



ECOLOGICAL CRISIS IN AMITAV GHOSH'S THE GREAT DERANGEMENT

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Abstract

Climate change is nowadays affecting every country in the world. Climate change is disrupted national economies and affecting lives, people, communities and countries. People are experience in the significant impacts of climate change and which include changing weather patterns, rising sea level, and more extreme weather events. The poorest and most vulnerable people are being affected in the climate change.

Global policy making nowadays is to conflict the harmful effects of climate change on our environment. Climate change as an occurrence has grabbed the attention of the whole world, because it is something that mankind has been held responsible for Earth. Earth climate is always changing, in the last hundred years; earth is climate has changed significantly.

The earth is temperature has become heater than before and it has had almost immediate special effects on coastal areas, small islands, food security and health. The entire problem of climate change has more to do with the way human beings have been conducting their lives. 'Derangement' means a state of mental disturbance and disorientation or the act of disturbing the mind or b .

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India has diverse ecosystems like Himalayas in the north, plateaus to the south and the Sundarbans in the east which have been resentfully affected by the mankind. These effects stir the literary world to call for research papers to deal with the study of changes in nature and this dissertation is on this study in Indian Literature from praise to demolition.

The three components of nature, creatures and their surroundings are not only convoluted and energetic, but also universal, often responsive and correlated. Ecology is almost a new science which studies the varied principles and relationships of the living organisms and its environment. In the present times, it is defined as the study of the relationships between the environment and its living beings like animals, plants and human beings. In the correlations of the environments' organisms are dependent on one another like the impact of every actions would stir the whole environment.

Ecological crisis is due to the mismanagement of nature by humans. All human beings are responsible and accountable for the protection of the environment. It is very important to everyone to work for the protection of ozone layer, energy resources, and forests and to save the loss of global biodiversity. This is the reason why 'World Environmental Day' is celebrated every year on June 5, to highlight the importance of environment and environmental changes in order to ensure prosperity and global wellbeing as a whole.

History has recorded every change in civilizations, especially the relationships between the animals and human beings. If the effects on the civilization become serious, it may exterminate the whole civilization from the features of the earth. Therefore the present discussions in the research would set the focus on ecological study. It is the concern of every country to replenish the retreating elements of ecology which endangers the human beings the most. So the Literary writings are well known for depicting the present problems which are remains the same without the solutions.

Every literary work presents its ideas with the backup of beauty and strength of nature. It is the sense of concern and its reflection in literature that has given rise to a new branch of literary theory, namely Ecocriticism.

The word 'ecocriticism' first appeared in William Rueckert's essay "Literature and Ecology: An Experiment in Ecocriticism" in 1978. Yet apparently it remained inactive in critical vocabulary until the 1989 Western Literature Association meeting, when Cheryll Glotfelty not only received the term but worked for its use in the important field which after this had been used as 'the study of nature writing'.

Glen Love too seconded the call for 'ecocriticism' at the same World Lottery Association meeting. As that meeting in 1989 the usage of the term 'ecocriticism' has bloomed.

Amitav Ghosh published his non-fiction *The Great Derangement: Climate Change and the Unthinkable* in 2016. The main concern of the work is on Climate change and reverse order of weather patterns throughout the world, and He also points out our failures in literary world, history, and politics to focus on the flake and severity of climate change. How the theme of eco-criticism can be interpreted through the reading of *Hungry Tide*, *The Great Derangement*, *Gun Island* and *The Sea of Poppies* by Ghosh.

Ghosh examines the inadequacy of our present culture, at the level of literature, history and politics, to comprehend the scale and violence of climate change. Ghosh's treatment of the complexity and urgency of the subject of climate crisis from the perspective of history and power. The first part attempts to provide the context for Ghosh's deliberations on why historical frameworks are ineffectual in depicting a history of climate crisis.

The second part moves with Ghosh as he develops his arguments through key topics as capitalism and historical narrative, capitalism and empire, Asia's centrality to the climate crisis, dissemination of thought and technology, and their impact on climate crisis, history of fossil fuels, on the hegemonic presence of European powers, on the canon of distributive justice, on indigenous resistance and so on. This could be the first serious reading of the part of Ghosh's text which concerns history of global warming, featuring the strengths of the arguments through textual evidences and analysis.

The issue of climate crisis depicted in historical writings has sometimes led to gross simplifications. Ghosh suggests that politics, much like literature, has become a matter of moral reckoning rather than an arena of collective action. But to limit culture and politics to individual moral adventure comes at a great cost. The climate crisis asks us to imagine other forms of human existence a task to which fiction, he argues, is best suited of all forms.

The Hungry Tide is one of the first Indian novels which portray the ecological issues of India. Ghosh's novel presents the links between the environmental factors like the state, the poor, the fauna and flora, and physical environment. And also his works depicts the disasters and falsity which are often in the conversational efforts in Sundarbans and the concern of human community and their relationships with in their environment.

The Hungry Tide is an unexpected success of Ghosh attempts to explore the ambiguous, even ignored area of research in his fiction. History and science are linked to human conditions and life. This is a great novel of political, economical, social, environmental and scientific issues that had been presented throughout a story, full of romance, suspense and poetry. This novel includes scientific treaty, travelogue, tradition and homelessness, entirely located in Bengal, for this reason and it is very important for eco-criticism writings.

Ghosh himself accept that Calcutta can be found in for the most part of his novel. This is the novel represent the Bengali tradition of river novel and the landscape of Sunderbans determines much in the character's life. The insecure part of the world is always hit by tides and cyclones wash away the island everyday human life is very cheap in the archipelago. He remembers by this storm became so famous that in 1970, cyclone thirty thousand people were killed.

Ghosh was mainly concerned about the denial of climate crises by artists and writers all over the world. According to him, the crisis of climate is nothing but the crisis of culture itself, being a post-colonial theme, he engages with the present climate catastrophe of the global south and seeks how it alter the lives of humans and non-humans there. The starting point of the novel *The Hungry Tide* (2004) and he expound his concerns over the environment in the nonfiction *The Great Derangement* (2016) and presently in the climate novel of the time *Gun Island* in 2019.

The largest part of the apocalyptic fiction is settled in the distant future and Ghosh says that the time is up. Global warming or climate change is not a future phenomenon as it is happening at the present moment. Most of the literatures narrate the story of human life within a limited space and time. The novel *The Hungry Tide* was written in the year 2004 and he was not aware of the ecological degradations faced by his home land. Despite being unaware of the extent of the violence meted out by climate change while writing *The Hungry Tide* represent the historical and geographical peculiarities of the Sundarbans.

There are no borders to separate fresh water from salt, river from sea. The tides reach as far as three hundred kilometers local and every day thousands of acres of forest disappear under water only to resurface hours later "The currents are so powerful as to reshape the islands almost daily some days, the water tears away entire promontories and peninsulas; at other times it throws up new shelves and sand banks where there were none before" (*The Hungry Tide*7).

In the novel, Ghosh loses himself in a whirl of ideas like demolition of eco-systems, species loss, and protection of tigers, disposable poor humans and the neglect and double standards of the system. It engages with nonhuman entity like tide, flood, cyclones, tigers, dolphins, etc. While writing the work of fiction, he might not have been aware of the often-discussed topics of the present times like climate change, global warming, etc.

Environment which is spread all over understands to man. Nature not only gives solace to man but is also its teacher, guide, guardian and commentator. Only when man lives in the middle of nature can he be a human. With environment slowly losing itself, man besides is soon becoming an animal. *The Hungry Tide* provides countless optics on the Sunderbans ecosystem of mangrove forest islands and mudflats, in place of the constant transformation it undergoes, because of daily tidal flows with sections of island being temporary flooded and with seawater.

Ghosh greatest gift as a writer may well be his sense of position. The landscape, city, village on the edge of a desert; it is these images that we call for from his novels when we are distance from them in memory. The area is supposed to derive its name from the 'sunder tree' and as the mangrove is locally called in his book. He has presented the overall natural and environmental approach to his vision clear in his novel *The Great Derangement*. The efforts have been made to verify that the novel of, and is analyzed on the eco critical study and would clear in your mind give a new and an only one of its kind way of reading to the readers in the context of ecological study and approach. Climate change or Global warming is one of the major challenges of present time and adds substantial stress to our societies and to the environment.

Ghosh's novels focus on the current global issues. His reaction to the climate change ears testimony that he is ecoconscious. His comments as Wore (2015) quotes: "If you are from my part of the world, climate change hits you in the face. In front of my eyes I've seen islands disappearing. I've seen saltwater invading deeper and deeper. This is the most vulnerable part of the world apart from the low-lying islands, and unlike the low-lying islands, Bengal has 250 million people. What is of much interest to me is why the arts, which are meant to be in the avant-garde, have been so slow to recognize this. It is a profound challenge to all our procedures, and while I don't primarily think of myself as an activist, if I did I would be very depressed" (*The Great Derangement* 4).

Naomi Klein the author of *This Changes Everything* (2015) is right in identifying the current leading model of capitalism as one of the principal drivers of climate change. Klein identifies a conflict between the reigning neoliberal ideology and an alternative worldview and insists that need to think on a paradigm shift embedded in interdependence rather than individualism, reciprocity rather than domination, and cooperation rather than hierarchy.

Ghosh, however believes that this narrative often overlook an aspect to global warming that may be considered to have equal importance: imperialism and empire. Though most agree that empire and capitalism are the dual aspects of the same reality, their counter directional imperative in relation to climate crisis have often produced counter intuitive effects. The issue of inconsistent positions of empire and capitalism with reference to a political and economic system in China is wonderfully brought out by Michel Aglietta and GuoBai in *China's Development: Empire and Capitalism*. In China, some form of capitalism has a grip on the key to progress, but that form is still a matter of the difficult play of influences that is the legacy of 1000 of years of Chinese cultural tradition.

On the one side the energetic private enterprise that has made China the 'workshop of the world' and on the other side the government considers its duty to retain control, with moral imperatives. A parallel case is also observable when we analyses climate change. When we study the climate crisis of Asia through the prism of the empire, people recognize two related reasons for the same. The first is Asia is conceptually critical to every aspect of global warming and the second is that discourse on global warming has largely remained Eurocentric.

However, people cannot reject that there is increasing awareness of the potentially disastrous risks connected with climate change and predominantly among those affected. This calls for a complete discussion on Asia centrality to the climate crisis. Asia as a region has suffered unpleasantly from natural disasters of all forms. The human toll alone from the four major disasters in 2004 describe has exceeded half a million dead, with innumerable homes and families destroyed and not to mention the tens of billions of dollars in economic damage.

The present of time the world's worst disasters have occur in Bengal Delta, owing to the solidity of its population and people also know that delta region of Asia are subside much faster than, the oceans are rising partially due to geographical process and partially to human activities. The rising sea levels could result in the displacement of fifty million people in India and seventy million in Bangladesh.

“These and many other brute facts displayed by many studies and quoted by Ghosh in the book point to the fact that no strategy can work globally unless it works in Asia and is adopted by ...Asians. Yet ... conditions that are peculiar to mainland Asia are often absent from discussion” (*The Great Derangement* 122).

Besides the susceptibility of Asia's populations and the Asian continent has also played an important role in setting in action a convinced chain of consequences that is driving the current cycle of climatic change. The climate crisis was impulsive by mainland Asia, hold close of the dominant mechanism of the world economy.

The fast and growing industrialization in Asia's most crowded nations brought a period of continuous economic extension in the year 1980. This acceleration radically shortened the time available to distinguish and adjust to the consequences that such hurrying naturally led to. It is obvious that this has brought the climate crisis to a head. By blindly mimicking the modernity of the West and the Asian country has blunderingly engendered a certain pattern of life that can only be implemented in a small minority of world's populations. This pattern of living just cannot be adopted by every human being.

Asia thus played a critical part in its double role as protagonist and casualty in the unfolding of *The Great Derangement*. “It is Asia, then, that has torn the mask from the phantom that lured it on the stage of the Great Derangement, but only to recoil in horror at its own handiwork; its shock is such that it dare not even name what it has beheld - for having entered the stage, it is trapped, like everyone else. All it can say to the chorus that is waiting to receive it is 'But you promised... and we believed you'” (*The Great Derangement* 125).

In the history of global warming during the nineteenth and the twentieth century the major players were the carbon thorough economies of the West when their large consumption pumped greenhouse gases into the atmosphere at accelerated rates. This had a difficult history. Most populous countries of Asia were slow to enter the carbon economy because technology requisite to enter the group was unbreakable for most countries. Hence the world was divided by vast gaps in machinery, but this was not the case with the populations of the old world. For millennia, trade connections ensured distribution of thought and machinery over long distances.

In *The Shadow Line*, Ghosh discusses about basic features that exist in all human beings. The most outstanding thought of this book seems to be it is from concern of adulthood in its origin childhood. In

especially simple words, a child is present in all adults. The novel is the shallowness of international borders, lines of control, frontiers and boundaries. Through the depiction of the pain of partition, riots and communal hatred he drives home the idea of out of this world borders. It also won the prestigious Sahitya Academic Award. Ghosh penned the story of give up in *The Shadow Lines*; the salvage of May from Muslim crowds in the communal riots of 1963-64 in Dhaka is indeed a great sacrifice.

In *The Calcutta Chromosome* Ghosh is tried to have power over scientific discoveries and innovation, and has tried to deconstruct the aura around Ronald Ross the British scientist who start the cause of malaria. This is perhaps the most during work by this author, break the literary tradition. At times it looks like science fiction, but the western sense of control. Burma gives impetus to decolonization in its own way, the book proves just one thing, the colonizer or the totalitarian cannot kill a people, Even in impossible situations civilizations, culture, the strength of mind of a people continue to exist and live, in this sense, the book is very fulfilling, A country lives in its culture and art and not in governments.

In *Countdown*, Ghosh exposes the Indian and the Pakistani nuclear lobbies. Nuclearisation is not going to solve anything; it is just a trick to divert people is attention from the real problems of their lives. With ever plummeting living standards and disappearing civic amenities nuclear explosion is a kind of mass-dream with which the people are expected to forget their plight. Ghosh has discovered another new state, summoning a particular, interesting place, another world, from its past and folktales and portray it in the presents.

In *The Glass Palace*, this is basically a book about European greed and the brutality of colonization. It is an intricate novel that covers almost three generations, it is many powerful thoughts. The British came to rich lands like India, Burma through an insatiable Greed and drained them of all resources. The royal families suffered most; the king and queen were concentrated to puppets. With the end of the royal way of life, a whole idea of luxuriousness died.

The Great Derangement serves as a brilliant writer's summons to confront the most urgent task in human history. Ecology deals with the fundamentals of survival, adaptability and reproduction that is common to all living beings on the planet. It consists of non-living organisms such as soil and living organisms such as microorganisms, plants, animals and humans. All organisms depend on each other for their survival, existence and continuance.

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Climate change or Global warming is one of the major challenges of present time and adds substantial stress to our societies and to the environment. From changing the weather pattern that make threats food production, to rising sea level that increase the risk of catastrophic flooding, the impact of climate change are international in scope and unprecedented in scale.

In the novel, Ghosh loses himself in a whirl of ideas like demolition of eco-systems, species loss, and protection of tigers, disposable poor humans and the neglect and double standards of the system. It engages with nonhuman entity like tide, flood, cyclones, tigers, dolphins, etc. While writing the work of fiction, he might not have been aware of the often-discussed topics of the present times like climate change, global warming, etc.

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