

Environmental Discourse in Indian Writing in English

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Abstract

Ecocriticism is the recent branch of the literary criticism and theory which deals with the relationship between the environment and literature. The ecocritics evaluate and interpret the texts on the ecological point of view and unravels the environmental issues through setting, plot and characters. It is the demonstration of the ecology and natural objects. The literary critics study the literary texts in association environment. It first started in 1970s but reached its heights in 1990s. The ecocritics reveals the nature as a living entity like the human beings. It did not remain confining to natural or environmental science but made its way to literature and literature became an important tool for critics in order to highlight the environmental issues. It was William Ruckert who first coined the term in his essay *Literature and ecology: An Experiment in Ecocriticism* in 1978. Rachel Carson is known as the one of the forerunner of environmental studies. She first time highlights the issues of environmental decay through the use of chemicals like DDT. Ecocriticism existed since the romantic period, though it came into limelight in the second half of 20th century. In the contemporary era, the critics focus on nature and society. So ecocriticism become a new field for research and researcher scholars begin to highlight environmental problems and ecological imbalance through the interpretation of the different texts. In india it came a bit late but Indian authors took it very enthusiastically and began to write on it. They use nature as a background in their works and portrayed the characters who are directly or indirectly influence with the ecology. Authors like as Amitav Ghosh, R.K.Narayan, Raja Rao, Kamala Markandaya, Anita Desai, Kiran Desai, Jayant Mahapatra, Ramanujan, Bhavani Bhattacharya. Ecological imbalance has become the burning issue in the present time.

Key Words: Man-Nature Relationship, Indian Novels, Earth Centered and Ecocriticism.

Introduction

Ecocriticism is a new branch of literature which deals with the relation between environment and literature. It is a new platform for writers, critics and researcher to explore this particular field and protect environment with modernity. Ecocritical movement started in the late 19th century in the United States and spread gradually in the other parts of the world. It begins in United Kingdom in early nineties as Green Studies. Researchers and scholars study this field and considered them marginal till the existences of Association for the Study of Literature and Environment commonly known as ASLE. The journal was established in 1993 to give a ray of hope to this movement. Ecocriticism is not confined to a particular subject, but covers almost all other subjects with different names. It caught the world wide attention and evoked the interest among researchers across the globe. In different places it assumed different title like Ecopoetics, Green Culture and Environmental Literary Criticism. Ecocriticism is not only the application of ecology and ecological principles but also the study of literature and theoretical approach to the interrelations of nature, culture and sometimes even supernatural elements in nature. It attempts to explore the expressions of environment in literary texts and theoretical discourse. It is also a study of language through which literature is expressed.

Indian Authors

In Indian writing the writers also showed a great concern towards nature and natural objects. They remained very conscious about nature and depicted nature very well. The authors like Amati Ghosh, R. K. Narayan, Manohar Malgonkar, Raja Rao, Kamala Markandaya, and Anita Desai have portrayed Nature and nature- centered elements for expressing their thoughts for social environment. R.K Narayan is one of the noted author in Indian writing in English, who created fictitious world like Malgudi in her short stories. R. K. Narayan is one of the most outstanding literary figure and a regional novelist highlight the natural village atmosphere in his works. His imaginative world Malgudi became the backdrop for almost all his short stories. His novels centers on Malgudi and portray through setting in his works. His noted works are *Malgudi Days*, *Man Eater of Malgudi*, *The English Teacher* and *The Guide*. Nature and natural objects became the prime issue in the literary

texts. Authors focused on natural objects in order to save the natural environment. One of the major cause according to the Indian author for destruction of nature is Colonialism which played a key role in the destruction of environment throughout the world. Man changed his attitude towards nature and tries to protect the natural objects. In Indian Writing in English the authors also highlighted the theme of ecocriticism in their works through different ways.

Nectar in the Sieve: representation the elements of rural life

Kamala Markandaya holds a high spot in Indian writing in English. She expounded on the tradationality stanza innovation. Her tale Nectar in a Sifter delineated the family who are profoundly established with the rustic life. Rukmani's the main character of the novel is profoundly joined with her property alongside her significant other Nathan. The two of them are buckling down in their field for their endurance. There is close relationship between the Rukmani her territory and condition.

“While the sun shines on you and the fields are green and beautiful to the eye, and your husband sees beauty in you which no one has seen before, and you have a good store of grain laid away for hard times, a roof over you and a sweet stirring in your body, what more can a woman ask for?” (*Nectar in a Sieve* 8)

Nathan and Rukmani consistently cooperated in the field and Nathan her significant other respects her magnificence. She was an excessive amount of connected with the nature. They are poor however they never fault on nature however because of draft they cultivated their appropriately. Innovation fends off man from indigenous habitat and at last decimates the common habitat. The tannery symbolizes of advancement. It changes both, the earth and the financial states of the town. It likewise achieves a radical change in the connections between the townspeople.

The God of Small Things and Natural environment

Arundhati Roy is an activist and noted novelist in Indian writing in English won booker for her master piece The God of Small Things. As an activist she visited many places where she found some natural destruction by the human beings for their benefit. She exhibited the nature and natural elements in her novel. People exploited the natural objects in the name of modern technology. People who live in villages are more connect with nature but

people call them tribal. To protect nature is very important in the contemporary era where technology bow there seed very deeply in order to spoil the natural environments. In her novel *The God of Small Things* she highlighted the issues of nature through the character of Velutha. She gave the description of the river Meenchal in her novel. She has used nature images not only for describing the beauty or glorious atmosphere of the region and landscape but also for exposing the polluted atmosphere of Ayemenem. After twenty three when Rahel returns to his native place Ayemenem , he is “greeted her with a ghastly skull’s smile, with holes where teeth had been and a limp hand raised from a hospital bed”. (124)

In spite of the fact that it was June and coming down the stream was close to a swollen channel now. A dainty strip of thick water that tapped tediously at the mud relies upon either side, sequined with infrequent silver of a dead fish. It was stifled with a succulent weed, whose furred dark colored roots spared like slight appendages submerged. Bronze winged lily-trotters strolled crosswise over it. Splay-footed cautious. (124). The advanced innovation made populace in the in the zone and wreck the indigenous habitat and its greenery. Roy honestly featured the dull sides of modernization which makes issue in the lives of nearby occupant. She showed the picture of Ayemenem with greenery just as the contaminated Ayemenem.

Nature description in *Cry the Peacock*

The ladies mind is investigated through the characteristic components in the novel by Desai, she utilizes various pictures of natural, zoological, meteorological and activities speaking to hues so as to speak to the state of mind of Maya. Creator delineated normal and common habitat through the character of Maya and her connection to the regular items. The author displayed the pictures of creatures which demonstrates the subject of isolation and confinement which at last leads the end as the rudimentary sign of Maya's psychological unsettling influence. The depiction of natural picture is identified with Maya's hopelessness, her sterility is another reason for her psychological aggravation. She observes:

“Leafless, the fine tracery on the naked Neem trees revealed unsuspected, so far carefully concealed, nests, deserted by the birds....Down the street, the silk-cotton trees were the first to flower: their huge, scarlet blooms, thick petaled, solid- podded ... then dropped to the asphalt and were squashed into

soft, yellowish miasma, seemed animal rather than flowerage, so large were they, so heavy, so moist and living to the touch.” (Desai 34)

Maya was not content with her better half she understood the break of sensibilities among her and her significant other Gautam. She is just like “the beds of petunias...sentimental irresolute flowers” while Gautama resembles the blossoms of the lemon tree ...stronger, crisper character” (Desai 21-22). Thus, Desai exploits the wreck less nature imagery to heighten the pernicious influence of Maya on Gautam.

The Hungry Tide

In the twentieth century environmental issues is fundamental issue in Indian writing in English. Creators start contemplating condition and venture the weakness in their works. Amitav Ghosh is one of the significant figures in Indian writing in English. He accomplished extraordinary esteem from his perusers. His perfect work of art *The Hungry Tide* is viewed as the main work in Indian English fiction who strongly raised the natural issues first time in Quite a while and attempted his best to ensure the earth. He delineated the relationship between the individuals, the fauna and verdure, and the physical condition, and in doing so this work portrayed both the catastrophe and the guile that were inborn in the protection endeavors in the Sundarbans. In the novel *The Hungry Tide* the author uncovered the pressure between individuals inside similar networks and their ties with regular habitat. The abrading between the land and ocean in the Sundarbans produce. The chafing between land and the sea in the Sundarbans generate an unvarying rasping between the plant and animal life. Mans regular infringement of the ecosystems of the Sunderbans only rationalize the chaos and strain between the natural elements. The setting of the novel *The Hungry Tide* is Sunderbans Island in Bay of Bengal, the outlook of this island is not only beautiful but also very fascinating.

Unsettling influences and extradition are the basic danger on this spot and even the assault by tigers are most basic in this spot. Tidal floods demolish the dauntlessness the regular the life on the island with no advice. Amitav Ghosh’s *The Hungry Tide* continuously talks about the clash between man and nature in the perspectives of the Sundarbans in India and Bangladesh. Amitav Ghosh always raises his voice against the mistreatment of human beings with nature and natural objects. “At no moment can human beings have any doubt of

the terrain's hostility to their presence, of its cunning and resourcefulness, of its determination to destroy or expel them. Every year, dozens of people perish in the embrace of that dense foliage, killed by tigers, snakes and crocodiles.” (Ghosh 7)

CONCLUSION

Therefore it is a mandatory to protect the nature and to maintain the balance between the human and the non human world.. It is not only the responsibility of authors who highlight these ecological in their works but the readers must take the cognizance of everything which is related with nature. It is the primary duty of every individual to protect and to guard the interrelatedness and the interconnectivity which is the the natural and sacred between human and the non-human world. Environment is closely associated with human life and it is the basic duty of every individual that if environment is not safe then the human life will automatically get crushed. Man is the creator and destructor of environment Ecocriticism engages with the cause of ecosystem and expressions of the theory. It seeks to query into its reach and studies the interdependence of man and nature. The study is a admonitory caution to mankind that the utilization of nature over a period of time will lead to an eruption of nature. Environmental imageries have been used by many writers to express the desires, shortcomings and emotions of their characters.

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