

National Seminar Proceedings on Beyond the Classics: Embracing New Literary Horizons

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An Exploratory Study of Environmental Ethics and Ecological Literature

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Abstract

India is a developing country with abundant natural resources which include both biotic and abiotic resources. The Indian land mass has vast valuable resources which are getting depleted rapidly. Environmental Ethics is a branch of ethical studies that deals with the relationship between human beings and other living creatures in the earth. Ecological Literature defined the persistence of relationship within an ecosystem and bring it in the form of literary work. One of the aspects of environmental ethics is to consider human beings and other living creatures like birds, insect reptiles, animals and plants equal. This research article aims at exploring the persisting environmental issues which challenging the human sustainability and how man has to balance with environmental ethics. All living creatures are depending on one another. The main objective of this article is to find out the modern methods and practices as well as remedies for creating sustainable environment. It is imperative that human being must respect the other creature. Humans should follow morals and ethics in dealing with other living creatures on earth and let the creatures survive in the environment and enjoy their own freedom. Earth is a place not only for the human beings but also for other living creatures. Global warming, various kinds of pollution, deforestation, global climatic changes, endangered species, degradation of resources, are the issues which deteriorates the natural environment and its prosperity. It is high time for every human being to act with responsibility and sensibility to safeguard the mother earth and create an environment that is amicable place for all creatures to live peacefully. This research proves that the ecological literature serves as a tool to project the environmental crises and its mending ways to bring our environment back to its normalcy.

Keywords: Environmental ethics, Earth, Creatures, Global warming.

INTRODUCTION

Ecocriticism is the new emerged theory which gives stress on the human awareness towards the environmental issues like global warming, deforestation, climatic changes, ozone depletion, waste management, pollution, desertification, overpopulation, natural disasters etc. Eco- Literature state that the whole genre of literature talks about the human concerns on the prevailing and challenging ecological imbalance in our society. In the name of urbanisation and development in science and technology, human beings keep deteriorating the natural resources which are precious and it has been treasured for ages. The green movement which has recently created the awareness in the society among the human being highlights the importance of every micro and macro organism in the environment to attain the ecological balance to retain all the existing organisms live in the mother earth without facing natural threat. All natural disaster occurs in our mother earth due to the

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anthropocentric approach of human beings without considering the nature and its resources. Man's irresponsible attitude towards the nature and existing organisms in the environment are the reasons for natural calamities.

ECOCRITICISM

Ecocriticism is the study of ecology and literature. Literature scholars, poets, essayist, researchers and writers analyse the texts and literary works in the perspective of nature, environment, ecology and literature. It was originated for first by Joseph Meeker as an idea called "Literary Ecology" in his work "The Comedy of Survival: Studies in Literary Ecology (1972)". The term 'Ecocriticism' was coined by William Rueckert in 1978 in his essay "Literature and Ecology: An Experiment in Ecocriticism". It is an interdisciplinary study of Literature and Environment and its sub fields like Green Studies, Eco poetics, Environmental literary Criticism, Ecology, Ecological Literature etc. It has extended its broad approach study from other related environment fields. At present, we face a numerous threat from nature which is a challenge to the environment and human beings. It is the responsibility of every citizen in the world to act with utmost care and sincerity towards our mother Earth. The interrelation between the nature and human is always bonded in every aspect.

"Many examples of environmental writing are, in one way or another, such narratives of threatening destruction and calls for action on behalf of the survival of both nature and human civilization. They write about nature in ways that also make them political calls for an increased public awareness of the silent injustices and invisible risks of a blindly expansionist technocentric consumer society, an awareness which requires an informed discourse of democratic citizens about necessary changes in the values and practices of personal and communal life". (Zapf56)

POWER OF NATURE

There are two sides of Ecology in the perceptive view of nature. One is human beings attitude towards nature keeping human centred ie. Anthropocentric. Human beings considered nature is least bothered and believes that human beings are responsible for each and every creation in the world. He thinks that he is the only superior being over the nature. He destroys forest, kills animal and do all the anti- naturalistic action against the welfare of the organisms in nature. Second is nature's respond to the attitude of human beings. As a result of the action against nature, many natural calamities which sweeps away human beings in heaps proved that nature has its own face to reply against the atrocities which happened in the society. It has its superpower to destroy the whole generation within a second.

EVOLUTION OF NEW THEORIES

Human nature is basically Anthropocene in nature keeps human being's priority on top other than natural things and its resources. But the role of ecocriticism in the present scenario is to change the centralisation of human beings on priority and the focus is completely turned to the side of nature and its resources. Men acted impulsively and defile without thinking of the consequence of depleting the natural resources. The common formula we all can use to manage the environmental crises are to follow the sustainable development in the environment. Man was very close with nature and respect nature related sources and resources. They lived with nature, they lived for the nature, they lived by the natural resources. So far as there was no natural calamities threat. Once he started thinking in a self- centered way of destroying natural resources and wanted to encroach the forests which would be the house of many animals and natural organisms. Our Environmental crises occurred because of the people's lack of environmental ethics. Human beings must understand how precious our nature and its resources. It is the duty of every human being to

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treasure it completely. Our earth is for all the biotic and abiotic creatures in the environment. Human beings think that its only for humans not for other organisms. This ecosystem is the one which gives the clear picture of an interdependence of all the creatures. When there is the need for the certain systems, some theories have been evolved as an eye opener for human beings to educate them with systems which is a need for an hour. Certain theories like Ecocriticism, Ecofeminism, Eco spiritualisms, Green Studies, Animal Studies and Ecological Literature came as a beacon for the literature lovers and voracious readers to enlighten them. Human beings must have the eco-consciousness and people must delve deep to the action on earth centric approach in the environment.

ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS

Environmental ethics is a field study that understands human's moral values to protect and preserve the environment. It is mainly belonging to the branch of ethics that humans understand the intrinsic value of nature and recognizes the importance of all the creatures under the umbrella of Mother Earth. It is the responsibility of every human being to play their responsible and sincere role as a social activist who preserves nature and natural resources. In the literature of environmental ethics, morals and values related environment and its organism have great importance. It always promotes the sustainable practice of using natural resources. It also emphasizes the interconnectedness of all creature and there is always a need to respect them and also human contributions are required to preserve them with utmost sincerity. It helps to build better relationship with natural creatures.

ROLE OF ECO-LITERATURE IN THE WORLD

Eco-literature inherits its inspiration from the three American Transcendentalists writers named Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau and Margaret Fuller. Transcendentalism describes that is a kind of spirituality that transcends the realm of rationality and the material world. It has a belief that humans are fundamentally good but they are corrupted by the circumstances and society and they should work hard for follow the life independently and also with self-reliant. In 1845, Henry David Thoreau moved to a hut built nearer to the Walden pond in Massachusetts and lived there for two years. He wanted to live his life mingled with nature and got rid of his regular mechanical pursuit. In his work, 'Walden' he has stated that he had peacefulness and the feeling of oneness with nature. He paid homage to the Bhagavad Gita, the famous and renowned myth of Hinduism. Like Thoreau, Emerson in his essay "Nature" described the philosophy of transcendentalism. He also suggested that one can find God in Nature and the way he comes close to attain divinity is 'Nature'.

CONCLUSION

Therefore, it is very crucial to protect the nature, natural resources and natural objects in the environment. Ecocriticism has been inherited from the transcendentalism when the real awareness need is approached. Human must change their anthropocentric approach and attitude towards nature to decrease the natural calamities in the world. The present ecological crises which changes its colour and perspective differently according to the present scenario and new generation Literature also plays its role through new theories to create awareness among readers. Theses Eco centric literature works show the way to lead the happy life with nature by protecting it and without doing harm to it. Man will learn many things like how to behave well to nature keeping the environmental crises in mind.