



**CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE UNRAVELLING OF HUMAN-NATURE  
RELATIONSHIP IN AMITAV GHOSH'S NOVELS**

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**Abstract**

Climate change is a complicated and diverse problem that can possibly damage the bond between humans and the natural world. As the planet's climate evolves, the consequences on both the environment and human societies are progressively getting more serious. The man and nature relationship is intricate and polygonal, shaped by cultural, social, political, and economic factors. In the view of the relationship between man and nature is characterized by a human unsatisfied greed to exploit the natural resources through its fullest without thinking the consequences of the ecosystem. When we peep in to the history of being, humans have had a significant impact on the ecosystems and natural world through various aspect like shaping the landscape, exploiting resources, and altering ecosystems. This paper is to study the perspective of Eco criticism in Amitav Ghosh's novels.

**Keywords:** climate, environment, ecosystems, Eco criticism, natural resources, relationship

**Introduction**

Eocriticism is a branch of literary criticism that examines the bond between literature and the natural environment. As the environmental issues such as pollution, climate change, and the depletion of natural resources emerges so in response to it it is introduced in late 20<sup>th</sup> century.. Most of Ecocritics evaluate literary texts from an environmental viewpoint, exploring how literature represents the natural world, how it influences human approaches towards the environment, and how it reflects the cultural and historical milieus in which it was written. Also they observe how literary works depict nature, how they portray human- nature relationships, and how they engross with ecological themes such as sustainability, biodiversity, and environmental justice. It allows readers to explore how literary works contribute to our understanding of environmental issues, and how literature can inspire environmental awareness and activism. It allows readers to explore how literary works contribute to our understanding of environmental issues, and how literature can inspire environmental awareness and activism.

Indian novelist Amitav Ghosh is well-known for producing interesting and varied literature. Ghosh, who was born in 1956 in Kolkata, India, studied in Delhi and Oxford after spending his early years in India, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka. He has travelled much and used his experiences to produce a collection of work that captures the richness and diversity of modern life. The vivid and all-encompassing storytelling in Ghosh's books, as well as the way they explore subjects like history, culture, identity, and migration, make them stand out. Ghosh is well recognised for his work on ecological issues and his interest in the interaction between people and the natural world, but he is also noted for writing about other themes outside of those mentioned above. Ghosh has sprinkled ecological themes into his writings throughout his literary career, diving into topics like climate change, environmental degradation, and the effects of human activity on the environment. His writings frequently centre on the



connections between people and the natural world and how historical and cultural influences have impacted these connections.

In books like "The Hungry Tide," Amitav Ghosh examines the impact of human interference on the delicate balance of nature as well as the intricate ecosystem of the Sundarbans, a region of mangrove forests in the Bay of Bengal. In "The Great Derangement: Climate Change and the Unthinkable," Ghosh examines the cultural and historical factors that have contributed to our failure to address climate change. He contends that the dominant narratives and ways of thinking of the modern world have led to a collective inability to confront the challenge of climate change. The ferocious tides that mold the landscape and continually endanger the locals and labourers are alluded to in the title of the book. While facing more pressing questions concerning the relationship between people and the environment, the story's characters struggle to survive and adapt to this hostile setting. The characters need to address larger questions regarding the relationship between people and the natural world and the responsibilities we have towards the planet and its inhabitants as they struggle to adapt to such a difficult environment. Overall, Ghosh's interest in ecological issues reflects his conviction that it is crucial to comprehend and preserve nature. He encourages readers to evaluate the ethical and cultural implications of our relationships with nature in his books and articles, and to think critically about the relationship between people and the environment.

The following could serve as a thesis statement for a research paper on Amitav Ghosh's ecological themes:

The literary works of Amitav Ghosh connect with ecological issues and examine the complex interactions between people and the natural world, provoking readers to consider the moral and cultural implications of environmental issues and promoting environmental awareness and action.

### **Analysis theme**

Amitav Ghosh's writing deals in the epic themes of travel and diaspora, history and memory, political struggle and communal violence, love and loss, while all the time crossing the generic boundaries between anthropology and art work.

Both his fictional and non-fictional narratives tend to be transnational in sweep, moving restlessly across countries, continents and oceans. Formidably learned and meticulously researched, there is something equally epic about the scale of scholarship that sits behind each of his books. However, Ghosh never loses sight of the intimate human dimension of things. It is no coincidence that his writing ritually returns to Calcutta (the author's birth place), and, for all its global ambition, is thickly accented by the registers and referents of Bengali and South Asian culture.

Ghosh's first novel is typical in this sense. At the centre of *The Circle of Reason* (1986) is Alu, an eight-year-old Bengali boy with a huge head, "curiously uneven, bulging all over with knots and bumps". These bodily deformities, along with the series of coincidences and connections that emerges between Alu's personal life and the political world around him, have led to obvious comparisons with Rushdie's Booker of Bookers, *Midnight's Children*. However, this is in some ways unfortunate as the novel has its own integrity and ambition, from its philosophical exploration of reason to its peripatetic wanderings across South Asia, North Africa and the Middle East.



Ghosh's beautifully written second novel, *The Shadow Lines* (1988), is also reminiscent of Rushdie in terms of its formal experimentations with geography and chronology. However, unlike Rushdie, it is written in an understated, condensed prose that comes close to poetry. The novel deals with the invention of the past and the arbitrariness of partition as it moves between India and the UK, Calcutta and London, the Second World War and present. The title is an allusion to Joseph Conrad's novella, *The Shadow Line*, and while its precise relationship to Conrad's text is oblique and shadowy, both share a preoccupation with the threshold between East and West, and with the ghostly hauntings of imperial memory. More generally, Ghosh's second novel draws inspiration from diverse modern European and Indian texts from Proust to Tagore, Ford Madox Ford to Satyajit Ray.

Even this sort of promiscuous intertextuality comes to appear tame and provincial within the context of Amitav Ghosh's next work, *In An Antique Land* (1992). Ostensibly a work of non-fiction, the book draws heavily on the author's training in anthropology, but ultimately defies generic pigeon holes. Combining autobiography, fiction, travel writing and history, *In An Antique Land* is a delicate, vivid and deeply moving evocation of Egypt since the twelfth century.

The strong emphasis on history, memory and the past that has by this stage become a trademark of Ghosh's writing is given a fresh twist in his next book, *The Calcutta Chromosome* (1996), a work of science fiction set in the near future. Ghosh's flirtation with the popular genre of the thriller in *The Calcutta Chromosome* marks a radical departure from the various sorts of archive fever and scholarly self-consciousness that readers typically associate with the author. When Antar, an office worker in New York, discovers a discarded ID card, it leads him on an investigative journey to Calcutta at the close of the nineteenth century. However, beneath this thin veneer of pulp, is a novel with as intricate a plot line as anything in Ghosh.

In "River of Smoke," Ghosh describes the opium trade in China throughout the 19th century and the environmental damage brought on by the British East India Company's unrelenting quest for riches. The intricate connections between humans and the natural world as well as the effects of human activity on the environment are

industrialization and urbanisation. Ghosh examines how nationalism and borders affect the environment in "The Shadow Lines," arguing that these divisions cause environmental deterioration and the extinction of ecosystems. Overall, Ghosh's ecological themes show his dedication to bringing attention to environmental issues and pressing readers to consider the interaction between people and the natural world. His writings examine the political, historical, and cultural elements that fuel environmental issues and encourage swift action to solve them.

### **Relationship between the environment and human life**

In the Sundarbans, according to Ghosh, there is a strong connection between the natural environment and human communities. The novel's protagonists interact with the environment in a complex way because they depend on it for both their spiritual beliefs and means of subsistence. The Sundarbans' tide cycles have an impact on the characters' lives, illustrating how interdependent humans and nature. The state of the ecosystem is considerably more precarious now than it was when the book was written. With rising global temperatures, arise in natural disasters, and an alarming pace of biodiversity loss, the effects of human activity on



the earth have reached a critical point. Due to these environmental issues, people are becoming more and more aware of the need to combat climate change and save the environment. The ideas in "The Hungry Tide" have a strong connection with the status of the environment right now.

### **Environment Fragility and Resilience**

The Sundarbans are shown by Ghosh as being fragile and under threat from deforestation, poaching, and climate change. Despite these dangers, it is also demonstrated that the environment is resilient and can bounce back from both natural calamities and human activity. The novel's characters consider the fragile equilibrium between human demands and the health of the ecosystem, underlining the significance of sustainable practises. By examining the effects of culture and human activities on the environment and promoting changes in how we view and interact with the world, the literary approach to ecocriticism provides an important instrument for examining and addressing these problems.

### **The diversity and Complexity**

Ghosh highlights the complexity and diversity of the Sundarbans ecosystem, which is home to a wide range of plant and animal species. The book examines how different species are connected to one another and how ecological interactions maintain the environment. Simple explanations of nature are challenged by the environment's complexity and diversity, which highlights the significance of holistic thinking in environmentalism.

### **Sea of Poppies**

Amitav Ghosh's book "Sea of Poppies" examines a number of subjects, such as colonialism, identity, globalization, and environment. A method to literary criticism called ecocriticism looks at how literature and the environment interact. The ecological elements of "Sea of Poppies" are substantial and offer a fertile field for ecocritical research.

The effects of colonialism on the environment are one of the novel's main ecological topics. It is demonstrated that the British colonial system, with its emphasis on exploiting India's natural resources, had a disastrous impact on the regional ecosystems. The novel's setting, the opium trade, is a good illustration of this. Large amounts of land, water, and other resources are needed for the cultivation of opium poppies, which diverts resources from other agricultural pursuits and causes soil degradation and biodiversity loss.

"The novel also emphasises the environment's cultural value. The book's protagonists have strong bonds with their homes and the surrounding environment, especially the rural peasants. Their spiritual and cultural practises are entwined with the regional ecology, and they are reliant on the land for their subsistence. The colonial system, however, shatters these bonds and ushers in a new era in which the environment is viewed just as a resource to be exploited for economic gain. The novel's study of how globalisation affects the environment is a key component. The opium trade, which is fueled by rising global demand, has an adverse effect on the environment not only in India but also in other trading nations. The narrative additionally highlights how the loss of biodiversity might result from globalisation's impact on local ecosystems. "Sea of Poppies" offers a wealth of material for ecocritical analysis overall. The story highlights the intricate connections between people and the environment, as well as how colonialism and globalisation have affected these connections. Additionally, it highlights



the necessity for a more sustainable method of growth and the relevance of comprehending the cultural significance of the environment.

### Conclusion

The research article Amitav Ghosh's "The Hungry Tide: An Ecocritical Reading" by Dr. Suryanarayan Behera examines the author's works from an ecocritical viewpoint. The Hungry Tide, a book by Ghosh, is examined in this essay for its ecological themes and ramifications. The novel "The Hungry Tide," according to the essay, analyses the nuanced relationship between humans and the environment. The Sundarbans, an Indian mangrove forest, is shown in the work as a dynamic and diversified ecosystem that is necessary for the survival of its inhabitants. According to the essay, the book casts doubt on the notion that the environment is a resource that should be used for human gain and highlights the need for more sustainable development. The essay also focuses on the novel's treatment of the effects of human activity on the environment. It examines the destructive effects of climate change on the Sundarbans and its residents, including rising sea levels and a rise in the frequency of natural disasters. The article makes the case that the novel highlights significant problems regarding how much of a role people have in environmental deterioration and the necessity of taking action as a society to solve these issues. The paper concludes by arguing that "The Hungry Tide" is a significant piece of ecocritical literature that raises significant issues regarding how people and the environment interact, how human behaviour affects the environment, and the need for a more sustainable method of development.

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