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Organized by Department of Economics



## One Day Interdisciplinary National Conference



### ENVIRONMENT : ISSUES, CHALLENGES AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Friday, 17 February 2023      sch/NC/2022-23/102



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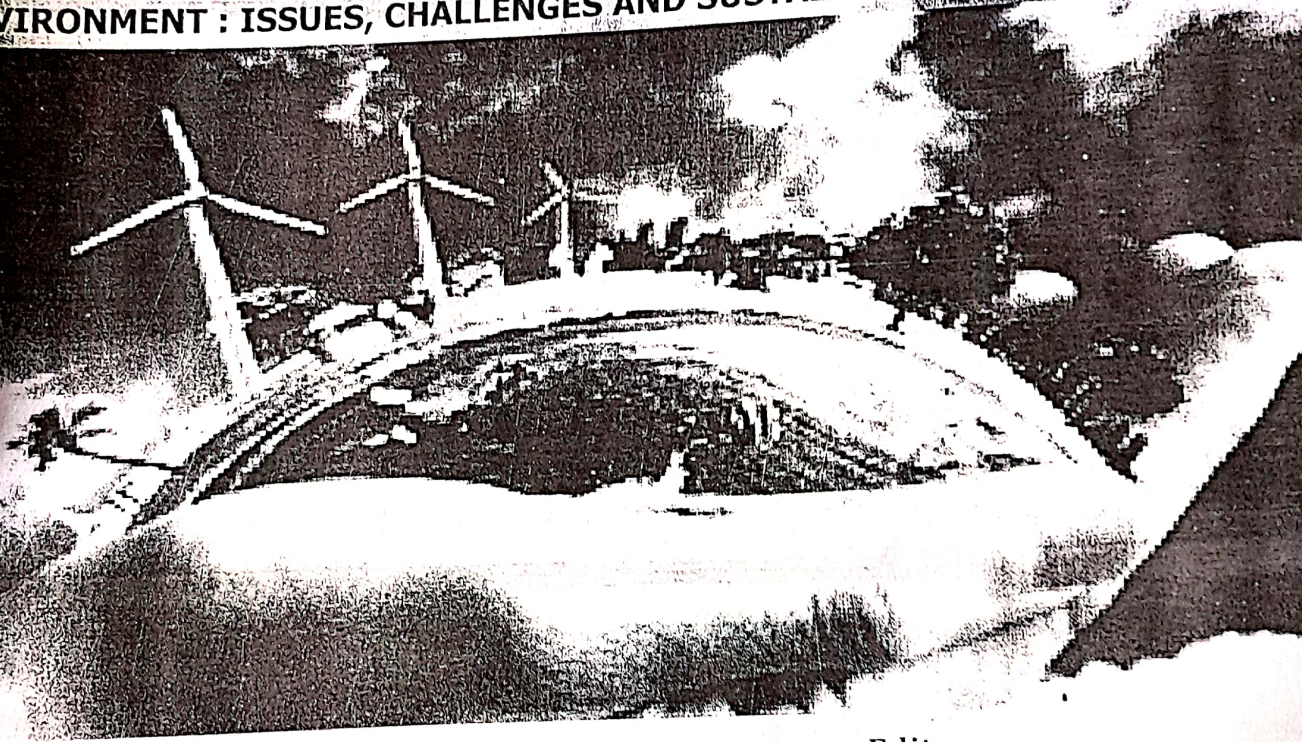
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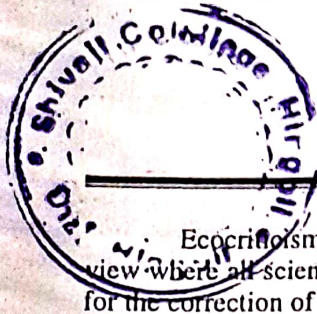
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## Ecocriticism And Environment

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Ecocriticism is the study of literature and environment from an interdisciplinary point of view where all sciences come together to analyze the environment and brainstorm possible solutions for the correction of the contemporary environmental situation, though not all ecocritics agree on the purpose, methodology or scope of ecocriticism.

Ecocriticism is an intentionally broad approach that is known by a number of other designations, including "green (cultural) studies" "ecopoetics" and "environmental literary criticism" and is often informed by other fields such as ecology, sustainable design, biopolitics, environmental history, environmentalism and social ecology among others.

Ecocritics investigate such things as the underlying ecological values, what precisely, is meant by the word nature, and whether the examination of 'place' should be a distinctive category, much like class, gender or race. Ecocritics examine human perception of wilderness and how it has changed throughout history and whether or not current environmental issues are accurately represented or even mentioned in popular culture and modern literature. Not only do ecocritics determine the actual meaning of nature writing texts, but they use those texts for analyzing the practices of society in relationship to nature. They also critique visions that are human centered and man/male centered. Scholars in ecocriticism engage in questions regarding anthropocentrism, and the "mainstream assumption that the natural world be seen primarily as a resource for human beings" as well as critical approaches to changing ideas in "the material and cultural bases of modern society." Recently empirical ecocritics have begun empirically evaluating the influence of ecofiction on its readers. Other disciplines, such as history, economics, philosophy ethics and psychology are also considered by ecocritics to be possible contributors to ecocriticism. The present paper focuses on environment and its relation to literature via ecocriticism.

Key Words : Anthropocentrism, ecocritics, interdisciplinary etc.

Ecocriticism investigates the relation between humans and the natural world in literature. It deals with how environmental issues, cultural issues concerning the environment and attitudes towards nature are presented and analyzed. One of the main goals in ecocriticism is to study how individuals in society behave and react in relation to nature and ecological aspects. This form of criticism has gained a lot of attention during recent years. Due to higher social emphasis on environmental destruction and increased technology. It is hence a fresh way of analyzing and interpreting literary texts, which brings new dimensions to the field of literary and theoretical studies.

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Western thought has often held a more or less utilitarian attitude to nature – nature is for serving human needs. However, after the eighteenth century, there emerged many voices that demanded a reevaluation of the relationship between man and environment and man's view of nature. Arne Naess, a Norwegian philosopher, developed the notion of "Deep Ecology" which emphasizes the basic interconnectedness of all life forms and natural features, and presents a symbiotic and holistic world, view rather than an anthropocentric one.

Earlier theories in literary and cultural studies focused on issue of class, race, gender, region are criteria and "subjects" of critical analysis. The late twentieth century has woken-up to a new threat " ecological disaster. The most important environmental problems that humankind faces as a whole are : nuclear war, depletion of valuable natural resources, population explosion, proliferation of exploitative technologies, conquest of space preliminary to using it as a garbage dump, pollution, extinction of species (though not a human problem) among others. In such a context, literary and cultural theory has begun to address the issue as a part of academic discourse. Numerous green



movements have sprung up all over the world, and some have even gained representations in the governments.

Large scale debates over 'dumping', North versus south environmentalism the necessary differences between the environmentalism of the developed and technologically advanced nations-the North, and the poorer, subsistence environmentalism of the developing of "Third world"-the south). Donald Worster's *Nature's Economy* (1977) became a textbook for the study of ecological thought down the ages. The historian, Arnold Toynbee recorded the effect of human civilization upon the land and nature in his monumental, *mankind and Mother Earth* (1976). Environmental issues and landscape use were also the concern of the Annales school of historians have been pathbreaking too. Richard Grove at al's massive *Nature and the Orient* (1998), David Arnold and Ramachandra Guha's *Nature, Culture, Imperialism* (1995) have been significant work in the environmental history of India and Southeast Asia. Ramchandra Guha is of course the most environmental historian writing from India today.

Various versions of environmentalism developed. Deep ecology and ecofeminism were two important developments. These new ideas questioned the notion of 'development' and 'modernity' and argued that all western notions in science, philosophy, politics were "anthropocentric" (human-centered) and "androcentric" (Man/male centered). Technology, medical science with its animal testing, the cosmetic and fashion industry all came in for scrutiny from environmentalists. Deep ecology, for instance, stressed on a "bioentric" view.

Ecocriticism is the result of this new consciousness : that very soon, there will be nothing (or safe) in nature to discourse about, unless we are very careful.

**Ecocritics ask questions such as :**

- 1) How is nature represented in the novel/poem/play ?
- 2) What role does the physical-geographical setting play in the structure of novel ?
- 3) How do our metaphors of the land influence the way we treat it ? That is, what is the link between pedagogic or creative practice and actual political, sociocultured and ethical behaviour towards the land and other non-human life forms ?
- 4) How is science - in the form of genetic engineering, technologies of reproduction, sexualities open to critical scrutiny terms of the effects of science upon the land ?

**The essential assumptions, ideas and methods of ecocritics may be summed up as follows ;**

- 1) Ecocritics believe that human culture is related to the physical world.
- 2) Ecocriticism assumes that all life forms are interlinked. Ecocriticism expands the notion of 'the world' to include the entire ecosphere.
- 3) Moreover, there is a definite link between the nature and culture, where the literary treatment, representation and 'thematization' of land and nature influence actions on the land.
- 4) Joseph Meeker in an early work, *The comedy of Survival : Studies in Literary Ecology* (1972) used the term 'literary ecology' to refer to the study of biological themes and relationships which appear in literary works. It is simultaneously an attempt to discover what roles have been played by literature in the ecology of the human species."
- 5) William Rueckert is believed to have coined the term "ecocriticism" in 1978, which he defines as 'the application of ecology and ecological concepts to the study of literature.'

**Sustainable Development - Ecocriticism advocates**

Sustainable development for a superior eventual fate humankind by and large. All living beings reserve their option to get by in their own particular manner. The Plants, the creatures, the ladies, the peripheral, the ancestral - all have their task to carry out to keep up the world's essential life emotionally supportive network. Constrained utilization of resources will guarantee the safe and tied down eventual fate of the ages to come. "The most well-known measure to handle ecological emergency is sustainable improvement. (Fredrick 128). This completely implies the necessary utilization of common resources without jeopardizing the entire condition and the prosperity of every single person. (Essays in Criticism 36).

**Environmental Justice**

Ecocriticism underlines ecological equity as man's ravenous inclination to vanquish nature is fairly deceptive. We used to trust ourselves to be better than the other life frames that occupy the

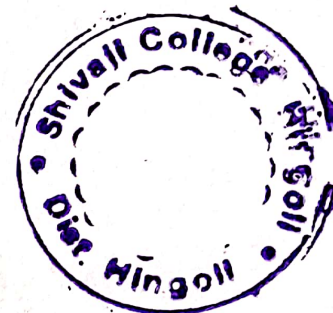


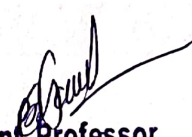
biosphere. In any case, presently we understand that nature is anything but a subordinate yet a co-occupant of this world environment. We should change our pointless thought processes. In the event that people attempt to pulverize nature, they will be repaid by their own coins. Our worldwide emergency isn't on the grounds that how biological system works. It is on the grounds that how our moral framework. overcoming the emergency requires understanding our effect on nature. It requires understanding those moral frameworks and utilizing that understanding to change them.

Thus, Ecocriticism is an Interdisciplinary approach Ecocriticism is a deliberately expansive methodology which is by its very nature interdisciplinary. It draws its sustenance from the current scholarly hypotheses. All science approach to add to field. Along these lines, new speculations like post-pilgrim Ecocriticism, Ecofeminism, Ecomarxism and Ecospiritualism are coming into light. In any case, it contrasts from different speculations in that while every one of them think about earth as a social circle, Ecocriticism considers it as an ecosphere. Every single other hypothesis are set apart by their individual self-image awareness while Ecocriticism is portrayed by ecocognizance. To put it plainly, it is an earth driven way to deal with scholarly investigations which advances the comprehension of what our identity is, the place we stand, how we ought to carry on with the unstoppable force of life and so forth.

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