



Restoring the Symphony of Nato(u)re: An Ecocritical Reading of Jibanananda Das's poem 'Banalata Sen'

Amit Pandey

Abstract

This paper aims to highlight the ecocritical dimensions of Jibanananda Das's celebrated opus "Banalata Sen" by looking back at Natore. Using the rural place of Natore in Bangladesh metaphorically, the poet has established a profound rapport between human beings and nature's belongings. William Wordsworth wrote in his poem, "Tintern Abbey", that "Nature never did betray the heart that loved her" (Wordsworth, 2000, p. 134) to bring forth the reciprocal mechanism of the Man-Nature relationship. And, indeed this line contributed immensely to the advancement of Eco-criticism. Despite the fact that the existing studies talk about the surreal and ideal aspects of the poem, this article presents a comprehensive review of Jibanananda Das's "Banalata Sen" from an eco-critical point of view where the existence of problematic anthropocene and the plight of nonhuman agency are being discussed. The eco-critical reading of the poem shifts our focus to two different and deeply entwined entities, Natore and Banalata Sen. Natore is a place of consolation and bliss, whereas Banalata Sen is catered as a panacea to the poet's sufferings with the aim of intensifying the interdependency and interconnectedness of the entities. Banalata Sen provides the poet with the joie de vivre on his inertia to renew his spirit. This eco-critical understanding of the poem unfolds the magnitude of the lady who brings solace to the poet's worn-out soul and her association with nature. And it helps us understand the way this poem articulates ecological consciousness and the importance of the neighboring ecosystem in shaping human lives.

Keywords: "Banalata Sen", Jibanananda Das, Anthropocene, Nonhuman agency, Ecological Consciousness.