

Ecological Crises in Amitav Ghosh's *Hungry Tide*

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ABSTRACT

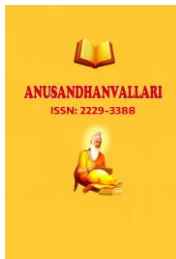
In recent years, writers have become interested in the interaction between people and the environment, which hasn't gotten much attention in the past. This link helps people learn more about ecology and ecocritical reading. Now, literary writers focus on important environmental issues in their writing to bring attention to ecological problems. The group includes Amitav Ghosh. In his book *The Hungry Tide*, which takes place in the Sundarbans, which means "Beautiful Forest" and covers more than 10,000 square kilometres, he tells the story of refugees from the island of Morichjhapi who were forced to take an exam. The main ideas of the book are environmentalism and destabilisation. In this story, the physical environment is like an active force that brings together plant, animal, and human life. Each has an effect on the others, whether directly or indirectly. In this paper, I will try to look at *The Hungry Tide* by Amitav Ghosh from an ecological and eco-critical point of view.

KEYWORDS

Amitav Ghosh, Hungry Tide, Ecological criticism, Eco-criticism

Introduction

The importance of technology has increased in contemporary civilizations, and it has evolved in numerous ways. Constantly, individuals anticipate that technological advancement will result in positive outcomes. Throughout history, economic and technological advancement has been an indisputable and immutable objective in the industrialised world. Similarly, politics has consistently been guided by this objective. However, doubt and anxiety are also discernible indicators. The ecosystem has been severely impacted by nuclear

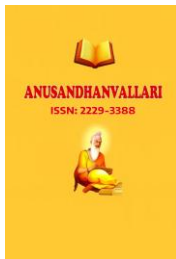


weapons and technological advancements over the past few decades. Consequently, this ultimately enables individuals to commit suicide. In contrast, pragmatists cannot simply assert that technology should not advance or that it ought to be substituted. This approach to growth criticism is unsuitable. Instead of debating negative outcomes or particular technology, individuals ought to centre their attention on the fact that this environmental issue was not caused by data. There are others who believe that the rapid pace of technological advancements contributes to social and environmental issues. It is indisputable that new technologies have frequently elicited both commendation and censure over the course of history. Diverse sentiments exist among individuals with regard to technology and artificial intelligence. From this perspective, it would be disastrous to place people's reliance in technology and the notion of a carefree, joyful existence. Generally, individuals concur with each of these concepts. Subtle interpretations of ecocriticism are the subject of this specific paper. The concepts of ecocriticism are comprehensively discussed in *The Hungry Tide*, an excellent work authored by Amitav Ghosh.

Hungry Tide as an Eco-critical text.

Academically and for the general public's interest, eco-criticism is a critical approach to the environment and green management. Undoubtedly, it examines literary works and literature on leadership that address various environmental concerns. Nevertheless, the primary objective of ecocriticism in literature is to identify viable solutions to the challenges encountered by environmentalists, because it is indisputable that humanity is confronted with an impending worldwide catastrophe. As the frequency of catastrophic catastrophes such as famine, drought, flood, and earthquakes increases, the situation becomes more worrisome. These occurrences have driven the political pyramid to the verge of disaster and devastation, where it will undoubtedly perish. Due to this universal truth, several scholars, artists, and writers have undoubtedly devoted considerable attention to the environment in their works, presenting both positive and negative perspectives on nature. However, Ghosh, an eminent Indian author, discusses and portrays the physical aspects of nature, which are at times tranquil and at others violent, in this novel. His writing is occasionally inventive and friendly, and occasionally sombre and unsettling. Some of his works marginalise ecological and natural concerns, whereas others emphasise them prominently. What makes environmental writing so appealing is the fact that nature merely serves as a backdrop. It is also a component of the plot, and the protagonist may even offer the reader some criticism at times. Additionally, ecocriticism investigates the connection between physical and mental literature. According to ecocriticism's Lawrence Buell, it is an environmentally committed examination of the relationship between literature and the outside world. Overall, ecocriticism adopts an earth-centered literary studies perspective. Ecocriticism often adopts a literary analysis methodology that is singularly centred on the planet.

In this book, Ghosh looks at the conflict between different groups of people and how they relate to nature. He always seems to be thinking about how man's constant interference with nature has made it even more chaotic. *The Hungry Tide* is told from the point of view of two educated city people who go on a trip to the Sunderbans, the tide country. Most of the time, we think that natural disasters like hurricanes, cyclones, earthquakes, al-Nil-Lo, etc. are a normal part of our ecosystem, but this is not true. These things are Nature's way of getting back at people who try to get rid of nature without knowing what will happen. Even though it's a love storey, Ghosh also talks about the environment, language problems, and the complicated relationships between Piyali, Fokir, and Kanai. He does a good job of figuring out these complicated relationships by making the book's climax a cyclone that kills Fokir but saves Piyali. "M. Abhijit Dhakuria says that Amitav Ghosh is a master of the genre of "fictionalised thesis." This comment fits well with what Amitav Ghosh has done because it is so good. He is a close observer of nature, and he tries to show how people and animals like dolphins and tigers share a complex and dangerous ecosystem. The main characters of the book, Kanai and Piyali, meet by chance. The main idea of the storey is that they are both going to the same place and want the same thing. But

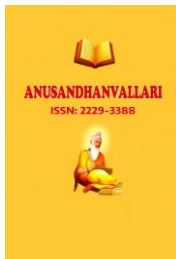


the book is really about getting to know each other, not about the trip. During the trip, Piya finds rare species of dolphins whose numbers used to be very high but are now dropping quickly. All of these things are talked about in the book. Ghosh tries to show in this book that nature has its own rules. He makes fun of humans by saying that they are the smartest creatures on earth, but they don't follow rules until they need to in order to stay alive. Nature has always given it what it needs, though. People have thought that the growth of aquatic life is caused by things in the water that are not like anything else.

The water from the river and the sea did not mix evenly in this part of the Delta. Instead, the water from the river and the sea flowed through each other, making hundreds of different ecological niches. Streams of fresh water ran along the edges of some channels, which changed how salty and cloudy the water was. Sure, it's true most of the time. We think that hurricanes, cyclones, and earthquakes are all part of the ecosystem, but this is not true. These things happen when people try to get rid of nature without knowing what will happen. Even though it's a love story, Ghosh also talks about the environment, language problems, and the complicated relationships between Piyali, Fokir, and Kanai. He does a good job of figuring out these complicated relationships by making the book's climax a cyclone that kills Fokir but saves Piya. M. Abhijit Dhakuria says, "Amitav Ghosh is a master of the genre of 'fictionalised thesis.'" "This comment fits well with what Amitav Ghosh has done because it is so good. He is a close observer of nature, and he tries to show how people and animals like dolphins and tigers share a complex and dangerous ecosystem. He makes sense of these complicated relationships by having a cyclone kill Fokir at the end of the book. The idea that nature is like a mother has always been a part of many cultures. Without natural resources, people can't be raised in the right way. Nature has to help people live in comfort, just like in the book. Kusum's dad had been fishing for a long time and caught a lot of fish. When he got home, there was money and food in the house. Nature gives people what they need most in this way. Anyone can stay alive with the help of nature. But people turned their wants into greed. So, they have to deal with animals' and nature's anger. People get what they need most from nature. using nature to help. The truth is that anyone can stay alive. But people can't expect nature to be nice when people have destroyed the natural resource and everything in it. Amitav Ghosh shows how refusing to give in hurts people's lives. At the end of his life, Kusum's father only went to get some firewood. Ghosh tries to show that people and animals can both be strong. People were sometimes stronger than animals, and animals were sometimes stronger than people, but both people and animals lost. People think that people are the smartest animals on Earth. They should think about the balance of the ecosystem and realise that animals also have feelings and emotions and will act according to their nature.

People know everything, but they don't do anything about it. As Kusum's angry father went to get wood for the fire, he didn't know what was going on, which led to his death. Ghosh writes, "The animal was in the trees near the shore, and by the way it moved, she could tell that it had been watching the boat cross the river." When Kusum screamed for the first time, her mother and many other people from the hamlet ran up to the bank. But because the wind was blowing in the wrong direction, her father didn't hear the warning. Within minutes, dozens of other people joined her on the bank, and they all saw that the animal was following her father, just like she had. So, he talks about nature and the fact that Tigers don't have a place of their own. Animals feel helpless because people are everywhere. The book by Ghosh shows that animals have feelings and can see what will happen. For instance, "the animal was upwind of its prey, and as it got closer, they could see its coal flashing." "It was good at dealing with the wind because of the way it smelled, and it knew that the people on the other side of the river couldn't do anything about these gusts" (THT 108).

By the end, it becomes clear that the dolphins are suffering, and they try to save them as they are dying slowly. However, it also becomes clear in the end that stirrings such as this come with more complexity. Fokir is the one who tries to save the girl Piya from the flood during the cyclone, and by the end, it becomes clear that their relationship did not go further. However, Piya is guilty and starts to help Fokir's child. "For me, home is



where the Orcaella are, so there's no reason this couldn't be it." (THT 400) And Kanai starts to write what he remembers from reading Nirmal's journal. Ghosh tries to end the book on a happy note, despite the dangerous natural disasters that the people of Lusibari have to deal with: There is a lot of information about natural history in the book, and it is safe to assume that it is true since it was written by an anthropologist who is known for doing thorough research.

Conclusion

What Piya figures out is something that all eco-critics should figure out. After the storm and Fokir's death, Piya leaves. When she comes back, she has money and a plan for a research project. Piya wants to: In *The Hungry Tide*, Ghosh shows how nature fights against being put into strict categories and routines. We can see that nature has its own ways of doing things that we can't control. In the Sunderbans, the lines between places break down and rivers flow into each other. The main theme of Amitav Ghosh's novel is instability, which is mostly caused by globalisation. It is based on a real historical event, the Battle of Morichjhapi, and also talks about the environment, how to protect it, and how to keep the Sunderbans protected. Ghosh shows the fights between the refugees and the government officials. He also shows how hard it is for the settlers to live in a hostile place with nowhere else to go. Through the book, Ghosh gives hints that globalisation has a big effect on people who are seen as primitive and backward. Even these groups of people have gotten a lot out of globalisation. The sharing of knowledge and the effects of communication will pave the way for more learning and the improvement of technologies and ideas. But Ghosh also talks about the bad things about globalisation. This is clear from the rude and different way that people in the cities treat the people who live in the Morichjhapi.

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