



**ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER**

**English Literature**

**A REVIEW OF AMITAV GHOSH'S THE HUNGRY TIDE: THE STUDY THROUGH ECOLOGICAL APPROACH**

**KEY WORDS:** Colonialization, Environment, Sundarbans, Nature, and Human.

**G. Arunprasath**

Research Scholar, Department of English, SSL, VIT University, India

**Dr. M. Thenmozhi**

Assistant Professor, Department of English, SSL, VIT University, India.

**ABSTRACT**

The conflicts between and within human groups, their relationships with the natural world, and the fact of a developing natural environment that is also being modified by man are all problematized by Ghosh in the novel *The Hungry Tide*. The setting of Ghosh's book is the Sundarbans, The land's contours are continually changing due to the ebb and flow of the tides in this region. But Ghosh insists on this issue further, saying that water is the catalyst for rewriting the social structure of the novel, the Sundarbans to act and transition from the position of the object to that of the subject matter, and in doing so, Change the characters' subject matter status.

**INTRODUCTION**

Literature is frequently described as the art form that reflects life in all of its facets. Since Shakespeare's day, the literature world has been overflowing with works that explore the splendor, greatness, and intensity of nature. Recently, it has described the relationship between the physical world and the human world environment. Ecological concerns and the danger that overt exploitation and persistent mistreatment of the environment pose and natural resources pose to civilization have just lately caught the writers' notice, providing the rise of Ecocriticism as a new literary trend Indian literature in English first emerged at the end of the 18th and the beginning of the 19th century, when English was more or less widely spoken in three important sites of British Imperialism namely, Bombay, Madras, and Calcutta. The novel began to gain popularity in the country during Raja Ram Mohan Roy, the reformer who started the renaissance, in the nineteenth century within contemporary Indian literature. Using historical records as a backdrop and projecting the ecocide acts that harm the world, Ghosh depicts the harm humans purposefully bring to both nature and mankind. To that end, *The Hungry Tide* (THT), written by Amitav Ghosh and published in 2004 and winner of the Hutch crossword book prize, is separated into two halves. The Flood is Jowar (high tide) The Ebb is Bhata (low tide). The Sundarbans is also referenced in Indian epics like the Ramayana and the Mahabharata, but because of the harsh terrain, it has been a largely neglected region in terms of human settlement and colonial historiography. The majority of colonial historiography portrays the Sundarbans as falling short of the Victorian ideals of a magnificent environment, one notable example being an article by Sir William W. Hunter that was initially published in *The Statistical Account of Bengal* in 1876.

**Literature Review**

Anand D (2008) Comments that Ghosh's novels highlight how the author has addressed environmental challenges from an ecological approach. Ghosh problematizes the conflicts inside and between people in *The Hungry Tide*. Communities of people, their interactions with the environment, and the extra discursive reality of a natural world that is concurrently altered by mankind. Ghosh's book is set in the Sundarbans, a region characterized by strong tides that continuously alter the land's contours. Ghosh insists on this, though. Additionally: He used water as a tool to rewrite the Sundarbans' social structure. Water serves as a metaphor and an agent, influencing the tale and the country's geography and history The fact that Ghosh resolves the main fictional conflict in the book by using water is also important. First, Ghosh may avoid adopting a moral or ideological stance while addressing the complicated fight for life between people and animals by using water as the instrument of change. Moreover, the theme of water enables us to

emphasize the predicament of both displaced people and endangered species in an unbiased and detached manner. Thirdly, Ghosh is capable of keeping the reader's attention on the struggle rather than the conclusion, making the novel itself and in fact its main metaphor, water, the agents of political and social change by utilizing water as a device to challenge the dominant social order.

Shome T (2009) states that they were forced to leave their country of origin due to poverty and historical marginalization, and villagers and rural culture as a whole have been destroyed as a result of global capitalist modernity. The damaging repercussions of capitalism and neoliberalism Even at the price of suppressing the local population, capitalist ideology unleashes unbridled competition. processes of accumulation through dispossession are clarified by Ghosh. As a result, Ghosh describes in the book the horrifying memories of Morichjhapi and speaks out against the horrors committed in the name of development and ecological preservation. The environmental policies that oppress regional tales and human histories are contested by Ghosh. The story focuses on individuals like Kusum, a Dalit refugee from Bangladesh who opted to stay on the Indian side of the Sundarbans. Kusum finally succumbs to such nebulous environmentalist ideas and dies as a result of being forced to flee her native country. The State's "ecological preservation," whose primary goals are financial and political, is harshly exposed by Ghosh. Due to Kusum's comments, we are made aware of this.

Pannt major M (2009) states that *The Hungry Tide*, a beguiling book by Amitav Ghosh, seeks to captivate readers with its attractive and interesting description of the vast archipelago of islands known as the "Sundarbans," which literally translates to "the lovely woodlands." The mangrove tree, *Heritiera minor*, or Sundari tree, is the most prevalent species in this habitat. The locals refer to this area as "bhatir desh," which translates to "the tidal country," since ebbs and tides constantly pass through this change is evident in the characters' thoughts, hearts, relationships, and way of life. The author exposes these concerns with enticing storytelling, romance, suspense, and poetry. There is a huge whirlwind of contemporary issues, whether they be social, ecological, or environmental.

Prabhu (2015) states that The environmental imagination serves as a means to "rethink oppositions between ecological sustainability and globalism, between transcendentalism and transnationalism, between an ethics of place and the experience of displacement" in *The Hungry Tide*, which consciously addresses the colonial effect and ecological awareness. According to Ghosh, the novel takes the shape of a historical narrative in which "there is no region so remote as to

escape the flood of progressive reason as the main colonial force over nature." history' (65). Therefore, the first method to open, recount, and decolonize nature is through the fruitful interaction between ancient stories and ecological fantasies. According to Pant menu (2018) Ghosh appears to be fascinated with the differences in gender roles and their personal conflicts in his book *The Hungry Tide*. It is proposed that as the medium of communication transforms into a mutual understanding of Major Themes in the *Hungry Tide* and shared chemistry between two people, the social taboos and barriers caused by language and other social institutions inevitably dissolve. When Piyali and Fokir are in the water investigating marine creatures, they are able to speak despite their seeming differences. The tale is highly engaging because of their deep friendship, mutual understanding, and finally Fokir's sacrifice for Piyali's life.

Weick (2020) Alexa Ghosh conducted a substantial study and presented the creation's evolutionary process in a really unique manner. He participated in a brown study on the presence of animism creation and its ecological balance in the Sundarbans region. He shares a wealth of knowledge about the enormous dolphins as well as the surrounding flora and animals. In addition, he shows how the Sundarbans are not only a place where rivers and oceans meet but also a place where amazing cultural exchanges occur that would not be possible elsewhere. In addition to a tiger and their human victims, the book also includes realistic depictions of snakes, crocodiles, floods, and deadly typhoons. With such unsettling surroundings and scant outside contact, life is dangerous. The fight here is between man and nature and natural forces; they coexist with the natural environment by fishing from it and, when necessary, defending themselves from it.

Jose (2021) comments that *The Hungry Tide* by Amitav Ghosh explores one of the world's most difficult environments, the Sundarbans. In the book, he expresses his deep concern for the politics surrounding environmental protection, environmental catastrophe, and the delicate interaction between man and nature. The Sundarbans, the biggest mangrove forest in the world, are the scene for the book. They are in the delta formed where the Ganges, Brahmaputra, and Meghna rivers meet the sea. It extends over India and Bangladesh for a distance of 10,000 kilometres. Numerous snakes, crocodiles, Irrawaddy dolphins, or Gangetic dolphins, which are in danger of going extinct, and famed Bengal tigers, often known as "man-eating" tigers, all call their woods and rivers home. writing.

According to Saravanan (2022), P In this book, Ghosh used ecological imperialism in this novel to convey the actual Morichjhapi incident in vivid detail. In 1979, the West Bengali government forcibly expelled thousands of refugees from the island of Morichjhapi in the northern part of the Sundarbans. Environmental issues are used by the government to encourage its removal. The gees cleaned the area, cut the plants and trees dug ponds, and constructed residences for themselves a few months after they arrived in Morichjhapi. q As a result, the government designated this island as a protected area, and residents are urged to depart immediately. The refugees were reduced to eating grass, harming the local environment because the settlers were stubborn about surviving on the island. As a result, thousands of police officers blocked the villages and confiscated the food supply. They drank water from ponds and puddles due to a cholera epidemic that had plagued the settlers when the tube wells were destroyed later.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this study serves as a sobering reminder to humanity that overt exploitation and misuse of the environment over time will result in a natural upheaval. The book *The Hungry Tide* is a wonderful collection of The aspects of nature that always mirror emotional responses. This book

aims to raise readers' awareness of the influence of both the man-nature relationship and the man-man connection in a world that is struggling with the environment relating between man and nature. This is a sensitive description of the human condition, which is sometimes helpless and at danger The pity of powerful people. The Sundarbans network is now facing a change from a threatening environment to a threatened ecosystem. The Sundarbans were at a turning point when Ghosh released the book in 2004, as Sahara India Parivar was preparing to take over significant portions of the Sundarbans turn them into an ecotourism town.

## REFERENCES

1. Anand, D. (2008). Words on Water: Nature and Agency in Amitav Ghosh's *The Hungry Tide*. *Concentric: Literary and Cultural Studies*, 34(1), 21-44.
2. Bera, R. (2020). Commodification and Ecocidal Exploitation of Nature: Re-configuring Ecological Imperialism and Eco-Cultural Imbroglia in Amitav Ghosh's *The Glass Palace*.
3. Fletcher, L. M. (2011). Reading the Postcolonial Island in Amitav Ghosh's *The Hungry Tide*. *Island Studies Journal*, 6(1), 3-16.
4. Foster, J. B., & Clark, B. (2004). Ecological imperialism: The curse of capitalism. *Socialist register*, 40.
5. Ghosh, A. (2005). *The hungry tide*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.
6. Jose, S. E. Man, Nature and the World: An Ecocritical Interpretation of Amitav Ghosh's *The Hungry Tide*.
7. Huggan, G., & Tiffin, H. (2015). *Postcolonial ecocriticism: Literature, animals, environment*. Routledge.
8. SHOME, T. TOWARDS AN EPOCHAL SHIFT IN ECOLOGICAL DISCOURSES: A READING OF THE HUNGRY TIDE.
9. SARAVANAN, P., & ALEXANDER, S. ECOLOGICAL IMPERIALISM IN AMITAV GHOSH'S THE HUNGRY TIDE.
10. Thiyagu, A. (2018). Portrayal of Sundarban in Amitav Ghosh's *The Hungry Tide*. *Language in India*, 18(10).
11. Pant, M. Major Themes in the *Hungry Tide*.
12. Prabhu, G. (2015). Retelling Nature: Realism and the Postcolonial-Environmental Imaginary in Amitav Ghosh's *The Hungry Tide*. *Transnational Literature*, 7(2), 1-13.