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ECO-CRITICAL PERSPECTIVE IN A.K. RAMANUJANS 'ECOLOGY'

ABSTRACT

Objective of this research paper is to reveal A.K. Ramanujans contribution to the New genre of poetry i.e. eco-poetry which deals with incorporation of various objects of nature in poetry & their glorification in focus of ecological perspective. It is important to recognize human- environment relations & same has been done by many poets including. Indian poets like A.K. Ramanujan, who depicts interrelationship between poetry, ecology and environment with beautiful imagery. Nature includes animals, plants, birds and various non living objects that have been artistically incorporated in many of his poems. Ecological poetry gives increased attention to literary representatives of nature such a literature explores ecological crisis & their roots. Many folds impact of the ecology, obviously enhances importance of study of nature and its multiple benefits to living being. Eco poetry being promoter of green literature it concerns more with mysterious link between man and nature. Though Indian myths reflects ecological values of flora and fauna in human world, nature-oriented literature got impetus quite late. In Indian scenario the term Eco- criticism was very much popular practice among poets of all generations. The study explores aesthetic dimension of nature and convey human love for flora and fauna.

Keywords- ecological holism, ecology, imagery, crisis, eco-poetry, genre

INTRODUCTION

A.K. Ramanujan stands out as an eminent poet who has made an indispensable position for himself in the realm of Indian English Poetry. Ramanujan happens to be a linguist, an anthropologist, a translator and a poet all at once, for his works he is to be ranked with Ezekiel, Kamala Das, R. Parthasarthy, His poetry is a remarkable blend of emotion and reason, heart & head, memory & desire. He has composed poems on variety of subjects including object of nature. As bilingual poet he used to write in Kannada & English. He was awarded with Padmashri in 1976. He worked as a lecturer of English at Belgaum & taught at Baroda University. The poems of A.K. Ramanujan are deeply rooted in Indianness. Nature can be termed as very soul of his poetry which is deeply rooted in Indian culture & tradition. His poems abounds in ecological

wisdom concerning with animals, trees, vegetal & mineral world. His poems like ecology, A Game of chess, A minor sacrifice, snakes, The striders, the Black Hen expresses idea of oneness of all creation.

Eco-poetry is a kind of poetry which uses ecological holism as base for poetic composition. It is study of literature with a special attention to the significance of nature in the text. Nature and literature have always shared a close relationship as is evidenced in the works of poets. The intimate relationship between the natural & social world is being analyzed with different perspective taking examples of early post colonial poets-relating it with green literature. New Ecological perspectives have been explored from poetry to redefine it on the base of human - nature relationships. Since ages the poetic creations were profused with themes

dealing with beauty and power of nature. Nature has been glorified, in poetry by all poets who were fascinated by its enchanting charms and soothing effect on mind. A poem composed with ecological elements has often been termed as eco-poetry aimed to inspire wonder and appreciation for the non-human world. Different forms of nature appealing human senses were celebrated to add additional dimension that connects aesthetics of nature with imaginative and spiritual life of the human mind. Thus poetry is a kind of venture to analyze mysterious ways of natural world. Most of the practitioners of the genre use nature as an important backdrop against which the theme is developed. Thus eco-poetry encourage society to think seriously about the ethical and aesthetic value of the environmental aspects.

Reflection of Ecology in Ramanujan's poetry.
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Though Ramanujan is primarily concerned with human relationship, nature plays a major role in defining his mode of poetic experience. His poem gives expression to nature in varied manner. He analyses mysterious link between man & nature to explore new avenues in the light of Ecology.

Vinay Dharwadker praises noteworthy contribution of the poet in introduction to the collected poems, he adds:-

'One of the recurrent concerns in Ramanujan's poetry as a whole is the nature of the human body & its relation to the natural world. The clock that ticks inside the natural world outside and it is the nature of this universal clock to tick inexorably towards the terminal irony of death. 1. (RCP-XVIII-XXIII).

Ramanujan was an ardent reader of Indian mythology which helps him to incorporate old Indian cultural perspectives in his poems. The trees have been depicted as 'Kalpariksha' & 'Chaityvriksha' in old Indian literature and considered as natural objects of

peculiar significance hence tree worship is certainly an ancient practice in mythology. Ramanujan re-conveyed same significance by using images from nature depicting trees, rivers, birds and animals juxtaposed with Hi'ndu deities in his poetry. Indian myths and legends played important role in establishing ecological value of plants, insects, worms and minors. This inspires Ramanujan to compose poem on trivial subject like 'Ant'. Their ecological values have been assessed by the poets to glorify nature and its deep rooted importance to human beings and ecosystem, the thought is quite impressively quoted in following lines :

In the case of human primates, in fact, the ecological value is negative: most of the other forms of life would be better off and the ecosystem as a whole would not be threatened, if we did not exist. 2 (David Ray Griffin, worldviews 203)

His poem "Zoo Gardens Revisited" talks of a host of animals in the Zoo decomposed & ill humanely treated by the so-called humans. He is touched by pathetic picture of paralyzed chimpanzee that could not lift his chipped blue mug. His sensitive feeling towards objects of ecosystem eventually makes him a great ecological poet. The 'Love poem for a wife & her trees' is a tribute to woman kind in her prominent roles as mother, wife, sister, daughter, etc. right from the beginning of the poem the reader learns about the balance that the wife has to maintain between being a wife and a mother. Taking help from nature.

Exploring eco-poetry with special reference to poem ecology:-

Indian philosophy depicts harmony with the nature in Vedas, Upanishads, purans & the epics. A.K. Ramanujan focuses on ecological sensitivity in Indian literature that makes his poetry rich with eco-critical aspects by incorporating beliefs of Hinduism, religion and philosophy which adores and respects nature. Indian philosophy praises various aspects of

nature and advocates for harmony with nature, this particular concept of Indian ecology is nurtured in poems of A.K. Ramanujan which abounds in ecological wisdom deeply rooted in Indian culture and tradition. 'Ecology' is Ramanujans beautiful poem which belongs to the genre of eco-poetry. Reference and images from nature made it more significant form of green literature. The glorification of champak tree and flowering season created aesthetic picture of natural beauty. The old mother of poet cannot resist strong fragrance of champak flowers and suffered from severe attack of migraine. The pain increases restlessness in her behavior and she could not sleep whole night, even after such a health hazard she did not allow her son to cut the trees. She insists on preserving. The tree explains holistic importance of the particular one since years for her the tree is a reminder of her young days when she used to make garlands from the "champak" flowers to decorate God and Goddess in her home. The myth of sprouting of the tree co-relates the theme with a bird and its dropping which is purely a ecological concept derived from branch of science i.e. Botany. The references of Deities, old mother and her affection for her Grand Children undoubtedly raises issues of ecological affection of human beings. The impact of Indian culture, custom & mythology does not allow her to order to cut the tree.

CONCLUSION: -

Previously poetry was defined by William Wordsworth, Robert Frost, T.S. Eliot on a particular ground which valued human feelings, emotions and unknown riddles of

human mind. They stress more on aspects of delight and wisdom. For example P.B. Shelly introduce hidden beauty of the world in his verses and make the aspect grow in fabric of society. But the new genre alters definition of poetry on the basis of nature and its aspects. Thus the concept of ecopoetry is analyzed and can be explained in the following way as:

"Ecopoetry is poetry with a strong ecological emphasis or message. Many poets, poems and books of poems have expressed ecological concerns but only recently has the terms Eco poetry gained use."³

Many others emphasized the art form with aesthetics of language and uses condensed form to convey an emotion or idea to the reader or listener. The environmental crisis in modern times encouraged readers to explore poetry from ecological point of view. Man's exploitation of nature has resulted in ecological hazards which could only be compensated by increasing value of natural objects. Poets like A.K. Ramanujan had sensed the need to elevate nature to the level of God hence incorporated nature and its phenomenon in literature to support his step. His works evolved the concept of harmony with nature and leaves a message for upcoming generations.

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