
An Eco-Critical Discourse Analysis of Doris Lessing's Short Story "A Mild Attack of Locust"

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Abstract

Eco linguistics provides a way to look at the world from the ecological perspective in order to bring sustainability in life. The present study aims to understand the role of eco critical discourse analysis to reveal the ecological issues in discourse. The study investigates power relationship between nature and human from the perspective of eco critical discourse analysis in the short story 'A mild attack of locust'. The study utilizes a qualitative research design with a descriptive, exploratory and interpretative research. The ecosophy proposed by Guattari (2009) has helped the researcher to understand our position, as a component of the climate where we reside, and how we learn from the ecological issue, in light of the three ecologies: that of the climate (environment), that of societal relations and that of human (mental) subjectivity. The researcher has used eco-critical discourse analysis for revealing the issues related to ecology, evaluates and understand the relations, the events, embedded ideology which is working against the ecosystem of our planet.

Keywords: Eco Linguistics, Eco Critical Discourse, Ecosophy, Ecology

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Language is considered as the most powerful tool of communication. It is a language which makes us different from animals and other creatures. It is a language which helps to express our feelings, emotions and our thoughts with other human beings. Language is one of the most important phenomena of human life. It plays a vital role in describing who we are and how we are different from other speech communities. Ecological discourse analysis is significant to study the relationship between ecology and language; it also helps to build ecological consciousness to deal with ecological crises. According to Guowen (2017), ecological discourse analysis gives a wider perspective of understanding ecology and ecological issues.

Eco linguistics, or ecological linguistics, emerged in the 1990s as a new frame of study of linguistic research. The term Eco linguistics was originally defined Einar Haugen in 1972. He said that Eco linguistics is the study of the relationship between human beings and their physical environment. Ecolinguistics study the relationship between language, eco system and ecology (Song & Tang, 2020). According to Stibbe (2014), Eco linguistics is not only about the analysis of the text rather it is the ecological analysis of the discourse. According to Naess ecosophy (1994), all living things have an intrinsic value. Naess stresses on ecological self. Ecological self is the mature manifestation of being human. Ecosophy as the philosophy of ecological harmony and equilibrium.

Critical Discourse analysis primarily deals with the ideology to be revealed by linguists. According to Bloor and Bloor (2007), CDA reveals the frozen ideology embedded in the language. According to Muhlhausler (2003), language is the source of interconnection with the world. In ecology theses connections are either beneficial, ambivalent or destructive. Stibb (2015), mentions that Eco linguistics combines critical discourse analysis to reveal issues related to ecology and environment.

Guattari (2009), defines ecosophy as speculative model dealing with the renewal of the old concept of the environment. Ecosophy makes us aware of the environmental issues in which we are living and also makes us aware how to act on the environment. He believes that it's important to transform the mentalities and thoughts of the people in order to bring ecofriendly attitude towards the world of nature.

A mild attack of Locusts is a short story written by Doris Lessing. The story revolves around the description of the swarm of locusts, responsible for the devastation of the entire fields and ultimately lives of the people. The story reveals the helplessness of human beings on the face of nature. The writer shares the story through the eyes of the protagonist, Margaret. The story sets on the farm of Rhodesia. The thick swarm of locusts attacks the field of the crops and destroyed the crops within seconds. The theme of catastrophe and destruction is prevailing throughout the story. The locusts are devouring all green vegetation. The present study aims to explore the relationship between nature and human beings in the short story 'A mild attack of locust' by using the ecosophy of Guattari as a theory, and Fairclough CDA model as a tool to unveil the power relationship between nature and human beings.

Problem Statement

The study of relationship between humans and nature has often been over looked or ignored by the people. There is a need to study the relationship between man and nature including social and mental relations which can provide us better understanding of the world we are living in. Analyzing the text to find out the ecological vocabulary is not the sole purpose of dealing with ecological issues, rather to unveil what kind of power struggle relationship exists between nature and human beings for the sake of awakening eco consciousness seeks attention for research.

Research Objectives

1. To investigate power relationship between nature and human from the perspective of eco critical discourse analysis in the short story *A mild attack of locust*.
2. To examine the association between nature and human by the use of ecosophy in the short story *A mild attack of locust*.

Research Questions

- Q1.** How does the writer construe power relationship between nature and human in the short story 'A mild attack of locust'?
- Q2.** How does the writer construct association between nature and human by the use of ecosophy in the short story *A mild attack of locust*?

Significance of the Study

The present study will help the readers and future researchers to understand the role of eco critical discourse analysis to reveal the ecological issues in discourse and to make them aware about the use of critical language. This study is innovative in a sense that it explores the areas which has not been discussed in terms of power relation between the characters and environment in which they live by the use of ecosophy. There is a need to study the relationship between man and nature including social and mental relations which can provide us better understanding of the world we are living in. Several studies have been done on this story but so far no work is done from ecological and critical discourse analysis perspective.

Limitation of the Study

The present study is limited to the analysis of one short story in order to find out the power relation between nature and humans and how human beings are building relationship with nature by the use of ecosophy. The story is also limited to the ecosophy of Felix Guattari and model of Norman Fairclough for the purpose of analysis.

Literature Review

Language ecology is divided into two parts, one is related to the social aspect and other is related to the psychological aspect as language exists in the minds of its users (Haugen, 2001). Environment plays a vital role in shaping the lives of the people because human beings are in constant interaction with their environment. As asserted by Sapir (1912), the social forces of any society bring environmental changes.

The concept of Eco linguistics is also discussed from the perspective of CDA. Goatley (2002), investigated the language of BBC world service radio to reveal the ecological discourses by applying the concept of critical discourse analysis. The findings of the study show that nature plays a significant role in shaping the language of media.

Many theories are used to define Eco linguistics studies. According to Naess (1996), Ecosophy deals with the philosophy of ecological harmony between human and non-human entities. He coined the word deep ecology. He is of the view that all living creatures whether human, plants and animals have the equal rights to live and to blossom. Self-realization is the ultimate goal of human life.

In Eco linguistics two models are very important to discuss namely Haugen model and Halliday model. According to Haugen (1972), there is a relationship between human and its physical environment. He was the first to propose the concept of ecology of language. On the other hand, Halliday model refers to functional approach of grammar. The model of Halliday shows the relationship between language and critical discourse analysis. It focuses on the use of language and the degradation of environment. According to Stibbe (2015), Eco linguistics analyzes human actions and thoughts by using an ecosophy. Eco linguistics not only discusses the discourses related to environment or ecology but it also discusses the issues related to the sustainability of life. It studies the relationships for the sake of maintenance of life.

Eco linguistics is an interdisciplinary branch dealing with other areas of life as well. It shows the interdependency between all kinds of systems like social, linguistics, economics and ecosystem. According to Abram (1996), the devastation brought by humans into the world of nature is due to the constant intervention of humans into the world of nature. Nettle and Romaine (2000), also discuss the role of globalization for the destruction of ecosystem. The hegemonic spread of globalization not only affecting the languages of different communities but it also brought negative impact on our environment.

According to Door and Madesan (2007), Eco linguistics gives us a holistic view of the world where everything is interconnected and inter related. Within this broader concept other concepts also arises like eco poetics, eco psychology, eco sociology etc. broadening the area of discussion to understand the connection between Eco linguistics and other areas of life. Eco critical discourse analysis provides awareness towards the understanding of environment and language. As discussed by Fill and Muhlhausler (2001), eco critical discourse analysis helps to reveal the hidden ideologies which are responsible for the destruction of ecology. The importance of language is highlighted by many linguists, according to Sapir (1949), language is used to transfer ideas emotions desires by the use of voluntary symbols. Language is non-instinctive means of communicating ideas.

Research Methodology and Theoretical Framework

The researcher has used the qualitative mode of inquiry as a research design which is descriptive, creative and interpretative. The purpose of using qualitative inquiry for this research is that it allows the researcher for insight evaluation of text and opens the possibility of interpretation.

The sources are used in this study are both primary and secondary. The primary source includes the text of the short story understudy while various articles and critical opinions are used as secondary sources in the study.

The researcher has used the ecosophy proposed by Guattari (2009). The Ecosophy proposed by Guattari (2009), helps us to understand our position, as a component of the climate where we reside, and how we learn from the ecological issue, in light of the three ecologies: that of the climate

(environment), that of societal relations and that of human (mental) subjectivity. The three ecologies are defined by Guattari as follows.

Environmental Ecology

It deals with the relationship between environment and nature, how we live in an environment and act upon it. Imbalances in nature are the results of human interventions.

Social Ecology

It deals with understanding the human relationship with nature and with each other.

Mental Ecology

It deals with the creation of thoughts resulting actions. This mental ecology helps to understand the purpose of the work. It deals with understanding the position of the subject in the environment.

The researcher has used Norman Fairclough (1992), critical discourse analysis concept as a tool to substantiate the analytical ground of the work. CDA is a method that analyses language as discourse. The use of language in society is the form of social practice rather than individual activity. Power relations are also negotiated through discourse in CDA. The ideology is embedded in the text. The researcher has used eco-critical discourse analysis for revealing the issues related to ecology, evaluates and understands the relations, the events, embedded ideologies which are working against the ecosystem of our planet. The researcher focuses on the power relation of the characters with each other and with the nature and it has also highlighted how the author has constructed association between the characters and their environment by using the ecosophy of Guattari.

The researcher focuses on three stages of Fairclough model of CDA in order to reveal the ecological perspective of the story.

Description of the Text

It deals with the features and properties of the text.

Interpretation of the Text

It deals with the interpretation of the text as well as the context. It is further divided into sub stages. Surface of utterance, which deals with the knowledge of the language its grammar and vocabulary.

Meaning of Utterance

It deals with assigning meaning to the parts of the text. It also unveils the implicit meanings of the text.

Text Structures

It deals with how the entire text is linked. It deals with schemata and the cognitive processes of the participants.

The third stage deals with the

Explanation of the Text

It shows the relationship between interaction and social context. The relationship between language and power and ideology is revealed in this stage.

The analysis is based on Fairclough 3 D model of CDA.

Description of the Text

The researcher focuses on the modes of sentences i.e declarative, grammatical questions (interrogative question) and imperative.

Modality (Relational Modality)

The use of pronouns in relationship with power and solidarity

How sentences are linked together by the use of cohesive devices and logical connectors.

All these features are discussed by the researcher to investigate power relationship between nature and human from the perspective of eco critical discourse analysis and to examine the association between nature and human by the use of ecosophy.

Analysis

Some of the examples of declarative sentences from the story are mentioned below:

‘.....the rain that year were good. They were coming nicely just as the crops needed them(p. 1, line 2)

‘.....their crop was maize. Their farm was three thousand acres on the ridges that rise up.... the Zambezi escarpment—high, dry, wind-swept country, cold and dusty in winter (p.1, line 17).

....The sky made her eyes ache; she was not used to it..... (pg.2, line 33)

‘.....the government is sending out warnings that locusts are expected, coming down from the breeding grounds up north..... (p.2, line 35)

‘.... Locusts are everywhere. The earth seemed to be moving with locust crawling everywhere.... (p.3, line 41).

‘.... there it was even more like being in a heavy storm.... Was reverberating, and the clamor of beaten iron from the lands was like thunder... (p.4, line 92).

‘.... he picked a stray locust off his shirt and split it down with his thumbnail; it was clotted inside with eggs.... (p.4, line 96).

‘.... Margaret thought an adult swarm was bad enough. The clouds of moving insects alternately thickened and lightened, like driving rain.... (p.3, line 85).

‘.... Margaret sat down helplessly and thought, well, if it’s the end, it’s the end. What now? We’ll all three have to go back to town... (p.5, line 123).

‘..... The air was thick—locusts everywhere. The locusts were flopping against her, and she brushed them off—heavy red-brown creatures, looking at her with their beady, their hard, serrated legs. She held her breath with disgust and ran through the door (p.6, line 134)

‘.... A single day of the locust swarm and everything on the farm has been devoured and tainted by eggs for months to come.... (p.4, line 92).

Interpretation

All these above examples of declarative sentences show the relationships of the characters with each other and with their surroundings. The opening sentence of the story gives the readers a glimpse of the role of nature in the lives of the people living there which according to Guattari (2009), ecosophy helps us to understand humans as part of environment in which they are living, building and rebuilding relationships and how we act on the problems of environment.

Initially the positive picture of the nature is shown, it shows how rain brings greenery and life to the dry land which according to Fairclough (2001), interpretation can be produced by looking at what is inside the text and what is inside the mind of the interpreter. But when the nature is manipulated it can bring drastic results for human. The way characters discussing the coming of locust in the practical manner it shows how they are engulfed by the threat of nature. Eco critical Discourse analysis and Eco linguistics discourse analysis are used interchangeably. (Fill & Muehlhauser (2001). Therefore, the use of these terms is interchangeable.

The dependency of human beings and their source of life is reflected from the healthy relationship between the rain and the crops, on which humans are dependent upon nature for their food, the building of relationship of human and nature is reflected which is according to the ecosophy of Guattari. In another instance it is found that the swarm of locust has covered everything in the field. The appearance of locust seems to be powerful with the announcement of government, government

is warning the people about locust, it shows how human beings belong to the environment they live. The changes in the environment bring changes in the lives of the people.

The power of the nature shows in the line.

‘.... the air was darkening...it was oppressive too...’ (p.3, line 65)

The powerfulness of nature is shown in this line. Nature is more powerful than human. This is the reason why humans are afraid of the wrath of nature. According to the ecosophy of Guattari (2009), the natural disaster or imbalances in nature are due to the intervention of humans in the world of nature. Human beings need to develop the sense of care for the world of nature. If human beings develop healthy relationship with each other and with the world of nature this will bring a positive change in the environment. Nature inspires feeling and this thing connects us to each other and with the world of nature.

The opening line of the short story not only gives us information about the happening of the event like the arrival of locust, but it also tells the readers what will be the consequences of such catastrophe in long term. It develops schemata. As in the line. ‘.....her instinct was to look about her at the trees...insects, swarm horrible...Margaret thought an adult swarm was bad enough...darkened with moving shadows....’ (p.1, line 26)

These lines not only show the relationship between the characters of the story but also the development of the thoughts of the character. These lines are aligned with Guattari (2009), mental ecosophy dealing with creations of the thoughts and the resulting actions. In these lines Margaret realizes her position in the face of the catastrophe. She even foresees how this catastrophe will bring worst consequences for them in the long run. She could not stop herself thinking about what they will face in the future as a result of this natural disaster. The swarm of locust might result famine, drought, hunger, poverty, destruction for them consequently. The way Margaret stares out the window and observes the happenings make her think about force of locust and the damage it brings to them in the future. It makes her realize the intensity of the destruction they are going to face in future. The attack of locust is so powerful she could not stop herself thinking about it. This in turn influences the natural ecology in which human beings live and on which humans depend. This concept runs in parallel with Guattari ecosophy (2009) according to him our thinking has a great influence on how we act and live in the society.

‘ Margaret sat down helplessly and thought, well, if it is the end, it’s the end.....’ (p.5, line 139)

These lines reflect not only the thought process of Margaret but it also reflects the power and dominancy of nature over human. The constant struggle of power and survival is explicitly mentioned. The helplessness of Margaret reveals the helplessness of all human beings while encountering any natural disaster. Human beings cannot stop such natural happenings. These destructions are the result of the exploitation which is caused by humans upon nature. The unpredictable power of the wild nature is prevailing throughout the text. As according to Guattari (2009), mental ecology deals with our subjectivity of how we perceive the world around us, this thought enables one to become aware of the environment.

All these sentences are reflecting not only the relationship of the characters with each other, but it also reflects how the environment is enveloping constantly in developing relationships. It seems all the happenings and characters of the story are the part of nature. These sentences also reflect how the nature is bringing catastrophe to the people living there. As according to Guattari ecology of environment (2009), anything can happen with human nature either in the form of development or devastation and these catastrophes are due to human intervention resulting imbalances in the environment. Here the nature is shown as powerful. Nature has always been a thing of power and unstoppable force for all of human history.

When the locusts left from the farm, Margaret notes, “There was nothing left but the black spines of branches and tree trunks. No green—nothing. ...” (p.5, line 142).

Interrogative Question

Some of the Interrogative types of sentences are also used in the story showing how characters are developing relationship with each other and with their environment, and how the actions are taking place according to the ecosophy of Guattari. It sheds light on the theme of power dominancy as well. For example:

Is it very bad? Asked Margaret fearfully, and the old man said emphatically, “We’re finished. This swarm may pass over, but once they’ve started, they’ll be coming down from the north one after another..... (p .4, line 98).

storm of insects, banging the gong, feeding the fires with leaves, while the insects clung all over him. She shuddered. “How can you bear to let them touch you...? Stephen (p.2, line 45).

What now? We’ll all three have to go back to town (p.5, line 141)

Have you ever seen a hopper swarm in March? No? Well, you’re lucky....” (p.5, line 153).

Interpretation

All these questions give us a view of what is going on in the story. Who is involved in the action and how the language is used to make link with ecosophy and power relationship. These sentences show the discussion of characters with each other, and the development of the relationships of characters with each other and with the world of nature.

The sense of belonging with their environment is highlighted in the discussion which according to Guattari (2009), relates with the ecosphonic thought for the understanding of the world of nature and human nature relationship. These sentences reflect what happen when the human beings are forced to face the power of nature. Nature is making people feel helpless as mentioned in the line what now? We’ll all three have to go back to town (p.5, line 141), it means the nature is more powerful than human and it compels them to leave their homeland. The sense of emotional attachment with their place is reflected in this line. Going back to town is something which is making Margaret and other characters restless. They are associated with this place and leaving this place is hard for them. According to Guattari the characters are not only building relationships with each other but also with nature. The imagination of Margaret surrounding by locust make her feels miserable.

‘... Insects, swarm of them, Horrible (p.1, line 27).

According to Guattari (2009), ecosophy of mental ecology helps to understand the self and their surroundings. Margaret is creating thoughts and the results of the thoughts on the actions of her life are explicitly mentioned. The thoughts of locust even making her uncomfortable because locusts are the cause of disaster not for her but for the entire family. She understands not only her relation with the nature but also the purpose of her position in the world of nature. She is the one who is always discovering new things about the world of nature. Through this mental activity it becomes possible to get a deep insight of the characters and the progress of the story and devastated.

Examples of Imperative Sentences

Get the kettle going. Margaret. It’s thirsty work. (p.3, line 77).

Quick, get your fire started. Stephen shouted on servant (p.2, line 52).

Get me a drink now, Locusts are everywhere (p.6, line 155).

Look, look he shouted. There they are. (p.3, line 64).

Quick, quick, here comes the locusts (p.2, line 59).

Richard and old Stephen were giving them orders: Hurry, hurry, hurry. (p.2, line 47).

All the above sentences are showing how the characters and the environment are surrounded by; interacting with each other. Nature has always been a thing of power and unstoppable force for human and this force of nature cannot be denied, a fact supported both by our own fears and knowledge of the struggle of trying to survive within it. According to Guattari (2009), everything is expected in the world of nature from the sustainability of relationships to the worst disaster, the power dominancy relationship is not only reflected through the characters with each other but also with the world of nature. It deals with our understanding as the component of the environment where

we are residing in and how we reflect and learn from environmental problems. Apart from interrelationship with characters and the world of nature, the power relationship is also reflected in the lines. As in the line when Stephen shouted on his servants show his superiority over the servant. The command which he gives to his servants quick, quick get the fire start.....(p.2, line 52), reflects the power relationship between the character and this power struggle is the part of how the characters who are in superior position build relationship with the characters who are in inferior positions is according to Guattari social ecology.

What types of Pronouns are used and how?

Examples of Pronouns

The rains that year were good; they were coming nicely just as the crops needed them....' (p.1, line 1).

.....It was oppressive, too, with the heaviness of a storm. (p.3, line 68).

The locusts were falling like hail on the roof of the kitchen, it sounded like a heavy storm..... (p.3, line 91).

"We haven't had locusts in seven years," one said, and the other, "They go in cycles, locusts do...." (p.1, line 31).

"We're finished, Margaret, finished!" he said. "Those beggars can eat every leaf and blade off the farm in half an hour.... (p.3, line 74).

He lifted up a locust that had got itself somehow into his pocket and held it in the air by one leg.... (p.5, line 145).

.....he had been fighting locusts, squashing locusts, yelling at locusts, and sweeping them in great mounds into the fires to burn, he nevertheless took this one to the door and carefully threw it out to join its fellows, as if he would rather not harm a hair of its head..... (p.5, line 148).

The above examples show that the relationship between the human and the environment is made by using the pronouns. Nature and the entity of nature is shown by using First person pronoun 'it', and 'they', whereas humans are represented by the use of 'we', 'he' and 'she'.

As mentioned in one of the lines

'..... we're finished, Margaret, finished!" he said. "Those beggars can eat every leaf and blade off the farm in half an hour....' (p.3, line 74). It shows that nature has conquered and in result brought complete destruction in the lives of the characters of the story. As according to Fairclough (1992), power in discourse is to do with the powerful participant; here nature is shown more powerful than humans. The use of pronoun 'we' in this line reflects the status of human in front of the destruction of nature and 'those' refer to locust, to nature as according to Guattari (2009), this worst environmental destruction or natural disaster is the reaction of nature due to the action of humans on nature.

Interpretation

The use of pronouns shows the power relation between human and nature. Humans consider them more powerful as compared to the nature. The use of 'It' and 'they', show that humans are different and more powerful as compared to nature. This shows the power dominancy of human over nature. By using the pronoun 'He', 'she' and 'we' shows that humans consider them different from the world of nature. Humans are considering them as exclusive group by ignoring the nature. This reflects the power and authority of human over nature. In the sentences above the dominancy of nature is shown by using the pronouns 'it', 'they' and their. The use of pronouns help to understand human relations with the world of nature as according to Guattari (2009), social ecology deals with the building of human relations and rebuilding to the levels of sustainability. The collective struggle of the characters in the story shows how they are trying not to let the devastation defeat them.

As mentioned in one sentence from the above examples

"..... he had been fighting locusts, squashing locusts, yelling at locusts, and sweeping them in great mounds into the fires to burn"

The relationship of human and their treatment with the nature is the reason of their devastation. The way they treat the nature, the nature in return give them back the same. The constant battle of characters against nature show damage they caused to nature. But the nature proves to be more powerful as compared to man. According to the ecosophy of Guattari (2009), ecological awareness is important to build harmonious relationship with the world of nature.

Relational Modality

The aim of the researcher is to find out the example of relational modality from the text of the story. It will help the researcher to find out the relationship between characters with each other and the world of nature. The researcher evaluated the nature of the relationship of the characters with each other and with the environment.

Examples of Relational Modality

“..... in a few minutes Margaret could see the smoke of fires rising from all around the farmlands. When the government warnings came, piles of wood and grass had been prepared in every cultivated field”. (p.2, line 48)

“.....Margaret looked out and saw the air dark with a crisscross of the insects, and she set her teeth and ran out into it; what the men could do, she could...” (p.3, line 93)

“.... The earth seemed to be moving, with locusts crawling everywhere; she could not see the lands at all, so thick was the swarm...” (pg.4, line 102)

“.....If we can stop the main body settling on our farm, that’s everything. If they get a chance to lay their eggs, we are going to have everything eaten....” (p.5, line 123)

“..... she took a quick look at Stephen, the old man who had farmed forty years in this country and been bankrupt twice before.... would men make him go and become a clerk in the city....”(p.5, line 140)

Interpretation

The way Margaret used the modal auxiliary ‘could’ in the sentence shows the position of her relationship with other characters. She is considered as a passive character who is not even able to make her decision on her own this is in accordance with Guattari (2009), ecosophy building of relationship with each other in social ecology. Imbalances in relationship with each other and with nature cause destruction. So far, the sake of sustainability, harmonious relationship is necessary. Power relation in the sentence is not explicit but rather implicit. She observes everything by sitting inside her home but she doesn’t have any authority to give her remarks to anything because of the lack of experiences according to the male characters of the story.

In another sentence the building of relationship and the acceptance of the disaster is reflected when Margaret uses the modal auxiliary ‘might’, it seems she is willing to give up in the face of power of nature but at the same time she is also fascinated by the sight of locust. According to Naess (1989), the relationship between man and his environment is valuable and intrinsically important as it gives right to all organisms to live and to blossom. She is the one who is observing everything around her with great concern, she is optimistic even the swarm will get settled somehow in future. This is reflecting towards sustainability of her relation with nature and the place she is residing as according to Guattari (2009), sustainability is an important component of life and it can only be justified by ensuring the sustainability of environment.

“.... She might even get to letting locusts settle on her, in time”. (p.6, line 165)

In other example of modality ‘can’ from the sentence

“.... If we can stop the main body settling on our farm, that’s everything. If they get a chance to lay their eggs, we are going to have everything eaten.....” (p.5, line 123)

The characters are showing the sense of belonging to the world of nature. They are considering locust as part of nature which is powerful. The scars of nature are going to live for many years. The attack of locust reveals the relationship of the characters with the nature, even though

they know that locusts have eaten away everything but they are still struggling hard to make them away in order to bring a difference as according to Guattari (2009), our subjectivity helps to think about nature and show love and care towards nature.

Cohesive Features/ Cohesion

These are formal connections between sentences in a text. It involves vocabulary links (Fairclough, 1992). These cohesive devices are used to explore the sentences from the perspective of power relation and association of characters with each other and the world of nature.

Then, although for the last three hours he had been fighting locusts, squashing locusts, yelling at locusts, and sweeping them in great mounds into the fires to burn, he nevertheless took this one to the door, and carefully threw it out to join its fellows, as if he would rather not harm a hair of its head... (p.5, line 148).

The rains that year were good; they were coming nicely, just as the crops needed them—or so Margaret, when the men said they were not too bad. (p.1, line 1).

She never had an opinion of her own on matters like the weather, because even to know about a simple thing like the weather needs experience, which Margaret, born and brought up in Johannesburg, had not got. (p1, line 3).

Quick, get your fires started, For, of course, while, every farmer hoped the locusts would overlook his farm and go on to the next, it was only fair to warn the others; one must play fair.... (p.2, line 60).

This swarm may pass over, but once they've started, they'll be coming down from the north one after another. (p.5, line 122).

He lifted up a locust that had got itself, somehow into his pocket, and held it in the air by one leg..... (p.5, line 144).

The above examples show the use of cohesive devices in the story. These cohesive devices not only show the connectivity of the sentences in text but also help to Understand human relationships; and their ways of belonging to the social environment.

Interpretation

The cohesive devices used in the sentences of story show what kind of relationships characters are building with each other and with their environment. In one sentence Stephen is showing his disgust towards the swarm of locust by beating and crushing them but at the same time he is building empathetic relationship with the locust by showing some emotions towards the locust, as according to Guattari (2009), humans cannot be separated from the environment whatever is happening in the nature it will have an impact on the existence of human life.

.... then, although for the last three hours he had been fighting locusts, squashing locusts, yelling at locusts, and sweeping them..... and carefully threw it out to join its fellows, as if he would rather not harm a hair of its head....(p.5, line 148).

It can also be found out that the constant struggle of Stephen to get rid of the locust seem to be useless in face of power of nature.

The way characters are preparing for the locust show their mutual struggle for the fight against the swarm of locust. It highlights how under this pandemic characters are interacting with each other and with nature. This mutual fight helps to understand the relationship of the characters with each other and with their environment.

“..... quick, get your fires started, For, of course, while, every farmer hoped the locusts would overlook his farm and go on to the next, it was only fair to warn the others; one must play fair....” (p.2, line 60).

“.... the rains that year were good; they were coming nicely, just as the crops needed them—or so Margaret gathered, when the men said they were not too bad.... But she was not aware of the devastation” (p.1, line 1)

The above example shows how the characters are developing links with each other and with the world of nature. Nature is an inseparable part of human life. Humans are in continuous interaction with the world of nature. Human beings are depended on nature since their birth. The last part of the sentence reflecting the catastrophe which the human beings will be facing in future. It shows that the action of nature on human beings is beneficial as well as harmful at the same time. Humans can never win the fight against natural catastrophes. As according to Guattari (2009), that environmental ecology can occur naturally with passage of time.

Explanation

According to Fairclough critical discourse analysis helps to reveal the social and political ideology embedded in the discourse. The Ecosophy proposed by Guattari (2009) addresses our understanding, as a component of the climate where we reside, and how we learn and follow up on the ecological issue, in light of the three ecologies: that of the climate, that of social relations and that of human(mental) subjectivity. Ecosophy plays a vital role in understanding the relationship with environment by awakening eco consciousness for the purpose of continuity of not only humans but also other living creatures of the world. According to Naess (1989), human and other entities of the universe have an intrinsic interest to save their life and this can only be achieved if we build harmonious relationship with the world of nature.

Eco linguistics studies how language affect upon humans and other organisms and the environment in which they are living (Alexander & Stibbe, 2014). Based on Eco linguistics, eco critical discourse analysis focuses on the ecological consciousness and ecological concept constructed when language represents ecological and environmental problems, especially the attitude of human towards other species and the relationship between human and ecological environment.

The theme of war is prevailing in the story. It shows that author reflecting her own experiences of war, as this story is produced after World War II. The way she is describing the situation of attack in the field is not less than any situation before war. The male characters in the story are discussing the arrival of locust as if they are discussing in war. The trenches which they are going to dig show the practice used by the people in the situation of war. The warning of government, the announcement of people, and the circulation of pamphlets make a situation of war. Their plan to poison the insect is similar to the plan when soldiers were poisoned in order to get rid of them. The people in the story trying hard to kill locust from the surface of their lands, similar strategy was also used by Hitler who killed the people do not belong to the race of Aryan. So, language is a tool that inspires us either to protect or destroy the ecosystem on which our lives are dependent. (Stibbe, 2021, p. 1).

The hint to colonialism is also found in the story. Stephen shows the representation of the colonizers, White people that is of Europeans who invaded the land of Africa for the purpose of money from the lands of the Africans. The harshness and rigidity in his behavior and in his language suggests that he does not want to give up easily. He knows that he is surrounded by devastation but he still finds out ways to survive under such circumstances. As according to Guattari (2009), survival and sustainability is an important element of living. It deals with the environment we are living and how we are acting upon the environmental issues. In another instance the way he shouts at his servants and commands them reflects the mentality of the colonizers who show the power of their dominance by suppressing the local indigenous people. As according to Devall and Sessions (2004), humans are an integrated part of the environment which combines with the other aspects like mental, biological and social, making them unified with nature.

In the story at the end Margaret says that she also feels the one who survived after war. Everything around her got devastated and lost but her family and herself still feel like survivor who somehow manage to survive on the face of worst natural disaster. As asserted by Fill (1993), eco critical discourse analysis deals with environmental problems from a critical stance.

There is another underlying ideology of surviving. In the beginning it can be observed that the theme of devastation is prevailing everywhere but by the end their struggle for survival as according to Guattari (2009), concept of sustainability runs parallel with survival. They want to sustain their

relationships not with each other but also with the world of nature. The main characters survive even after the swarm of locusts and the loss of their crops.

The characters in the story could give up the farm after the locusts have destroyed the crops and find jobs in the city. But they did not consider this option rather they preferred to develop their sustainable relationship with the nature and among themselves as well. Their emotional attachment with the place leads them towards the maintenance of sustainable life which according to Guattari (2009), the building and rebuilding of relationship among the characters themselves and their environment.

This Sustainability can also be seen through the character of Stephen, who even after going through the tough time of his life stay alive even in starving condition but still prefer to live in his land. Steffensen and Fill (2014), Ecolinguistics is a bridge that gives possibility to link the world of nature into the world of human society. On another level, this sustainability can also be seen in the case of locusts. As in the story it is mentioned that they have one plan. After every seven years when the swarms are ready to take their flight for attack, they gathered in group and attack in group, this thing make then an unstoppable force for human beings. The next generation is dependent upon the locust, they lay eggs and eat what they want and ultimately opening new ways for their next generation to repeat the same cycle.

On another level, the sustainability is also reflected in case of green vegetation. The plants and wild grasses restored their nutrients and ready to blossom and survive again even after the attack of locust. With roots planted deep into the ground, the wild grasses and the trees have a good chance to survive and sustain the locust attack. With rain and nutrients stored in the soil, chances are the grasses and leaves will once again bloom. As proposed by Naess (1995), who was the founder of deep ecology movement ecosophy is the philosophy of ecological harmony. The ultimate aim of deep ecology is to live and blossom. Non-human entity also have the right to live and blossom.

In the beginning it can be observed that the theme of devastation is prevailing everywhere but by the end their struggle for survival is aligned with Guattari concept of sustainability. They want to sustain their relationships not with each other but also with the world of nature. The main characters survive even after the swarm of locusts and the loss of their crops, which according to Guattari (2009), concept of social and environmental ecology how we can build relations with each other and with environment in order to review out actions. Guattari ecosophy of social ecology is reflected in throughout the story. The building and rebuilding of relationship of characters with each other and with their environment is seen in the story.

The story revolves around the power of nature and the status of human beings in the world of nature. The story shows the inter dependency of human beings. Human beings are at the mercy of nature. The nature can force the human beings to change and transform their lives as according to Guattari (2009), ecosophy as speculative model dealing with the renewal of the old concept of the environment. Ecosophy makes us aware of the environmental issues in which we are living and also makes us aware how to act on the environment. He believes that it's important transform the mentalities and thoughts of the people in order to bring ecofriendly attitude towards the world of nature.

Conclusion

In nut shell it can be said that Eco linguistics is not only about the analysis of the text rather it is the ecological analysis of the discourse. This work calls for an ecosophical framework that would be a source of inspiration for humans to work in harmony with the nature. The interest of both humans and nature need to be interlinked for a healthy and wealthy planet. According to Stibbe (2014), who is the father of Eco linguistics mentions that language in Eco linguistics plays a vital in understanding life sustaining interactions between humans and their physical environment. It also helps to understand the key ecological issues of the world. Similarly, the role of ecosophy can never be ignored in studying ecological issues. According to Chen (2016), that Eco linguistics adopts an ecological harmony of philosophy as a framework.

The author has justified in representation of the power relation between nature and with the world of humans. The story deals with the description of the theme of man vs. nature and complexity of life. The nature seems to be more powerful than human. The nature is so powerful even a small insect can transform the lives of the characters and bring devastation for them. The characters are facing a great devastation and calamity in the form of nature. This natural disaster is bringing destruction in the lives of the characters.

In the beginning it can be observed that the theme of devastation is prevailing everywhere but by the end their struggle for survival is according to Guattari (2009), concept of sustainability. They want to sustain their relationships not with each other but also with the world of nature. The main characters survive even after the swarm of locusts and the loss of their crops; this is aligned with Guattari concept of social and environmental ecology. Guattari ecosophy of social ecology is reflected in throughout the story. The building and rebuilding of relationship of characters with each other and with their environment is seen in the story.

The story revolves around the power of nature and the status of human beings in the world of nature. The power dominancy is not only reflected through the characters with each other but also with the world of nature. The world of nature seems to be more powerful as compared to the power practice of characters among themselves. The story shows the inter dependency of human beings. The association between nature human beings is discussed by the author which is according to the ecosophy of Guattari. The Ecosophy proposed by Guattari (2009), addresses our understanding, as a component of the climate where we reside, and how we learn and follow up on the ecological issue, in light of the three ecologies: that of the climate(environment), that of social relations and that of human(mental) subjectivity.

Human beings are at the mercy of nature. The nature can force the human beings to change and transform their lives as according to Guattari defines ecosophy as speculative model dealing with the renewal of the old concept of the environment. Ecosophy makes us aware of the environmental issues in which we are living and also makes us aware how to act on the environment. He believes that it's important to transform the mentalities and thoughts of the people in order to bring ecofriendly attitude towards the world of nature.

Future Recommendation

The study was conducted on investigating power relationship between nature and human; association between nature and human in the short story 'A mild attack of locust' by the use of ecosophy. A similar study can also be conducted on another short story and any other genre by different perspective. This study was based on eco critical discourse analysis of the text. Similar study can be conducted through ecological discourse analysis.

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