

Eco-Critical Harmony: Analyzing Human-Nature Dynamics in Khalil Gibran's 'Seven Reprimands'



Urooba Fatima	Senior Lecturer, Department of Physiotherapy, Ibn-e-Sina University Mirpurkhas urooba.ur@gmail.com
Suhail Ahmed Solangi	Senior Lecturer, Department of English, Hamdard University, Islamabad Suhail.Solangi@hamdard.edu.pk
Nudrat Nazir	M.Phil Research Scholar of English Literature at Hamdard University, Islamabad nudrat.yousuf@gmail.com
Sundus Shakeel	M.Phil Research Scholar of English Literature at Hamdard University, Islamabad sundusshakeel20@gmail.com

Abstract: *Through an eco-critical lens, this research explores the complex relationship between humans and nature, using Khalil Gibran's poem "Seven Reprimands" as a central theme. Examining the poem's moral precepts, analyzing the objections it raises, and examining how nature is portrayed in the verses are the main objectives. The study uses eco-criticism theory to shed light on how human behavior affects the natural world and encourage contemplation on how closely humans and the environment are intertwined. The method entails a thorough analysis of the literature, with an emphasis on Khalil Gibran's writings and eco-critical ideas. By means of textual analysis and attentive reading of "Seven Reprimands," the investigator aims to identify eco-critical issues and their consequences for the dynamics between humans and nature. The main conclusions highlight the mutually beneficial interaction between humans and the natural world and highlight the significant influence of environmental deterioration on human morality. This study adds to the larger conversation in ecocriticism by promoting a more thoughtful and peaceful coexistence of humans and the environment.*

Keywords: *Seven Reprimands, Khalil Gibran, Eco-criticism, Human-nature relationship*

Introduction

Human attitudes towards nature remain the bone of Contention for many centuries due to the harsh treatment of human towards nature human has forgotten to be fully human. Nature helps humanity to grow a healthy environment in the shape of the ecological system, but it is also inevitable human activities have become the reason for damaging nature, intentionally or unintentionally.

In many literary works, writers draw the influence of nature as a calming element Writers like John Keats, Who wrote a poem like "To Autumn" which defined the Eco criticism

perspective and acknowledged the interconnected system of ecology, and William Wordsworth, who wrote poems like: "Tender Abbey" and "The Prelude" to depict his Eco critical approach by highlighting the infinitive power of nature. Romantic poets like them, use nature to define their positive impact on human life. Human connection with nature grants inner peace for the destructed soul which occurred due to industrialization. Industrialization has not only swallowed the essence of the beauty of natural land but also stained the human soul. That is why in the present century many poets, and writers employ eco critical approach to criticize human actions toward nature.

Khalil Gibran is a renowned name, a Lebanese-American poet, writer, and philosopher, (Gibran National Committee, n.d.) He also threads the element of eco-criticism into his works. Even though he is worldwide recognized for his philosophical and spiritual themes, his poetry is evident to celebrate the deep cherished of nature. In his work like "Seven Reprimands," Gibran presents a relatable journey of human moral consciousness through the lens of Eco-critical approach that also helps reader to explore various aspects of life: Spirituality and human behavior gradually through the revealing Reprimands.

In Khalil Gibran's poem *Seven Reprimands*, The title embraces critique by analyzing the eco-critical approach to exploring humanity's relationship with nature in literature. The title of this poem "Seven Reprimands" assists in addressing environmental issues and drawing attention to the repercussions of human action on the natural world. Gibran renewed for using the metaphors and symbolism in his works, he also employs literary elements to explain Eco-centric message to urge readers to reconsider their role in the interconnected thread of existence. The title of the poem encapsulates a call for human reflection and their responsibilities towards nature. The researcher is also guiding the reader by choosing Khalil Gibran's poem that the world needs harmony between humans and nature. The purpose of this research is to analyze Khalil Gibran's poem: "Seven Reprimands" through an ecological lens, disentangle the relationship between humanity and nature. The research also suggests readers to pay heed on their responsibilities toward the ecological system.

Literature Review

In this literature review, the researcher evaluates the texts that describe ecological aspects in specific ways in which the researcher finds out the approaches to define ecological issues as part of the multidisciplinary field of critical theory. By examining authors, researchers, and poets' works that reflect the context of nature, humans, and literature. Eco-criticism is first defined in the essay "Literature and Ecology: An Experiment in Eco Criticism" by William

Rueckert. In his essay he depicts eco-criticism as application of ecology and ecological aspects that teach about the nature and literature, because ecology is worked on all the sciences and its field that deals with the greatest connection in the present and future of the world. (1996:107). Through the work of William Rueckert paved the way for the researcher to examine Khalil Gibran's reprimands on the basis of reflection to ecological aspects that connects human nature together.

According to Bhattacharjee and Tripathi (2016) eco-criticism attempts to seek a basic ground where human and non-human get their existence together in harmonious way because the environmental issue which we face today that become the integral issue of world and these all damages are caused by human action. This work establishes a framework to comprehend the crucial role of ecocriticism, to estimate the circumstances of human action towards nature. It is also highlighting A vibrant themes with Gibran's exploration of human behavior in *Seven Reprimands*. (Endraswara, 2016a) Eco criticism emerges from several concepts that is ontology, axiology and epistemology, epistemology, applied to comprehend eco-critical philosophy in literature. In ontology perspective eco-criticism is employed to combine aesthetic facts with the environment and literary studies. An axiology perspective can be understood to find the relationship between the facts in the environment and the actual depiction in literature. The belief of epistemology is to understand the literature as a representation of the environment in which it is written. (Endraswara, 2016b). The work Endraswara is extremely useful to interpret how Gibran interthreads the elements of aesthetic with environment concern to explore the relationship between the actual environment and the way Gibran depicts about environment in *Seven Reprimands*.

Eco-criticism is a wide field of literary study that deals with the combination of physical environment, which includes growth concerns with population and reduction of animal soil contamination, water, and air contamination,

and loss of wild forests. To represent the relation between nature and environment in literary works as it exists. (Glen, 2003). By exploring the work of Glen, the researcher finds some physical environmental issue like: growth concern, pollution and loss of natural resources that resonates the themes of “Seven Reprimands”

Ecological studies that define the relationship between humans and nature cannot be completed without considering the connection to God as a creator of humans and non-humans, the existence of God, Nature, and humans and their relation is found in many historical religious stories, a human finds God by connecting himself with nature (Nahdhiyah et al., 2021). In Gibran's Seven Reprimands discloses the connection between the human action and their repercussions emphasis the interconnectedness of nature and spirituality. Eco-criticism takes inspiration from the three major American writers, whose works discussed nature as a “life force”. They are: Ralph Waldo Emerson, (1803-1832), Margaret Fuller, (1810-1850), and Henry David Thoreau (1870-1862). These three writers belong to a group that enjoys the Influence of nature and starts nontraditional approach to celebrate nature which is known as transcendentalism. (Mishra, 2016). The non traditional transcendentalists approach to celebrate nature and life force reflects in the poem of Seven Reprimands

The work of Eco criticism is to promote a sustainable future that is risk-free from all-natural disasters and fulfill all the basic needs of Earth to live life in a healthy environment. Here, the researcher resonates in woods because Eco criticism calls for a return to nature away from the clamor and pollution of the metropolis. (Asenath & Santhanalakshmi, 2021). Gibran's Seven Reprimands appeal for the harmonious relationship between nature and human. Each reprimands coordinate with this call for return to the woods, expressing the perspective of Eco critical approach to understand the poem.

In his work Bennet, discusses the complex relationship between human ecology, behavior and explore how environment gets affected with human action and choices. This work provided the insight between the interconnectedness of

human life with ecosystem. (Bennet, John W. 1996). The work of Bennet describes about interconnectedness of human life to the ecosystem. This perspective is very much integrated to understand the repercussion depicted in Gibran's Reprimands.

There is an inevitable gap which is why eco-criticism theory can be applied to define human moral downfall in the poem “Seven Reprimands”, each reprimand describes human instincts that depict humans as a materialistic and faulty beings, and that is a result of destroying nature by his own hands. This research helps to find out the research gap by providing significant insight into the poem, “Seven Reprimands” through the lens of eco-criticism theory, which throws the light on human-nature relationship and web connection.

Research Objectives

- To analyze the reprimands in the poem that challenges or reflect the traditional relationship between human action and natural world.
- To examine the moral reflection of the human in the poem with the representation of reprimands.
- To uncover the symbolic representation of nature in "Seven Reprimands" to grasp the deeper meaning and significance of human connections with the natural world

Theoretical Framework

Eco-criticism is a literary theory that is used for studying and understanding the depiction of the natural world in literature. The term “eco-criticism” is coined by William Rueckert in 1978, in his work (essay) “The Application of Ecology and Ecological Aspects to the Study of Literature”. Eco-criticism theory is published in two seminal works of the mid-1990s, The Eco Criticism Reader edited by Cheryll Glotfelty and Honord Fromm, and The Environmental Imagination by Lawrence Bulle. Eco-criticism defines the relationship of mankind with the natural world, and is concerned with the field of all sciences like environmental issue, and cultural issue the main aim of studying theory is to analyze individual roles, and their behavior

within society, according to ecological aspects, and define how human is damaging the environment. The most evident issue that is damaging our environment, that all caused by human action like nuclear war, the depletion of valuable natural resources Population explosion, and the proliferation of exploitative technologies. These all are the environmental problems that cause global warming and due to that not only does nature get disturbed but human moral and values also get affected. (Nasrullah Mambrol, 2016)

Research Methodology

The researcher interprets the Eco-Criticism theory in the Khalil Gibran poem, "Seven Reprimands" with the help of textual analysis of the poem along with close reading. The researcher used primary sources for collecting data from the poem of Khalil Gibran and essay of William Rueckert. The researcher read the Eco-criticism theory and then closely read the poem to find the relationship between human moral and nature in the specific work.

The source of data is taken from the text of Gibran's poem "Seven Reprimands" and interpret it through Eco-Criticism theory to find the relationship with human moral and nature in the specific work.

The data always collects through unstructured or semi-structured observation. In this research, the data is collected through the documentary method by using the following steps:

First, the researcher read the poem several times to find the Eco-criticism elements in the poem.

Secondly, the researcher used specific statements of the poem to justify the importance of human moral through the lens of Eco-criticism.

Last but not least, the researcher also finds the philosophical perspective of the poet, which is hidden in the poem.

The data is analyzed through textual analysis by collecting those statements from the poem, which specifically highlight the Eco-criticism theory.

The researcher employs a robust methodology

that is used for textual analysis and close reading for giving the detailed manner examination of Khalil Gibran's poem Seven Reprimands by applying the theory of ecocriticism. Textual analysis is employing as a systematic tool to study the language, and thematic elements of the poem, identify the accurate relation between human morality and nature. Close reading is employed for detail exploration of the literary words and literary devices providing a comprehensive understanding of how Gibran knits ecological theme into the framework by choosing these methods, the researcher focuses to disclose the keen connection between human action and the nature world that is embedded in the poem's verses, and that's helped to interpret the poem on the ecological dimensions.

Textual Analysis

In the poem, seven reprimands Khalil Gibran represents a related journey of human moral consciousness with the help of an Eco-critical lens that approach helps to understand the reader to glance over the uncovered ecological dimension that is embedded in the poem to give the sight to overview of Human action and moral representations, that is interlinked by dealing the principle of natural world.

Eco-criticism is a literary theory that is used to examine the relationship between human, nature and literature. In seven reprimands, an eco-critical approach is employed to analyze the ecological element in the poem to showcase the human moral reflection in the natural world within the context of the poem, which suggests interconnectedness, authenticity, and balance.

In "Seven Reprimands," Khalil Gibran uses fancy words to talk about nature and how people act. He compares human nature to being mean, like "exploiting the weak," and describes things vividly, such as "Feigning a lime before a cripple." Gibran is kind of like a nature critic, showing that humans can upset the natural balance.

He also uses symbols, like saying "Choosing the easy path over the difficult," to mean people often pick the simpler way instead of what's better for nature. When he talks about "the mud of life," it's like saying people don't like the

messy parts of nature. Gibran's words make the poem beautiful, but they also teach us important things about how connected we are to nature and the responsibilities we have in the big picture of nature and people.

The first reprimand reveals the moral drawbacks of human nature, where the poet expresses the human nature to appreciate himself “by exploiting the weak”. (Gibran, 1908, line 2) In eco critical context, this action is considered unethical, because it goes against the natural phenomenon and it creates disturbance in natural ecosystem. When human beings exploit natural resources for their benefit. This line of the poem holds an exploration of the human-nature relationship that focuses on the ethical responsibility of human to maintain harmony within the natural world.

The second reprimand unfolds another aspect of human nature, that is “Feigning a lime before a cripple” (Gibran, 1908, line 3) . This line also goes against the natural world, because Eco-criticism focuses on honesty in nature, where animals never pretend to be something which they are not, here poem raises a question against human fakeness or hypocrisy that explains their conduct in the natural world. The reprimand highlights the human divergence from the honesty and authenticity in the natural world.

“Choosing the easy path over the difficult”, (Gibran, 1908, lines 5-6) the third reprimand in the poem, can be analyzed through the ecological lens to understand the human nature. Nature operates on the basis of order and it always welcomes all the challenges that comes toward its way but in the poem, here poet depicts that side of human where they blend toward the shortcuts and violating the principle of nature that is sustainability and resilience.

“Consoling oneself with the mistakes of others”, (Gibran, 1908, line 8) is the forth reprimand that signifies the human nature of neglecting their mistakes and showcasing the contrast of nature because eco-criticism also appreciates learning process from the natural's pattern and never accept any pretext and negligence toward its principles. The poem explores the challenge against human nature that is reflected in their

action as humans are not welcoming the learning pattern from the natural world, learning from mistakes in a natural phenomenon to succeed in survival but the poem depicts the failure of humans to understand that process of learning that illuminates human intellectual.

“Being docile due to fear and then claiming strength”, (Gibran, 1908, lines 9-10) is the fifth reprimand of the poem that introduces an ecological paradox, as many species in the wild world showcase firmness and bravery when they come across adversity, poem illustrates the contradictory side of humans.

The act of avoiding “the mud of life” (Gibran, 1908, line 11) is the sixth reprimand that symbolizes a desire for cleanliness and disconnection from the messy aspect of nature. Mud reminisces the days of childhood, when things were connected ecologically but the poem alludes to the human instinct for cleanliness, with the help of an eco-criticism lens, which can be defined as the disconnection of humans from the natural world.

The act of considering “singing a virtue while standing in hymnal to God”, (Gibran, 1908, lines 13-14) is the seventh reprimand that describes spiritual aspects, but it also draws contradictory figure in the poem because the spirituality is discussing in the poem is totally separate from human spirituality and the divine elements found in nature. Eco-criticism emphasis to recognize the sacred aspects of divine within the natural world for giving a holistic view of spirituality.

In “Seven Reprimands”, Khalil Gibran explicitly defines about human morality with the context of the natural world by using eco-critical approach. Each Reprimands unveil with the heavy responsibilities on the mankind toward natural world. The connection between man and nature is sustained and the ethical responsibilities which human have never be fulfilled until the awareness regarding human actions that are damaging environment cannot be spread entirely, because human and nature encourages a harmonious the relationship that helps the intricate ecosystem of life.

Discussion

Many ecologists and researchers disclosed the relationship of nature and human, and how human actions are damaging the nature. However, in my opinion as a scholar is that, when we try to understand the phenomenon of the relationship between nature and human, we cannot separate them, because they are interconnected. In this article the researcher justifies her point of view that human actions are not only damaging the nature but his action damaging his moral consciousness because, nature is a healer, consoler and guider that directly connected human with the God. If the nature is destroyed by any means of humans' material benefits, their moral consciousness also disturbed. The purpose of the study is to highlighted the aspects of human's morals that how human morals are facing the surface of ground. The researcher takes the help of the poem "Seven Reprimands" by Khalil Gibran to explicitly describe human moral downfall because of being sophisticated and created a distance from nature. This paper aims to deal the relationship between human and nature and alludes about the interconnectedness of human and nature.

Conclusion

This research has examined the complex relationship between moral principles, the natural world, and human behavior from the perspectives of literary interpretation and ecological inquiry. Through the application of eco-criticism to Khalil Gibran's "Seven Reprimands," we set out to uncover the complex interrelationships that are woven throughout the natural world.

As each reprimand developed, it brought attention to the moral obligations that people had to the environment. Gibran's use of metaphorical language helped us understand the intricacies of human conduct and how it affects the fragile balance of nature. Based on the ideas of eco-criticism, the research examined the problems caused by human activity while emphasizing the unavoidable connection between moral decay and environmental deterioration.

The findings align with a wider discourse in eco-

criticism, highlighting the mutually beneficial relationship between humans and the natural world. It becomes clear that any damage done to the natural world has an impact on human morality and ethics as well. The words of "Seven Reprimands" resound with the demand for a more mindful and peaceful interaction between people and the environment.

In conclusion, this study advances the comprehension of the complex relationships between moral principles, the natural world, and human behavior. By examining the many facets of Gibran's literary masterwork, we hope to stimulate a resurgence of ecological awareness and make society aware of the significant influence that human behavior has on the fragile ecosystem. I hope this study encourages us to think more deeply about our responsibilities as Earth's stewards and strengthens our resolve to work toward a more ethically and sustainably conscious future.

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