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## EMERGENCE OF ECOCRITICISM: A REVIEW

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### **Abstract:**

*Environment has posed a great threat to all the living organisms on the planet called Earth. The extensive misuse of natural resources has left the human kind at great risk of survival. The rain forests are cut down, the fossil fuel is fast decreasing, the climate change, ecological disaster is frequent now around the globe and nature and environment are at the margin. In recent times, there arose a new theory of reading nature writing during the last decade of the previous century called as Eco Criticism. It is popularly known throughout the world as a movement which came into existence as a reaction to human anthropocentric attitude of dominating nature.*

**Keywords:** *Criticism, Eco-criticism, Environmental Justice, Ego, Consciousness, etc.*

We look at the term ecocriticism as one of the youngest revisionist movements, which has swept the humanities over the past few decades. In the present contemporary recent times we have witness the pandemic in form of covid-19 and how it has globally effected every sector, whether business or management, trade or commerce and so on. In the present times the world is facing Eco-disasters and our environment is now at stake. Only science and technology are not enough to combat the global ecological crisis.

In the present times human beings have occupied the central position where as the nature, the earth, the environment, the ecological sphere is at the Margin. For a long time nature was marginalized by the literary critics, so ecologically oriented literature pleads for a better understanding of nature in its wider significance.

Eco Criticism has developed as a 'worldwide emergent movement' during last three decades and now due to the global pandemic covid-19 it has taken up a great momentum. The literary scholars are still engaged in developing its nature and scope. The term Eco criticism was first coined by William Rueckert in his critical writing, "*Literature and Ecology: An Experiment in Eco criticism*" in 1978. The term 'eco' comes from Greek root word 'oikos' which etymologically means household or earth and 'logy' from 'logos' means logical discourse. Together it may mean criticism of the house - the environment as represented in literature, or Discourse on household or logical Discourse on earth and as represented in Literature. Lawrence Buell defines ecocriticism as 'a study of the relationship between literature and the environment conducted in a spirit of commitment to environmentalists praxis.'

According to Rueckert, Eco criticism applies ecology or ecological principles into the study of literature, and Patrick D. Murphy is right when he mentioned that 'Ecocriticism is literary criticism that arises from and is Oriented toward a concern with human and non human interaction and interrelationship'. Ecology can be categorized into two parts as Shallow ecology and Deep ecology. The Shallow ecology is essentially anthropocentric, which believes that the whole purpose of nature is to serve mankind and humans are the masters of nature; man being the only literary creature thinks

himself to be superior, dominant, over the others. It also advocated systemic usages of natural resources like Coal, gas, forests, oil, for sustainable future for all living and non- living.

All the living creatures, all the organisms on the planet earth have their own intrinsic values and 'no one is the master of anybody. There should be this kind of realization that will give equal rights to every organism maintaining a balance in the Eco-consciousness removing the ego consciousness that 'Man is at the center and the earth is at the Margin. The present environmental crisis is a bi- product of human culture. It is not caused by how the Eco system functions, but how our ethical system functions and how better we understand our responsibility towards the planet earth. Eco criticism helps us to build this awareness among human beings. 'Deep ecology Challenges this conservation mode and advocates preservation of nature to keep it in its original form without any interference of man as nature has its own right to survive. Deep ecology and Shallow ecology can be distinguished on the basis of their functions.

Moving on to the waves of Eco-criticism has been identified by Lawrence Buell. During first wave Eco critics focused on "nature writing, nature poetry, and wilderness fiction" (Buell, 138). The focus of this wave was to preserve 'biotic community' (Couper, 4) The Eco critics of this wave appraised the effects of culture upon nature, with a view toward 'celebrating nature berating its depositors and reversing then harm through political action'. At the initial stage it aimed at earth care.

The Second wave of Eco critics inclined towards environmental justice issues and a 'Social Eco criticism' that takes urban landscape as seriously as 'natural landscape' (Buell, 1995:22) It is also popularly known as 'Revisionist Eco criticism'. It seeks to locate the vestiges of nature in cities, and exposes crimes of Eco injustice against society's marginal section. The Eco critics interpret nature writing texts.

Thus an honest attempt has been made to focus on the emergence of Eco criticism. Thus Ecocriticism seeks to evaluate the texts and ideas in terms of its coherence, usefulness as responses to environmental crisis and during Pandemic and Post pandemic times it has a more crucial role to play in order to save the planet earth and the organisms living on this planet called earth.

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**To Cite the Article: Hameed, Shaikh, "Emergence of Ecocriticism: A Review". Literary Cognizance, II-1 (June., 2021): 30-31. Web.**