



AN ECOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE: EXPLOITATION OF NATURE IN R. K. NARAYAN'S SHORT STORY, "THE BLIND DOG"

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Communicated :20.02.2022

Revision : 15.03.2022

Published: 01.04.2022

Accepted :25.03.2022

ABSTRACT:

Human being lives in lap of beautiful nature. In our universe the Earth is most beautiful planet because of the plants, animals, rivers, mountains with green and blue color. But at the same time human being do not know how to treat it. That is the main reason for global warning. The aim of present study is to explore the exploitation of nature by human being for his own benefit. They have no any concern to nature. They want their own control over all-natural thing like plants, birds, animals. The characters and their behavior towards nature is taken into consideration. Human being behaves like they have supreme authority upon nature. As a result of study, the conclusion has been drawn that the behavior of human being is selfish one and he exploits nature mercilessly.

Key words: - *Exploitation, ecocriticism, animals, control, selfish nature.*

INTRODUCTION:

Literature and nature are interconnected with each other. Nature has great impact upon human being. We must follow our obligation towards nature, to preserve and protect nature. R. K. Narayan presented through his story how human tries to control nature. He depicted selfish behavior of human. Animals and plants are only an object or commodity for him. They have no any sympathy towards nature. The present story also describes brutality of human to the nature.

OBJECTIVES OF STUDY:

- 1) To study relationship between human being and nature.
- 2) To study exploitation of nature.

HYPOTHESIS:

R. K. Narayan's present story 'The Blind Dog' reveals the nature and human being are inter connected with each other and exploitation of nature of human being.

METHODOLOGY:

The researcher will follow an interpretative method for understanding of the short story.

ECOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE:

The relationship of human with environment is the subject of all writers from the ancient age till today. Nature offers us lot of thing and human beings uses it excessively in wrong manner. They interfere in nature. Due to this, there are different types of pollution in environment. If we want to live in presence of nature then we have to care of nature. So, Ecocriticism has emerged as a literary movement in ecological awareness which started during the 1960's particularly in America. Rachel Carson's book 'Silent Spring' is considered as a milestone in this movement. It as an interdisciplinary approach that studies the relation between literature and environment. The ecritic's study the representation of nature as well as role of plants, animals and physical setting in literature.

ABOUT AUTHOR:

Rasipuram Krishnaswami Iyer Narayanaswami was an Indian writer. He was born on 10 october 1906 in Madras and died on 13 May 2001 in Chennai. He was awarded by 'Padma Vibhushan' and 'Sahitya Akademi Award'. R. K. Narayan published a 'Malgudi Days' is a

collection of short stories, in 1943. The book consists of 32 short stories, all set in the fictional town of 'Malgudi', which is located in a South India. Few of his stories portrays his concern towards nature and The Blind Dog is one of them.

Brief Outline of the Story, The Blind Dog:

"The Blind Dog" is one of the most popular stories of R. K. Narayan from his collection 'Malgudi Days' that discuss the story of a dog and his loyalty towards a blind master who is a beggar. But the beggar exploits the dog. The beggar establishes his dominance over the poor dog.

Exploitation of nature in the story:

The word exploitation means the use of something in order to get an advantage from it. Exploitation is an act of treating a person, animals and plants as a mere object without thinking of its own existence (OED). As nature consists of all living and non-living things. When we think about exploitation of nature then it means we use it excessively only for our own purpose.

In the story The Blind Dog, he depicted that how animals are faithful and loyal to human being, but human being thinks about only his profit. It's story of a blind beggar, who was blind in both eyes and faithful dog. The beggar earned money by begging money at the market gate. An old woman led him at market gate and she gave him food and again took him with her. At the market gate, there was a dog, who was wondering from road to road and ate whatever he got. He was delightful in his life. Some days later a bond of friendship developed between the beggar and the dog. The beggar gave him some remaining food. The dog also not spare any person who will not give money to that blind beggar, he chased that person and pulled him back.

One evening the old woman could not reach the market place for taking the blind man. The beggar did enquiry of that old woman to everyone then he discovered that, she was dead.

He became so sad. Because she was only person, who take care of him in the whole world. Then one of the ribbon -vendor suggested him that, "here take this white tape. I will give this to you free of cost, tie it to the dog and let him lead you about if he is really fond of you". (Blind Dog, 42) In this way the dog became a companion of the blind beggar.

From that day, life of that dog took a new turn. The dog took a place of that old woman. His freedom finished. In this way an ordinary dog became a slave of the beggar. The dog lived a miserable and ruined life. He had to stay on forever at the end of the string. When he saw other dog jumping and fighting, he sprang up but he earned a back a kick from his master and the blind man said, "Rascal, want to trouble me down?... have a sense..." (Blind Dog, 42). The beggar's behavior towards the dog is improper and inhuman, he exploits the dog.

Now the beggar earned money with the help of the dog. The dog took care of blind beggar while walking across the road. But beggar wanted more profit so he moved to more public places like shops, hospitals and schools. When the beggar wanted to stop, he gave a strong tug to the dog, and shouted like a bullock driver. At the night also the old man slept with a cord turned around his finger and said, "I can't a chance with you." (Blind Dog, 43). When the dog was tired and refused to move, the beggar shouted, "Don't whine, you rascal. Don't I give you food? You want to loaf, do you?" (Blind Dog, 43). The beggar gave bad words to the dog. But dog offered a selfless service to him.

Now the dog was a slave of the beggar. When the ribbon seller saw the condition of the dog, he cut the cord and released the poor dog. Then the dog bounces off and picked up the bone, he was happy one, his eyes sparkling with a joy. But the beggar curses on to the dog It's not possible for him to cross the road. So, he remained in his choultry veranda for many days. As we know, the dog is loyal and faithful animal. That dog

was so much attached to the blind beggar. So, he returned to his master and make him his slave. Then the beggar tugged a chain around dog's neck and shouted like an ox driver, "Go on you fool" (Blind Dog, 46). There was a dead despairing look in the dog's eyes once again. Even though the treatment was given by the beggar towards the dog was brutal and unsympathetically, but the dog was always loyal.

In the above story R. K. Narayan presented brutality and selfish nature of human being. But nature offers selflessly everything to human being. The blind man stands as part parasite on the dog. The people like him should understand that this exploitation will not last long. By destroying nature, human beings are going to destroy to themselves. Everything in the universe is interconnected with each other. Parasitical existence will destroy the biosphere and symbiotic existence will prevent the biosphere from annihilation.

CONCLUSION:

From the above study, it seems that a human beings want more and more comfort for satisfying his needs so he exploits nature elements excessively. His hunger is limitless. He wants his own control over nature. Nature is only an object for him to satisfy his needs. R.K. Narayan depicted all these things in a realistic way.

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