



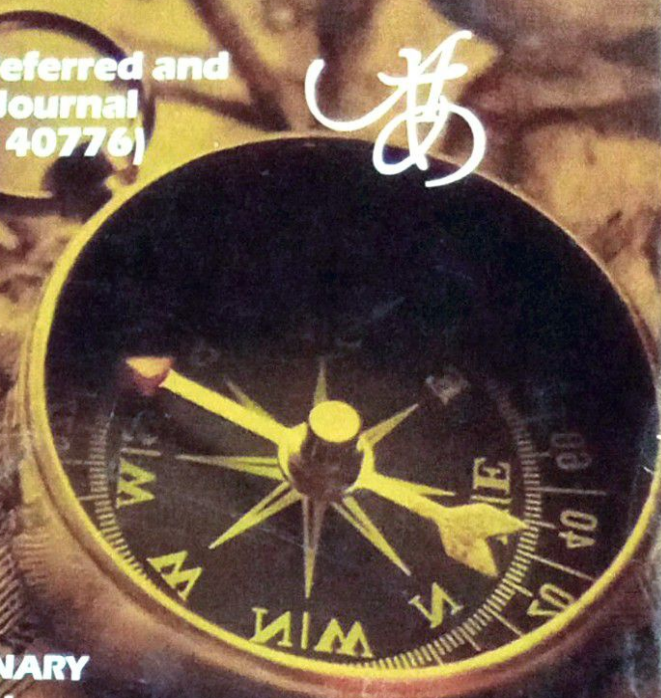
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15. Ecoeriticism Sprout Gives Birth to Indian Philosophy, Environment, Physiology, Physics and Biology

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Abstract

Ecoeriticism is a recent approach in literature which widened the scope of literature. It is an earth centered approach because it is originated from the multi-subject like sciences and humanities. It is related with the sciences and literature. Though, it is recent sprout in literature, it gives birth to Indian philosophy, environment, physiology, physics and biology. Eco is a short form of the word 'Ecology'. William Rueckert coined this word, 'Ecoeriticism' in 1978. It is eye-catching coined word which reflects two words, 'Eco' and 'Criticism'. The first word is related with science and other is with literature.

Ecoeriticism is an American interdisciplinary, earth centered and recent approach in literary studies which widened the scope of literature to the ecology, Indian philosophy, physiology, environment, physics and biology especially with the Vedas, the Upanishads, the Bhagavad-Gita and the Gramgeeta as well as Charles Darwin's, "On the Origin of Species" Ganong's 'Physiology' and Stephen Hawking's, 'A Brief History of Time'. All the ancient literatures, humanities and sciences from the Europe to India are related to the knowledge, life, death and existence. Though, it is considered as a recent approach it is not so because 'Ecoeriticism' is the combination of two words which have broad meanings. It satisfied modern people's need because modern age need multi-subject approaches in all the fields including, medicines, engineering, sciences, technologies and literature. Eco is a short form of the word Ecology. "Ecology is the scientific study of natural interdependencies of life forms as they relate to each other and their shared environment." Generally, environment means air, water, earth, sky, sun, moon, stars, rivers, mountains, forests, animals, birds, insects, human beings etc.

There is direct connection between ecology and literature. If we consider them with reverse process, both were originated one after another at the creation of the universe. Ecology was originated first and then language which is the medium of all the literature. It is the soul of the literature and literature is the soul of ecology. Both give birth to environment, physics, biology, physiology and literary criticism. We could not understand ecology without language and literature. Cherylle Glotfelty says, "By analogy, ecocriticism is concerned with the relationships between literature and environment. Fredrick O. Waage is to be considered as the first person, who planted environmental literary approach in his book, 'Teaching Environmental Literature: Materials, Methods, Resources.'"

The Indian Holy Books-the Vedas, the Upanishads and the Bhagavad-Gita reveal the philosophy of life, death, existence and knowledge. These are the basic of all the literatures and sciences. Bhagavad-Gita says,

"Perform your prescribed duty, for doing
so is better than not working. One can't
even maintain one's physical body without
work."

According to physiology human being's body is made up from the environmental elements like water, air, etc. Water and air play very significant role in the life time and in existing time. At the time of performing the duty the body work and it needs more air and water. While working the body inhales more O_2 and exhales more CO_2 . The air helps in the life and in the existence of the life in better ways when the human being does not spend his time in laziness but performing his duties very well. The water has the same power in the life and existence of the life. Ganong physiology stated that, "The PH of water at $25^\circ C$, in which H^+ and OH^- ions are present in the equal number, is 7.0."

It teaches that human beings can't survive without performing the duty which is prescribed to them. The Nature which is the part of ecology is continues busy in working for the betterment of beings. There is cycle of day and night, season and cycle of everything in the nature. The food which is originated from the earth has its special value in the life time and at the time of existence. Bhagavad-Gita says,

"All living bodies subsists on food grains,
Which are produces from rains".

Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj says,

"Aikaa veerya kaise banate /challis sher anna pachate/
Tyaache ek sher rakta hote/ Veerya tyaaache dona toley/

And

"In fact, you are the one, always existent

eternal immovable and self illuminating sun, possess

all knowledge ,qualities powers and accomplishments."

They teach us that how food and rain are important for the creation of the life and the same things are important for the death and existence. This knowledge is given to us from the ancient times but this knowledge was in the form of religion. If we compare Gramgeeta with the physiology both have expressed the same knowledge , "some of the amino acids are nutritionally essential amino acids ,that is, they must be obtained in the diet , "Diet has the power to create life and the same diet is essential for the existence of the life at the same time the same diet is responsible for death. Charles Darwin says, in his "On the Origin of Species," about the life death and existence , "of the woodpecker ,with its feet ,tail, beak, and tongue ,so admirably adopted to catch insects under the bark of tree." It shows that there is relationship between beings and their shared environment, and their life and existence. It explains that the woodpecker for its life with its knowledge use its body parts to get its food on which its existence is based. He says that the tree from which the woodpecker is getting an insect that tree was in the form of the seed and the seed was carried by the bird. It grew into plant. It got flowers which had separate sexes. It requires certain insect to carry pollen from different flowers. Again the same knowledge is explained by Darwin, "We do not see ,or we forget that the birds which are idly singing around us mostly live on insects or seeds ,and are constantly destroying the life".

The Bhagavad-Gita says,

'Neither he who thinks the living entity the slayer nor he who thinks it slain is in knowledge ,for the self slays not nor is slain."

There is no difference between the slain and the slay because one is surviving on the other by making his food. Stephen Hawking says, about the concept of death of protons and neutrons. These protons and neutrons are the part of atoms and from them the universe is made up. They have the quality of not decay means not slain. He stated, "A number of experiment have been carried out, but none have yielded definite evidence of

proton or neutron decay". So Upanishads says, "He is unborn ,eternal, even existing and primeval".

The Bhagavad-Gita says, "I am in the smallest and smallest parts which are indivisible". This knowledge of atoms was provided to us by the teaching of the Bhagavad-Gita. If we considered it from existence, life and death to the physics and biology they have given us the same knowledge. Stephen Hawking says, "We know that neither the atoms nor the protons and the neutrons within them are indivisible". It gives us the knowledge as the ancient literature gives. Another scientist Friedmann's model showed that the galaxies in the universe are expanding slowly .If it expands and expands there is fear that one day it will lose the gravitational force and the universe will be collapsed according to the Newton's law. Stephen Hawking says, there is no fear of the existence of the earth and the destruction of the universe because of his knowledge of physics. He stated that the life will survive and there is no fear of death until the sun existed in the universe. He stated "I won't do so for at least another ten thousand million years since it has already been expanding at least that long .This should not unduly worry us; by that time ,unless we have colonized beyond the Solar System, mankind will long since have died out extinguished along with our sun." Again he considered that our existence and origination of the universe is due to the 'Big-Bag'. From that time the universe is originated and life began after it. " It may be that our very existence is a consequence of reverse."Thus, many times literature also considers the existence of the human beings and ecology due to the consequences of the reverse process.

On the other hand, Charles Darwin considers about the life and existence from the biological view. He searches, we have been connected with our parent species and this parent species is presented in the present time and was existed in the past due to the natural selection. Physiology showed that life comes to the existence with the separation of DNA. "The life cycle of the cell that begins after mitosis". Darwin and Ganong's physiology considers that the beings and human beings are coming in the life and existence is due to their ancient parents species. "By the theory of natural selection, all living species have been connected with the parent species of each genus, by differences not greater than we see between the varieties of the same species at the present day; and their parent species".

Conclusion

Ecocriticism is an interdisciplinary approach so it gives birth to Indian philosophy, environment, physics, biology and physiology. The ancient Indian literature deals with the themes of life, death, existence and knowledge. But their philosophy integrates with spiritual matters which have inner side shining corner of environment, physics and biology. Ecology includes life forms and their shared environment, so it has the special features of interdisciplinary approach. Environment, physics and biology also deal with the same matters only difference is that their matters are based on observations and experiments. Ecocriticism has such benefits of interdisciplinary approach which widened the scope of literature to 'ecosphere' so it is applicable in the interdisciplinary age.

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