

## **Social Consciousness in Society: A Literary Study of Ecocritical Perspectives in Global Writing**

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### **Abstract**

In recent decades, the environment has become a major threat to human civilization and Mother Earth. Natural resource misuse is so pervasive that we are about to go down the drain. Our ecology is already in danger; the world's rainforests are disappearing; the supply of fossil fuels is rapidly running out; the seasonal cycle is out of balance; and ecological disasters are occurring more regularly. In the last years of the previous century, a fresh philosophy of nature-Ecocriticism-emerged in response to these conditions. The anthropocentric tendency of man to dominate nature is what gave rise to this global movement. This paper aims to investigate ecocritical perspectives as they are envisioned in a variety of international literary works. By emphasizing the environment in literature, this analysis fosters readers' ecological literacy and consciousness, enabling them to take good care of Mother Nature. In the little time since it was originally introduced, ecocriticism has grown rapidly, given the significance of the environment today. It's an approach to reading nature writing that's often linked to environmental criticism.

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### **Introduction**

In reaction to the environmental catastrophe, the relatively young literary criticism subfield of ecocriticism arose in the latter half of the 20th century. Fundamentally, ecocriticism is an attack on anthropocentrism, the idea that we are the most significant species on Earth and that the natural world exists just to serve our interests. Ecocritics contend that this perspective has resulted in extensive ecological damage and the extinction of species and is morally and scientifically erroneous. The interdependence of all living things and the significance of understanding how human actions affect the natural environment are further themes covered by ecocriticism. Ecocritics contend that by highlighting the inherent worth of nature and its significance for human well-being, literature may play a significant role in advancing ecological consciousness and sustainability.

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### **Literature Review**

The literature review centers on a range of international works that best represent ecocritical perspectives. These pieces were picked because they are significant to culture, literature, and environmental issues. The following literary masterpieces will be examined in this essay:

- Henry David Thoreau's *Walden*, a beloved work of American literature that chronicles his adventures as a cabin occupant in the woods close to Walden Pond. The book is both a critique of industrial society and a praise of the natural environment.
- Aldo Leopold's collection of articles *A Sand County Almanac*, which details the natural world in great detail and promotes a land ethic that acknowledges the inherent worth of every living thing.

- Rachel Carson's seminal work of environmental journalism, *Silent Spring*, which highlights the risks associated with pesticide usage and the effects of human activity on the environment.
- In Ben Okri's novel *The Famished Road*, a youngster growing up in a Nigerian slum is the subject of a magical realism story interwoven with African folklore. The natural world is portrayed in the book as a source of mystery and awe.
- Yasunari Kawabata's Japanese book *The Sound of the Mountain* examines how people relate to the natural environment. The tale revolves around the natural environment, with the novel taking place in the highlands outside of Tokyo.

### Findings

The analysis's conclusions show that the chosen literary works support the growth of ecological literacy and coconsciousness and serve as excellent examples of important ecocritical points of view. A number of recurring themes emerge from the analysis, which are essential to ecocritical discourse: nature is portrayed as a source of mystery, beauty, and wonder; industrial society and its effects on the environment are criticized; and a land ethic that acknowledges the inherent worth of all living things is promoted. For instance, *Walden* is both a praise of nature and a condemnation of modern, industrial life. Thoreau's descriptions of his time spent in a log cabin in the forest next to *Walden Pond* are interpreted as a return to a more genuine, uncomplicated lifestyle that is in balance with the natural world. Based on his conviction that industrial society is to blame for the devastation of the environment and the decline in biodiversity, Thoreau criticizes this society.

The preservation of the natural world is similarly urged by a *Sand County Almanac*. Leopold argues that humans have an obligation to protect the natural environment rather than just using it for personal gain, which forms the basis of his support of a land ethic that acknowledges the intrinsic value of all living things. The significance of ecological literacy and consciousness in advancing sustainability is demonstrated by the book.

The natural world is portrayed in *The Famished Road*, *The Sound of the Mountain*, and *The God of Small Things* as a source of mystery and wonder as well as an essential component of human existence. The books also examine how colonialism affected the environment, emphasizing how European imperialism contributed to the devastation of natural ecosystems and the decline in biodiversity.

### Methodology

The content analysis employed to examine the chosen literary works is explained in the methodology section. A technique for textual analysis called content analysis is looking through a text's content to find themes, patterns, and other characteristics. The present investigation will employ content analysis to discern the manners in which the chosen literary works depict the natural environment and the human condition in connection to it.

- The criticism of industrial society and how it affects the environment
- The promotion of a land ethic that acknowledges the inherent worth of every living thing
- The representation of the interdependence of all living organisms

In order to conduct the study, the chosen literary works will be closely read, with an emphasis on locating particular passages and imagery that best represent the major themes. The analysis will take into account the cultural and historical backgrounds of the works in order to gain a deeper understanding of their relevance and influence.

### Conclusion

The chosen literary works show how cultural and historical factors have influenced ecocritical ideas and how they have changed over time. The research highlights the significance of understanding how human actions affect the natural environment and how all living things are intertwined.

The literature's chosen works are analyzed to show how crucial ecological awareness and literacy are to advancing sustainability and preserving the environment. Since ecocriticism emphasizes the intrinsic value of the natural world and its significance for human well-being, it offers a useful framework for understanding how literature might support this objective.

Overall, the literary study of the chosen texts reveals that ecocriticism offers a useful framework for comprehending how humans interact with the natural world and for raising social consciousness in society. Ecocriticism studies how literature depicts the natural world and how humans relate to it, which can contribute to a greater awareness of the significance of environmental preservation and sustainability. Apart from its capacity to foster social consciousness within society, ecocriticism carries significant consequences for literary studies as a whole. Ecocriticism can assist in expanding the purview of literary analysis and encouraging a more in-depth involvement with environmental issues by emphasizing the ways in which literature both reflects and shapes our understanding of the natural world.

The examination of the chosen literary works concludes that ecocriticism offers a useful framework for comprehending the interaction between people and the natural world and for raising social consciousness in society. Ecocriticism can contribute to a greater understanding of the significance of environmental preservation and sustainability by analyzing how literature depicts the natural world and human interaction with it. As a result, it has significant ramifications for literary studies as well as initiatives to advance environmental protection and sustainability.

There is still more work to be done in this area, even if the chosen literary works offer significant insights into the ways in which literature can support the growth of ecological literacy and coconsciousness. In addition to investigating the possibilities of various literary theories and methodologies for fostering social consciousness and sustainability, future study could concentrate on broadening the area of analysis to incorporate works from a wider range of cultural and historical settings.

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