after smeagol had found the ring. He describes the era before finding the ring as a one full of light and love. Then, he describes the era after finding the ring as a one where love had faded and darkness replaced the light.

Peace was represented by the word light. Smeagol used to live in a very peaceful place called the shire where a community of hobbits live together and have nothing to compete with other races. When he found the

ring, he brought attention to the shire. He also used the ring for his own benefit and stole from his people. They had kicked him out of the shire and that is why he says that there is no love anymore.

"Don't say – goodbye"  
"Don't say - I didn't try"

"These tears we cry"  
"Are falling rain"  
"For all the lies You told us"  
"The hurt, the blame!"

"And we will weep"  
"To be so alone"  
"We are lost!"  
"We can never go home"

In an assuring way, Gollum tells Smeagol not to say good-bye to the ring because they still have some hope left to take it back. Then, he reminds Smeagol that he tried to save him from Frodo the whole time but he, Smeagol, was not listening. After that, he describes very beautifully how they were both disappointed and shocked by how things turned out to be. He described their tears as a falling rain. At the same time, he takes advantage of the situation and reminds Smeagol that he had caused all this to happen when they were captured because he believed Frodo and went along with him to destroy the ring.

It is noticed that Gollum uses the pronoun "us" instead of me. Therefore, one might think that there are other people involved in the song, but from the novel, Gollum has his own usage of nouns and sometimes words. He refers to his character as we and us. His split personality case is so severe that he speaks about himself in plural.

“And we will weep to be so alone. We are lost, we can never go home.”

Here, Gollum ensures that he and Smeagol have the same fate. He tells Smeagol that they both will return to their depressed life in the mountains, that they will be alone, that they have only each other. He tells him that there is no hope for going back to the shire.

Gollum mentions two kinds of hope so far. He mentions one that has not faded completely, which was obtaining the ring of power again. The other hope is going back to the shire and living within his kin and people.

The second one is over and they should not think of it again as Gollum says. After 500 years of living alone in the mountains, Smeagol has no family or relatives in the shire. His only hope now is getting the ring back and using it to live eternally.



Figure 1: Gollum (left) and Smeagol (right). Same body but two distinct personalities.

“So in the end”  
“I’ll be what I will be”  
“No loyal friend”  
“Was ever there for me”

The rest of the song seems to have a different timing than the beginning. It represents the time where Smeagol took the ring from Frodo at the end of the movie. There, Frodo pushed Smeagol and he fell down the volcano. At that time, Gollum was not seen in Smeagol’s face. Smeagol was alone. It was like if he had never had a split personality before.

Gollum says; “so in the end I’ll be what I will be. No loyal friend was ever there for me.” Here, he refers to Sam who was accompanying Frodo the whole time. Sam played an important role in keeping Frodo of becoming enslaved by the ring. He stopped Frodo several times from wearing the ring. Gollum looked at them with a pity for himself that he did not have someone like Sam to stop his desire for obsessing the ring that has enslaved him.

“Now we say – goodbye”  
“We say - you didn't try”

“These tears you cry”  
“Have come too late”  
“Take back the lies”  
“The hurt, the blame!”

“And you will weep”  
“When you face the end alone”  
“You are lost!”  
“You can never go home”

Gollum start an attacking voice toward Smeagol. He says; “Now we say good-bye. We say you didn’t try.” Here, Gollum opposes what he has said in the beginning. He puts an end to their hope of obtaining the ring. He also put the blame on Smeagol because he could have possessed the ring but he did not try. He joined Frodo and Sam and offered them help to destroy the ring instead. Gollum mentions, in an angry voice, how smeagol’s tears now are too late.

In a very strict voice, Gollum uses the same words he used before but he only changes the pronouns. Instead of we, he says you. “And you will weep when you face the end alone. You are lost, you can never go home.” He

clearly takes himself out of the picture leaving poor Smeagol alone to face his own ending. Gollum ignores the fact that he was the one who drove Smeagol crazy the whole time.

Gollum's song is a lot more complex than it seems to be. Although the words are very simple, its structure is so twisted. It shows how pity Smeagol was and how evil Gollum was. To show the sad side of Smeagol's story, the director of the movie has chosen this song among all the songs written in the novel. Before listening to this song, I always hated Smeagol's character in the film, but I have never thought of him this way. The song made me feel sorry for him and sorry for how things turned out against him.

URL for the song:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WL\\_gZARR3Sw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WL_gZARR3Sw)

Lyrics:

Where once was light  
Now darkness falls  
Where once was love  
Love is no more

Don't say - goodbye  
Don't say - I didn't try...

These tears we cry  
Are falling rain  
For all the lies You told us  
The hurt, the blame!

And we will weep  
To be so alone  
We are lost!  
We can never go home

So in the end  
I'll be - what I will be  
No loyal friend  
Was ever there for me

Now we say - goodbye  
We say - you didn't try

These tears you cry  
Have come too late  
Take back the lies  
The hurt, the blame!

And you will weep  
When you face the end alone  
You are lost!  
You can never go home