Eco-Critical Dimension in the work of Ruskin Bond, Arundhati Roy and Kiran Desai with the reference to Environmental damage and Ecological awareness.

Jwala Prasad Ray
Research Scholar, University, Dept. of. Eng. LNMU Darbhanga
Corresponding Author: Jwala Prasad Ray

Abstract: During the past years, the study of literature has changed dramatically to rise up of diverse critical approaches to text as structuralism, semiotics, Post-Structuralism, feminism, new historicism, Postcolonial theory and Ecocriticism. To express the concern for environmental, a new term “Ecocriticism,” was coined by William Ruecket in 1978 in his essay “Literature and Ecology: An Environmental in Eco-Criticism.” Ecocriticism as an academic discipline began earnest in the 1990s, although its root go back to the late 1970s. Cherry. Glotfelty, one of the pioneers in the field has defined "Eco-Criticism as "the study of the relationship between Literature and Physical environment, and Lawrence Buell says that this study must be conducted in a spirit of commitment to environmental Praxis" The emergent field of Ecocriticism is the Youngest of the revisionist movement that have swept the humanities over the past few decades. Ecocriticism, as form of environment advocacy, is primarily a critical and literary tool which has made the beginning of new dawn and it can easily be associated with any subject as ecocriticism means to find out the relationship between literature and environment. it is an interdisciplinary study of Ecology and Literary Criticism Which is unusual a combination of natural science and humanistic discipline. By analogy criticism is concerned with the relationship between literature and environment or how man's relationship with his physical environment are reflected in literature.

Keywords: Eco-Criticism, Ecology, Post-Structuralism Historicism, Environmentalism

I. INTRODUCTION

Ecocriticism is a term used for the observation and study of the relationship between the literature and the earth's environment. it takes an interdisciplinary point of view by analyzing the works of authors, researchers, and poets in the context of environmental issue and nature. Since the purpose, scope and methodology of this theory are a bit confusing, it is difficult to have all eco-critics agreed to this. However, some of them also propose the solutions to the current environmental issues. in the context of scope, the critics call this term as a broad approach that is also by several other names, i.e. Environmental Literary Criticism, Green Studies and Eco-Poetics. It is also referred to by some bio-politics, sustainable design, environmental history, environmentalism and others names.

Ecocriticism was first defined by Chery Glotfelty in simple words making it very clear for the other critics and writers. Considering the definition, it can be called an "increasingly heterogeneous movement that takes an entirely earth-centered approach. It is mainly about the literature and environment. So it is mostly seen in associated with the "Association for the Study of Literature and Environment" this is also referred to as ASLE and it holds biennial meetings for the scholars writing about the environment issues in their literature.

Generally, the traditional theory considers the linguistics or the cultural background or the social background as an important factor, eco-critics take nature as a dominate factors as they believe that our evolution as society is largely depend on the forces of nature. Because, according to them, the world in which we line is not only with the language and social elements. It is only one of the many factors responsible for existence and developments of humans. Life including the human life heavily affected by the role nature and environment plays and thus nature is the most important consideration of this theory.

The development of modern civilization endows human with all amenities. The gradual urbanization unfolds many opportunities and makes life more comfortable. But at the same time, it snatches away the beauty of the green world making life prone to various diseases, and resulting in the jeopardy of ecological balance. Ecocriticism has turned a new vista in re-valuating our attitude towards the world. It focuses on the shift from anthropocentric to bio-centric attitude as major critics of eco-criticism accentuate. Ruskin Bond (b.1934) has performed a major role in arousing environmental and ecological concerns through his plethora of literary...
creations. He delineates the harmonious coexistence of man and nature in his Œuvre, where panthers and humans live in mutual trust where the unnoticed objects of natural world have their significant roles to perform in the exquisite design of god. In today’s world of mass urbanization and industrialization Bond’s works hammer home a very suggestive note:

Do we stop all the development in the name of preserving the environment?
Or do we move on regardless? Proceed with caution would be rational
Person’s answer. But are human beings really rational? (Rain 236)

Bond’s shorts stories have sincere concerns about nature and ecology. He is not against urbanization or industrialization, but man should proceed in this direction with cautions deliberation for it is nature which can endow man a meaningful and healthy existence which the author implicitly suggests. I think Bond has created a land mark in his writings in raising environmental and ecological consciousness which are very pertinent in today’s world when our mother earth is in peril.

This research purpose to examine the meaning and the role of eco-criticism in literature and analyze how the theme of ecocriticism can be interpreted through the eco-critical analysis of the works of the three globally acclaimed Indian writers, Ruskin Bond, Arundhati Roy and Kiran Desai. The focus on all the issues related to the enhancement eco-criticism proposed in research would in turn, add considerably to the English language and literature and strengthen its growth in the age of globalization. Further this research paper would provide a broader perspective of the works of Ruskin of Bond, Arundhati Roy and Kiran Desai by adding an ecological dimension to it.

Nature and literature have always shared a close relationship as is considered in the works of poets and other writers down the ages almost all cultures of the world. The literary critics try to study this close relationship between nature and society have been sexualized by the writers in their works in this context two terms have become very important today-ecology and ecocriticism. India is a country with variety of ecosystems which ranges from Himalayas in the North to Plateaus of south and from the dynamic Sundarbans in the East to dry that of the West. with time, however, these eco system have been adversely affected due to increasing population and avarice of mankind. Literature could not remain unaffected from this depletion and research focus on that how the concern for nature changes in India literature from reverence to destruction. The world of literature throngs with works dealing with beauty and power of nature. However, the concern of ecology and the threat that the continuous misuse of our environment poses on humanity has only recently caught the attention of the writers. It is this sense of concern and its reflection in literature that has given rise of ecocriticism a new branch of literary theory. The works of three eminent India writers have been taken up in this research to explore the significant universal issue with utmost honesty and precision. This thematic study establishes that the works examined here, add new dimensions to the contemporary eco-critical theory.

Most ecological work shares a common motivation, that is the awareness that we have reached the age of environmental limits, a time when the consequences of human action are damaging the planet’s basic life support system. This awareness brings in us, a desire to contribute to environmental restoration, not only as hobby but as representative of literature. Eco-critics encourages others to think seriously about the aesthetic and ethical discomposed by the environmental crisis and about how language and literature values with profound ecological implication. Although not many, there are some novels in India English literature which can be read through the lenses of eco-criticism. It is true that a serious concern with ecology seems to be lacking in the earlier works, yet nature has been used as an important back drop against which the story develops. Besides, the end of the 20th century showed clearly that everyone had to do something to help the Earth services. Ecocriticism is one of the ways in which humanistic fight for the world in which they live. The reflection of that difficult struggle in the area of culture and spirit speaks for the urgency of action or the urgent need to do something in this respect.

The object of this research is to examine the works of Ruskin Bond, Arundhati Roy and Kiran Desai from an eco-critical point of view and focus on the independence of Nature and Literature. Ecocriticism has captured the attention of many scholars over the last three decades because the late 20th century has woken up to a new threat ecological disaster. Ecocriticism is the result of this new consciousness, that very soon, there will be nothing beautiful in nature to discourse about unless we are careful. Interest in the study of nature writing and with reading literature with a focus on ‘green’ issues grew through the 1980s, and by the early 1990s. Ecocriticism had emerged as a recognizable discipline within literature departments of various universities. Ecologically minded individuals and scholars have been publishing progressive works eco-theory and criticism since the explosion of environmentalism in the late 1960s and 1970s. Many authors have expressed their concern for nature due to the capacity of human being and growing population. In India writing in English, there are books that reflect the theme of ecocriticism and explore environment issues. In some books, it central to the book, while in others, it is secondary to the narrative and other themes. It goes without saying that Ecology and Ecocriticism have become important terms today’s literary expression.

The purpose of this paper is to focus on the application of ecology and ecological concepts to the study of literature. The research would explore how far an eco-critical perspective illuminates the works of Ruskin Bond,
Arundhati Roy and Kiran Desai. As we take the beautiful example of Arundhati Roy's masterpiece novel "The God of Small Things " which discusses the current problems of ecology and environment. Kiran Desai's novels such as "The Inheritance of Loss," and "Hullabaloo in the Guava Orchard" give the minute and sharp description of ecology and environmental issues which bring a psychological effect on the mind of the readers. These three writers try to portrait the realistic picture of the post-modern nature which has become sick and dull. their works make the readers aware of the environmental threats and warning.

Ecocriticism as a critical theory is the developing branch of literary studies, and it gained momentum in the early Nineties. Lawrence Buell, in his outstanding book The Environmental Imagination: Thoreau Nature Writing and Formation of American Culture highlights that in an environmentally oriented work human is inherent in non-human natural history, the text's particular focus on the human accountability to the environment. Eco-critics always emphasize to conceive deeply about the relationship of human to nature, about the ethical and aesthetic danger formed by environmental crises and they as well as show how literature and language can render pivotal values of inherent ecological concern. Ruskin Bond's short-stories are resonant with the voice of the green world. Every tiny object of nature is flamboyant with its own glory in the works of Ruskin Bond. He feels a presence of kindred spirit in the world of Flora and Fauna, and he feels so because of his total empathy with the natural world.

Arundhati Roy wrote a number of articles interview and books on various subject. She is one of the greatest Indian writers in English language with world fame. She has presented problematic issues in her novels. All her books aroused a storm of controversies, which added her fame in the world. She is the first novelist, who has shown general awareness towards social crisis and realities and the burning problems in the modern society.

In the words if Indira Nintyanand. "Arundhati Roy writes in style truly different from that of other Indo-English novelist both male and female of the country. She writes differently to a great extent and in doing so breaks many of the accepted rules of language." Her style and technique is praiseworthy.

Kiran Desai is an Indian author. Her novel The Inheritance of Loss won the 2006 Man Booker Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Fiction Award. In January 2015, The Economic Times, India” leading business publication listed her as one 20most influential global Indian women. The Inheritance of Loss (2006). set in India in the mid-1980s, the novel has at its center a Cambridge educated Indian judge living out his retirement in Kalimpong, near the Himalayas, with his granddaughter until their lives are disrupted by Nepalese insurgents. The novel also inter weaves the story of the judge's cook's son as he struggles to survive an on illegal immigrant in the United States. The Inheritance of Loss was hailed by critics as a keen richly descriptive analysis of globalization, terrorism and immigration.

Eco-critics investigate such things as the underlying ecological values, what precisely, is meant by the word nature, and whether the examination of "place" should be distinctive category, much like class, gender or race. Eco-critics 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. Scholar in ecocriticism engage in question regarding anthropocentrism, and the mainstream assumption that the natural world would be seen primarily as a resources for human beings“ as well as critical approaches to changing idea in "the material and cultural bases of modern society." Recently, "empirical eco-critics" have begun empirically evaluation the influence of eco-fiction on its readers. Other disciplines, such as history, economics, Philosophy, ethics and Psychology, are also considered by eco-critics to be possible contributors to ecocriticism.

WORKS CITED

[1]. "What is Ecocriticism? Literary Movements." A Research Guide for Students. 27 August 2018

DOI: 10.9790/0837-2410062326 www.iosrjournals.org
Eco-Critical Dimension in the work of Ruskin Bond, Arundhati Roy and Kiran Desai with the reference to Environmental damage and Ecological awareness.