

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND ENVIRONMENTAL DISCRIMINATION IN CORMAC McCARTHY'S SELECT NOVELS

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The equity writing in political theory has extended in the course of recent decades the innovations there have once in a while been connected to the environmental justice movement. In *Defining Environmental Justice* David Schlosberg mentioned that "Activists and academics within the environmental justice movement in the USA and globally have been discussing the meaning of justice for two decades. Likewise, theorists concerned with doing justice to nature have put forth numerous accounts of ecological justice" (Schlosberg 3). The issue is that justice theory has built up some of the extra methods for understanding the procedures of justice and injustice and these improvements have once in a while showed up in the writing on the environmental justice movement. Discriminations became a common thing in the World. Environmental Justice is the equal treatment of Ecosystem and the Human beings. Environmental Discrimination is the main issue that Environmental Justice leads to Focus. Environment or eco-system refers to all the living and nonliving organisms but when it focused towards living organisms alone it brings out huge contradictory statements especially while linking it in Justice philosophies. Thus, Environmental Justice gives the right equity. Human being's attitude towards nature decides the consequence they receive from the nature. This research paper acquaints the Environmental Justice and Environmental Discrimination in the select novels of an American writer Cormac McCarthy.

Cormac McCarthy's writings are more vibrant and he maintains the thrill among the readers till the novel ends. In all his novels in certain characters he indirectly represents his life history. Apart from these conventional insight in Cormac McCarthy's novels, as a researcher let move towards ecology in McCarthy's novels. Cormac McCarthy's first novel *The Orchard Keeper*, is the story of woodsman living independently and peacefully with the nature. In the midst of apple orchid, he living in a small cabin. "This was the orchard road red and quiet in the early sun, winding

from the mountain's spine with apple trees here along the road and shading it, gnarled and bitten trees, yet retaining still a kept look and no weeds growing where they grew" (McCarthy 41). He acquired more knowledge on forest and mountains and he wants to teach those acquired knowledge to the mountain boy named John Wesley Rattner. Cormac McCarthy's second novel *Outer Dark* is the story of incest relation between brother and sister. Finding eco elements in this novel is not easier because the author focuses more on Consequentialism and Trauma in this novel.

Cormac McCarthy's third novel *Child of God* is the story of traumatic guy named Lester Bellard "He is small, unclean, unshaven. He moves in the dry chaff among the dust and slats of sunlight with a constrained truculence. Saxon and Celtic bloods" (McCarthy 1). Generally, 'Child of God' refers to some holy saints who may come down through ladder from heaven (Spiritually). Here Cormac McCarthy means a very different characterised image brought into the novel. In the beginning of the novel, he had a fight with auctioneer who is furious to sell a Land which is Lester's family property. That Land is taken by the Bank. Everyone turns against Lester Bellard. He started to live in the Cave. Though Lester Bellard is traumatic, he lives along with the nature. He never does any harm to the nature living like a cave man. The entrance of the cave that he living is covered by a red clay which slick him whenever he goes in and out. "Ballard was slick with red mud down the front of him going in and out. Inside there was a large room with a bore of light that climbed slantwise from the red clay floor to a hole in the roof like an incandescent tree trunk" (McCarthy 31). His Cave men life style changed his attitude towards other. He is very rude to others. When other hunt the animals and birds, he lives along with the squirrels, birds and animals. In this novel, McCarthy cleanly portraits the sufferings from anthropocentrism to ecocentrism of

Eco centric person Lester Bellard who exiled from Human-beings and lives in a Cave.

Same as Lester Bellard, Cormac McCarthy brings another Eco centric character in his fourth novel *Suttree*. Suttree is the protagonist of this novel who live alone on a houseboat in the midst of the woods and earns money through occasional catfishing. He departs himself from the luxurious life style, rejecting his father and family, abandoning his wife and son. He abandoned the doomed city of Western Civilization. This novel begins with a suicide attempt, police rescuing the dead body from a river which was observed by Suttree. "The rescue workers wore yachting caps and moved gravely at their task. As the fisherman passed they were taking aboard a dead man. He was very stiff and he looked like a window dummy save for his face" (McCarthy, *Suttree* 4) In a work camp, Suttree meet Gene Harrogate who violates a farmer's watermelons. When Suttree tries to help Harrogate, he was free from the work camp, Harrogate began his journey on a dangerous adventure with poisonous meat and a catapult to kill bats, Suttree's help went in vain. Catapult "unpocketed the small catapult he'd fashioned from a treefork" (McCarthy, *Suttree* 148) is used to earn plenty of Bats and the dynamites under the tunnel of the city, results to get them out. Moving towards the end of the novel, Suttree suffered from Typhoid fever and lengthy hallucination. Suttree's black friend fight with police and killed by them. Harrogate was captured for stealing and Suttree decided to depart from the town with his reaffirmed identity. Through out the novel he is isolated and left alone in the houseboat. When he departs himself from all illegal activities that cause harm to nature as well as to the human-beings, he trapped by the philia that he had on his friend.

In the three novels *The Orchard Keeper*, *Child of God*, and *Suttree* Cormac McCarthy maintains a character (in each novel) having close relationship with nature and also the same eco centric character is opposed by anthropocentric characters and also by anthropocentric society. "Recognition is the central concern here" that "lack

of recognition in the social and political realms, demonstrated by various forms of insults, degradation, and devaluation at both the individual and cultural level, inflicts damage to oppressed individuals and communities in the political and cultural realms" (Schlosberg 14). All the eco-centric characters in these select novels of McCarthy have lost their recognition in the anthropocentric world. This is injustice not only to nature but also to the Eco-centric characters who are forced physically and mentally to isolate themselves from the anthropocentric society. As it is mentioned clearly that Suttree drives himself out from modernized western civilized world, same as in *Child of God*, Lester Bellard lose his recognition to live among with the civilized society. Though it seems to injustice to both, as per the Hypothesis of Biophilia, it clearly mentioned that "the satisfaction derived from direct contact with nature" (Kellert and Wilson 48). On another side mentally, they received satisfaction but they have to strive in the Environmentally Discriminated world. As per the title, this research article brings the Environmental Justice and Environmental Discrimination through mentioned eco-centric characters.

Keywords: Ecocriticism, Environmental Justice, Environmental Discrimination, Biophilia, Cormac McCarthy, *The Orchard Keeper*, *Outer Dark*, *Child of God*, *Suttree*.

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