

Examining Nature and the Environment in Literary Work: Eco-Critical Dimension.

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Abstract:

Indian literature, deeply embedded in the nation's rich cultural and historical heritage, often reflects a profound connection with nature. This study examines how contemporary Indian writers like R.K. Narayan, Raja Rao, Kamla Markanday, Anita Desai, Kiran Desai, Jayant Mahapatra, A.K. Ramanujan, Bhavani Bhattacharya, and Amitav Ghosh articulate environmental consciousness and concerns through their works. By employing eco-criticism, this paper explores the distinctive ways in which Indian narratives portray nature, integrating ancient myths and cultural elements. It investigates the role of literature in fostering environmental awareness and the socio-cultural contexts that shape these literary expressions. The research highlights the evolving relationship between humans and nature in Indian literature and evaluates its impact on promoting ecological sensitivity in contemporary India.

Keywords: Indian literature, eco-criticism, environmental awareness, cultural heritage, nature, R.K. Narayan, Anita Desai, Amitav Ghosh, socio-cultural influences, literary analysis.

Introduction: -

In today's era of Indian culture, it is difficult to reconsider the problem of nature and its resources, where man is selfish and doesn't think much about nature. As Indian culture is ancient culture in the same way Indian literature depicts the connection with the nature. The literature world is filled with the work that deals with the beauty of nature; literature takes the readers out of the sphere and brings them into the writer's world. It makes people think outside their ordinary experience. Literature serves as a corrective mirror where, in contribution to the society, it can check themselves out and locate a desire for change in the nature. It is very important to understand a close observation of some works of literature with environment.

The society to which we belong is filled with many social, cultural faiths. Environment has become a global issue in today's scenario, and literature is the only way to reflect these social issues with the help of eco-criticism. Nature is considered as both preserver as well as destroyer. Human is responsible for the destruction caused by nature due to his negligence and exploitation of nature. Now, a day's people are affected by destruction caused by nature. This exploitation by mankind has caught the attention of many writers, and a new term "Eco-criticism" in the field of literature has emerged out. Eco-criticism is the study of the relationship between nature and environment and the representation of nature in literary work. Now, days a close relationship between nature and literature

can be seen. The beauty of nature can be seen in the works of Raja Rao, Ruskin Bond, R.K Narayan, Anita Desai, Kiran Desai, V.S Naipaul, Amitav Ghosh. Some have admired the beauty of nature and represented its Picture in a scenic way while some are worried about the disturbance of ecological balance and desires to contribute to the natural restoration

Nature and Narrative in Indian Literature

R.K Narayan a famous Indian writer who amused his audience with his imaginary creations 'Malgudi'. It is an imaginary world which always have a imaginary backdrop of specific region. The entire social, psychological, and regional atmosphere was exploited in his writings. He has used Nature as the setting and background in his Novels and short stories.

Raja Rao have also used Nature and Natural elements in his novels. In order to express myths, regional, social views he has used natural elements. 'Kanthapura' is the best example of his expressions that depicts the South Indian village, its customs, culture and environment in realistic way. With the depiction of rivers, mountains, and other natural elements, the value of co-relationship between human and the Nature.

Kamla Markanday is one of the great Novelists who used Natural element for her descriptions. She has considered nature as a preserver and destroyer both also considered nature as wild animal.

Anita Desai is a very prominent and popular Indian Novelist. Her works includes the presence of Nature which includes plants, animals, birds. Her famous work Cry the Peacock, the complexities of Maya's inner life and her husband's inability to communicate with her. How her condition reflected the plight of imprisoned bird and finally commits suicide

Kiran Desai, receiver of Man Booker Prize for her famous novel, 'The Inheritance of Loss'. The eco-centric approaches have focused on every aspect of nature. She has also focused the environment of East-West encounter, racial, prejudice, political turbulence and its harmful effect of eco-system.

Amitav Ghosh have also showed the value of Eco-balance. 'The Hungry Tide' is a matter piece that deals with the geographical areas of the Sunderban Island in the Bay of Bengal. The plight and misery of refugees from Bangladesh, Human animal relationship. Other aspect is his concern on animals like dolphin and tigers Vis a Vis human beings.

Conclusion: -

Nature and literature are always supporting to one another. It can be seen in multiple ways. Nature is an expressive form of literature. All the types of Environment can be presented through the help of nature and various elements of nature. Now a day's ecology, ecosystem, eco-balance are the points of attraction and concerns. People's attitude towards nature and environment have changed with the help of literature. Many writers have become environmental conscious. They have used nature as landscape, as beautiful atmosphere such as R.K Narayan, Raja Rao, kamla Markanday, Anita Desai, Kiran Desai Amitav Ghosh. The literature has become a mode of Expression about environment and its importance in human life. The whole world has considered the protection of environment globally with the help of literature. For proper growth and development, prosperity and sustainability an ecofriendly atmosphere is needed. Different issues of environment like biological, political, social, racial, regional, seasonal, psychological, e.t.c have been projected by writers. But

Amitav Ghosh, Arundhati Roy and Kiran Desai have dealt the subject matter with environment. The eco-balance and environmental balance have been focused in their work . A balanced co-relation between man and the nature have been presented by these writers .

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