

Ecocritical Analysis of “Where The Crawdads Sing by Dlia Owens”

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Abstract

Eco-criticism is a theory that discusses the relationship between literature and the physical world. It elaborates on earth-centered approaches to literature, which focus on the natural aspect and its importance in human life. This study has explored the approaches of ecocriticism to understand its usage in literary genres. In order to explore the natural aspect, the research focused on the ecocritical approaches used in the novel. The data has been collected from the text of the novel, which demonstrates an ecological sense to the reader. The study has used a qualitative research method, taking quotations and examples from the text to seek data. Different quotations have been taken to analyze the novel through the lenses of ecocriticism, such as wilderness, pastorals, and ecofeminism. The study reveals that the text portrays nature and natural elements in different chapters. The pastorals, wilderness of nature, and societal wilderness towards the protagonist have been depicted using language that highlights the behavior of humans in relation to their environment. While other researchers have used the theory to investigate the natural aspect of poetry, this study investigates the application of the theory on the novel. The study examines the ways in which nature and its elements are used by the writer to highlight the importance of nature and the environmental crisis and issues discussed in the novel. The study demonstrates the different natural elements in the novel, for which the ecocritical theory is applicable.

Keywords: Eco-criticism, nature, wilderness, pastorals, ecology.

Introduction

In this age of environmental crisis, it is time to think about nature. Ecocriticism is a new way to analyze art and literature by understanding the natural aspects of literature. Dalia Owens as a writer demonstrate ways to rethink about nature. She spent most of her life in true wilderness and thought nature as true companion. She experiences the true need of human to live in nature while living in remoted areas of Africa for twenty-three years. In her fictional writing she has mentioned different biological and natural aspects of environment to show the importance of nature in human life. The writer gave a sentence of her mother “where the crawdads sing” as a tittle to her work which encourages her to explore nature. She depicts significance of nature in human life by discussing

marsh, forest and sea and the species living in these places. She has depicted wilderness and beauty of nature through which human can learn many things.

Dalia discussed the behavior of human towards a piece of land and people living in that place to represent human thinking about places which directly do not benefit them. She tried to highlight the hidden creatures in marsh which has to be studied. The plants, animals and humans living in marsh has right to live and they have importance in ecology. She beautifully described the significance of marsh in ecosystem which people destroyed to make agricultural lands. The research will identify ecocritical aspects of novel. The present research is aimed at studying the literary text on the basis of ecocritical theory. There are various ways of interpreting any literary piece.

As using an ecocritical theory can be a better way to interpret the natural literature, the researcher used the theory of ecocriticism by Greg Garrard to analyze the novel "Where the crawdads sing" written by Dalia Owens. This research will apply ecocritical theory on the novel and will see how far the theory is applicable and suitable in different social, cultural and environmental context. This research is an endeavor to check if the ecocritical theory is really applicable to analyze the novel. For this purpose, the novel where the crawdads sing will be analyzed in the light of the theory given by Greg Garrard. The researcher will try to find out different key points of theory interwoven in the text of the novel through a textual analysis method.

Research questions:

- 1-How has Dalia injected Eco-critical elements in her novel where the crawdads sing?
- 2- How has Dalia depicted the importance of nature in man's life in the novel where the crawdads sing?
- 3-How has Dalia portrayed life in nature in the novel?

Research objectives:

- 1- Investigate how Dalia has injected ecocritical elements in her novel where the crawdads sing.
- 2- Explore how Dalia has depicted the importance of nature in men's life in the novel where the crawdads sing,
- 3- Identify how Dalia has portrayed life in nature in the novel where the crawdads sing.

Research Methodology

This study employs a qualitative research approach, which involves the use of qualitative research methods. Qualitative research is commonly used in various academic fields, especially in the social sciences. It is also used in market research by businesses and in other contexts such as research and service demonstrations by non-profit organizations. Unlike quantitative research, which focuses on numerical data, qualitative research is exploratory in nature and involves analyzing non-numerical data. It is often referred to as "ethnomethodology" and aims to gain understanding through experiences, reporting of quotations, and exploring hidden reasons, assumptions, and motivations.

This research concerns with collecting data and information taken from several websites, books, journals, articles and other references. The important data are taken from the novel 'where the crawdads sing' that consists main ideas of the book and different codes from the book which could be analyzed later on in the analysis section of the research. The researcher uses a textual analysis approach to analyze the given novel. Deductive method of analysis has been used in which the analysis starts with a general idea taken from the novel and narrowing it to make it applicable on a given situation in the contemporary time. This research tries to identify different tropes of the theory applying it on a text. The content of the text has been selectively analyzed by the researcher in the light of the given theory.

Literature Review

Eco-criticism

Dr. Sandip Kumar Mishra, Dr. Itishri Sarangi (2017) point out ecocriticism to illustrate the relation of human and non-human in literary works. Nature is depicted beautifully in poetry, prose, art, songs and other genres from ancient time. The relation of human with nature decreases with the advancement of technology. Ecocriticism provides way to analyze and understand literature and art in earth-centered manner. They claimed that ecocriticism represents nature in literature and urge the readers to re-think nature. They mention William Rueckert who said, “ecocriticism deals with how ecological concepts or ecological principles are used to study literature” (p.193). Bibhutibhushan Bandyopadhyay’s novels depicts nature and invites the reader to rethink nature. These novels beautifully represent nature, mountains, rivers, sky, meadows and tress that the reader unconsciously thinks about nature and its importance in life. (Nazir and Abbasi n.d.) Mishra, (2017) in his article beautifully explained that during last few decades the environment has posed savior effect on human and mother earth as the resources are decreasing and changing the condition of natural ecosystem. He further explained the significant components of ecocriticism in the relationship of human with the nonhuman creatures around. He illustrates the idea of shallow ecology as the anthropocentric which believes the whole purpose of earth is to serve humankind. This concept of deep ecology is challenging this conservation mode and provide the idea of “earth-centered” which mainly focused on preservation of nature and every organism has its intrinsic value as no one is superior.

Next, Muhammad Shoaib, (2005) in his article draw attention to the ecological crisis of Kashmir. He briefly analyzed the desecration of earthly paradise during war time. He claimed that there is “existential threat” for the landscape, water, forest, animals, and birds in this region. He examined the ecocritical and ecofeminism approaches of “The book of golden leaves”. The Kashmiri novels mostly depicts the violence, war, terror, political, economic, and cultural issue but now there are some writers who wrote about the environmental crisis of Kashmir due to these cultural and political disestablishments. The draw the beautiful picture of this area with violence and war.

Approaches of ecocriticism:

Rofi’atul Azizah in her research used Greg Garrard’ theory of ecocriticism. She described the representation of nature and the interaction of main characters with nature in form of pastoral, wilderness, and apocalypse. Human and nature coexist, experience, and learn thing from each other and make a relation. The rapid development in nature has damaged the natural world in high aspects such as, drought, deforestation, soil erosion, water contamination and air pollution and so on. The natural world has changed since the technology has introduced its artificial materials. She further mentioned the ideas of Greg Garrard in a dystopian trilogy which represented the destructions created by the technology and extreme resistance to technological changes experienced by the characters of same world living in different places.

Works on novel:

Fionny I Gustaman and Imelda S Lolowang discuss the struggles of character in where the crawdads sing. Gustaman and Lolowang explained three forms of struggles; accept the fact of life, achieve of goals, and get affection which the protagonist of novel reflects through her character. After her mother and siblings abandoned the main character she lives in marsh hiding from father and struggles for her life; she accepted the reality of life that no one live for other.

Kyra M. Sica (2022) has discussed the novel in her research paper using Jungian psychoanalysis theory which basically focus on the conflict between conscious and unconscious of person. She introduced two terms to determine maturation of character which come into contact with the social and cultural aspects. She also mentioned Freud’s theory

These previous researches have shown the application of this theory on nature as well as social oriented literary text and help the researcher for finding some new ideas hidden in the book using ecocriticism.

Theoretical Framework

The study enables to identify the natural elements of theory which mainly focuses earth-centered approach of literature instead of anthropocentric aspects which is human centered approach like other social theories. The study mainly centered Greg Garrard's idea of ecocriticism which explores some major components of environment and human itself and their issues which need solutions. Some other ideas are also included to enhance the application of theory in literature while describing how different critics have depicted nature and what the major concerns of the theory are.

Definition of Eco criticism

Ecocriticism is an interdisciplinary field of study that explores the relationship between nature and literature in literary texts, examining how writers portray and interact with the natural world. The term "literary ecology" was first introduced by Joseph Meeker in his book "The Comedy of Survival: Studies in Literary Ecology," while the word "ecocriticism" was coined by William Rueckert in his 1987 anthology, where he defined it as "the application of ecology and ecological concepts to the study of literature."

According to Greg Garrard, ecocriticism examines how humans and the environment are depicted and perceived in various forms of cultural expression. He defines many different points through which we can explore ecocriticism like pollution, forest, apocalypse, dwelling, earth, and animals. He discusses the relation of living and non-living, nature, and non-nature part of environment. There are many definitions of ecocriticism suggested by many others but the main thing that they have in common is nature and cultural relationship of human with its surroundings. So, it is the study of human relationship with nature and how they are interlinked with each other.

Ecocriticism as a Theory

The word ecocriticism is a self-defining word which refers to something related to nature and ecology in literature. From very ancient time to this, writers and poet are depicting nature and its relationship with human in their poetries and proses. Ecocriticism in general, is the study of relationship of nature or physical environment with human especially in literature. The Eco-critics intends to trace environmental perspectives and representation whenever they appear in text. Likewise, ecocriticism aims to assess the consistency and effectiveness of texts and concepts in addressing environmental issues. Ecocriticism highlighted the connection of literature with environmental crisis.

The ecocritical studies is the combination of literary and scientific discourse where the critics evaluate environmental issues and crisis mentioned in the literary texts and try to resolve the problems. As William Rueckert defines ecocriticism in his book "literature and ecology" as "The application of ecology and ecological concepts to the study of literature because ecology has the greatest relevance to the present and future of the world". Greg Garrard in his book ecocriticism explains the idea of ecocriticism focusing of environmental awareness. He mentioned some important approaches of ecocriticism in detail like pollution, dwelling, forest, and other things in detail. He discusses these approaches in form of chapters in his book "ecocriticism" and shows the implication of nature in literature.

Pastorals

The literary genre known as pastorals depicts a society of shepherds that is portrayed as free from the complications and corruption associated with urban life. The life of shepherd represents the simple and natural life of people without any interaction with modern technologies and inventions.

They share the idea that return to old world construction of nature suited to long-settled and domesticated landscapes. Pastoral is the combination of past nostalgia, present idyll and future utopia of nature which celebrates the pure form of nature. The simplest and easy life style of shepherd or people in the natural world is pastorals. This type of literature portrays the real and pure connection of nature and human to learn the real aspects of life without interruption of any artificial and unreal thing.

Romantic pastorals represent the literature that describe the country life with implicit and explicit contrast to city life. After the industrialization revolution the concept of simple life has changed with the advancement of technology and farming system. It is a new state where the growth in towns had led to a new longing for the countryside. American pastoral emphasized on the “agrarianism” to draw a line between the pastorals and wilderness. The genre of pastoral literature typically involves a protagonist who leaves urban society to seek an encounter with the natural world, and then returns transformed and renewed. In general, pastorals express a desire to reconnect with the natural world and preserve its existence.

Wilderness

According to Greg Garrard definition of wilderness “wilderness signifies nature in a state uncontaminated by civilization and protect particular habitat and species”. Wilder has the promise to renew the authentic relation of human and nature. Wilderness is the representation of wild and untouched part of earth which provide real nature experience. Moving to wilderness one can find his lost self. The new wilderness shows that it is the place of sanctuary. As Cronon describes. The wilderness is viewed as a natural and pure opposite to a society that has lost its way. It is a place where we can find our true selves which we have lost due to the corrupting effects of our artificial lifestyles. In other words, wilderness is seen as a place of freedom where we can rediscover our genuine selves. The focus of wilderness is nature and human relationship that how its benefits human. The human lifestyle can be change by finding its lost self by living in wilderness.

Discussion and Analysis

The novel “where the crawdads sing” is a nature writing by Dalia Owens. She explains the natural aspects of marsh and an abandoned girl in a beautiful way to highlight the importance of nature in human lives. She explained the marsh as a place of sanctuary for the protagonist who was abandoned by her parents, siblings and the society. The animals, marsh, water and forest protect her from the cruel and prejudice behavior of society for years.

The novel begins with picture of marsh and the Kia’s memories of her family especially her mother and her brother who left her in the hand of drunk father. Marsh and swamp are the place where grass grows in water, where animals and long-legged birds lie gracefully and where death and decay are a natural thing. The novel is mostly plotted in the marsh and swamp between Kia’s home and the town. The story is about an abandoned girl Kia who spend her life in marsh without any support from town in the natural and wilderness. When she was six years old her, one day her mother left her and one by one the whole family left marsh and never came back. She lived with her father who disappears after few months. Kia learnt cooking and living in marsh by herself and fulfills her needs by selling fish and mussels. Her life was completely depended on her own experience with nature where she learns things from animal, weather, water and other things. She hides herself from society for years after her one day visit to school where she faced “social wilderness” from her fellows. She was called as marsh girl by the town people. Beside all the prejudice of society, her only friend Tate taught her reading and shared information about different types of plant and animals in the marsh. Their friendship was based on learning new things from marsh and discussing the problems of marsh. Their interest in marsh and animals let them become nature writer and biologist in their life. Kia’s life is full of social and natural wilderness where she encounters the harsh and severe conditions of society and weather. She spent her life like an animal

with no help and survived in cold and hot weather, sometimes no food, no dress of her size and no knowledge of growing world. But the nature teaches her way of living and she became a famous biological writer of three books.

The place which is considered as danger and threat by town is a place of peace and light for the protagonist as she spent her whole life in it. The marsh is a border line between the town and ocean which hides the death and strange things according to the people. It is a haunting place for those who don't know it but at the same time the plants grow here and birds live here with a grace because it is their home. The life in this part of world has a different view for those who know it and those who do not know it. "I can't leave the gulls, the heron, and the shack. The marsh is all the family I've got." (11). The protagonist of novel found peace and knowledge from marsh and wrote books on different species of marsh which have significant differences from others. Natural and ecological aspects of novel portrayed the wilderness and prejudice people have about the area like marsh or swamp which are not suitable for them.

The novel is thoroughly a portrayal of nature which is affected by the human and how the human itself is affected by the nature. In addition to this, the novel also portrays the social wilderness which the protagonist had gone through throughout her life. The personality of the girl is associated with the marsh which let her away from the society and the dangerous place for other people was the safest place for her. "Here we come, Marsh Girl!" (13). The girl was considered as a dirt and trash by the society due to her place of living which affect her life. She was abandoned by everyone due to her life style and place that is not like other who live I the town.

Dalia Owen is nature writer and a biologist so she used a language which has alluded numerous biological and natural elements throughout the novel. The emphases on the natural elements, behaviors and culture associated with the nature are revealed through language by using different sentences and examples from nature to express the importance in real life. "They act like prey if you act like a predator" (6.) the language prominently dominating the natural phenomena which helped people to learn from nature and environment around. It demonstrates that there are signs in nature to learn and to imply in our life. the marsh girl learned these ideas by learning from natural behaviors of animals and birds which she applies in her life to survive in the wild land. "Pa had an intimate knowledge of the marsh, similar to a hawk's familiarity with its own territory. He knew how to hunt, how to conceal himself, and how to intimidate trespassers. Kya's curiosity prompted him to elaborate on topics such as the timing of goose migrations, the behavior of fish, and how to interpret weather patterns in the clouds and identify riptides in the waves." (7). the writer gave example of animals to demonstrate the quality of human to put some stress on the natural involvement in human knowledge that how human learn things from their surroundings to survive in better way. Nature give cues to live in a natural environment and the behavior of every specie has some knowledge to learn.

Besides the language the writers used in the novel, there are other things which express the natural representations in novel. The forest, the marsh, the lagoon, estuaries, sea and marsh connection and the species which are mentioned in different places of novel draw attention to importance of wild and nature in human's life. "The great blue heron resembles gray mist reflecting in blue water and can blend into the background, leaving only her striking eyes visible. She is a solitary and patient hunter, taking her time to catch her prey, but can also move deliberately like a predator towards her target. However, she is known to hunt while flying, using her sharp beak to strike her prey."(13). The beauty of bird she has took the attention of everyone on the natural beauty of some fishes and other species. "the group of fifteen wild turkeys—mostly hens, a few toms and jakes—rushed about, pecking what looked like an oily rag crumpled in the dirt. The dust rose from the turkeys' feet and enveloped the forest, wafting up among the branches and becoming trapped there. As Kya approaches, she realizes it is actually a hen turkey who is trapped and unable to fly due to tangled wings. The other birds in the flock are pecking and scratching her, and Kya remembers

Jodie's warning that the flock will kill any bird that appears different or injured to protect themselves from predators. The dust stirred up by the birds' movements creates a haze in the forest". (13). Writer tries to represent the real picture of marsh through behavior of animals and birds and its significance in lives of human to realize the connection between human with its surround natural environment to get true self-realization. The girls were also treated as different by the other people of society when she decided to live alone in the marsh but she learned to live in difficult situations. The Mother Nature guide people to behave in the strenuous circumstances of life.

The natural perspectives of novel display the natural setting which create a picture of marsh and its surrounding area from town to city. There connection of natural setting with Kia life in different part of life demonstrate that how a little child is protected, frightened and learned from nature in her life. "The shack sat back from the palmettos, which sprawled across sand flats to a necklace of green lagoons and, in the distance, all the marsh beyond. Miles of blade-grass so tough it grew in salt water, interrupted only by trees so bent they wore the shape of the wind. Oak forests bunched around the other sides of the shack and sheltered the closest lagoon, its surface so rich in life it churned. Salt air and gull-song drifted through the trees from the sea." (01) the portrayal of different element of environment demonstrate that there is an emphasis on the beauty and arrangement nature to make a perfect piece of land. Air, marsh, grass and water are part of marsh which are not useful for people but it has a role in nature for animals and other species. The concept if deep ecology has used to drive attention of people towards nature and its elements to demonstrate the significance of nature in human's life and its dependency on nature to get benefits. Marsh is not a place of waste and germs it has its significance in nature for many species. "I admire your enthusiasm for the marsh, Kya. Many individuals overlook it, only using it for fishing. They view it as unproductive land that could be drained and utilized for development. The majority of people don't realize that the marsh is essential for the survival of numerous sea creatures, including the ones they consume."(17)

Thirdly, the novel has portrayed the wilderness in many places by representing the darkness of marsh, the silence of night, waves of sea, congested forest, weeds and social wilderness by society. Wilderness is a place where nature represents itself in pure form that is strange for the people who live in a modern place so that it seems as threat and dangerous area for them. But the nature in its natural form is a place of finding "self" according to Eco-critics. The title of novel "where the crawdads sing" demonstrate the place of pure nature. "Well, we better hide way out there where the crawdads sing. I pity any foster parents who take you on." Tate's whole face smiled. "What d'ya mean, where the crawdads sing? Ma used to say that." Kya remembered Ma always encouraging her to explore the marsh: "Go as far as you can—way out yonder where the crawdads sing." "Just means far in the bush where critters are wild, still behaving like critters. Now, you got any ideas where we can meet?"(17). The place where nature still exist and behave in natural way is place of sanctuary and self-realization. A place of peace and knowledge for lost person.

Wilderness is a place of threat and sanctuary or self-realization where one can find it lost self by learning lesson from nature. the character of Kia demonstrates that a little girl who has abandoned by her whole family and society has turned into a biologist by learning and examining nature through exploring it. she has faced all kind of wilderness the loneliness, rejection and threat until she reached the self-realization. her life is an example for success given by the nature. "one morning finally, Kya found a bulky manila envelope and slid the content, an advance copy of her book 'The Sea Shells of the Eastern Seaboard' by Catherine Danielle Clark into her hands."(31) she wrote three books on fishes and birds of marsh by examining them from her childhood. the self-realization phase of human living in nature is the place where they know the reality of human and life. the mother nature gives ways for human to find reality and it lost self.

The wilderness of marsh has been described as a dangerous thing which can destroy anything and left no cues to find. The evidence for the death of Chase was hard to search for the police and others. "someone said that saltwater of marsh has the ability eat cement blocks as breakfast." (8) the marsh has the ability to demolish things from the root and left no sign for rest. In this way the marsh is a place of threat and danger for many people of town that's why they avoid it. "Sand keeps secrets better than mud." (10). Wilderness of nature has significance for some people that they cannot live without it. "Some people can live without wild things, and some who cannot live without wilderness." (16). Eco critics discuss the wild life as a part of human life to such an extent that they stress on eco-centric perspectives over anthropocentric perspectives of nature to find lost self.

Social wilderness towards nature has demonstrated by discussing the behavior of people with Kia a six-year-old girl. She grows up in marsh by herself because of rude and prejudice attitude she faced whenever she went to town. People associate marsh with her by calling "marsh trash" and "marsh girl" and keeping their children away from her. they think marsh is a wasteland and everything related to it is dirty and dangerous due to this behavior she faced loneliness throughout her life. nature is used by the people in every aspect but when they do not able get benefits from some area they call it dangerous and haunting and when someone start to live there the associate negative connotations with them. "get out of here little beggar hen, Marsh trash." (7). The behavior of society towards the little girl was full of prejudice because of her home and marsh as they do not like marsh and anything related to it. Kia mostly spent her life in marsh hiding herself from town people who without any reason hated her and tried to humiliate her. "Kya's silence was accentuated by the squeals of the other children. Although their closeness intensified her sense of isolation, she stayed hidden behind the oak tree because she felt like an outcast due to her reputation as someone who belonged to the marsh." (22) Her loneliness and longing for someone increase her curiosity about animal and birds in marsh and when she learned reading from Tate she focused on studying them until she wrote her books and poetries. She was the poet of famous poetry in town but till her death she hides it in fear of prejudice of people. "I never ask for anything from people from town now I want them to leave me alone as they did earlier." (55). she was hopeless from people around her and tied her relationship with nature and beauties which will never hurt and reject her at any cost.

The social wilderness of novels demonstrate that the human has lost its connection with nature to such an extent that it rejects people who tried to save nature or has any connection with it. human get benefits from nature and destroys its real and pure form. The town people also wanted change marsh into fields but Kia own it and save the real piece of nature. "Kya knew judgment had no place here. Evil was not in play, just life pulsing on, even at the expense of some of the players. Biology sees right and wrong as the same color in different light." (20). The behavior of insects teaches her how to deal with people who wanted take advantage from your loneliness.

The concepts of pastoral have been illustrated in novel by defining the simple life of Kya in shack and marsh in a completely natural way. Pastoral is the way of living a simple life which is free from urban interruption and industrialization. The place where nature is in its pure form and the new people trying to get it by leaving the artificial thing of modern life. this peaceful and natural perspective of nature is defined as the landscape around marsh like forest, beach, town and shack where Kia spent her life in peace. "Kya ran down the sandy lane with her arms outstretched, making wet noises with her mouth and spitting droplets. She imagined flying over the marsh, searching for nests and soaring alongside eagles. In her mind, her fingers transformed into feathers that stretched out like wings against the sky, catching the wind." (7). she found happiness in free life of marsh where she sees the birds flying in open sky, waves of sea roaring, grass growing in shallow marsh water and the dark and long trees of forest protect her from corrupted society and its behaviors. The portrayal of wide field and meadows have been discussed in some places where

people have used land for their benefits and changed its original shape. Villages near marsh have their own charm and beauty which describe the life of shepherd or pastorals where they have fields and meadows with specific fruits and vegetables, fruit trees and a different way of life. “Then suddenly, at a boundary marked on the ground, the marshy grasslands came to an end, and dry land - stripped bare, partitioned into squares, and marked by furrows - stretched out before them. Groves of trees that had been cut down stood like amputees. Poles with wires strung between them trudged off into the distance. She knew, of course, that coastal marshes did not cover the entire earth, but she had never seen anything beyond them. What had people done to the land? Every house was identical, with a square shape and a trimmed lawn. A flock of pink flamingos was feeding in a yard, but when Kya spun around in surprise, she realized they were made of plastic. The deer were made of cement, and the only ducks were painted on mailboxes. (27)”. This new world was new for her because she had not been anywhere except marsh where everything was in its original form. Modernism has changed the natural land and forest into cities and industries and disturbed the natural setting of the world for some timely benefits. The novel is aimed to focus on the significance of natural elements and their importance in every life on earth. The animals and other species have the same right as humans and there is a need to store these natural resources for them and our next generation to live in a natural environment.

Conclusion

As a nature writing the title of novel “where the crawdads sing” portrays a beautiful picture of nature. The place where the crawdads sing represents such a place which has nature in its pure form without mixture of artificial and industrial things. A place where all species are safe and where human can find peace. The writer has lived most of her life in nature researching about animals and their behavior. She described her feelings in nature writing about the life of Kya who wonders in nature and learned everything from signs in nature. The novel has described marsh as a place of sanctuary where the protagonist learned the way of living in nature. Kya’s character signifies that nature human can live in nature without harming it and nature provides peace for every creature on it. The life of the protagonist has shown the relationship of human with its environment. Kya lived in a place which was considered as wild and wasted land according to the people of town. Her house has no electricity, gas and water supply as it was in marsh, when her family abandoned her, she decided to live in marsh because of the behavior of the people toward her. The wilderness of marsh and forest saved her for years from the wilderness of society. The writer has mentioned forest, marsh, sea, and birds to show the wild life of Kya. She has used a language that represents the wild in darkness of forest, swallowing ability of marsh, roars of waves of sea and behavior of birds. All these aspects of nature created fear in people of town that they avoid anything in it. They considered marsh as a waste land and wanted to change it into agricultural land. The behavior of society about marsh has a great impact on Kya’s life that she was abandoned by everyone. They call her a marsh girl and keep their children away from her. This prejudiced behavior was just because of her place.

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