

Ecological Morality and Development: Exploring Eco-Conscious Narratives in The Work of Amitav Ghosh

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Abstract

In contemporary era, literary authors have been represented to the strong interactive relationship between humans and nature. This correlation upon the study of ecology and eco-critical reading. Nowadays, literary authors focus upon the major environmental challenges in their writing to show the matters of ecological conditions. Amitav Ghosh is one among those writers who has been written in the form of eco-fiction. He wrote a novel as *The Hungry Tide* which has been specified in the Sundarbans, which constitute of more than ten thousand square kilometers. It describes the history of refugees from the island of Morichjhapi. As we know Ecological morality and literature are integrally bound to each other. In this novel the physical environment is an illustration of an operative force that the plantation, animal and human life simultaneously affected directly or it indirectly. The objective of paper is to endeavor an ecological observation and the ecological morality by studying Amitav Ghosh's *The Hungry Tide*.

Amitav Ghosh, is an eco-fiction author who has written about nature. Man, and nature are two parts of a coin. As the evaluation of man, nature has become an integral part of human life, it has been experienced by our Rishis, religious scriptures and modern scientific experiment that human life is dependent upon nature, its components flora and fauna. Air, water, soil, land, forest all these natural things are the requirement of sustaining human life and non-human. In novel writer has written about Sundarbans mangrove forests, which has been deforesting due to natural calamities and human activities. So, it is an issue not only in Sundarbans but in other places. Climate changes caused difficulties for flora and fauna, as number of wild animals and plants descends year by year. To preserve and protection of environment people should aware and take part with authorities for the better of environment.

Key Words;

Ecological morality, ecocriticism, sustainable development, eco conscious themes in selected novel, climate change and biodiversity.

Introduction

Ecological ethics or Environmental ethics is a branch of ethics that studies the moral relationship between humans, non-humans and the natural environment. It seeks to answer questions such as what obligations we owe to animals, how we should treat the environment, and how we can generate an environmentally sustainable society.

Ecological morality is a term which consists environmental principles and ethics. Environmental ethics is the discipline in philosophy that studies the moral relationship of human beings to nature and also the value and moral status of the environment and its non-human contents. Environmental ethics considers the ethical relationships between humanity and nature.

Environmental ethics is important because it provides a moral framework for how humans interact with the natural environment. It helps us consider the effects our actions have on the planet and guides us in making more ethical and sustainable decisions.

Ecological ethics concentrates concerning value of non-human, or the biotic and abiotic characteristics inside nature. Living qualities can be noticed as human being flora and fauna and non-identical species that reside in nature and non-living can contemplate qualities like the welfare of forests, water, and conservation of extensive land geographical area. Environmental ethics set down what actions are favorable and unfavorable in natural environment. Challenges that could be regarded this classification of ethics are the preservation of biodiversity, clean water and air, and the importance of non-human life. Environmental ethics argues whether human possess a right to preserve the non-human and nature on the earth.

One form of ecological ethics is environmental justice, which counts how environmental issues and resources are distributed in groups. It holds challenges such as the placement of dumps and poisonous sewage sites into account, whereas these may cause ill effects to human well-being. These pollutant sites are frequently located in unaware communities or poverty-stricken areas. As a matter of fact, some research shows that the demographics of located area needful opinion select wherever these poisonous locations would be prompted. Furthermore, these pollutant dumping sites probably adverse ahead of the people residing around, their prevalence may volunteer to the welfare of other members of society who do not stay in that community. From this, additional questioning emerges regarding what steps are considered impartial by moral standards. Environmental justice is a subset of environmental ethics because it places the environment at the center of the debate; it considers social and economic effects stemming from environmental problems, instead of taking all three pillars into consideration equally and simultaneously.

Eccritics generally tie their cultural analysis clearly to a 'green' moral and political agenda. In this respect ecocriticism is intimately related to environmentally oriented developments in philosophy and political theory. Expanding the insights of earlier critical movements, ecofeminists, social ecologists and environmental integrity advocate a search for a fusion of environmental and social concerns.

Eco-criticism draws on a variety of multidisciplinary perspectives, including environmental studies, ecology, geography and cultural studies for examining by means of literature reflects and influences our relationship with the natural world. Eco critics explore how literary representations of nature shape our attitudes and behaviours toward the environment, and how environmental issues are represented in

literature. It also considers the literature's role in promoting environmental awareness and activism. By examining literary texts that engage with environmental issues, eco critics seek to understand how literature can inspire us to take action to protect the natural world.

Ecocriticism explores the human attitude toward nature by studying subject such as science, literature, anthropology, sociology, psychology, and so on. India is a country with a diverse range of biodiversity. To address the ecological issues on global level, technology alone is insufficient. Our ecosystem is now in danger as a result of the eco disasters that are already occurring. Ecocriticism is a synthesis of ecological and theoretical discourse. It investigates its scope and analyses the relationship of man and nature. The study serves as a warning to humans that abuse of nature over time would result in an outburst of nature. Many writers have utilized nature imagery to describe their characters' goals, flaws, and emotions. Each life on this planet has its own fundamental value.

Overview of the selected novel.

The Hungry Tide is fourth novel written by Amitav Ghosh in 2004 The Hungry Tide is set in the Sundarbans meaning "beautiful forest" which encompasses of ten thousand square kilometres. Climate vary in Sundarbans upset both human mankind and beast. Flora is also in risk. As a result of increase in the population, Sundarbans 'forests start to shrink. Sudden, due to ascent of water level flood and Tsunamis occur. People of the islands are illiterate and lack of awareness which causes inequality in Sundarbans' biodiversity.

The novel, The Hungry Tide has divided in two plots: firstly, it investigates the dilemma of migrated people – a group of refugees from Bangladesh, and in other side it is related to the question as to how humans share a complex and dangerous ecosystem with animals.

Amitav Ghosh's novel explores the theme of destabilization mainly caused by globalization. It is based on a true historical incident; the event of Morichjhapi and also concerns the challenges to the environment, its protection and conservation of the Sundarbans. Ghosh represents the conflict between the refugees and the government authorities and also concentrates on the suffering of the settlers in a hostile environment where they have no other place to go

Connection between Ecological Morality and Sustainable Development

Environmental ethics thought is integrally recounted to 'environmental justice' environment which partway seems into the impartial distribution allocation of resources among people. Environmental ethics approach transfigures significant within the environs and inferences of sustainable development due to its vision on intergenerational responsibility and justice. Environmental ethics state that we accomplish a sustainable development which would be the resultant of science and ethics. It has been professed that science in the absence of ethics has no value for us, for our coming generation. Science or scientific development must be enciphered with sound ethical decalogue of accompany therefore we can take care of sustainable development beyond debauching our nature. Sustainable development is integrally affiliated ahead of the encompassing capacity of an ecosystem. Consequently, these developments should preclude further detriment to our life reinforcement systems like air, water, land and forests. It should also conserve nature the biological diversity, gene pool and other resources for long term food security.

The correlation of sustainable development and ethical approaches to environment is predominantly established towards the concept of sustainability which attaches conceptual area of values, morality and human rights. Certainly, what sympathize these conceptual areas in sustainability concept is the plan of sustaining natural environment for coming generations and the acceptance of responsibility for the next generations as a moral attempt. The interrelation between the ethical approaches to environment and sustainable development stand at the heart of the social and economic dimensions of sustainable development. While laid hold of deliberation as a technical concept foundation carrying capacity, the social dimension of sustainability has been assembled upon acclimatization and balancing of individual contemplation and social demands whose change abilities also compose concepts incredibly as human dignity, autonomy and justice. Unquestionably, this formulation probably locates the emphasis on the affiliation of social dimension in sustainability with human rights which are a core of moral and legal common context of compromise.

It is valuable to remark that the conversation on environmental ethics and sustainable development has been advanced throughout a consultation on development out of a human rights perspective which promises around to the identical values. Development out of human rights perspective is people controlled, participatory and environmentally sound. It consists not only economic growth, besides equitable distribution and enhancement of people capabilities. It provides preference to abolishment of poverty, self-sufficiency and self-determination of people and governments and protection of the rights of the vulnerable, minorities and domestic people.

Sustainable development is demarcated as the environmentalist world view that direct economic developments beyond dedicating the principle of environmental values and natural resources amongst rational methods therefore as not to command exhausting them and by grasping into account of the rights and benefits of contemporary and coming generation. Sustainable development with its supposition that nature and environmental resources are circumscribed and thereupon growth is also bounded reflects a protective understanding towards environment. Integrating economic and social development with environmental ethics is important in terms of environmental policies. Environmental ethics may play a dominant role in impacting the growth of thought and observation, representing something new in global governance for the benefit of people and the rest of the living world. Regarding the environmental ethics, it is effortless for all to perform their tasks and obligations appropriately that may spearhead to sustainable development for a peaceful environment for contemporary generation and non-human on earth. Environmental ethics encompass our moral obligation with respect to environment. It attempts proper greetings for life and sustainable development. Environmental ethics highlight alongside the development of a sustainable ecology and society due to reinforcement of a complementary and comprehensive behavior, where entire comprehensive appearances and nature zones are preserved, safeguarded and do coincide with harmony. Therefore, the human society should take the moral duty of safeguarding the environment so as to broad the welfare of both the contemporary and coming generations.

The addition to sustainable development's concept harmonizes well interior the concept of environmental ethics, which requires in advance of creating an equilibrium among the best natural importance, along with rational humanistic ones for compliment of ecosystem

The Hungry Tide

Environmental literature and eco-criticism work together to understand and confront the most pressing ecological issues. These fields have the potential to transform our relationship with nature and spark positive change as mankind struggles with tremendous environmental problems. The literary criticism of how people interact with their environment offers important insights on society values, ethics, and aspirations, highlighting the importance of a peaceful coexistence between people and nature.

The Hungry Tide a novel based on two plots: firstly, it has pointed out the issues of refugees' people who came from Bangladesh and second it mentions how human beings correlates with nature and its components.

Human has no survival without nature and it is the necessity of human being for surviving and passing the life. During ancient time our Rishis and religious scriptures as well as scientific studies also proved that the life of a man is dependent on the natural force of flora and fauna. Since ancient time, agriculture has been considered as back bone of man which is also integrally correlated with nature.

The author Amitav Ghosh has tried to portray the picture of conflict between man and nature in his novel. As the author penned down that man has been exploiting the nature at broad level for fulfilling his desires. The man thinks that nature exist to fulfil his needs but he has no awareness that it will costly price for other living beings and future generation.

The author also focused those human activities may damage to nature and other living organisms including flora and fauna. The setting of novel is based in the heart of Sundarbans delta. The novel has pointed out the ecological issues of Sundarbans especially mangrove deforestation in the plains the sea of Bengal. As it also mentions that biodiversity of Sundarbans has been misbalancing due to human activities and to make human alive for self.

The Sundarbans, a vast, enigmatic, and unstable delta that spans Southern Bangladesh and Eastern India, is at the centre of the story. Both the human characters and the geography, which is frequently characterized as a moving tangle of islands, rivers, and tidal waterways, play major roles in the story. The Bengal tigers that sneak through the mangroves, the tides that can come in and go out, and the cyclones that can abruptly alter one's route in life are all depicted by Ghosh in detailed detail.

The ongoing and frequently dangerous friction between the inhabitants and their surroundings is highlighted in the book. The entire time, there is a tangible terror of the tides and the animals, especially the tigers. But there is respect and awareness of the delicate balance needed to exist in this particular habitat, not just terror. This link between man and nature is strongly rooted in culture, spirituality, and history in addition to being one of survival

Objectives of the research study

- To study Ecological ethics and principles.
- To study of the theory of ecocriticism
- To study the relation between sustainable development and ecological morality
- To explore the environmental dimensions of literature.

- To create eco-consciousness.
- To strengthen man- nature relationship.
- To promote environmental conservation.

Climate change and Biodiversity

Regarding the truthfulness that uprising sea levels are oversee inferences of climate change and that the tropical forest of the Sundarbans is located in a delta region, it holds bit of time to comprehend the concentration at this matter. The mangroves role as an 'invaluable obstacle opposed the devastative power of the cyclones that regularly attack this coast'. Along with the dense greenery that is considered shelter of Royal Bengal Tiger, the forest requires protection because it serves as a protection against extreme weather events. As it impacts unfavorably to the biodiversity of this zone. The homeland of flora and fauna causes shrinking, due to the occurrence of floods it causes deforestation.

The novel highlights the happening of the Morichjhapi incident which occurred in 1979 and it depicts the exploitation tolerance by the refugees from Bangladesh, which caused interference to wild animals. The Government of India has adopted some steps to preserve its natural resources which include the endangered species like the Royal Bengal Tiger and the Gangetic Dolphins.

The Sundarbans is the only mangrove forest in the world which provides shelter to the tiger as highest number tiger population in the world being found in this tiger reserve. The local inhabitants are in direct attack of these animals not only because of the several conservation projects undertaken by the state and environmentalists that privileged the wild beasts over the poor humans of this zone. By converting the status of Sundarbans from just a cluster from outsiders' islands to that of an important tourist area, the authorities have placed the tigers in the center and marginalized the people of the islands. As we all aware that tiger is considered as our national wild animal. But it does not mean that we should protect only tiger, as we know biodiversity means the diversity of biotic components. It also suggests that all those biotic components are required protection which are in endangered and vulnerable. Both flora and fauna are required of protection and conservation not only by authorities, we also take part as volunteer.

Role of Literature in Fostering Ecological

Literature is counted as a reflector towards the society, its culture and socio-political status; either handles the ambition put into words the secret of the society and its several governmental and nongovernmental agencies.

Literature performs a vital job in environmental education throughout encourage needful comprehension of environmental issues and facilitating environmental awareness. The field of literary studies has appeared as unique active zone inside the "Environmental Humanities," orienting readers to the prime position of environmental education and empowering them to understand objectives with values. Incorporating literature into environmental education acknowledges students to understand and manipulate environmental problems, as proponents of environmental education consistently argue. Nature writing, a form of creative nonfiction, is defined as prose or poetry that focuses on the natural environment or the narrator's encounter with it. This genre encompasses a wide variety of works, ranging from escapist literature, such as George Orwell's "Coming Up for Air," which explores themes of solace and solitude in

nature, to writings that delve into the complexities of the human relationship with the natural world. Nature writing contributes to environmental literature by offering readers an opportunity to engage with the natural environment and gain a deeper understanding of the intricate connection between humans and nature.

Nature writing, eco-fiction, environmental poetry, non-fiction, journalism, memoirs, ethics, and justice are all needful components of eco-literature. Through these literary forms, authors have dominion to instruct, encourage and motivate people to adopt strategies for preserving and safeguarding the environment. The correlation between environment and literature is a symbiotic one, where literature can both reproduce and shape our understanding of the natural environment. As we continue to face environmental challenges, it is important that we recognize the significance of environmental literature in shaping our behavior and actions towards the environment.

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