

PalArch's Journal of Archaeology of Egypt / Egyptology

SIGNIFICANCE OF LITERATURE IN EVOLUTION OF ENVIRONMENT

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Dr. Sandeep Kumar¹, Dr Abha Singh², Significance Of Literature In Evolution Of Environment – Palarch's Journal of Archaeology of Egypt/Egyptology 17(9) (2020), 1-11. ISSN 1567-214X.

Keywords: Environment, literature, eco-criticism, globalization, surroundings.

ABSTRACT

The environment is the collection of the socioeconomic, biological or chemical factors that make up the surroundings of a human. It comprises both living and non-living beings that exist in agreement with one another. In representing our environment, literature plays a critical role and is the reflection of modern-day society. 'Eco-criticism' is the term for the association among literature and the environment. Basically, it is the analysis of depictions of life and the connection among literature as well as the environment. There is also a strong connection between literature and nature that most authors have wonderfully portrayed. In today's scenario, environmentalism, eco-criticism and ecology have become relevant concepts. Nature seems to have been a real concern in several literatures and globalization has been the dominant force in environmental destruction.

Introduction:

In simple language, the surroundings are the environment that covers us. The descriptive term for the state in which individuals exist is known to comprise of air, water, food and light, which have been the essential needs of any and all human beings to perform their daily activities. Simply, the environment is the collection of the socioeconomic, biological or chemical factors that make up the surroundings of a human acting as both creator and moderator of his own environment. It comprises both living and non-living beings that exist in agreement with one another.

In representing our environment, literature plays a critical role and is the reflection of modern-day society. We remember the state or situation of our environment, which persisted mostly through pre-historic writings and activities centuries ago. The atmosphere was really healthy before, because it was not contaminated by pollutants. Previously, there has been safe and natural air to breathe and water was extremely clear from springs and reservoirs as there were no air as well as water pollution. As a result, not also humans, but even birds and animals have enjoyed an often-long lifespan. Pollution is at its height currently and is triggering a very rapid deterioration of our ecosystem

and the animals that live in it. If this amount of pollution persists for another few years, then the whole ecosystem will quickly disappear.

All animals will be eliminated, all plants and trees would die due to the obvious high level of pollution and little sunshine that would impact human beings because their food supply would disappear and our whole ecosystem would end in this way. Thus, it is very necessary to follow some serious measures quickly in order to rescue our ecosystem. To reduce emissions, we people should take some strong and effective initiatives. Perhaps the foremost approach should be to widen knowledge among all people, which will be achieved by using literature for assistance. We can spread knowledge amongst each citizen by releasing newsletters, articles, magazines, etc. regarding our environment and ecosystem. Also, information of pollution and its consequences could be conveyed by means of brochures, flyers and billboards. We will address huge, enormous audiences in this manner and thereby preserve our world from pollution.

'Eco-criticism' is the term for the association among literature and the environment. Basically, it is the analysis of depictions of life and the connection among literature as well as the environment. In the 1990's, eco-criticism began primarily to deepen its origins. A very minimal line exists between literature and eco-criticism. It is essentially focused with the relationship between the individual and his surrounding environment. Eco-criticism is originated from ecology, which is the analysis of the interaction between various species and their natural environment, while critique is the relationship between literature and the environment. On the basis of problems related to nature, a number of novels, poetry and other literary phenomena have been portrayed. In the presence of separate literature such as books, poetry, etc the relationship between literature and the environment was expertly demonstrated by multiple writers and artists including Ruskin Bond, Robert Frost, Anita Desai, Amitav Ghosh, and many more.

Eco-criticism is an area of literary criticism that has now been explored internationally as an interdisciplinary review of literature and the environment. It includes the study of topics such as science, psychology, etc and aims to examine humanity's approach about nature. Eco-criticism is not just the implementation of concepts of ecology and its principles, but rather the analysis of literature and conceptual approach to the interrelationships of nature, culture, and often even supernatural elements in nature.

Nowadays, environmental concerns are becoming a cause of concern for many departments and disciplines. For a literary critic, researching the perspectives of writers that have explored the special connection between man and nature is a fascinating study. Nature has been a big question in several literary works in Literature. Colonialism has been a huge component of the global destruction of the environment. The evolution of the world's social and cultural environment has drastically transformed man's approach regarding nature in works of literature. Eco-criticism is a field that is increasingly developing and encompasses a broad spectrum of texts and theories that investigate the relationship between man and nature. Environmental studies have much broader significance in world literature through nature, gender construction, tourism, tradition, etc. than what is represented across literary phrases

There are several literary articles in Indian texts that showed the motif of eco-criticism in them as well as several forms in which writers discussed environmental concerns. It is central to the books in certain articles, although secondary to the plot and other themes in others. Some Indian articles, primarily by Anita Desai, Amitav Ghosh, the majority tried to understand eco-criticism.

The novel *Nectar in a Sieve* by Kamala Markandaya (1954) describes the effort by the female protagonist Rukmani to recover and restore elements of the local culture of her family and a deep sense of rootedness in their territory. She and her husband both worked on their land and had a deep feeling of connection to it. Their relying solely for survival on this piece of land, however, was also a cause of their poverty. A significant insight into recognizing her feeling of connection to the rural world was the association among land and Rukmani. The connection between Rukmani, the land and her rural environment was the subject of the novel's very beginning. This was how her earlier married days were remembered by Rukmani. Rukmani compared the admiration of her husband for her appearance with the attractiveness in her lands that she observed. The balance with nature, however with which she associated her rural life, was somewhat temporary. Advanced technology that took human away from nature and eventually ruined his connection with nature very soon approached Rukmani's life.

Tanneries are a sign of modernity. It changed the village's climate as well as its financial environment. It also brought in a dramatic shift in the villagers' relationships. Rukmani saw it as a danger to the life of the village, while Kunthi was happy about the tannery. The principal cause in the death of her three sons was the tannery. Arjun, Thambhi, and Raja were helped by the tannery to cope with the dire poverty they had been dealing with. Although it created work for them it also turned them away from their relatives, thus decreasing their family life's significance.

In Anita Desai's *Cry, the Peacock* (1963), the relation amongst nature and man is vital. In this novel, the undiscovered female psychology is explored by natural imagery. In order to reflect mental state of Maya, the female protagonist of the novel, used myriad photographs of botanical, zoological, meteorological and color-representing acts. The symbolism of nature examined Maya's internal mind, explored her mindset and unfolded her warped world. Bitter, unhappy and painful were the pictures used. They showed the fragile temperament of Maya that drove her quite crazy toward the climax of the book.

The animal images employed within the novel illustrated the alienation motif that eventually contributed to the motive of death, as the primary signs of the psychic illness of Maya "the body lay rotting in the sun all day." It could not be pushed on to the back deck because the waft of dead flesh was overpowering in the April heat and would have reached the rooms soon. Crows were sitting around the corpse in a circle, and the crows were going to eat something, entrails, teeth, anything. The utilization of botanical imagery contributed to the hollowness of the Maya. A further explanation for her neurotic nature was her infertility.

Maya understood the polarity of sensitivities existing between her and Gautama, her husband. With him, her dream to experience a happy and fulfilling life will never be accomplished. She was more like a petunia bed, nostalgic, intemperate flowers, while Gautama resembled a lemon tree blossom, a bigger, more vibrant personality. The forecast of the early demise of either her or her husband by the albino astrologer, Gautama, forced Maya to opt death or life and brought an end to her mental anguish. She also perceived the idea of killing Gautama, who was the primary cause of her current state, as she anticipated her own demise. The forecast of the astrologers played on her subconscious and she continuously thought of the way of carrying out the crime. She supported her intentions and at the first chance open to her, eventually decided to kill Gautama.

One of the first Indian novels to actively address ecological concerns in India is Amitav Ghosh's *The Hungry Tide* (2005). The novel exposed the relationships between the state, the poor, the plants and animals, and the surrounding

environment, and this work thus illustrated both the disaster and the irony embedded in Sunderbans' conservation efforts. Ghosh challenged the conflict inside and between human cultures, their separate relationships with the natural environment, and the additional fact of nature that society is evolving and changing at the same time.

In the Sunderbans, the friction between the ground and the sea produced a steady friction between fauna and flora. The persistent intrusion of the Sunderbans habitats by Man only supported the conflict between the different natural elements.

The *Hungry Tide* was set in the Sunderbans, an island that was not only stunning and moreover interesting in the Bay of Bengal. The Sunderbans delivered an incredibly volatile and dangerous life for colonists. Instability and displacement were the constant threats and perhaps the most frequent were attacks by tigers. With no alert, tidal floods disrupted the sustainability of civilization on the island.

In the background of the Sunderbans in India and in Bangladesh, this novel continuously explores the struggle between nature and man. The book represents the tensions between the people and the water and the wildlife of the Sunderbans. Amitav Ghosh cautioned humanity against the over-exploitation of the environment. The tide area was a rugged area, filled with danger and disaster in several ways. At no time should humans question the aggression of the terrain to its existence, its strength and perseverance, its willingness to kill or eject them.

Conclusion

Literature has indeed been linked to descriptions of natural environment and relationships between humans and the world. However, the long-standing involvement of literature review in these concerns has only developed the effort most widely known as eco-criticism since the mid-nineties. Literary analysts give importance to the research and review of environmental principles. Academics and educated people are forced to ponder it quite seriously by the existing disparity of the environment and its extreme consequences. Several writers and novelists have been environmentally-conscious. A message can conveniently be delivered to the hearts and souls of individuals via the novels/books. So, in recent times, the full novels are visualised and there is the demand of safe and well-balanced environment. The utmost part of a balanced environment has already been deteriorated, so it's the time to literally save nature. The successful and essential tasks of literature are to disseminate the awareness and to concentrate on the practises with actual and concrete examples.

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