

Environmentalism and Eco-Criticism in the Poetry of Keki N. Daruwalla

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Abstract – *The world of literature while working with the beauty and power of nature is always painted environmental concerns and the threat posed by the continued abuse of our environment humanity has recently attracted the attention of writers. It's a sense of anxiety and its reference to the literature which gave the new branch of literary theory, namely Ecocriticism.*

Nature has been the talk of the town for a variety of art forms and management, especially in poetry Indian poets like Keki N Daruwalla, Sarojini Naidu, A.K.Ramanujan, Dilip Chitre and many more have celebrated various aspects of nature for different and emerging purposes and from different views. Their treatment of environment points out how environment acquires dissimilar understanding and connotation. Occasionally it is considered as a divine spirit, a holy mother and friend of man and the other hand; it plays the role of an aggressive power that acts as a supernatural entity to penalize human beings for their wrong conducts. In any affair, nature creates an outstanding part of the thematic and artistic elements in poetic discourses. Various elements of Environment including the river, sky, plants, animals, and creatures often find symbolic value that rewards the complexity of the creation of poetry and enhances its texture. The paper seeks to explore Keki N Daruwallas poetry in Indian English literature and his work from an ecocritical perspective.

Kew Words – *Environmentalism, Eco Criticism, Symbolism, Environment*

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INTRODUCTION

In modern Indian English Poetry, the description of Environment marks a worth mentioning presence in spite of present-day socio cultural and political issues rising alongside highly capitalist, technical world. Writers of this period deliberately portrayed environment in their work to make the humankind sensitive about the nature. It emerges as a major concern in the poetry of so called environment sensitive writers who concentrate on the depletion and destruction of nature. Environment and literature are strongly connected with each other. We find honest Environmental concerns in the works of numerous poets and writers in almost all culture of the humankind. Today this close association between the environment and humanity is being analyzed and emphasized ubiquitously. The various literary critics try to learn how this close association between environment and society has been textualized by the writers in their works. In this framework two terms have turn into very important nowadays – Environmentalism and ecocriticism. Over time, these ecosystems are increasingly affected by expansion of population and human intervention. In this case relationships are so dependent on each other that any disruption of one's own disturbs the other. Ecocriticism is the relationship between literature and nature, about how nature

appears in literature. Environmentalism concern about action aimed at protecting the Environment.

The paper seeks to explore Keki N Daruwallas poetry in Indian English literature and his work from an ecocritical perspective. The paper presents an environmental examination of Daruwalla's English poems to present the general depletion of the earth's environment.

Nature has been the subject of various forms of art and its management, especially in poetry. Poets such as William Wordsworth, PB Shelley, Robert Frost and many others have celebrated different aspects of nature with different purposes and different perspectives. Their treatment of environment points out how environment acquires dissimilar understanding and connotation. Occasionally it is considered as a divine spirit, a holy mother and friend of man and the other hand; it plays the role of an aggressive power that acts as a supernatural entity to penalize human beings for their wrong conducts. In any affair, nature creates an outstanding part of the thematic and artistic elements in poetic discourses. Various elements of Environment including the river, sky, plants, animals, and creatures often find symbolic value that rewards the complexity of the creation of poetry and enhances its texture. Current Indian English Poetry

is marked with an Eco conscious approach and perception which demands our universal minds and even warns us from impending catastrophe due to devastation of nature.

ENVIRONMENTALISM IN KEKI N DARUWALLA'S POETRY

Environment and nature occupy a very important place among the subjects of Daruwalla's poetry. Unification of the nature and human passion together is striking feature of his poetry. Keki N. Daruwalla has written many poems on places with superpowers and vivid illustrations. He is called as a poet of landscapes. Many love poets like Wordsworth, Keats, Shelly and Indian poets such as Ezekiel, A.K. Ramanujan, Arun Kolatkar and Daruwalla also took many symbols and images from nature and ecology. Daruwalla's sagacity of scenery is not just presenting the loveliness of the places, but it also brings out the bare authenticity of the environment. He transforms the depiction of landscapes in words through his touching, intellectual and emotional moral response to his readers. He quotes the poet's words to strengthen his focus on landscape. *"My poems are rooted in landscape, which anchors the poem. The landscape is not merely there set to the sense but to lead to an illumination, it should be the eye of the spiral, I try that poetry relates to the landscape, both on physical, and on the plane of the spirit"* (Two Decades of Indian Poetry 21). "

"Mandwa," is an outstanding poem on landscape and seascape. Through diverse metaphors and symbols, he depicts the scenery. The season in the coastal region was summer, the sun was boiling and it was like "an egg-yolk frying in the sky." And the coastal area was arrayed with fish-scales, "The beach white with fish-scales." Daruwalla puts the entire these things very wonderfully in his poem,

Mostly when I arrive at places

it is winter. Here it isn't.

The sea pants, the islands smoulder,

the sun is an egg-yolk frying in the sky.

And so to this anointed strip o the beach white with fish-scales,

girdled by islands that seem to float like pieces of a broken carafe. (191)

"Boat-Ride along the Ganga" is a poem on the earlier side of the actuality of the river Ganges. For the Hindus, Ganga is a mother, divinity, life giver, and river of salvation. On the other hand, the Zoroastrian poet, Daruwalla, observes it in a different way and states the sad reality of the river. On the banks of the river, he finds death, disease and mouldiness. Through the lines of the poem, he sheers his discomfiture to see stuffs in the river and its banks, as he is moving

upstream a motorboat, with a boat rider, at sunset, he states

Slowly the ghat-amphitheatre unfolds

Like a diseased nocturnal flower in a dream

That opens its petals only at dusk.

Palm-leaf parasols sprouting like freak-mushrooms

Brood over platforms that are empty. (97)

He articulated his lack of sympathy with the language of panda and the things which he happens to observe as rowing, "I listen avidly to his legend-talk/ striving to forget what I changed to see: / the sewer-mouth trained like a cannon / on the river's flank" (97). These lines show his sense of awkwardness and disappointment. It might be due to his spiritual backdrop, or misapprehension of Hindu philosophy and rituals or his lack of knowledge.

Daruwalla's poems reflect nature with its bright color as well movements and human passions. About this M.K. Naik writes, "The Daruwalla concept is busy continuously developing meaningful relationships between Nature and Man, in different ways and in different forms and open the effectiveness of this relationship is the success and failure of this the relationship that the success and failure of these poems seem to depend so much ". His poems evoke emotions in a natural sense. R. N. Sinha calls, "His poems are the true answer and as a result of that transaction between the nature and mind of the poet. Through the poems, he carried out the present authenticity of natural world and explains how the present man has manipulated it. The imagery he uses is incredibly ordinary but the ideas, which the images contain are very logical, intellectual and evocative. These poems hold an extensive thematic nucleus, lucid visualisation of scene, dense and impressive presentation of occasion, suggestive descriptions and an extraordinary harmony of tone and outcome.

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