



Short Communication

Eco-consciousness in fiction in English Language

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Abstract

We have entered into 21st century. We are progressing day by day in all fields. We human depend on nature for most of our needs. Earlier with less population there was equal balance between demand and supply. But with increasing population demand is increasing day by day and humans have started exploiting nature as per their requirements. The forests are being cutting, Fossil fuels are decreasing, global warming is increasing, and human is harming environment so much by increasing pollution. These things are threat to mankind. Human has become threat to both other humans and nature by thinking that he can rule the nature, rather understanding their relationship with each other. These increasing problems attracted attention of many people and gave rise to a new theory named Eco-criticism. It is a worldwide movement which came into existence on the reaction of man's dominating attitude towards nature. It not only talks about harmony between humans but also the destruction caused by humans to nature and bring changes to the environment. By participating in this seminar i intend to enhance as well as share my knowledge of this new field of study. I also aim to raise the eco-consciousness among the masses through participation in such academic as well as social activities.

Keywords: Eco-criticism, nature, Literary Theory, Eco-consciousness.

Introduction

The three major components of physical elements solid, liquid and gas make respectively lithosphere, hydrosphere and atmosphere. The biotic component of the environment consists of flora (plants) and fauna (animals) including man as an important factor. Here environment comes akin to nature which encompasses of both the human and non-human nature. Man's social, cultural and economical ventures do affect and are affected by its respective environmental milieu and thus literature too becomes an important segment of environment. Literature at time shapes and is shaped by its surrounding environment. It shapes when it appeals mankind to return to nature and when it alarms mankind against the merciless exploitation of natural resources notwithstanding the rebounding repercussions on his own existence. Realising this rich potentiality of literature, the critics have initiated discussions on Environmentalism and Ecocriticism^{1,2} just three decades ago. But creative writers have always been conscious for the inseparable and inextricable rapport between nature and man on one hand and on the another the entire universe as one big organic whole. Creative writers have always given prominent place to nature in their writings. In the realm of ecocriticism, texts are being evaluated on the basis of their effects on environment. Effects may be harmful or helpful. "Direct representations of environmental damage or political struggle are of obvious interest of Eco critics, but so is the whole array of cultural and daily life, for what it reveals about implicit attitudes that have environmental consequences" Waugh, 530³. The term

Eco-criticism, later to be broadened as Environmentalism, was introduced by US critic Rueckert in 1978 but as it always happen a few works may be traced raising similar apprehensions without using rubric of Eco-criticism. As one significant exponent is the writing by Raymond Williams's in 1973 *The Country and The City*. The United States exhibited its serious mulling's on environmental damage in 1992 by establishing The Association for The Study Of Literature And Environment, now it is the central location for Eco-critics world-wide. The British counterpart of the US critic is Jonathan Bate who in his book *Romantic Ecology* communicated the English anxiety on dwindling concerns for environment.

Every one of us share a typical conviction that we have achieved the period of ecological emergency as a result of our demonstrations against nature harming it such a degree, to the point that the planet's fundamental life emotionally supportive networks have gone under gigantic weight causing worldwide calamity, wrecking much magnificence and annihilation of incalculable species. We examine Literatures and dialects yet back in managing natural issues through this undertaking. It's the ideal opportunity for us to think about how might we contribute inside our ability as researchers of writing to reestablish natural emergency? The appropriate response lies in perceiving that present ecological issues are to a great extent of making. They are the side-effects our way of life.

Researchers all through the humanities are endeavoring to add ecological measurement to their individual controls.

Associations are being investigated between nature, culture and history, among geology and culture especially the primal societies that made due in the nearby region of nature by adjusting to the esteem framework and customs from nature itself. Thus analysts are additionally endeavoring to investigate the linkages between natural conditions and their effect on emotional well-being. In logic, different subfields like natural morals, profound biology, ecofeminism², and social nature have risen with an end goal to comprehend and investigate the underlying driver of ecological debasement and to detail an elective perspective of presence that will give a moral and applied establishment for right relations with the earth. Scholars also perceive the holiness of earth, as a mother and Goddess. Religious beliefs of Eastern conventions and the lessons of Native American's accommodate much insight related to ecology and otherworldliness. Artistic researchers have some expertise in inquiries of significant worth, which means, convention, perspective and dialect.

Race, class, rank, and sexual orientation have stayed as the intriguing issues in scholarly investigations were the hot topics of 1990's. On the other hand, main daily papers and other media examines concentrated on similar critical concerns identified with the ecological risks presented by the consumerist fanatic and the disregard of the misfortunes endured by the earth on the record of investigation and misuse of normal assets for mechanical, innovative and logical accomplishments.

The monstrous oil slicks in mid sea, lead and asbestos, poisonous waste pollution of species at a phenomenal rate, fights over the utilization of open land use for non-horticultural purposes, dissents over atomic waste dumps, a developing gap in the ozone layer, forecasts of an Earth-wide temperature boost, corrosive rain, loss of best soil, devastation of the tropical rain timberlands, debate over the seen Owl in the pacific Northwest, an out of control fire, atomic fiascos occurred in Chernobyl, new auto emanation guidelines, starvations, dry seasons, surges, sea tempests, the sum total of what these have been themes for the features into the main daily papers. Uncommon meetings are hung on natural issues in the U.S. The president pronounced the decade 1990 as "the time of condition and improvement" taking the total populace to the best five million.

Romantic era describes how human control over the nature. *Romantic Ecology: Wordsworth and the Environmental Tradition* (1991) by Jonathan Bate is the best example for this. He talks about the biological and natural cognizance of Wordsworth. Yet, the theme of the cutting edge Romantic writing and theory, both in England and Germany, was that the main driver of present day people despairing and keeping distance from nature; and that the beyond any doubt reason for this illness lies in the gathering of mankind and nature⁴.

Eco-criticism is the result of the contribution given by many books and collection of poems. These books help in the foundation and advancement of eco-criticism. Cheryll Glotfelty

and Harold edited *The Eco-criticism Reader: Landmarks in Literary Ecology*⁵. This anthology was published in the year 1996. It contributed a great deal in offering push to the eco-critical development. Other poems of nature writing are *The Norton Book Of Nature Writing* altered by Robert Flinch and John Elder. Important books on Eco-criticism are *The Machine in the Garden: Technology and the pastoral ideal in America* by Leo Marx's, *Nature's Economy: A History of Ecological ideas* by Donald Worster and *Wilderness and the American Mind* by Roderick Nash and so on.

Chinua was an African Writer. Chinua like other writers of Nigeria gave focus of the issues existing in society. Earth, sky, animals, etc. are considered as living characters by Africans. They believe that these all characters have capability to listen and communicate. "A snake was never called by its name at night, because it would hear. It was called a string⁶."

On the other hand in Indian ecocritical writers are R.K. Narayan, Anita Desai, Kiran Desai and Raja Rao. They gave significant place to nature as well as natural- elements in their writings to express themselves and their surroundings both regional and traditional. R.K. Narayan is known for his imaginary creation "Malgudi". He is also a famous regional novelist focused southern region. He has depicted nature well which is depicted from his novels and short stories. Nature plays both the roles negative and positive. In "*The Guide*" the depiction of Saryu River and nicely depicted the ruined temples which affected the life of Raju, the protagonist and the guide and changed him from guide to a saint. Raja Rao is one of the most prominent nature writers in India. He has also described rural life and customs of south Indian villages⁷. He has well depicted the relation between man and nature. He depicts nature well in his writing *Kanthapura*⁸. Kiran Desai is another renowned eco- conscious novelist. East-west encounter, political disturbances and their bad effects on nature are the main concerns of her writing⁹.

There is urgency of solid resolve and voice in the instructing calling to maintain the green environment and cast its effect on the current assemblage of scholarly and basic standard, the educational modules and college approach and college strategy. Understudies taking writing and arrangement course will be urged to ponder the relationship of people to nature, about the moral and tasteful problems presented by natural emergency, and what about dialect and writing transmit values with significant environmental ramifications.

In educational institutes it should be made mandatory for students to study about nature. There should be excursion trips of students, so that students should feel their closeness with nature. Seminars, workshops should be there to aware people about nature. In ancient period poets describes nature so well it is not in the case with India but all over the world. We need to develop that awareness among people again and made them realize their historical roots.

Conclusion

Human Being and nature are connected to each other. Nature is well described by many poets and authors in the past. In ancient epics as well we see the great role of nature on human beings, they considered universe as the whole. We have degraded nature so much and if we do not focus on environmental problems, which are the need of today, there will be no human and no nature. The main purpose of this paper is to show that there is an alarming situation of environment degradation. Literature and nature are interconnected. We ignore nature just for the sake of the development in society. The environmental concerns have opened up doors for eco-critical writers. These writers have big responsibility to give wake- up call to their readers through their fictional and non- fictional writings and make the masses eco-conscious.

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