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Literary Druid is an online Peer-reviewed International Journal of English Language and Literature which is committed to academic research, welcomes scholars and students all over the world who to advance their status of academic career and society by their ideas. The journal welcomes publications of quality papers on research and other mentioned forms in English Language and Literature

Research ought to be active to create a major boundary in the academic world. It must enrich the neo-theoretical frame that facilitates re-evaluation and enhancement of existing practices and thoughts. Eventually, this will effect in a primary discovery and lean-to the knowledge acquired. Research is to establish, confirm facts, reiterate previous works ant to solve issues. An active endeavor to endow rational approach to these types for educational reformations through academic research has become the focal intention of the journal. Now, we feel very proud to bring the April, Volume 5, Issue 2, 2023 Issue contributed by the Academicians and research Scholars of the literary field.

Dr. M. Vinoth Kumar & S. Kulandhaivel
Editors'-in-Chief

Contents

SL. No	Title of the Paper	Page No.
1	Life in Altered Reality: A Post-Humanistic Approach to William Gibson's <i>Neuromancer</i> Mr. P. Balamuthukumaran	1
2	A Study on the Core Tenets of Ecofeminism in the Select Novels of Anita Nair Dr. C. Chellappan	11
3	Stylistic Analysis of Tennyson's Poem "from The Princess: Tears, Idle Tears" Ms. M. Malathi Mr. B. Thangamarimuthu	16
4	An Eco-Critical Study of Exploring Nature, Humanity, and Environmental Consciousness in A.K. Ramanujan's "A River" Dr. G. Rajesh Kumar	21
5	A Comparative Stylistic Study of W.B. Yeats' "Easter, 1916" and Subramaniya Bharathi's "Indian Republic" Dr. M. Vinoth Kumar	26



Life in Altered Reality: A Post-Humanistic Approach to William Gibson's *Neuromancer*

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Abstract

The creator of this human race has offered 'free will' to them. Like the image of the creator, the human race tries to create their creations in the form of art, literature, music, sculptures, and technological inventions such as the second brain and artificial intelligence. Many science fictions were written on these subject matters. Isaac Asimov's I, Robot talked about the conscience of mechanical robots and the domination of artificial intelligence. Plenty of films were made on these scripts. Some scientists believe that the extreme level of technology could start to control the users like the Skynet mentioned in the Terminator franchise. Very few science fictions are talking about the advancement of technology as close to the present reality. William Gibson's "Neuromancer" is a kind of novel that talked about actual reality and altered reality such as digital reality. The wonderful thing is this novel was published in 1984 before the era of the internet, smartphones, applications and bots. After 38 years many of the concepts that he discussed in this novel are about to become practical in this 21st century. In this case, this novel was ahead of its time. At present, Facebook is developing a virtual world called 'metaverse', it is a type of virtual reality where socialization can occur without leaving our place. If the whole world is occupied under this kind of technology, man could have double identities such as living in the physical world and altered reality with their A.I. generated avatars. This paper is about exploring the lived experience of many characters under the perspective of Post-humanism on both realities as mentioned in the novel. The end of the presence of humans, in reality, would open the gate for Post-humanism.

Keywords: Post-humanism, Alternate reality, William Gibson, *Neuromancer*.

Introduction

In this world, men and women are born free. They are free from all types of boundaries such as race, colour, religion, language, inequality and nationality. All these symbols are registered in their mind through their families, society and the nation. However, there are many numbers of magnanimous souls who always think about the sufferings of fellow humans. This is a random act of kindness found in Jesus, Marx, and Mahatma Gandhi. They lived by their principles and ethics. Common men and women of France turned their nation into the French Revolution in 1789. In the present era, humanism is moving beyond theism and irrational thoughts. It tries to make a peaceful world for the people to choose their desired life. In this humanism, there is no interference of technology and other powers. If there is a role of powerful technology which is about to take control of human destiny, that comes under the term post-humanism. When the intelligence of men is transferred into artificial intelligence, technology will be attributed with the right to distinguish good and evil. In *The Posthuman Condition: Consciousness Beyond the Brain*, author Pepperell says,



Humans have imagined for a long time that the ability to develop and control technology was one of the defining characteristics of our condition, something that assured us of our superiority over other animals and our unique status in the world. Ironically, this sense of superiority and uniqueness is being challenged by the very technologies we are now seeking to create, and it seems the balance of dominance between human and machine is slowly shifting (p.3).

William Ford Gibson was born in 1948. A living author from American – Canadian literature and known for many science fiction and scientific terms such as cyberspace. His famous work *Neuromancer* received many awards such as the Philip K. Dick Award. Like the present thieves who steal money, this novel talks about a data thief ‘Case’. Even in the advanced world, exploiting the freedom of civilians continues and their life and freedom are converted as a product to be sold. Human values are decentralized after the dominance of A.I. bodies. The author named the virtual world as ‘Matrix’ where one experiences an altered reality. After two years, in 1986, he published another novel *Count Zero* which had the plot set of *Neuromancer*. Much of his fiction such as *Mona Lisa Overdrive* (1988) is also about the influence of technology over humans. Since the dawn of the industrial revolution, man started to share his knowledge with machines and robots gradually. This twenty-first century is running over the Web 3.0 industry where the industry control is controlled by advanced software. In a book titled *Marketing in the Moment: The Practical Guide to Using Web 3.0 Marketing to Reach Your Customers First*, Tasner says about the role of virtual reality,

Virtual reality worlds are places users visit to interact with others from around the world in a 3-D setting. Meetings are being conducted in these spaces, and trade shows are being replaced with virtual reality shows. Examples include Second Life and Fun sites. (p. 12)

This shows that almost the role of humans in this earth would be eliminated or altered and man will be left to live only with flesh and bones without the power of thinking. If he or she wants to consume real happiness, they have to construct an alternate reality. This is the subject matter of this novel. In this novel, the main character Henry Dorsett Case the console cowboy is looking for help to remove poison from his body to connect with the altered reality ‘Matrix’. The death of Linda Lee is altered by the case by transferring her memories into the matrix. Molly the razor girl’s hands and nails are altered or modified with razor blades. Colonel Willis Corto is made as deformed in a military operation and later saved by higher officials. This character lives as two personalities in the existing reality. Riviera the character removed the left side lung and placed a technology that will project holographic images to distract the attention of others. Moreover, Julie, Ashpool and Lady 3Jane are some unusual characters who have extended their life by breaking reality such as increasing their life span and cloning themselves. These phenomenal situations can happen in other realities only with the power of advanced technology. This paper explores these unusual realms through the way how the above-mentioned characters are portrayed along with the future technology. Some are living in virtual reality, some are living with partial mechanical bodies in existing reality and some are made as cyborgs.

Life in Post-humanist Reality

In this fiction, Henry Dorsett's Case is projected as the main character. He is introduced as a ‘console cowboy’. This refers to the practice of stealing in the cyber world. His profession is mentioned as a ‘digital thief’. Apart from this, this character is experiencing trauma from its past. From his last project, his whole body's nerves were poisoned and he was counting his days. “You have fifteen toxin sacs bonded to the lining of various main arteries,



Case. They're dissolving. Very slowly, but they are dissolving. Each one contains a mycotoxin." (Gibson 50) Unlike the present century, there is no need to die in a God-made reality. This novel talks about a second chance to live in an altered reality where one can surpass diseases, injuries and even death. He considers his body as a pile of meat. He uses cyberspace as a digital toxin to overcome his pain. "For Case, who'd lived for the bodiless exultation of cyberspace, it was the Fall. In the bars he'd frequented as a cowboy hotshot, the elite stance involved a certain relaxed contempt for the flesh. The body was meat. The case fell into the prison of his own flesh." (Gibson 6)

According to Case, living in the matrix is like living in the form of a pure soul where he cannot feel pain and agony. This is how this character lives in his altered reality. But in the real world, Case hates his body like a soul trapped in a prison. Instead of trying euthanasia, technology offers a different solution to the sufferings of the people like healing. Gibson mentioned the concept of surveillance through technology in the first chapter. This is not about the altered reality but changing the existing reality in human life like Orwell's 'Big Eye'. "M-G employees above a certain level were implanted with advanced microprocessors that monitored mutagen levels in the bloodstream." (Gibson 11) Gibson did not hint at the revelation from the Bible. But he predicted this chip technology 38 years back. At present, amputees and patients with long time incurable diseases are advised to take wearables to monitor their health. Soon, it may control our free reality from a remote location. Thus the chances to access the other reality would be restricted.

There was a man in The Bible named Methuselah who was gifted with a long life span of 969 years. In reality, it is not possible, but the character Julius Deane in this novel is 135 years old. The appearance of him is not so old but young, only his age is so old. This is like surpassing death in reality, extending lifespan and starting to live a long life in an altered reality. This is nearly equal to resurrection without tasting the death. It is done to him with a special serum. If nature is considered as the attribution of reality, this character altered it by stopping ageing. Unlike going to Matrix, Julius modified his DNA to keep his body alive for a long period. "His primary hedge against ageing was a yearly pilgrimage to Tokyo, where genetic surgeons reset the code of his DNA, a procedure unavailable in Chiba." (Gibson 13) Like Julius, there is another character named 'Molly. This character is nearly like a half-human and a half-mechanical robot. Like the *Robocop* movie, Molly undergoes surgery to turn her biological body into a partial robot. She turned her nails into razor blades. They are modified like beasts' paws. She can retract and extend her nails when it is necessary. "Her hands, in the pockets of the pink coat, were flexing systematically through a series of tension-release exercises. It took him a few seconds to realize that the peculiar sensation at the tips of her fingers was caused by the blades as they were partially extruded, then retracted." (Gibson 66) Most of her body parts are upgraded to a personal computer to obtain super strength that a human cannot.

As per the story, Molly's body is used as an avatar to be operated in this physical world from the Matrix. Her body reflects the movements and follows the commands from Matrix streamed by Case through her simstim unit to accomplish the project. This is not possible for normal humans. Among all the characters in this fiction, Molly is the only character who could exist both in reality and altered reality which is the virtual world. Her character is like a reversed version of game world avatars. Instead of performing in the virtual world, she can reflect on the virtual world's actions in the real world. Her physical modifications are incredible to the present technologies that exist in the medical world.



Conclusion

William Gibson's *Neuromancer* was way ahead of the time in the last decades of the twentieth century. His AI 'Wintermute' is constructed as an overpowered character over the other real-world characters. Gibson has presented this story that our future society would be ruled and controlled by the force of artificial intelligence. This is nearly like our current reality is under the supervision of algorithm-based virtual reality where we cannot justify the term consciousness. D Majumdar and HK Chattopadhyay say in *Artificial intelligence and its impacts on the society*, "AI is also posing vital implications to the general citizens by providing them enormous help in a cost-effective manner as well as posing some entangled challenges even jeopardizing their basic rights including privacy infringement." (p 306) So, his human characters who have consciousness try to sell it to their technology and turn themselves into biological machines. They would like to consume pleasure from artificial reality rather than god made. Michael Cheng-Tek Tai says in *The Impact of artificial intelligence on human society and Bioethics*, "History tells us that human is always looking for something faster, easier, more effective, and convenient to finish the task they work on; therefore, the pressure for further development motivates humankind to look for a new and better way of doing things." (p 340) Since the era of homo sapiens, mankind was focusing on reducing the burdens behind hunting and protecting. Thus they invented tools and weapons so that in the era of the internet, mankind is trying to erase the obstacles of day-to-day life through the power of technology.

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A Study on the Core Tenets of Ecofeminism in the Select Novels of Anita Nair

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Abstract

This paper explores the ecofeministic themes in Anita Nair's complete works, analyzing her characters, narratives, and themes through an ecofeministic lens. Nair's works highlight the interconnectedness between gender oppression and environmental degradation, emphasizing the need for an inclusive and holistic approach towards social and ecological justice. The paper examines ecofeminism's core ideas, including the interconnectedness of oppressions, valuing diversity and pluralism, ethics of care and responsibility, intersectionality, and ecofeminist activism and praxis. The analysis of Anita Nair's novels offers insights into the multifaceted implications of patriarchy, recognizing the importance of intersectional approaches in addressing social and ecological issues. The paper also highlights the significance of literature in fostering ecofeminist perspectives and promoting sustainable, equitable, and just relationships between humans and the environment.

Keywords: Eco-Feminism, Core Tenets, Anita Nair, Novels.

Introduction

Anita Nair, a renowned Indian author, has gained acclaim for her literary contributions that often explore social, cultural, and gender-related issues. This paper aims to conduct an eco-feministic study on the complete works of Anita Nair, analyzing the themes, characters, and narratives through an eco-feministic lens. Examining Nair's works, one can explore how she as a women writer intertwines ecological concerns with feminist perspectives and highlighting the interconnectedness between gender and ecological integrity.

Review of Literature

Susan Griffin (1978) in "Woman and Nature: The Roaring Inside her" pointed out that ecofeminism explores the connections between women and the natural world. She argues that patriarchy and capitalism have contributed to the exploitation and destruction of nature and catered as well to the subordination of women. She advocates for a more holistic and interconnected approach to understand the world of women in it. By getting together mythology, history, poetry, and science, she offers a rich analysis of the complex relationships between gender, power, and ecology.

Karen J. Warren's (1990) "Ecofeminism: Women, Culture, Nature" is a seminal text in the field of ecofeminism. She explores the intersections of gender, race, class, and ecology, arguing that the domination of nature and the oppression of women are interconnected and should be addressed together. She questions the patriarchal and capitalist systems that perpetuate environmental degradation and social injustice to women. She also offers a transformative framework for environmental ethics and activism for women.

Ynestra King (2003) in "The Ecology of Feminism and the Feminism of Ecology" examines the intersections of feminism and environmentalism. She argues that the domination of nature and the oppression of women are rooted in the same patriarchal and



capitalist systems, and that addressing one requires addressing both. She also discusses the importance of including diverse perspectives and experiences in environmental activism, and the need to expand our understanding on nature and women.

Vandana Shiva (1988) in “Staying Alive: Women, Ecology, and Development” speaks on a pioneering work of ecofeminism that centers the experiences and perspectives of women in the Global South. She argues that traditional ecological knowledge, often held by women, is essential for sustainable development and environmental justice. She also critiques the damaging effects of Western-style development and the Green Revolution on small farmers and the environment.

In her “The Violence of the Green Revolution: Third World Agriculture, Ecology, and Politics” (1991), she examines the impact of the Green Revolution on agriculture, ecology, and politics in the Global South. She argues that the Green Revolution, which promoted intensive agriculture and the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, led to environmental degradation, loss of biodiversity, and social dislocation. She also critiques the Western-dominated development paradigm and argues for a more decentralized and locally-based approach to agriculture and development.

In her “Soil Not Oil: Environmental Justice in an Age of Climate Crisis” (2010), she explores the intersections of climate change, agriculture, and social justice. She argues that the current dominant model of industrial agriculture, that relies on fossil fuels and promotes monoculture, is contributing to the climate crisis and social inequality. She advocates for a shift to sustainable agriculture and renewable energy, as well as the recognition of small farmers and indigenous peoples in creating a sustainable future.

Eco-Feminism

Eco-feminism is a theory connected to socio-environmental theory. It seeks to establish a connection between the patriarchal oppression of women and the worst exploitation of nature. It recognizes the parallel struggles faced by women and the environment, advocating for the liberation of both. Eco-feminism promotes a holistic perspective that acknowledges the interdependencies between gender, ecology, and social justice.

Themes of Environmental Activism

Anita Nair's works often incorporate environmental issues as central themes. In novels such as “Ladies Coupe” and “Mistress,” she addresses the consequences of environmental degradation and the need for conservation. Through her characters, she highlights the impact of patriarchal power structures on women and nature, emphasizing the importance of environmental activism as a form of resistance.

Female Characters and their Relationship with Nature

Nair's female protagonists are frequently portrayed in symbiotic relationships with nature. They seek solace, remedy, and empowerment through their connections with the nature. She challenges the social constructs that control women's access to nature and delivers it as a source of power and freedom.

Subverting Gender Stereotypes

Anita Nair's works also challenge traditional gender roles and stereotypes, which are often linked to the exploitation of both women and nature. She portrays female characters who resist societal expectations and embrace their agency. By subverting gender norms, Nair presents an alternative vision of a society that respects women's rights and the environment simultaneously.



Ecology and Female Empowerment

Nair explores the interconnectedness between ecological well-being and women's empowerment. By advocating for the protection of nature, her works suggest that a sustainable and just world cannot be achieved without addressing gender inequality. Nair presents a vision where the liberation of women is inseparable from the preservation of the environment.

In fact, Anita Nair's works display a thoughtful connection with eco-feministic themes, showing her commitment to explore the interdependence of feminine gender, ecology, and social justice. In her novels, she highlights the harmful effects of patriarchal power employed on women and the natural environment. She also emphasizes the potential for empowerment and resistance in women and nature. Nair incorporates environmental activism and the challenging gender stereotypes in her works with a vision of a more equitable and sustainable world. An eco-feministic study of Anita Nair's works may provide deep insights into the multifaceted relationship between women, nature, society and harmony. It serves as a toll bell of importance to the intersectional approaches in addressing gender inequality and environmental degradation in the world. Her literary contributions add to the broader conversation on eco-feminism and inspire the readers to recognize and to act upon the interconnected struggles for gender freedom and ecological justice.

Ecofeminism is a literary movement that contains philosophical and political ideology that emerged in the late 20th century. It integrated the environmental concerns with feminist principles to face the immoral enforcements exploited upon woman and nature. It is an interdisciplinary approach that explores the complex interconnections between female gender, ecology, and social justice. The ecofeminists argue that the mass exploitation of both women and nature are deeply rooted in systems of patriarchy and capitalist governments. This paper will provide an indepth analysis of ecofeminism, its core tenets, and the significance of its intersectional perspective based on gender, ecology and social justice.

History and the Emergence of Ecofeminism

Ecofeminism began as a reaction to the growing awareness of feminist movement and its connections between gender oppression and environmental issues. The scholarly works of early ecofeminist scholars such as Ynestra King, Susan Griffin, and Vandana Shiva had laid the base ground for this movement. The early Ecofeminists recognized that both women and nature have been oppressed, endangered, marginalized and exploited in patriarchal societies and they highlighted the need for an inclusive and holistic approach to social and ecological justice.

The Interconnectedness of Oppressions

Ecofeminism posits that the oppression of women and the exploitation of nature share common roots. It argues that the dominant patriarchal worldview values masculine qualities associated with dominance, control, and exploitation over feminine qualities associated with nurturance, interconnectedness, and sustainability. This perspective draws parallels between the subjugation of women and the exploitation of the environment, viewing them as interconnected systems of domination.

Valuing Diversity and Pluralism

Ecofeminism recognizes and celebrates diversity in all its forms, including biological, cultural, and ecological diversity. It critiques the homogenizing tendencies of patriarchal systems that seek to impose a single dominant worldview and monoculture. Ecofeminists advocate for the recognition and preservation of multiple ways of knowing, diverse cultural practices, and the intrinsic value of non-human life.



Ethics of Care and Responsibility

Ecofeminism promotes an ethics of care, emphasizing the interconnectedness of all living beings and the responsibilities we have towards one another and the environment. It challenges the prevailing ethic of domination and exploitation, advocating for a more nurturing and relational approach to human-nature interactions. This perspective recognizes the intrinsic value of nature and calls for a shift towards sustainable and equitable relationships with the natural world.

Intersectionality and Ecofeminism

Ecofeminism focuses on the importance of intersectionality and understanding the systems of oppression are interconnected and reinforcing them mutually. It also acknowledges that women's experiences of environmental degradation are shaped by factors such as race, class, and other social identities. Intersectional ecofeminism highlights the disproportionate impact of environmental degradation on marginalized communities and calls for an inclusive environmental movement that addresses social injustices alongside ecological concerns.

Ecofeminist Activism and Praxis

Beyond to the theory, ecofeminism actively participates in grassroots activism and campaigning. Destructive practises including deforestation, toxic waste disposal, and the privatisation of natural resources have been opposed by ecofeminist movements. Additionally, they have emphasised the significance of local economies, sustainable agriculture, and alternative development models that put social and environmental well-being first. Therefore, Ecofeminism provides a distinctive paradigm for comprehending how gender, the environment, and social justice are intertwined. Ecofeminism pushes us to reconsider how we interact with the natural world and one another by exposing the ways patriarchal structures support both the exploitation of environment and the oppression of women.

Introduction to the Author

Anita Nair, a well-known Indian author, covers numerous issues that are in line with ecofeminist ideals in her full-length novels. Her writings eloquently convey the interconnectivity of oppressions, the value of diversity and plurality, the ethics of care and responsibility, the importance of intersectionality in solving social and environmental concerns, and the necessity of ecofeminist activism and practise. This essay analyses these themes in Nair's books and demonstrates how important they are in the context of ecofeminism. Three novels are taken for study. They are:

1. *Mistress*
2. *Ladies Coupe'*
3. *Lessons in Forgetting*

A theoretical system called ecofeminism aims to draw a link between the mistreatment of women and the deterioration of the environment. Eco-feminism has been used in literature to examine the connection between gender, the natural world, and power. In the context of an eco-feministic viewpoint, this literary analysis focuses on three books by Anita Nair: "Mistress," "Ladies Coupe," and "Lessons in Forgetting."

"Mistress" by Anita Nair is a novel that delves into the lives of Radha, a housemaid in Bangalore. Radha's life has been characterised by exploitation, abuse, and poverty. The novel emphasises the problem of environmental deterioration and how it impacts socially marginalised women. The sufferings of Radha represent the struggles of everyone who are forced to live in poverty and suffer the consequences of environmental degradation.



Anita Nair presents the tale of six ladies who meet on a train and exchange life experiences in "Ladies Coupe." The book examines issues of gender, power, and the connection between women and the natural world. The struggle against patriarchal tyranny unites all of the protagonists in the book, despite their diverse backgrounds and life experiences. The novel emphasises the value of women standing together against oppression and the necessity for women to recover their relationship with nature.

Anita Nair's book "Lessons in Forgetting" examines the issue of environmental deterioration and its effects on human life. The protagonist of the book is Meera, a lady who is coping with the loss of her daughter. Throughout Bangalore, where Meera is travelling, she comes across a variety of people who are each dealing with their own problems. Through Meera's voyage and her interactions with the persons she encounters, the book examines the issue of eco-feminism.

In reality, Anita Nair explores the topics of eco-feminism in various ways in her novels "Mistress," "Ladies Coupe," and "Lessons in Forgetting." The novels emphasise the interplay between gender, power, and nature and how it results in exploitation and oppression. These books make significant literary contributions to the eco-feminist conversation.

The Interconnectedness of Oppressions

Nair's novels often delve into the interconnectedness of different forms of oppression, particularly the intersection of gender and caste-based discrimination prevalent in Indian society. In works such as "Ladies Coupe" and "Mistress," she portrays female characters Akila, Prabhavathi, Sheela, shanthi, Marikolunthu, Radha, Devyani grappling with the patriarchal norms that confine and oppress them. These narratives emphasize the shared experiences of women across different social strata, highlighting how gender oppression intersects with other oppressive systems, perpetuating inequalities.

Valuing Diversity and Pluralism

Nair's novels celebrate diversity and pluralism, offering rich portrayals of characters from diverse backgrounds and experiences. In "Ladies Coupe," for instance, the protagonist Akila encounters women from various walks of life, each with her own unique story. Nair's exploration of diverse cultural practices and perspectives underscores the ecofeminist principle of valuing and preserving multiple ways of knowing and being. These narratives challenge the homogenizing tendencies of patriarchal systems and promote inclusivity.

Ethics of Care and Responsibility

The ethics of care and responsibility are recurrent themes in Nair's novels. Through her female protagonists, Nair advocates for a nurturing and empathetic approach to human-nature relationships. In "Mistress," the central character, Radha, establishes a deep connection with nature, particularly with river Nila, plants and animals, reflecting a sense of responsibility and care towards the environment. Nair's portrayal of these characters underscores the ecofeminist belief in the interconnectedness of all living beings and the need for sustainable and equitable relationships.

Intersectionality and Ecofeminism

Nair's novels aptly demonstrate the significance of intersectionality in understanding and addressing social and environmental issues. By portraying characters who face intersecting forms of oppression based on gender, caste, religion, and class, Nair highlights the complexities of their lived experiences. In "Ladies Coupe," the stories of the female characters intertwine, shedding light on the diverse challenges they face and emphasizing the need for an inclusive approach to feminism and environmental activism. Marikolunthu and



Akila are best examples for this kind.

Ecofeminist Activism and Praxis

Nair's novels provide glimpses of ecofeminist activism and praxis through the journeys and actions of her characters. In "Ladies Coupe," the women challenge societal norms and assert their agency, advocating for their rights and autonomy. Nair also explores the implications of destructive practices on local communities and ecosystems in novels like "Lessons in Forgetting". Akila and Smirthi are such examples who try to overcome the male domination and fanaticism. Through these narratives, she invites readers to reflect on the consequences of exploitative systems and the importance of grassroots activism in effecting positive change.

Conclusion

Anita Nair's complete novels offer profound insights into various ecofeminist themes, resonating with the movement's core principles. Through her exploration of the interconnectedness of oppressions, valuing diversity and pluralism, ethics of care and responsibility, intersectionality, and ecofeminist activism and praxis are evident in the novels. Her works challenge patriarchal societal norms and advocate for equitable and sustainable relationships with the environment. Nair's stories serve as a reminder of the importance of integration and intersectionality in addressing social and ecological issues, emphasizing the need for inclusive and holistic approaches towards human-nature relationships. Her literary contributions are a significant contribution to the wider ecofeminist discourse, inspiring readers to recognize and act upon the interconnected struggles for gender and ecological justice.

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Stylistic Analysis of Tennyson's Poem “*from The Princess: Tears, Idle Tears*”

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Abstract

This research paper aims a comprehensive stylistic analysis of Alfred Lord Tennyson's profound poem, “from the Princess: Tears, Idle Tears.” The purpose of the study is to scrutinize the utilization of various stylistic devices and examine how they contribute to the overall emotional depth, thematic significance, and aesthetic appeal of the poem. A systematic investigation is conducted, highlighting the poet's use of imagery, metaphors, similes, alliteration, assonance, and other rhetorical devices. Additionally, the research delves into Tennyson's use of diction, rhythm, and rhyming scheme, to uncover how these elements combine to create a melancholic and introspective tone. The study also explores the influence of Tennyson's personal life and Victorian era context on his stylistic choices. Our analysis confirms that Tennyson's artistic and emotional mastery, demonstrated through his adept use of stylistic devices, effectively conveys poignant themes of longing, sorrow, and the passage of time. This research paper enhances the understanding of Tennyson's unique stylistic methodology, offering new perspectives into the emotive power and lasting impact of the poem “from the Princess: Tears, Idle Tears.”

Keywords: Stylistic, Analysis, Tennyson, Poem, *from the Princess: Tears, Idle Tears*.

Introduction

Alfred Tennyson's “*from the Princess: Tears, Idle Tears*.” combines beauty with sadness in a way that causes a reader to feel empathy for the speaker. Tennyson's speaker can depict the sorrow of mourning and the devastation of lost youth. He brings attention to what it means to age and become aware of the darker side of life. In particular, the speaker mourns over the days that are gone and will never return. He also feels sorrow for those who have lived and died before his time. By the time a reader gets to the end of the poem, it will be clear that the speaker is narrating the piece from beyond the grave. In conclusion, *Tears, Idle Tears* brings attention to feelings intimately associated with aging, such as regret, reminiscence, and despair. For doing stylistic analysis, phonological, morphological, semantic and lexical analysis have been made.

Phonological Level

Phonology is the study of linguistic systems. It describes how speech sounds are organized in English into a correct system. The phonological devices are rhymes, alliteration, consonance, assonance etc. Generally, the phonological study in stylistics explores the sounds and sound patterns used in literary texts. It examines the use of rhyme, assonance, alliteration, and other literary sound devices to convey meaning that create aesthetic effects. According to Simpson and Mayr (2010), “phonological analysis enables the stylistician to explore the ways in which sounds are deployed to create various forms of musicality, from the rhythmic to the



melodic" (p.142). By doing an analysis on the phonological features of a text, one can gain deep insight into the poet's intentions and the impact on the reader.

Stanza-1

Tears, idle tears, I know not what they mean,
Tears from the depth of some divine despair

Stanza -2

Fresh as the first beam glittering on a sail,
That brings our friends up from the underworld,
Sad as the last which reddens over one
So sad, so fresh, the days that are no more,

Stanza -3

Ah, sad and strange as in dark summer dawns
To dying ears, when unto dying eyes
The casement slowly grows a glimmering square;
So sad, so strange, the days that are no more.

Stanza -4

Dear as remember'd kisses after death,
And sweet as those by hopeless fancy feign'd
On lips that are for others; deep as love,
O Death in Life, the days that are no more!

Alliteration: In the above stanzas, one can see that there are lots of alliterative sounds that has been found under an underscore - " _".

Assonance: Assonance can also be seen in the poem, for example, in the repetition of the long "i" sound in "I know not what they mean" and "deep as first love."

Consonance: There are many instances of consonance where the same consonant sounds are repeated, such as in "sink with all we love below the verge."

Rhyme: The poem has a irregular rhyme scheme.

Metre: The poem is written in iambic tetrameter, meaning each line has four iambs, or unstressed syllable followed by a stressed syllable.

Repetition/Refrain: The phrase "the days that are no more" is repeated several times throughout the poem, emphasizing the theme of nostalgia and loss. It induces the melancholic nature of the poem.

Imagery: The poem uses vivid imagery to describe the tears and the sad memories that evoke them. For e.g. "fresh beam glittering on a sail" and the "dark summer dawns."

Morphological Level

Morphology refers to the mental system involved in word formation that deals with words, their internal structure, and how they are created or formed. A morphological study in stylistics involves a deep analysis on the structure of words and their contribution to the meaning and shows the effect of a literary text. This includes of Free Morphemes and Bound Morphemes. According to Leech and Short (2007), morphological analysis is a key aspect of stylistic inquiry that can reveal the subtle nuances of a text's linguistic structure.

Table I - Free and Bound Morphemes

Stanza	Free Morpheme	Bound Morpheme
1	Tears, idle, tears, know, not, they, mean, tears, from, depth, some, rise, heart, eyes, days, that, more,	Divine, despair, gather, looking, happy, thinking,
2	Fresh, first, beam, sail, brings, friends, from,	Glittering, underworld, reddens,



	our, sad, last, one, sinks, all, love, verge, sad, fresh, days, that, more,	over, below,
3	Ah, sad, strange, dark, dawns, pipe, birds, ears, when, eyes, grows, square, sad, strange, days, that, more,	Summer, earliest, dying, unto, dying, casement, slowly, glimmering,
4	Dear, death, sweet, those, feign'd, lips, that, deep, first, wild, all, love, death, life, days that, no, more,	Remember'd, kisses, after, hopeless, fancy, others, regret,

Semantic Level

A semantic study is an analysis of the meaning and interpretation of language in literary works. It examines a variety of semantic features such as word choice, metaphor, imagery, and connotation used in a work. In this analysis, the focus is on exploring the nuances of meanings created by the literary devices. According to Verdonk (2002), it is important to study the semantics of a text to gain a deeper understanding of the literary work and multidimensional interpretations. The semantic analysis of a literary work enables to unveil the layers of meaning in a text. It will also provide deeper insights into the author's intentions and the strategies employed in narration.

Stanza One

In the first lines of this piece, the speaker describes how he feels tears in his eyes. He doesn't know why they are there or what has caused them. This leads to the description of them as being "idle tears." (L 1) It is an emotion that has suddenly overwhelmed him and his brain is yet to catch up to his heart. The only thing that is clear at this point is that they come "from the depth of some divine despair." (L 2) The lines show the yearning of the poet. In looking on the happy Autumn-fields, / And thinking of the days that are no more. (L 4, 5)

Stanza Two

In the second stanza, the speaker reveals that the pain he feels at this moment of recollection is as fresh as it was the moment he first experienced it. Then, in the second line, he reveals why thinking about lost days causes him such pain. He claims that these memories "bring our friends up from the underworld." (L 7) Here, it becomes apparent the speaker is thinking about people who have died before him. The wound feels fresh as the memory of their lives and deaths spring upon him. And also the speaker reveals that the pain he feels at this moment of recollection is as fresh as it was the moment he first experienced it. It is a strange thing for "dying ears" (L 13) to hear the birds beginning to wake. As he hears the birds and thinks about the days gone by and how few days he has left, he considers "the casement." (L 14) This is a reference to the part of a window that hinges open. It is dissolving before his eyes into nothing more than a "glimmering square." (L 14)

Stanza Three

In the third stanza, the speaker says that he finds these days gone by very strange. Throughout *Tears, Idle Tears*, the speaker seems unable to fully understand his feelings. He does not know exactly where the tears come from nor does he know what divine despair causes them. The speaker states that the feeling in his heart is, "strange as in dark summer dawns." (L 11) He then describes the sound of birds as they are just awakening, and contrasts that sound with his feelings. The speaker knows that he is in his last days, unlike the birds.

Stanza Four

In the final stanza, it becomes clear the speaker is narrating from beyond the grave. He tells the reader that "kisses after death" are sweet and "Dear." (L 16) They are compared to those experienced in life that is "hopeless fancy feigned." (L 17) The speaker is relating



the emotions of death to those of love. Death is filled with the same mourning and, hopefully, joyful reception into another world. Lips will often want kisses that are meant for “others.” (L 18) The same goes for the speaker who wants to continue in his life but is unable.

Lexical Level

A lexical level study refers to the analysis of the choice, use, and meaning of individual words or lexis in a literary text (Simpson, 2004). This approach is concerned with the stylistic effects of linguistic features such as semantics, connotations, collocations, and figurative language, and how they contribute to the overall meaning and impact of a text on the reader (Short, 2014). For instance, a lexical level study can examine the use of metaphors and similes in a poem to reveal the poet's attitudes, emotions, and themes. Additionally, this approach can reveal how the author uses language to create different impressions and effects on the reader. Therefore, a thorough lexical study can provide insights into the style, technique, and meaning of a literary work.

Table II – Lexical Analysis

Stanza	Noun	Pronoun	Verb	Adverb	Adjective	Preposition	Conjunction	Interjection
1	Idle, depth, rise, heart, eyes, autumn, fields, days,	I, what, they, some,	Tears, tears, knows, mean, tears, despair, gather, looking, thinking, are,	Not, more	Divine, happy,	From, of, in, to, in, on, of,	And, and, that,	
2	Beam, sail, friends, underworld, sinks, love, verge,	Which, one, we,	Brings, our, reddens, are,	As, up, as, over, all, more,	Fresh, first, glittering, sad, last, sad, fresh,	On, from, with, below,	That, so, so, that,	
3	Summer, pipe, birds, ears, eyes, casement, glimmering, square,		Dawns grows, are,	As, when, slowly, more, no,	Sad, strange, dark, earliest, half-awakened, dying, dying, sad, sad,	Of, to, in,	And, unto, so, so, that,	Ah,
4	Dear, kisses, death, sweet, fancy, lips, others, love, love, o, death, life, days	Those,	Remember'd, feign'd, regret, are,	After, as, as, as, all, no, more,	Hopeless, deep, deep, first, wild,	By, on, with, in,	And, that, for, and, that,	



Conclusion

The comprehensive stylistic analysis of Alfred Lord Tennyson's poem "Tears, Idle Tears," has unveiled the complexity and depth of this renowned piece of literature. By exploring various stylistic devices such as imagery, metaphor, simile, alliteration, assonance, and others, it has become evident how intricately these elements intertwine to create the poem's melancholic tone and underlying themes of longing, sorrow, and the transience of time. The distinct characteristics of Tennyson's use of diction, rhythm, and rhyme scheme have further underpinned the poem's emotional weight and introspective mood, reinforcing its enduring appeal to readers. This exploration has shown that these stylistic choices, while unique to Tennyson's artistic voice, were also profoundly influenced by his personal experiences and the broader context of the Victorian era. Tennyson's masterful use of these stylistic devices not only imbues the poem with emotional intensity but also gives it a universal resonance, as the themes explored touch upon shared human experiences and emotions. This research reaffirms the enduring relevance and emotional power of Tennyson's "Tears, Idle Tears," and underscores its value as a seminal work in the study of stylistic analysis in poetry. In addition, this study deepens our understanding of the way that stylistic devices can be deployed to convey complex themes and emotions, providing valuable insights for both the analysis and creation of poetry.

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Annexure

from The Princess: Tears, Idle Tears

- Alfred, Lord Tennyson

Tears, idle tears, I know not what they mean,
Tears from the depth of some divine despair
Rise in the heart, and gather to the eyes,
In looking on the happy Autumn-fields,
And thinking of the days that are no more.
Fresh as the first beam glittering on a sail,
That brings our friends up from the underworld,



Sad as the last which reddens over one
That sinks with all we love below the verge;
So sad, so fresh, the days that are no more.
Ah, sad and strange as in dark summer dawns
The earliest pipe of half-awaken'd birds
To dying ears, when unto dying eyes
The casement slowly grows a glimmering square;
So sad, so strange, the days that are no more.
Dear as remember'd kisses after death,
And sweet as those by hopeless fancy feign'd
On lips that are for others; deep as love,
Deep as first love, and wild with all regret;
O Death in Life, the days that are no more!

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An Eco-Critical Study of Exploring Nature, Humanity, and Environmental Consciousness in A.K. Ramanujan's "A River"

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Abstract

This research paper employs an eco-critical approach to analyze the poem "A River" written by A.K. Ramanujan. By examining the intertwining relationship between nature, humanity, and environmental consciousness, this paper aims to shed light on the ecological dimensions of the poem. It speaks of the over-flowing river Vaigai in Madurai and its dry state in comparison. Drawing on eco-critical theories and concepts, such as the interconnectedness of all living beings and the representation of landscapes, this analysis delves into the poem's portrayal of nature, its impact on human experience, and the poet A.K. Ramanujan's ecological message. Through this exploration, we gain a deeper understanding of the environmental themes and their implications for our collective responsibility towards the natural world.

Keywords: Eco-Criticism, Nature, Humanity, A.K. Ramanujan, "A River".

Introduction

The poem "A River" by A.K. Ramanujan is a reflection on the nature of existence and the passing of time. The river in which the poem is set serves as a metaphor for life's cycles and the transition from birth to death. Ramanujan was an English and Kannada-writing poet, scholar, and translator from India. He was raised in Kolkata after being born in Mysore in 1929. He attended the University of Mysore while pursuing his education, and afterwards graduated with a PhD in linguistics from Indiana University, Bloomington. Ramanujan was well known for his skill in fusing traditional Indian culture with modern Western philosophy, and his work was greatly impacted by his upbringing in a bilingual and multicultural milieu. When "A River" was written in the 1960s, India was going through a lot of transformation. The nation was attempting to forge a new identity as it emerged from colonial domination. Ramanujan investigates the connections between tradition and modernity, nature and culture, and the individual and the community in his poetry, which conveys this feeling of flux and development. The speaker of the poem begins by reflecting on the river's flow, which is called both "ancient" and "young." As it travels through various climes and landscapes, the river is both constant and always changing. The river, according to the speaker, is tenacious and elusive at the same time because it forges new connections and forges new paths while still carrying the memories and customs of the past. The speaker is dragged deeper and deeper into the enigmatic river as the poem goes on. They start to understand the river as a spiritual power that unites everything, in addition to being a physical reality. The speaker experiences awe and wonders as the river takes on the meaning of the interconnectivity of all life. Finally, when the speaker bows to the river's flow, the poem comes to a close on a note of acceptance and submission. The poem urges readers to let go of the past and embrace the present to be carried by life's enduring force. In general, Ramanujan's "A River" is a deeply



spiritual and intellectual poem that displays his multifaceted worldview and his distinctive fusion of Western and Indian philosophies. It is still a potent and enduring piece of poetry that has a lasting impact on readers everywhere.

Review of Literature

Narayanan's "Riverscape: of Time and Memory in A. K. Ramanujan's Poetry" examines the theme of time and memory in Ramanujan's poems, specifically related to rivers, especially "A River" about the river Vaigai in Tamil Nadu. The article delves into how Ramanujan uses the metaphor of rivers to explore the intersection of past and present, personal and collective memory in his poems.

Kavitha's "Undiscovering the River: An Ecocritical Analysis of A. K. Ramanujan's 'A River' and 'Still Life'" takes an ecocritical approach to Ramanujan's poems and focuses on how the poet uses the river as a metaphor for the portrayal of environment. The close reading of the poems "A River" and "Still Life," in the article argues that Ramanujan's poetry is marked by an innate yearning for environmental consciousness. It also highlights the need for greater awareness for environmental concerns in the modern society.

Sekhar's "Ecocritical Perspectives in A. K. Ramanujan's Poetry" takes an ecocritical approach to Ramanujan's poetry. The article argues that Ramanujan uses natural elements such as the river, trees, and animals as symbols that portray ecological sustainability. The article also stresses the importance of Ramanujan's poetry in making readers aware of environmental issues.

Ghanekar's "Myths of Materiality: A. K. Ramanujan's 'A River' and 'Looking for a Cousin on a Swing'" analyzes the poems "A River" and "Looking for a Cousin on a Swing" and explore how his poetry subverts traditional myths and narratives into poetic themes. The article highlights the importance of the river as a symbol that represents both life and death.

Sridhar's "On the Ecological Significance of A. K. Ramanujan's 'A River'" examines the eco-critical elements in the poem "A River." The article portrays that Ramanujan's poem can be read as a warning bell against the rude exploitation of nature. It can be a suitable one to show the present debris made by man. The article concludes that Ramanujan's poetry is highly relevant to the current environmental problems.

Krishna's "The Poetics of Water in A. K. Ramanujan's 'A River'" delves into the symbolic importance of water. The article analyzes Ramanujan's use of water imagery in "A River" and highlights its connection to themes of time, memory, loss and cultural identity.

Viswanathan's "A Rereading of A. K. Ramanujan's A River" examines "A River" in the context of Nature's significance. The article argues that the poem can be interpreted as a commentary on the human condition and its relationship to nature.

Chandra's "'Breaking and Entering': A. K. Ramanujan's Articulation of Ecstasy in 'A River'" analyzes the poem "A River" in terms of its relation to the concept of natural aesthetics in literature. The article examines how the poet uses language and imagery to evoke a sense of intense emotion, feeling, aesthetic sense and transcendence in the minds of the reader.

Sujatha's "The Poetics of Cultures: A Critical Study of A. K. Ramanujan's Poetry" takes a much broader perspective on Ramanujan's poetry. It examines its connection to Indian cultural traditions, sites and heritage. The article argues that Ramanujan's poetry reflects the complex coordination between multiple cultural influences and offers a unique perspective on cultural identity that gives the sense of nativity with nature.

The review of literature proves that the inner core of A. K. Ramanujan's Poem "A River" has deep influence of nature and his view points on nature. It could be a suitable



theme to write at the present state of ecological imbalance, climate change and green house problems. Hence, an eco-critical analysis would be a suitable one for getting the eco based ideas in the poem.

Origins of Eco-Criticism

Eco-criticism is an interdisciplinary approach that examines the relationship between literature and the natural environment. It emerged in the late 20th century as a response to growing environmental concerns and a desire to understand the ecological dimensions of literary texts. Eco-criticism draws on theories and methodologies from fields such as literary studies, ecology, environmental philosophy, and cultural studies. The key ideas in eco-criticism include the interconnection between humans and the natural world, the representation of nature in literature, the examination of environmental crises, and the exploration of ecological ethics and responsibility.

Eco-Critical Analysis and Literary Works

The eco-critical analysis involves examining literary works through an environmental lens. It seeks to understand how nature is portrayed, how human-nature relationships are depicted, and what environmental messages or themes are conveyed in the text. The eco-critical approach to "A River" allows for a deeper understanding of how the poem represents nature, explores human-nature relationships, and addresses environmental concerns. It helps uncover the ecological dimensions of the text and highlights the significance of environmental consciousness in Ramanujan's work.

Depiction of the Natural Landscape

In "A River," Ramanujan portrays the river as a living entity with agency and presence. The river is characterized by its continuous flow and its ability to shape the landscape. It is depicted as a powerful force that moves through various terrains, reflecting the dynamism and vitality of nature. Ramanujan vividly describes the natural landscape surrounding the river, incorporating sensory details that evoke the reader's imagination. He captures the beauty and diversity of the natural world, from the "stone and water" to the "leaves and birds." The Flora and fauna in the poem serve as symbols of the interconnectedness of all living beings. Ramanujan employs the imagery of trees, flowers, birds, and fish to illustrate the rich biodiversity and fragile balance of the ecosystem. The poem also acknowledges the influence of weather and seasonal changes on the river and its surroundings. Ramanujan highlights the cyclical nature of the environment, emphasizing how the river's character and appearance are shaped by the changing seasons.

Human Perception of Nature

Ramanujan explores the human perception of nature in "A River". He highlights the awe-inspiring beauty of the natural world and suggests that humans often fail to fully appreciate or understand its significance. The poem suggests that nature has a profound impact on human experience. The river is depicted as a source of solace and inspiration,

Exploitation versus Harmony

Ramanujan reflects on the contrasting approaches of exploitation and harmony towards the environment. Humans, as portrayed in the poem, have the potential to exploit nature for their own needs or coexist harmoniously with it. The poem hints at the destructive consequences of exploitation through imagery such as "The factory hoots, the mournful flute" (Ramanujan, line 6). This industrial presence signifies the negative impact of human activities on the river and the surrounding ecosystem. Further, Ramanujan presents an alternative approach to harmony by emphasizing the river's intrinsic beauty and the need for humans to appreciate and protect it. The river's significance lies in its ability to sustain life



and inspire awe, calling for a more considerate and responsible human-nature relationship.

Ecological Responsibility

“A River” highlights the importance of environmental responsibility and stewardship towards the environment. Ramanujan suggests that humans have to care for and protect nature rather than exploit it. The poem encourages a sense of stewardship through the portrayal of the river as a living entity deserving of respect. The river's continuous flow and its power to shape the landscape serve as reminders of its intrinsic value and the need for human guardianship. By emphasizing the interconnection between humans and nature, Ramanujan implies that responsible actions towards the environment are essential for the well-being of both parties. This echoes the principles of ecological responsibility, urging individuals to act as caretakers of the natural world.

Ecopoetics and Poetic Language

The poem employs poetic language that enhances its ecopoetic qualities. Ramanujan's vivid imagery and descriptive language create an immersive experience, allowing readers to connect with the natural world and contemplate their ecological surroundings. The poet utilizes metaphors and personification to animate the river and the natural landscape. This figurative language not only deepens the reader's engagement but also reinforces the idea that nature is a living entity deserving of empathy and care.

Ecological Theme

The poem conveys several ecological themes and messages. It raises awareness about the vulnerability of the environment, the consequences of human actions, and the urgent need for sustainable practices. The poem prompts reflection on the interconnectedness of all living beings and emphasizes the importance of preserving biodiversity. Through its portrayal of flora, fauna, and natural cycles, the poem conveys a message of ecological balance and the delicate harmony that sustains life. Ramanujan's poem subtly represents an environmental crisis through its depictions of industrialization and exploitation. The presence of the factory symbolizes the degradation of the river and the surrounding ecosystem. This representation underscores the urgency of addressing environmental issues and seeking sustainable alternatives. “A River” serves as a call for environmental awareness and action. Ramanujan's portrayal of the river's beauty and its vital role in sustaining life

Environmental and Ecocentric Ethics

The poem projects a powerful environmental message that critiques the exploitation of nature and calls for a more harmonious human-nature relationship. Ramanujan presents the destructive consequences of human activities on the river and its ecosystem, evoking a sense of urgency to address environmental issues. The poem encourages readers to reflect upon their role in the degradation of the natural world and prompts a shift towards responsible and sustainable actions. “A River” has profound implications for ecocentric ethics, which prioritize the intrinsic value of the environment and advocate for its protection. The poem portrays nature as a living entity deserving of respect and stewardship. It invites readers to adopt an ecocentric perspective, recognizing the interconnectedness of all living beings and the importance of preserving biodiversity. By emphasizing the need for ecological responsibility, the poem aligns with ecocentric ethics, urging individuals to prioritize the well-being of the environment over human-centred interests.

Literature and Environmental Advocacy

“A River” exemplifies the role of literature in environmental advocacy. Through its vivid descriptions, evocative imagery, and emotional impact, the poem raises environmental consciousness and prompts readers to reevaluate their relationship with nature. Literature has



the power to inspire empathy, provoke critical thinking, and mobilize action. By incorporating environmental themes and messages, literary works like “A River” contribute to shaping public discourse, fostering a deeper understanding of ecological issues, and encouraging positive environmental change.

A Stanza Wise analysis of the Poem

"A River" is a powerful eco-critical analysis of the environmental degradation caused by human activities. The poet's use of vivid imagery and poetic language draws attention to the pressing environmental issues that plague our world. It highlights the need for greater empathy and compassion towards both, the environment and its victims.

**In Madurai,
city of temples and poets,
who sang of cities and temples,
every summer
a river dries to a trickle
in the sand,
baring the sand ribs,
straw and women's hair
clogging the Watergates
at the rusty bars
under the bridges with patches
of repair all over them
the wet stones glistening like sleepy
crocodiles, the dry ones
shaven water-buffaloes lounging in the sun
The poets only sang of the floods. (L 1-16)**

The poem "A River" by A.K. Ramanujan presents an eco-critical analysis of the impact of human activities on a river. The first stanza sets the context of Madurai, a city of temples and poets who sang of cities and temples. However, the river in Madurai dries up to a trickle in summer, exposing sand ribs, straw, and women's hair clogging the watergates. The rusty bars under the bridges are patched all over them. The wet stones glisten like sleepy crocodiles, while the dry ones look like shaven water-buffaloes lounging in the sun. The poet presents a vivid picture of how human activities have made the river suffer, reducing it to a barren sight. The riverside is littered with waste, and the watergates are clogged, indicating a lack of care for the environment.

**He was there for a day
when they had the floods.
People everywhere talked
of the inches rising,
of the precise number of cobbled steps
run over by the water, rising
on the bathing places,
and the way it carried off three village houses,
one pregnant woman
and a couple of cows
named Gopi and Brinda as usual. (L 17-26)**

In the second stanza, the poet presents the perspective of people during the floods. People discussed in detail every inch of the rising water, the precise number of cobbled steps



overrun by the water, and how it carried off three village houses, one pregnant woman, and a couple of cows named Gopi and Brinda. However, no one spoke in verse about the drowned pregnant woman, who may have been expecting identical twins with no moles on their bodies and different coloured diapers to tell them apart. The poet points out the ignorance of people during the floods, where they are only concerned with material things that affect them, forgetting the significance of human lives that are lost.

**The new poets still quoted
the old poets, but no one spoke
in verse
of the pregnant woman
drowned, with perhaps twins in her,
kicking at blank walls
even before birth.**

**He said:
the river has water enough
to be poetic
about only once a year
and then
it carries away
in the first half-hour
three village houses,
a couple of cows
named Gopi and Brinda
and one pregnant woman
expecting identical twins
with no moles on their bodies,
with different coloured diapers
to tell them apart. (L 18-48)**

The final stanza reminds the readers that the river is poetic enough that only once a year when it floods. However, during this time, it carries away human lives and destroys the environment. The poet highlights the tragedy of the river, which is appreciated for its beauty only when it is dangerous. The poem portrays a harsh reality of how human actions have desecrated the river, making it a threat to human life. The poet concludes the poem with a powerful statement that questions the need for a poem when the reality of the river is more critical, and the loss of human life is evident.

Conclusion

The poem “A River” serves as a poignant eco-critical text that reflects on the exploitation vs. harmony in human-nature relationships, emphasizes ecological responsibility and stewardship, and calls for environmental awareness and action. Through its environmental message, the poem prompts critique, reflection, and introspection, challenging readers to reassess their impact on the environment. An eco-critical analysis of “A River” reveals its multifaceted representation of nature, human-nature relationships, and environmental consciousness. The poem portrays nature as a living entity, emphasizes the interconnectedness of all life forms, and highlights the consequences of human actions on the environment. It calls for a shift towards ecocentric ethics, advocating for a harmonious coexistence between humans and nature. “A River” underscores the significance of environmental consciousness in the modern world. It serves as a reminder of the urgent need



to address environmental issues, promote sustainable practices, and foster a sense of ecological responsibility. The poem encourages individuals to develop a deeper connection with nature, cultivate empathy for the environment, and take proactive steps towards a more sustainable and harmonious future.

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A Comparative Stylistic Study of W.B. Yeats' "Easter, 1916" and Subramaniya Bharathi's "Indian Republic"

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Abstract

The comparative stylistic study involves analyzing and comparing the stylistic features of different literary works within a specific period or genre. This abstract explores a comparative analysis of two poems, "Easter, 1916" by W.B. Yeats and the "Indian Republic" by Subramaniya Bharathi. The study examines their graphological, morphological, phonological, and semantic aspects to understand the unique stylistic choices employed by the poets. The analysis reveals the contrasting styles and themes of the poems, highlighting the diverse ways in which poets use stylistic techniques to convey their messages effectively. "Easter, 1916" captures the rebellious spirit and struggle for Irish independence, while "Indian Republic" celebrates unity, equality, and national pride. The study underscores the significance of form and content in poetry and emphasizes the power of poetic techniques in conveying emotions, historical moments, and social reflections.

Keywords: Comparative Stylistic Study, W.B. Yeats, "Easter, 1916", Subramaniya Bharathi, "Indian Republic"

Introduction

Stylistics, a branch of linguistics, focuses on the study of style and its impact on language use. It explores how language choices and structures contribute to the overall meaning and effect of a text. By analyzing the linguistic features of texts, stylistic analysis uncovers the underlying patterns, techniques, and strategies employed by writers to convey their intended messages. This introduction provides an overview of stylistics, highlighting its key concepts and theories, and presents a review of literature on the subject. Stylistics examines various aspects of language, including vocabulary, grammar, syntax, phonetics, and discourse, to understand how they shape the stylistic characteristics of a text. It investigates the ways in which authors make deliberate linguistic choices to create specific effects and evoke particular responses from their readers. These choices may involve the use of figures of speech, rhetorical devices, narrative techniques, or specific linguistic features such as metaphor, alliteration, rhyme, and word order. One prominent approach in stylistic analysis is the concept of foregrounding, proposed by Roman Jakobson (1960). Foregrounding refers to the manipulation of linguistic elements to deviate from ordinary or expected patterns, drawing attention to specific features of a text. It can be achieved through various means, such as phonological deviations, lexical choices, syntactic structures, or semantic shifts. Foregrounding allows authors to emphasize certain ideas or evoke particular emotions, making their texts more memorable and impactful. Stylistic analysis also encompasses the study of literary devices, which are techniques employed to enhance the aesthetic and artistic qualities of a text. Devices such as similes, metaphors, personifications, and irony add depth and complexity to the language, enabling writers to create vivid imagery and convey abstract



concepts effectively. These devices contribute to the overall style and tone of a text, shaping the reader interpretation and experience.

Literature on stylistics spans several topics, exploring both theoretical frameworks and practical applications. Some studies focus on the analysis of specific genres, such as poetry, drama, or prose fiction, examining the unique stylistic features employed within each genre. Others investigate stylistic variations across different periods, regions, or literary movements, providing insights into the historical and cultural contexts that influence language use.

Review of Literature

Stylistics: According to Leech and Short (1981), stylistics is concerned with the study of the linguistic features of literary texts. It focuses on analyzing the ways in which language is used in literature to create various effects.

Comparative stylistics: In their study on comparative stylistics, Carter and Simpson (1989) compare the linguistic features and structures of different languages and genres. They argue that this approach can provide insights into the ways in which language is used to convey meaning across different cultures.

Graphology: According to Poulson and Richardson (2011), graphology is the study of handwriting as a means of analyzing personality, emotions, and behavior. It involves analyzing the strokes and shapes of letters to make inferences about the writer.

Morphology: In their seminal work on morphology, Matthews and Yip (1994) argue that it is concerned with the study of the structure of words, including their inflexional and derivational forms. It examines the ways in which words are formed and how meanings can be altered through different morphological processes.

Phonology: According to Hayes (2011), phonology is the study of the sound patterns of language. It involves analyzing the ways in which phonemes (the smallest units of sound in language) are combined to create words and how these patterns vary across languages.

Semantics: In their study on the role of semantics in language learning, Ellis and Shintani (2014) argue that semantics is concerned with the study of meaning in language. It involves analyzing the ways in which words and phrases convey meaning and how these meanings can be interpreted in different contexts.

Researchers have also explored the relationship between stylistics and other disciplines, such as psychology, sociology, and cognitive science. These interdisciplinary approaches shed light on how stylistic choice impact readers' cognitive processes, emotional responses, and social perceptions. By combining linguistic analysis with insights from these fields, scholars have developed a more comprehensive understanding of the intricate relationship between style, language, and human communication.

What is a Comparative Stylistic Study?

The comparative stylistic study involves analyzing and comparing the stylistic features of different literary works within a specific period or genre. This helps to identify the unique features of each author writing style and to understand how they are similar or different to others in the same literary tradition. Poems can be useful for teaching as they are relatively short and can be easily analyzed in a classroom setting. They also often employ literary techniques such as metaphors, similes, and imagery, which can be used to teach English development and critical thinking skills. The comparative stylistic study can be useful in developing English skills as it requires students to:

- Analyze and compare literary works to identify patterns and differences in writing styles.



- Use literary vocabulary to discuss the effects of the various literary techniques used in each work.
- Develop critical thinking skills by making connections between different works and identifying themes common across them.

Overall, the comparative stylistic study of poems can be an effective tool in teaching and developing English skills and fostering a deeper appreciation of literature.

Introduction to the Authors

William Butler Yeats and Subramaniya Bharathi are two prominent poets who have marked their legacy in the realm of patriotic poetry. They both expressed their love and concern towards their respective countries, Ireland and India, through their poignant poems. Their works have become a cornerstone of their nation's cultural heritage, representing their struggles and achievements in the pursuit of freedom and independence.

W.B. Yeats was a leading figure of the Irish Literary Revival, a literary movement that sought to re-establish Irish identity through cultural revivalism. Yeats' patriotic poems are rooted in the rich history and myth of Ireland. His poems like "Easter, 1916" and "September 1913" reflect his love and concern for Ireland, in the wake of the country's struggles for independence. Yeats' poetry is deeply philosophical and symbolic, in which he explores the eternal themes of failure, conflict, and the passage of time. Subramaniya Bharathi was a stalwart of Indian literature and was at the forefront of India's freedom struggle. He wrote extensively on social and political issues, emphasising on the need for a free, unified India. Bharathi's poems affirmed his grit and determination and his unwavering belief in the cause of Indian nationalism. His poems like "Vandemataram" and "Nalladhori Veenai Seithe" became the anthems of the Indian independence movement, inspiring millions to join the struggle.

Indeed, W.B. Yeats and Subramaniya Bharathi are both irreplaceable in the world of literature, who carved a niche for themselves as patriotic poets. They were not only poets but also visionaries who fought for their nation rights and freedom. Their poems affirm their love for their respective countries and their commitment to the cause of nationalism. Their works continue to inspire generations of readers and will undoubtedly be remembered as literary jewels of the patriotic genre.

Introduction to the Poems

Two poems were selected for the study. One is "Easter, 1916" written by W.B. Yeats and the "Indian Republic" written by Subramaniya Bharathi. "Easter, 1916" is a poem written by the prominent Irish poet and playwright W.B. Yeats in response to the Easter Rising, a rebellion against British rule in Ireland, which occurred in 1916. The poem was published in 1921, shortly after the Irish War of Independence. In it, Yeats expresses his complex feelings about the Rising, which he initially opposed but came to determine as a transformative moment in Irish history. The poem is notable for its use of powerful imagery and metaphor to explore the themes of sacrifice, heroism, and the struggle for Irish independence. The "Indian Republic" is a patriotic poem written by Subramaniya Bharathi and translated into English by S. Prema. The poem celebrates the spirit and ideals of the Republic of Bharat (India) and emphasizes the unity, equality and determination of its people. In this stylistic analysis, we examine the poem from four perspectives: Graphological, Morphological, Phonological, and Semantics. For the comparative study of the poems, graphological, morphological, phonological, and semantic analyses have been employed.

Graphological Analysis

The poem "Easter, 1916" by WB Yeats is written in free verse and consists of four



stanzas, each consisting of sixteen lines. The poem is punctuated with a dash after every third line, creating a pause and emphasizing the importance of each line. The poet also uses enjambment, which adds to the flow of the poem and creates a sense of continuity. The poem is written in lowercase with no capitalization, which reflects the poet's rejection of the conventional rules of poetry and adds to the informal tone of the poem. The poem "Indian Republic" consists of six stanzas, each containing four lines. The consistent structure of the poem creates a sense of rhythm and balance. The poem starts and ends with the refrain "Long live the Republic," emphasizing the central theme. The use of exclamation marks in the opening lines intensifies patriotic fervour and serves as a call to action.'

Morphological Analysis

The poem "Easter, 1916" consists of 64 lines, and the poet uses a range of morphological techniques to convey his message. One of the most prominent techniques employed is repetition, where the poet repeats certain words and phrases, such as "polite meaningless words" and "terrible beauty," which create a sense of emphasis and intensify the impact of the poem. The poet also uses a range of suffixes and prefixes, such as "un" in "unconquerable," "dis" in "disfigured," and "re" in "re-passionate," which adds to the depth and complexity of the language used in the poem. The poem "Indian Republic" employs a concise and direct language, using simple words and phrases to convey its message effectively. The poet's choice of words reflects patriotic sentiments such as "victory," "marvel," "spacious," and "mighty." The repetition of words and phrases, like "Republic of Bharat" and "Long live the Republic," enhances the poem's rhetorical impact and creates a sense of unity and solidarity among the people.

Phonological Analysis

The poet "Easter, 1916" uses a range of phonological techniques to create musicality and rhythm in his poem. The poem has a regular metre, with each line consist of eight or nine syllables, which contribute to its musical quality. The poet also uses alliterations such as "yellow" and "yawning" in the second stanza, which adds to the musical quality of the poem and creates a sense of harmony. The poet also employs irregular rhyme throughout the poem, even it adds music effects. The poem "Indian Republic" exhibits a rhythmic quality with its regular metre and rhyme scheme. The consistent use of an iambic tetrameter (four metrical feet per line) establishes musicality and helps to maintain the flow of the poems. The repetition of the refrain "Long live the Republic" serves as a rallying cry and creates a powerful auditory effect. Alliteration and consonance are also used in phrases such as "commonwealth of ours" and "revel in sensuality" to add emphasis and enhance the poetic quality.

Semantic Analysis

The poem "Easter, 1916" by WB Yeats deals with the Irish Easter Rising of 1916, and the poet explores the themes of sacrifice, rebellion, and the struggle for Irish independence. The poet expresses his admiration for the rebels who fought for their freedom, describing them as "terrible beauty." The poem also explores the political and social context of the time, with the poet criticizing the "polite meaningless words" of the British government and expressing his desire for a free and independent Ireland. The poem is filled with emotion, and the poet creates a sense of passion and intensity that reflects the spirit of rebellion and sacrifice that inspired the Irish during this time. The poem "Indian Republic" overarching theme is the celebration of the Indian Republic and its ideals. It highlights the unity and equality among the citizens, emphasizing the rejection of greed, selfishness, and indifference towards others' suffering. The poet evokes a sense of national pride and emphasizes the



nation's abundance and generosity. References to Lord Krishna's teachings and the concept of attaining the "Life Divine" imply the spiritual and moral aspirations of the Indians. The poem conveys a strong message of determination and sacrifice to protect and preserve the Republic at all costs.

Findings

The poems "Easter, 1916" by WB Yeats and "Indian Republic" present contrasting styles and themes, showcasing the diverse ways in which poets employ graphological, morphological, phonological, and semantic techniques to convey their messages. In terms of graphological analysis, "Easter, 1916" stands out with its unconventional structure and formatting. The use of free verse, lowercase letters, and dashes after every third line creates a distinct visual representation that rejects traditional poetic norms. On the other hand, the "Indian Republic" follows a more conventional structure with consistent stanzas and an emphatic refrain. The use of exclamation marks in the opening lines adds intensity and urgency to the patriotic theme.

Morphologically, "Easter, 1916" demonstrates a rich variety of techniques. Repetition plays a significant role in emphasizing certain words and phrases to enhance their impact. Additionally, the use of suffixes and prefixes adds depth and complexity to the language. In contrast, "Indian Republic" opts for a concise and direct language, focusing on simple words and phrases that embody patriotic sentiment. The repetition of key words and phrases reinforce the poem's rhetorical impact and fosters a sense of unity.

Phonologically, "Easter, 1916" utilizes musicality and rhythm through regular metre and rhyme. The use of alliteration and rhyme schemes contributes to the poem's harmonious quality. Conversely, "Indian Republic" also employs a regular metre and rhyme scheme, but its rhythmic quality is more driven by the repetition of the refrain and the use of alliteration and consonance for emphasis and poetic effect.

Semantically, "Easter, 1916" delves into the themes of sacrifice, rebellion, and Irish independence. The poet expresses admiration for the rebels and critiques the British government's empty rhetoric, capturing the intense emotions and fervour of the time. The "Indian Republic" celebrates the ideals of unity, equality, and national pride. It emphasizes rejecting greed and selfishness while aspiring for a spiritual and morally elevated society. The poem exudes determination and sacrifice to safeguard the Republic.

In conclusion, "Easter, 1916" and "Indian Republic" employ distinct stylistic choices and explore contrasting themes. "Easter, 1916" embraces unconventional graphological elements, morphological intricacies, and phonological musicality to capture the rebellious spirit and struggle for independence. The "Indian Republic," on the other hand, employs a more conventional structure, concise language, rhythmic qualities, and patriotic semantic elements to celebrate unity, equality, and national pride. These poems exemplify the diverse ways in which poets use stylistic techniques to convey their messages effectively.

Conclusion

"Easter, 1916" by WB Yeats is a powerful and emotive poem that explores the themes of sacrifice, rebellion, and the struggle for Irish independence. The poet uses a range of stylistic techniques to create a sense of musicality, rhythm, and passion, and the poem's structure, tone, and language all contribute to its impact and resonance with readers. The "Indian Republic" by Subramaniya Bharathi is a patriotic poem that uses various stylistic elements to evoke a sense of national unity, pride, and determination. Through its graphological, morphological, phonological, and semantic features, the poem captures the essence of the Indian Republic, celebrating its people and ideals. The repetition of the refrain,



the rhythmic structure, and the use of concise yet powerful language contribute to the poem's emotional impact and inspire a sense of devotion and commitment towards the nation. Overall, the comparative analysis of "Easter, 1916" and "Indian Republic" highlights the importance of form and content in poetry. The poets' stylistic choices reflect their respective messages and help to emphasize certain themes and emotions. The analysis also underscores the malleability of the poetic form, showing how different techniques can be used to a great effect in conveying different messages. Ultimately, both poems demonstrate the power of poetry to capture historical moments and offer critiques, celebrations, and reflections on society and human nature.

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