



Environmental study in English Literature: Moving Beyond the Nature

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ABSTRACT

Every day in the previous few decades has brought more scary environmental disaster news that has become commonplace. Excessive usage of natural resources has pushed humanity to the verge of disaster. Anthropocentrism is a geological epoch defined as the time when human activity has had the greatest impact on climate and the environment. The seasonal cycle is in disarray, and natural ecological disasters have grown commonplace around the world. Anthropocentrism is concerned with the interaction between humans and nature. The purpose of this study is to shed light on the role of human activities in the deterioration of our environment. The phrase ecocriticism refers to the study of the connections between literature and the environment. Ecocriticism is a field of study that brings together scholars from other disciplines to discuss, critique, and formulate texts on environmental issues. To deal with global warming and other global problems, we must break the chain and expand the limits. The purpose of this study report is to instill a stronger feeling of environmental care and awareness. If we want to hear nature's wonderful music, we must immediately modify our anthropocentric perspective.

Key Words: Ecocriticism, Environment, Nature, Global Warming.

INTRODUCTION

Eco-criticism or environmental criticism is a term used to describe literature and environmental studies. William Rueckert invented the term ecocriticism in his essay "Literature and Ecology: An Experiment in Ecocriticism" in which he articulated "an ecological poetics." The term "ecocriticism" was coined in 1978, but it acquired popularity in the late 1990s. Ecocriticism may have emerged in the late 1990s, but it does not mean that no one had previously presented natural phenomena. This paper examines the critical works that belong under the ecocritical umbrella in order to demonstrate that, while ecocriticism is a new discipline, it has been reflected in works for millennia.

The study highlights people's ecology concern mainly during industrialization terminating the landscape, consequently, initiated the travel to conserve the planet. In English literature, there are a lot of accounts related to ecological concerns. The Canterbury tales (14th century) prologue refers to April is a month of sweet showers. But the great modern epic of the 20th century, *The Waste land* (1922) displays, April is the cruellest month these statements forced us to think that what happened and why April has become the cruellest month. Is it an indication of climate change?

Climate change is a major worry for the twenty-first century. Many well-known authors, including Emerson, Thoreau, Frost, William Wordsworth, Amitav Ghosh, Nissim Ezekiel, W. B. Yeats, Whitman, and others, have eloquently described nature. Who went ahead to carry the torch? *Nature* (1836) by Emerson and *Walden* (1854) by Thoreau are two of the most important books on nature and ecology.

The literary world has the ability to alter global trends. The puzzle of the harmful ecosystem has been solved by Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* (1962). Her studies exposed the man-made toxicity, and her efforts resulted in 1972 ban on pesticides such as DDT (Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane) and others on the American land.

The impetus behind writing *Silent Spring* was her friend Olga Owens Huckins, she wrote a letter to the American daily newspaper in 1958. The letter described the death of birds resulting from the arial spray to kill insects. The arial spray used to destroy insects caused the killing of birds, according to the letter. Olga also forwarded a copy of the letter to Carson. The letter encouraged her to gather evidence of pesticide-related environmental damage. Her research has brought DDT closer to official oversight. The work's title depicts the absence of birdsong, implying a grim future for natural wealth. Carson met researchers who were looking into cancer causes and discovered that many chemicals are carcinogenic.

If a letter can inspire Carson to fight for the natural world, why couldn't literary writings instigate the current generation to resolve the state of affairs? As it is believed, literature is a mirror of contemporary society, which can present a real and true picture of the environment, nature, and climatic concerns. In literature, many writers suggested we should not try to play with mother nature. If you are not serious about nature its result will be very dangerous for us. But because of their greedy nature, man is not giving up.

THE NEW CHALLENGES

Thousands of rain forests are being cut down to make way for airports, industries, roadways, and a variety of other economic needs. These are necessities in our economy. The population is also steadily expanding, which contributes to exploitation. Environmental resources Every organism on the planet wishes to breathe freely and without difficulty. However, man began to display his greedy nature. As a result, nature began to reveal its crystal teeth, causing ecophobia. Man wants to be superior to nature. Perhaps he has forgotten that a child never be superior to his mother, particularly mother nature. All of the world's environmental concerns and difficulties must be addressed immediately.

The Romantic poets rebelled against the system in the nineteenth century, expressing their thoughts and feelings about nature's beauty and mystery. The natural was also influenced by William Wordsworth, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, John Keats, Byron, and Shelley. To conserve the natural environment, these poets addressed their concerns against capitalists, industrialists, and materialists. In his poem Michael (1800), William Wordsworth depicts a modest shepherd who is profoundly attracted to nature. And when he abandons his motherland, he is doomed. Wordsworth and other writers drew attention to people's environmental concerns in their works, particularly when industrialization was destroying the countryside and, as a result, sparked conservation groups.

The Rime of the Ancient Mariner (1798) by Samuel Taylor Coleridge emphasizes the need of treating all species with respect. All creatures have value, and we should respect and care for all of God's creations.

The most important works of nature and ecology concerned are Emerson's *Nature* and Thoreau's *Walden*. Henry David Thoreau is regarded as the founder of environmental critique. In his work "where I lived and what I lived for," Thoreau highlights Indian ideas. He explains how the Vedas relate to appearance (Maya) and reality in ancient India (Satya). Thoreau talks to a Hindu philosopher who explains the Maya and Truth concepts. Thoreau is a firm believer in self-sufficiency and simplicity. He introduces the concept of Chetna, which provides a man with awareness.

This paper is an attempt to show that English literature is also the best source of awareness and warning about where mankind is headed. We must first strike a stance and consider what is being done and what will be the outcome. To deal with the problem, we need someone who is alert and aware. Only then will we be able to cease exploiting the Mother Nature. Maya implies acquiring more and more, and the day we break free from Maya's circulation will be a glorious day for humanity.

The first chapter of *Walden* (1854) is about the economy Thoreau presents an ascetic viewpoint. Food, housing, clothes, and fuel, according to Thoreau, are the four basic requirements of life. However, we are lagging behind in our pursuit of luxury, which is the most common cause of environmental concern. Even today's generation is following fashion and wearing clothes because they want to be naked Thoreau emphasizes that man should be unclothed, and he observes that as civilization advances in material advancement, it regresses in spiritual advancement.

quotes

Frost's understanding of nature is exact and correct. He explores both the unpleasant and positive aspects of nature in his poems. *Stopping By Woods on a Snowy Evening* (1923), a poem by Frost, depicts an appositive side of existence. *Two Tramps in Mud Time* (1934) poet believes that beneath the beauty and peaceful surface of nature, there is another face of nature that plays a horrific role. Frost wants to emphasis that if you meddle with nature, you must pay back. Today, these lines are more applicable.

*"Be glad the water, but don't forget
The lurking frost in the earth beneath
That will steal forth after the sun is set
And show on the water its crystal teeth."Two Tramps in Mud Time (1934)*

Many countries have been affected by unusual natural phenomena such as locust outbreaks, floods, cyclones, desertification, and increased greenhouse gas emissions. Climate change, according to experts and scientists, is the cause of these issues. Floods have been a common occurrence on the planet. The floods changed the climatic circumstances, which are favourable for locust reproduction, such as excessive rainfall, damp soil, and abundant vegetation. Climate change, according to scientists, may make these attacks more common. These things are linked to one another.

The cause of enormous locust outbreaks never witnessed before. the primary reason for it Scientists believe that our cell phones' radiation, and pesticides are to blame for sparrow disappearance, and that without sparrows, controlling locust attacks is significantly more difficult. These birds are no longer as common as they once were. we don't see these birds as we see them earlier. As a result, we are gaining dominance on the moon and Mars while destroying our own planet. We can no longer survive without network facilities, which has become a new hurdle for us. So, what are your options?

Country and the City (1973) by Raymond William displays the stunning complexity of country and city life. Here, William shows city life as both a Centre of modernity and a lonely place. It has been proven that a man living in a village can live a healthier and longer life than a man living in a city. These works and writers are concerned about climate change. It painted a realistic image of rural and urban life. Everyone wants to be contemporary and embrace city culture.

CONCLUSION

If we want to hear nature's wonderful music, we must immediately modify our anthropocentric perspective. Reuse, recycle, and reduce are the solutions to these difficulties. These three r's are ingrained in our culture. Only then can we progress toward a more sustainable lifestyle. So that we don't have to focus on such issues as much. I'm inclined to agree with Thoreau, who questions why we want to get more and more. Why do we want to acquire more and more stuff when we already have enough to live a calm life? These things can only be followed by an enlightened soul. In any case, human ambition is uncontrollable. The best solution is to curtail the population.

During the Covid 19 pandemics, it became obvious that human activities are a key contributor to the environment's deterioration. When numerous countries throughout the world implemented a lockdown. Nature began to revive at that time, rivers were clear, and the sky could be seen. Stars appeared that had never been before. Other creatures were not subjected to

any restrictions during this time. Is it evident that climate change is solely due to human activity?
Is this a new challenge for us? Do we intend to cease expanding our economy?

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