



## STUDY OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN IN THE SELECT POEM OF DILIP CHITRE AND NIYI OSUNDARE

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### Abstract :

In this research paper researcher has studied select English poems through the perspective of ecocriticism. The English Romantic poets had praised the beauty of nature, the realistic depiction of the rural life in their poems. That time nature was intact that is why they saw beauty in nature. They focused on the greenery of meadow, mountains, hills, tranquil lake, valleys, harvest and such other natural things. But in this modern industrial and highly populated world the environment is highly affected and the simplicity, harmony, and peace have lost in the past. The writers and poets make awareness in the society. They have focused on the modern environmental issues like deforestation, pollution and endangered life of animals.

**Key Words:** environmental Concern, deforestation pollution, endangered life of animals.

### Introduction:

Literature is the mirror of the society; Poetry is one of the important genres of literature. In this genre there is variety of themes. Some modern poets have used the theme of environmental issues in their poems. Nowadays, world is facing many environmental issues like pollution, global warming, deforestation and forest fire etc. These environmental issues are existed in all over the world; let it be developed country or undeveloped country.

The researcher has selected two poems, one by Nigerian poet Niyi Osundare and another by Indian poet Dilip Chitre. Dilip Chitre is one of the modern Indian English poets. The poem 'Felling of the Banyan Tree' by Dilip Chitre highlights on the effects of cutting a huge banyan tree on ecosystem. The other poem 'Our Earth Will Not Die' by Niyi Osundare highlights the effects of industries on the flora and fauna.

**Key words:** Ecocriticism, environment, pollution, deforestation

### Methodology:

M. H. Abraham says, "Ecocriticism' (or by alternative names, environmental criticism and green studies) designates the critical writings which explore the relations between the literature and biological and physical environment, conducted with an acute awareness of the devastation being wrought on that environment by human activities."

Term 'Ecocriticism' was coined in 1970s by combining 'criticism' with a shortened form of 'ecology'. 'Ecology' is the science that investigates the interrelations of all forms of plant and animal life, including human being, with each other.

The poem 'Felling of the Banyan Tree' is an autobiographical poem, the poet and his family was living in the Baroda and they had left it to live in Bombay. Poet describes how his father had ordered to tenants to leave the house belong to the poet's father, to demolish those houses. He had demolished those houses but the trees abound had remained there.

One by one the structures were demolished  
 Only our own house remained and the trees  
 Trees are sacred my grandmother used to say  
 Felling them is a crime

The initially readers think that the poet's father was tending to the trees, he trusted in the words of the older generation (mother) that 'trees are sacred' and 'falling them is crime'. In the Indian culture there is much importance to trees, some are worshiped. But the poet's father did not pay attention to the words of his mother and orders to root out and chop off all trees. There were many species of the tree like the sheoga, the oudumber, the neem and banyan etc. The audumber tree is worshiped in the Hindu culture for being the abode of the god. Such sacredness of trees may be conferred by the ancient Indian people to preserve the trees. They had recognised the importance of trees in human life.

But the huge banyan tree stood like a problem  
 Whose roots lay deeper than all our lives  
 My father ordered it to be removed.

All other trees were rooted out but the huge banyan tree, which was two hundred years old, was the problem. It had become difficult to root out and chop off such big tree. Intentionally poet is describing about the banyan tree, such big trees are being chopped off without thinking about the environment. The tree took two hundred years to grow that size but it is being cut in few hours. We can imagine the hugeness of that banyan tree that its trunk was fifty feet in circumference.

Killing of tree is not death of that tree itself but there are many other living being whose life is finished with that tree, because many lives are depend on such big tree. And it definitely affects on the ecosystem.

Poet says that

Sawing them off for seven days and the heap was huge  
 Insects and birds began to leave the tree.

When we kill the tree that time the insects and birds those living on that tree have either leave that place or face ones death. They had to follow the principle 'Leave to live.'

Poet speaks about the tragic reality of cities-

Soon afterwards we left Baroda for Bombay  
 Where there are no trees...

The cities have become the forest of cement concrete houses, the scarcity of the pure air. The Delhi city is one of the most polluted in the world that people had to install air filter to get pure air. There is need to build the Eco towns to protect the environment. Many jungles are being deforested in the name of development.

In recently the Aarey forest issue is in controversy. DNA (News paper) reports that Aaray forest is spread over 1800 acre and is often referred to as 'Lung of Mumbai' apart from leopard, about 300 species of animals are found there. Deforesting such vegetation affects ecosystem.

The other poem 'Our Earth Will Not Die' by Niyi Osundare is about much environmental concern. Niyi Osundare is Nigerian poet; he was a strong believer in the power of words, saying, "To utter is to alter". May be that is why he has uttered about environmental issues in this poem. He says that-

Lynched,  
 the lakes,  
 Slaughtered,

the seas  
Mauled,  
the mountains.

Osundare says that the lakes are lynes and seas are slaughtered, here he is speaking about the water contamination. The water of the lakes and seas had been severely polluted and aquatic and marine animals are endangered. The marine life is being killed by the chemical mixed water. Arvind Kumar opines that Aquatic living species die as the pesticides washed down from the fields to rivers, tanks and other water reservoirs(6). The mountains are dug to build roads and houses.

a lake is killed by the arsenic urine  
from the bladder of profit factories  
a poisoned staggers down the hills  
coughing chaos in the sickly sea

The aquatic animals from the lakes are killed by the chemical mixed, arsenic, water. The chemical companies also are not paying proper attention on their discharged water. The water from such factories is released without process in the rivers, lakes and seas. Dr. Arumugam states that overpopulation, modern technologies and industrialization leads to the deterioration of the environment(12).

The another issue Osundare presents in the poem is-

The rain falls, acid, on balding forests  
Their branches amputated by the septic daggers  
Of tainted clouds  
Weeping willows drip mercury tears

The toxic air gives off from the chemical factories, it is mixed in the clouds and it rains of the acid on the balding forest. The forests are called balding because the trees are being cut off and forests are made plain ground without trees. This chemical mixed water of rain is the septic dagger and it is massacring the trees. The metaphor of dagger is used for acid mixed rain water. Poet imagines that the willow tree is crying mercury. This tears means the rain water which if falling on the leaves of the willows and poet imagines that polluted water is the tears of the willows.

Poet says that

A nuclear sun rises like a funeral ball  
Reducing man and meadow to dust and dirt.

Poet has given the allusion of the nuclear bomb which was dropped by America on the Japan. In the World War II America had dropped the two nuclear bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki cities and those cities had reduced to dust and dirt. The heat emitted from those bombs was too high that nothing remained in those cities. The entire living being became ash in some hours. That has caused destruction on environment for long duration.

Fishes have died in the waters. Fishes  
Birds have died in the trees. Birds  
Rabbits have died in their burrows. Rabbits.

See all these are the effects of environmental destruction. Poet blames to the people for this predicament of animal and birds.

Day by day the condition of the forest is deteriorating, and human being is responsible to all this environmental destruction. Arvind Kumar comments that there is also a need to introduce eco-friendly refineries and eco-friendly thermal power plants to reduce pollution in the localities...Some important protective measures should be taken up for the conservation of forests and wildlife in India (6).

### Finding:

In these two poems poet has focused on the devastation of the environment. The water is being polluted and as a consequence of this the aquatic animals are dying. The hundreds of birds and insects live on a big tree and cutting of tree destroys their life.

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**Conclusion:**

These Indian and Nigerian poets have precisely presented the reality of the environment. The entire world should pay attention to preserve the nature. If we neglect this destruction of the nature, surely we will go to the doom of the world. But to avoid all these things we all should preserve the environment. We should process on the released water from the factories, plant maximum trees and dispose toxic waste properly and avoid plastic bags. All these things are necessary to recover the lost days of nature.

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