

ECOCRITICISM IN LITERARY CREATIONS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO KĀLIDĀSA'S MEGHADŪTA

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Abstract :

Literature is the medium to reflect the current problems of society. Ecocriticism alerts the persons of the society through literary works to sensitise with all problems. The word "ecocriticism" is the combination of two words – eco and criticism. Eco means earth, the whole universe and criticism means study. So ecocriticism means study of nature. It widens and gives more comprehensive approach to the study of literature. Eco system is an important environmental aspect which lays down the close relation between plants and living creatures. An observation of the literary texts shows that poets were staunch advocates of nature. In their revelation they gave the impression that nature is the life of all creatures. Kālidāsa's Meghadūta has specially referred here to evaluate it as an eco-critical text. An attempt has been made here in this paper to throw fresh light on the eco-critical ideas of the poets and their literary creations.

Key words : Ecology, Eco-criticism, Global-warming, Animal studies.

Introduction :

Since prehistory, literature and the arts have been drawn to portrayals of physical environments and human-environment interactions. The modern environmentalist movement as it emerged first in the late-nineteenth century and, in its more recent incarnation, in the 1960s, gave rise to a rich array of fictional and nonfictional writings concerned with humans changing relationship to the natural world. Only since the early 1990s, however, has the long-standing interest of literature studies in these matters generated the initiative most commonly known as "ecocriticism", an eclectic and loosely coordinated movement whose contributions thus far have been most visible within its home discipline of literature but whose interests and alliances extend across various art – forms and media. In such areas as the study of narrative and image, ecocriticism converges with its sister disciplines in the humanities : environmental anthropology, environmental history, and environmental philosophy. In the first two sections, we begin with a brief overview of the nature, significance and evolution of literature – environmental studies.

Methodology :

Some depictions of the journey of the environmental concept of the poets of Sanskrit literary works through the natural elements have been analyzed. Some general ideas related to the subject recorded in the Sanskrit texts are examined to come to the conclusion. For supporting the views Sanskrit and others works related to environmental science are used for the study.

Depictions

(I) Literature and environment studies – commonly called "ecocriticism" or 'environmental criticism' in analogy to the more general term literary criticism – comprise an eclectic, pluriform and cross-disciplinary initiative that aims to explore the environmental dimensions of literature and other creative media in a spirit of environmental concern not limited to any one method or commitment. Ecocriticism begins from the conviction that the arts of imagination and the study thereof – by virtue of their grasp of the power of word, story and image to reinforce, enliven, and direct environmental concern – can contribute significantly to the understanding of environmental problems : the multiple forms of ecodegradation that afflict planet Earth today. In this, ecocriticism concurs with other branches of the environmental humanities – ethics, history, religious studies, anthropology, humanistic geography – in holding that environmental phenomena must be comprehended and that today's burgeoning array of environmental concerns must be addressed qualitatively as well as quantitatively.