

Ecocriticism and Its Concepts: A Contextual Study

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Abstract:

Ecocriticism is an exploration and an instigation of the association between human being's actions with physical as well as biotic components through literary imagination and cultural text in the contemporary era. Environmental problems and challenges are the most significant theme tune of this newly emerging theory. In this day and age; pandemics, ecological collapses, catastrophe, climate crisis, cyclone, volcano, flood, acid rain, deep well and many more are the hazardous issues of environment. All these problems are destructively affected on biophysical environment discoursed via lens of literature. Ecocritics, environmentalists, conservationists, and nature lovers throw light on pay attention towards nature and be concern of it. Because of, we all are living through 'Environment'. This research paper attempts to scrutinize meaning and matter of eco criticism. This study seeks to explore ecocritical concepts such as, ecology, ecosystem, anthropocentrism, deep ecology, ecofeminism, ecospiritualism along with environmental justice by the researchers in plain and crystal clear words with a kaleidoscopic aspects.

Key Words: *Eco criticism, Its Concepts, Environmental Issues*

Introduction:

Environmental problems are meticulously associated with human beings' actions. All these burning issues and challenges are hazardously affected on biophysical natural world. In this day and age; extracted oil from the ground, depleted groundwater, establishing industries and factories; polluted the air, nuclear war, pandemics, ecological collapses, global warming, acid rain, deep well, frozen planet, reforestation, over population and many more are the most destructive harms of the mother earth. Ecocriticism covers nature's risky problems through specs of literary and cultural imaginative works. Ultimately, environment is an essential source of human being and living creature's life expectancy. Conservationists, Eco critics, environmentalists and nature lovers throw light on pay attention towards nature and be concern of it; just because of, we all are breathing and existing through 'Environment'. In this manner, the growth of human race is as a consequence of the environment. Although the major query is that what is the basis of the human's development? Such an extent, we are living through environment; therefore of course, individual's advancement is only on the mother earth. In brief, we should put environment in the center of our growth. As long as, we are talking about environs; the world of animals, plants, biotic and physical components as well as water, sky, land, air and fire etc...are the parts and sub-parts of it. Here is how Ecocriticism comes into existence, we must understand its related words, beginning with the term that stretches Eco /Ecology to Ecocriticism.

Ecocriticism: Meaning and Matter

On the one hand, nature is unswervingly related to human beings and the other hand this nature is related with atmosphere. So that atmosphere and nature are completely affected to humans' by hook or by crook. Henceforth, human beings are thrown light on atmosphere as well as nature for the sake of its influence oppositely. It is called 'Ecology'. In the same manner, ecology is well-defined as the association between humans' and nature'. In 1858, Henry David Thoreau invented the word, 'Ecolo'. After in between 1866 and 1870, German scientist Ernst Haeckel represented the comprehensive classifications as well. The English name 'Ecology' is adapted from the Greek origin 'Olikos' signifies home/habitat. During the last in 1895, Charles Elton bestowed the definitive substance of Ecology. In his opinion, 'Ecology' means the connection between the world of living creatures and human beings with physical environment.

Just the same, Eco system is the integral part of the ecology. Atmosphere is dangerously affected to all the living beings and on an equal footing, human beings effected to atmosphere. As the result of this interconnected actions;generate one system. It is called 'Eco system'. This system is built by the equilibrium of all living and non-living or physical elements. Throughout this period, we have seen differentimpacts and consequences as well.

The term 'Ecocriticism' used for the first time by American critic named William Rueckert in his acclaimed essay entitled "Literature and Ecology: An Experiment in Ecocriticism" in 1978. As per Rueckert' point of view, ecocriticism covers ecology or ecological ideologies into the study of literature. Cheryll Glotfelty – (A retiring first professor of literature and environment with more than thirty years' career at University of Reno, Nevada US along with a daughter of scientist) gave pure meaning of Ecocriticism in her worldwide reputed book titled *The Ecocriticism Reader: Landmarks in Literary Ecology*, collaboratively written by Harold Fromm (University Associate at Arizona University and a prominent member of Institute of Environment) in 1996. According to Glotfelty, "Ecocriticism is the study of the relationship between literature and the physical environment."Lawrence Buell an another explorer and pioneer of Ecocriticism provided clear classification regarding ecocriticism in his international celebrated book named *The Environmental Imagination* which was published in 1996.As he has said that, "ecocriticism as a study of the relationship between literature and the environment conducted in a spirit of commitment to environmentalist's praxis."As per the researchers' opinion, Ecocriticism is an examination and an instigation of the association between human being' engagements with physical as well as biotic components through literary creation, imaginative works and cultural text in the present era. As above discoursed topical issues of environment are critically represented by ecocritics and nature writers in their fictional writing and contemporary cultural theory-texts. This is how, Ecocriticism is a hotchpotch term sometimes used as 'green studies', 'nature writings', 'environmental literary studies' etc... Ecocriticism' primary preference to the interpretation of the nature or green writing in the convention and imagery style of Henry David Thoreau, John Muir, John Burroughs, Alexander von Humboldt, TheodoreRoosevelt andAbbey's inscription, echo this basis.

So far, Ecocriticism has full-grown speedily in 1990 in US with its exceptional institute named Association for the study of Literature and Environment (ASLE), and its regular journal titled *Interdisciplinary studies in Literature and Environment*. Cheryll Glotfelty is one of the co-founder of ASLE with her outstanding contribution. ASLE arranges conferences, seminars, symposiums for the sake of the awareness and development regarding green /environmental literature in the world. This organization providing fund and financial support of the national and international students for their research and membership. Its sub branches are spreading in United Kingdom, Commonwealth countries and even in India also named ASLE India. At this point, concepts like, deep ecology, anthropocentrism, ecofeminism, ecospiritualism and environmental justice that interpret ecocriticism comprise the following.

Ecocriticism and Its Concepts: A Brief Outline:

In 1973, a freshly amalgamated word [Deep (Prefix) + Ecology (noun)] 'Deep Ecology' was first time invented by Arne Naess. It is an environmental movement and ideology jointly connected to Ecocriticism. As Arne states, Deep Ecology is closely associated with green literature. By a profession; an alpinist, comprising an enormous practice as a hiker in all over the globe. He has been having a sense of keen scrutiny of drastic diverse culture. As per the study of one report, Arne participated at Third World Conference in Bucharest in 1972 and delivered an intellectual, experimental presentation on the variance of deep ecology and shallow ecology. Hominids are the chunk of the mother earth. Human being' have sentiments with Mother Nature not for the material purpose. Human beings and mother earth have their substantial values. Naess focuses on should be an appreciating worth of life. At this point, William Wordsworth's poems entitled "The world is too much with us" and "Written in London, September, 1802" are the best examples of deep ecology. In both poems, poet addressed to come back to John Milton in London. In that time the development of technology, industrialization, urbanization and avariciousness advancing in English people. Wordsworth requested Milton to come back at London and penned nature poems for the materialistic English people.

There are so many researchers who have done investigation on environment till now. The deduction is that natural life is only on Mother Earth or globe or world. Because of environment is sole on the earth. In the other words, in the absent of nature, there is dreadful to living hale and hearty, pleasant, pacific and convincing natural life. Deep ecologists lay emphasized on above discussed matters and teach us to pay respect to the natural surroundings. Like this, if a bit of grass is cut down by human's so that affect is dispersing or affecting to the universe. 'Shallow Ecology' is the opposite of deep ecology and the similar of human-centered philosophy or anthropocentric theory. Individual is centered on the world, the environment and its facets should be favoured for the reason that it for the benefit humans.

'Anthropocentrism' is essentially a fresh blended term derived from the Greek germ 'Anthropos' and 'Kentron' sequentially for humans and Center. Anthropologists determinedly accept as true that human is center on the mother earth. It is the same as shallow ecology. Nature is worthless as well as there is not a living life without hominids. Humans are the superiors over the earth and worthy enough to exploit nature for the perseverance of his benefits. Human-centered thinkers believe that if natural components are useful for individual's then the value of those elements are

as usual otherwise easily individual destroys natural facets. Human's assumes that he has power to control nature. George Orwell and many environmental promoters disgust this human-centered philosophy. From this perspective, Orwell stated in *Animal Farm* that "All animals are equal, but some are more equal than others." Charles Darwin's *On the Origin of Species* the other best example of it.

Ecofeminism is a recently emerging concept connected to ecocriticism that has developed from several field of feminist involvement. In *Ecofeminism: Women, Animals, Nature*, Greta Gaard states that, "Women's health care, environment and animal's liberation movements. Drawing on the insights of ecology, ecofeminism's basic premise is that ideology which authorises oppression such as those based on race, class, gender, sexuality, physical abilities and species is the some ideology which authorizes the sanctions the oppressions of nature.: (p.1) Ecofeminism questions the expression for a conclusion to all domination, in opposition that no endeavour to emancipate women will be efficacious devoid of a similar effort to release natural surroundings. Vandana Shiva a prominent environmentalist quoted that, "Women must make things happen." "It is up to us." (p. 3) Thakazhi Shivasankara Pillai's *Chemmeen* is the best example of ecofeminism. In this novel, the author illustrated how Karuthamma exploited by male-controlled society. She was not got married with the person whom she loved and vehemently married with Palanithru the anathemas, prohibitions, orthodoxical culture of patriarchal society of fishermen's community at costal Kerala. In the end of the novel, Karuthamma, Palani and Pareekutty died because of the curse of sea goddess Kadalamma Just same Margaret Atwood's *Surfacing* is the best example of it.

'Earth-based' religiousness is an alternative word allied to 'Ecospiritualism'. Ecospiritualism originates from the combined study of various religions, their mythos, legends and rituals with natural atmospheres. It has been well-defined as "a manifestation of the spiritual connection between human beings and the environment".

At this juncture, the researchers would like to put an example of Hindu mythology's renowned philosophy entitled 'Panch Maha-Bhoota'. It is the grouping of five natural elements such as, earth, water, fire, air and sky. Human's life is constructed on five natural essentials; as indeed, sky is linked with hominid's ear, air with skin, water with tongue, earth with nose and fire with eye. In the same context, the researchers emphasize on the significance of the sun. The sun is authoritative and forceful constituent. In the absence of his there is not life expectancy. The light of sun is the core of living and non-living beings. His light throwing generates the possibilities of existence. Human species and physical components are persuaded through it. It has been that way, all these basics of natural surroundings are substantial as well as an appropriate worthwhile. This is how, anthropoid and physical components are intimately interrelated with each other. According to the Konkani Myth, divine goddess Sita and god Ram went to the Panchvati. Sita was influenced by sweet smelling colourful flowers on the way and quickly plucking those flowers without taking permission of the owner. God Ram denied her for doing that task. At that moment, that owner comes towards Sita and demanded her to throw flowers. Furious she had thrown flowers and cursed the owner that; I had thrown flowers just because of you, gone in your garden all the flowers were falling. After she realised her mistake and blessed that owner to the

blossoms of fruits. From that time, Konkani people believed that once flowers are falling then and then fresh fruits are blossoming on the tree.

Environmental justices are standing for biological scattering struggles affected using accumulative sources' removal in the world. Some of the movements originated not only in India 'The Chipko Andolan'. 'Narmada Bachao Andolan' but also in western countries as well. At this point, the researchers would like to discuss latest and fresh ideas of National Trust for the precaution and shelter of mother earth thru the western premises. National Trust and University of Derby (UK) have done an investigation on the happiness of human beings'. After the analysis of the survey of that particular research, they go to the deduction that those who have time to listen the singing of birds and smelling aroma or aura of flowers are the most happiest on the globe. Approximately 60% human beings, firmly have confidence in that the living life is solitary that when we will appreciate and the nature less and less four hours in one week. Likewise, in Britain, The National Trust, organised a course of more than eight weeks for Human being's back to the nature. The objectives are that listen birds, touch the green grass or any other plants, taking the smell of flowers, look the cloud, stars, moon and sun with flying butterflies, waking without shoe on grass and soil, taking photographs of nature and share it with others, provide food to animals, catch the flowers of tress, listens of nature's sound, climbing mountains, enjoying nature's art, planting the small plant in the home, organize conference or meeting under the lap of nature and taking a part of it, read books on environment and listen the sound of the water of river and ocean etc...

Conclusion:

In the final analysis, ecocritics considered how the crave of human beings exploit the whole nature and mother earth from side to side for the purpose of greediness by their literary creative works. If we look at it this way, where has the human being not produced a cataclysm? The human beings' poisoned water, land and air on the mother earth. From the very old age, the mother earth pant from human's aggression. Just because of that, the black sheet of pollution is spread on the whole globe due to man's crave. All these denoted by nature writers and ecocritics in cultural contemporary theory. Once, Mahatma Ghandhiji said that, "this is mother earth is capable enough to fulfil needs of human's but, it is powerless to fulfil individual's greediness." Finally, they advise to the literature-readers and peoples to go to the lap of nature and to love it in the daily routine.

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