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THE ISSUES OF ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS IN AMITAV GHOSH'S NOVELS

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Abstract

Amitav Ghosh, a famous name in Indian English literature has dealt with nature in present and in the past, the flora and the fauna of the locale in his novels. From "The Hungry Tide" to "River of Smoke" he has brilliantly presented nature with vivid details. The book the "Great Derangement" has made readers think sincerely on the issues of Environment. Ghosh's writing always strikes us most to think over the society and around in relation with nature. His way of presenting themes with the storyline not only provides reading pleasure but also a deep concern with religion to politics along with natural setting. The novels from beginning to end make us engaged with the descriptions of natural setting viz. flowers, leaves, trees, houses, forest, river, alleys. In the "River of Smoke" in the first chapter the author describes the island: "The site was a geological anomaly- a cave within a spur of limestone, hollowed out by wind and water- and there was nothing like it anywhere else on the mountain". From the ship the Anahita in the novel the "River of Smoke" the description of islands is as follows: "With steep hills, dense forests and fringes of golden sand along the shores". Thus environmental resource finds expressions in Ghosh's novels.

Introductions

"Love not Man the less, Nature more" has been remain a clarion call to worship nature because we must protect our genial spirits to live. Ecocriticism an umbrella term is the study of literature and environment from an interdisciplinary point of view. The term first found in William Rueckert's 1978 essay 'Literature and Ecology: an experiment in ecocriticism covers nature writing in context of society and societal practices including politics, policy making up to filmmaking and everything around. Ecocriticism of American scholars or the Green studies of British thinkers

more or less is the study of literature in relation with Nature.

Lost Paradise must be regained in order to survive peacefully. An ethical stand and commitment to the natural world play a pivotal role. Environmental consciousness is a big issue today. A government elected democratically may find crisis if it somehow chooses wrong path of environmental policy. Carbon Economy, Imperialism, Covid Protocol everything drives us to this seriousness of environmental crisis that Amitav Ghosh deals in his novels.

In today's world human agency has become geophysical force with natural forces, modifying the ecosystems leading to the planetary tragedy.

The ecocriticism has influenced teaching, learning and scholarships in the humanities. An important landmark in the history of ecocriticism was the establishment of ASLE (the Association for the study of Literature and the Environment) in 1992 in USA. Though Ecocriticism owes much to American transcendentalists like R.W. Emerson, Margaret Fuller, Henry David Thoreau, but actually this genre is indebted to the British romantics. Everyone who celebrates Nature is worshiper of Nature.

"The woods decay, the woods decay and fall,
The vapours weep their burthen to the
ground, Man comes and tills the field and lies
beneath," (Tithonus, - by Tennyson).

Amitav Ghosh's *The Hungry Tide* (2004) narrates the tragic sorry of how an elitist environmental programme by the government to protect the Bengal tiger places a huge burden on the refugees from East Bengal living on the island of Morichjhapi of Sundarban. Environmental historian Ramchandra Ghuha openly critiques the American environmental movement.

Ecofeminism derives from ecocriticism beginning from Rachel Carson's 'Silent Spring' also highlights on environmental issues.

Amitav Ghosh's realisation in the book **The Great Derangement** is noteworthy: "My ancestors were ecological refugees long before the term was invented". The urbanisation and the partition of territory in a geographical land oftentimes lead to the massive change in natural world also. Diasporic literature focuses the nature and its habitant in detail that tries to raise the issue of cultural practice in certain environment. Lewis Mumford in his classic *The Culture of Cities* (1938) defines nature-culture relationship.

Romantic literature speaks to our troubled environmental times as the central theme is humanity's alienation from nature and concomitant search for holistic or integrated perception to restore man to a place of intimate organism on earth. Amitav Ghosh's novels also speaks of

restoration of Nature. Environment and Man both are dependent to each other. No literature can come out without imagination which is shaped and moulded by nature to a great extent.

Amitav Ghosh clearly states at the end of the book *The Great Derangement*: "-that they will be able to transcend the isolation in which humanity was entrapped in the times of its derangement; that they will rediscover their kinship with other beings, and that this vision, at once new and ancient, will find expression in a transformed and renewed art and literature".

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