

Exploring Environmental Consciousness in Uzma Aslam Khan's Fiction the Geometry of God



Sonan Sajjal Visiting Lecturer, Bahuddin Zakriya University Multan
sonansajjal1122@gmail.com

Faiqa Khan Visiting Lecturer, Bahuddin Zakriya University Multan
Kfaiga706@gmail.com

Abstract: *This research examines Pakistani fiction from an environmental perspective, with a specific focus on the literary works of Uzma Aslam Khan. Through this inquiry, the research underscores Khan's substantial commitment to environmental themes, which in turn initiates conversations and dialogues pertaining to environmental concerns within the realm of contemporary Pakistani English-language fiction. The core of this analysis revolves around Khan's novel, "The Geometry of God" (2009). Within the scope of this research, our objective is to unveil how the "state" engages in eco-political discussions and the detrimental environmental consequences that impact society within Pakistan. This exploration entails scrutinizing the interconnections between Western imperialism, governmental policies, global climate change, and the indigenous communities. Our argument posits that Khan's culturally specific eco-critical awareness holds global relevance, effectively engaging readers in addressing environmental concerns, particularly through the portrayal of young characters in her selected novels. This unique contribution to the field of literature underscores Khan's distinctive role in advancing Pakistani ecocriticism.*

Keywords: Environmental issues, socio-political, the Geometry of God, Uzma Aslam Khan's Fiction

Introduction

Half a century ago, Fredrick Morgan brought forth the concept of ecology, a concept that continues to hold its relevance even today. Building upon the foundations laid by early advocates of the symbiotic relationship between humans and nature, a multitude of writers, theorists, and scholars have actively contributed to nurturing environmental consciousness (Adamson, 2011). The realm of environmental studies, particularly in the context of literature, has gained significant recognition and importance within academia. In the last ten years, we've witnessed a significant growth in environmental studies within the realm of literature. This expansion is exemplified by significant contributions from scholars such as

Lawrence Buell, Glotfelty Fromm, Turner, and others (Afzal, 2020). Ecological studies have transcended the boundaries of traditional nature writings, encompassing a wide array of diverse Eco critical perspectives (Spyra, 2009).

So, what does "environmental" mean? The concept of environmental consciousness encompasses a wide range of aspects related to the natural environment and the impacts of Individual activities upon it. It signifies an awareness of these issues and the capacity to respond to the challenges presented by our environment. In the context of this research, we delve into how Pakistani writers tackle environmental issues. In Uzma Aslam Khan's third novel, "The Geometry of God" (2009), serves as a focal point within this investigation.

The novel sheds light on the extinction of species caused by climate change and the transformation of once lush landscapes into arid terrain. It approaches these topics with a touch of "enlightenment thinking" and explores ideas reminiscent of discussions put forth by Habermas. In both "The Geometry of God" and "Thinner than Skin," Khan delves into the realm of environmental awareness and the complex interplay between humans and the natural environment (Kanner, 1995). In the context of General Zia's authoritarian rule in Pakistan, which was supported by fundamentalist religious groups (Ahmad, 2015), "The Geometry of God" unfolds the captivating narrative of four pivotal characters: Amal, a paleontologist; her blind sister Mehwish; their heretical grandfather Zahoor, who is also a paleontologist; and Noman. Within the narrative, the novel interweaves several themes, including love, religion, and science, with "blindness" recurring as a symbolic motif throughout. Through the character of Mehwish, who grapples with blindness, Khan introduces the concept of blindness as both a physical condition and a metaphorical extension that resonates with other members of society (Narain, 1991).

Previous literature has not extensively addressed the socio-political awareness pertaining to global environmental issues in the Pakistani context. Remarkably, as far as our knowledge extends, there hasn't been an investigation into whether and how environmental concerns intersect with "The Geometry of God" concerning socio-political consciousness in Pakistan (Woody, 1979). In this context, our motivation lies in exploring the impact of environmental change and socio-political structures within Uzma Aslam Khan's novels as a means to confront the challenges posed by environmental degradation (Wallace, 2001). Khan's novels highlight Pakistani environmental perspectives, thereby addressing the issue of their underrepresentation (Arshad, 2016). Despite the heightened focus on environmental issues in both politics and the public sphere in recent times, there have been limited environmentally conscious initiatives in

Pakistan (Adamson, 2009). Meaningful action cannot be undertaken unless individuals become aware and actively advocate for a healthy and sustainable natural environment (Anand, 2002).

The study of environmental values is incorporated into school curricula to, educators have the opportunity to bring about innovative reforms in the education system. Incorporating creative literary works that focus on the natural environment can play a vital role in transforming how people perceive, conceptualize, and interact with the natural world (Roszak, 1995). In the context of ecocriticism my aim is to create a strategy that is ecologically conscious and emphasizes the environmental sensibility found in English-language literature written in Pakistan, with a focus on Uzma Aslam Khan's books. (Azhar, 2008).

Numerous studies have been undertaken to analyze Pakistani novels, encompassing significant works such as Mohsin Hamid's "The Reluctant Fundamentalist" (2007), Mohammed Hanif's "A Case of Exploding Mangoes" (2008), Nadeem Aslam's "The Wasted Vigil" (2008), Maha Khan Philips's "Beautiful from this Angle" (2010), Kamila Shamsie's "Broken Verses" (2005), and "Burnt Shadows" (2009), among others. These literary works frequently delve into themes such as socio-political instability, the erosion of intellectual discourse, and the repercussions of the 9/11 incident during the Zia regime. However, interwoven with these themes are texts that prominently feature elements of "pro-democracy, pro-feminism, and anti-Islamization" (Shingavi n.p.). Notable examples of such texts include Shamsie's "Salt and Saffron" (2000), Shahraz's "Typhoon" (2007) and "The Holy Woman" (2002), Khan's "Trespassing" (2003), and Hanif's "Our Lady of Alice Bhatti" (2011), among others.

Therefore, the primary objective of this research is to explore the prominent role of the natural environment in Khan's novels and to scrutinize why environmental degradation often goes overlooked within the socio-political experiences of the Pakistan letterings portrayed in these literary works. This examination serves as a valuable avenue for theorizing the nature of such degradation (Solarewicz, 2013). Our

inquiry will delve into the intricate connections between the examination will delve into the interconnections of US military, warming temperatures, pollution, and imperialism as depicted in these books. Moreover, this human-centered comprehension of environmental degradation will provide readers with greater insight into how politics wields influence over the environment and how narratives are crafted to endorse and perpetuate violence within the natural world (Donnelly, 2014).

In this context, our contribution to this research lies in the exploration of how Khan's work offers a unique perspective on Pakistan, one centered on the environment. Her writing aligns with the contemporary socio-political climate, wherein "ordinary Muslims feel compelled (or are explicitly asked) to explain what it means to be a Muslim" (Hageman, 2012). Examining how an environmental standpoint constructs a constructs a Exploring Pakistan's uniqueness over fiction offers a novel besides major tactic to reimagining the country's sense of self (Brandt, 2021). Therefore, this study aims to provide an in-depth analysis of the environmental themes present in Khan's novels. It presents an opportunity to explore environmentalism within the context of "The Geometry of God" and its intersection with socio-political consciousness in Pakistan. This research will help readers gain a deeper understanding of the historical and cultural factors in Pakistan that influence the environmental awareness of its residents (Buell, 2001).

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows. Section 2 details the Literature review and theoretical background. Section 3 discusses methodology. Section 4 discussion and conclusion. Section 5 offers directions for future research drawn from our findings.

Literature Review

Environmental Issues

The genesis of environmental awareness can be traced back to The genesis of environmental awareness can be traced back to the release of "Silent Spring" by the pioneering environmentalist Rachel L. Carson in 1962.

Additionally, in 1984, the Environmental Fairness Drive emerged in the United States, ignited by the residents of Warren County, North Carolina, who strongly opposed the disposal of significant amounts of Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in a landfill neighboring an African American civic (Murali, 2008). Nowadays, discussions about the environment not only occupy a central place in scientific and political discourse then have likewise become ingrained in the collective social consciousness on a broad scale (Carrigan, 2011). According to Christensen, envisioning a life intimately intertwined with meteorological conditions and environment, where we consider "how the weather influences the physical settings, personalities, and destinies of their characters," container facilitate our coexistence with weather and climate (James, 1997). While environmental studies address issues related to economic expansion and technological change, there is a pressing need to redirect attention towards the environmental impacts of wars. Moreover, it is essential to emphasize that if there is a war to be waged, It should be a struggle against environmental degradation (Cenkl, 2012). A more in-depth theoretical commitment is necessary to foster awareness about environmental degradation, which is frequently intertwined with the perpetuation of environmental inequalities. Works like Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth" (2006) and several additional documents, books, and movies on global warming delve into the geopolitics of environmental issues that go beyond borders, viewed from an environmental perspective (Cilano, 2014).

In the 1990s, ecocritics united in the establishment of the Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment (ASLE) in the United States, with a primary focus on exploring environmental themes within literary texts (Clark, 2011). Subsequently, affiliated organizations were founded in the UK and Ireland, leading to the establishment of the The UK and Ireland chapter of the Organisation over the Analysis of Literacy and Environment (ASLE-UKI). The European Association of the Investigation of Writing, The Arts, and

Environment (EASLCE) is a similar organization in Europe. was also established. These organizations have expanded their reach to other regions, including Canada, India, and East Asia. Remarkably, these ecocritical academic societies, including the newly established one in Pakistan, hold meetings where climate change occupies a prominent position in their discussions (Judith, 2003).

Environmental Issues in Pakistan

Eco-critical studies in South Asian Fiction in English have seen development, with India taking the lead in addressing environmental concerns through Before authors representing Pakistanis as well as neighbors came along, it was English novels. began addressing environmental changes (Deckard, 2015). Shikha Kumari, in her discussion of Indian writers, notes that the focus on ecology and the dangers posed by environmental misuse has only recently gained the attention of these authors (1). Notably, Indian authors such as Arundhati Roy, Aravind Adiga, Amitav Ghosh, and others have contributed to a growing body of work that delves into ecological issues in the nation and the broader area (Eckersley, 1992).

The environmental landscape in Pakistan is still relatively uncharted and not thoroughly comprehended. Various factors, including industrialization, the inadequacy of environmental management and sustainable policies, and rapid urbanization, necessitate a closer examination of Pakistan's pivotal role in the global environmental context (Mehdi 155). As the most urbanized nation in South Asia, Pakistan confronts some of the world's most severe urban air pollution issues, with significant repercussions for human health, overall quality of life, and the nation's economy and environment (Gaard, 2015).

As a literature student, my motivation for delving into the realms of identity, connection, and cultural roots springs from the realization that Pakistan possesses a far richer and more multifaceted narrative than what is often depicted Western media outlets, films, and online sources have often portrayed Pakistan in a certain light, especially in the context of the

war on terror. As a literature student, my motivation for exploring issues related to identity, connection, and cultural roots arises from the recognition that there is much more to Pakistan than the narratives presented by Western media. Ecocriticism, since its inception, has shown a strong interest in exploring "indigenous art and imagination." This enthusiasm stems from a sense of discontent with the adverse outcomes of industrial modernity, which served as the catalyst for the emergence of the field of ecocriticism. Scholars such as Buell, Heise, and Thornber contend that writers from developing nations frequently juxtapose scientific inquiry into the natural world with indigenous modes of knowledge.

For Uzma Aslam Khan and her readers, one of the most invaluable and significant facets of Pakistan lies in its ecological magnificence and the unique lifestyles of its indigenous communities. In Khan's literary works, nature transcends its role as a mere inanimate backdrop and instead emerges as a vibrant protagonist, playing a pivotal and active role (Isbister, 2003).

Uzma Khan the Geometry of God

In Khan's third novel, "The Geometry of God" (2009), the narrative delves into the theme of vanishing species caused by climatic changes and desert landscapes. The book explores environmental consciousness and the intricate connection between human beings and their natural surroundings. Specifically, "The Geometry of God" serves as a lens through which to examine environmental concerns within Pakistani society.

Previous scholarly studies have aimed to understand how individuals respond to the natural environment in the context of a pervasive capitalist culture (Kerridge, 2010). These investigations pay special attention to the dynamics between humanity and the natural world, as well as the psychological impact of environmental degradation on individuals. Additionally, they explore how ideology plays a role in promoting consumerism and materialism, ultimately affecting people's awareness and critical thinking regarding the natural

environment (Martin, 2016). The novel paints a vivid picture of the perception of nature and the complexities of a culture in flux, forming the backdrop of "The Geometry of God."

This narrative skillfully weaves together environmental concerns and religious contemplation, creating a seamless fusion. By exploring scholarly dialogues surrounding religion, nature, and culture as portrayed in the novel, these studies delve into the concepts of environmental stewardship and the intricate interrelationship between humanity and the non-human realm. Within the pages of this novel, readers are exposed to narrative intricacies that are both distinct and deeply rooted in the culture, shedding light on the marginalization experienced by both human and non-human components within post-colonial Pakistan (O'Brien, 2001).

Socio-political

In spite of the growing interest in environmental issues in contemporary times, Pakistan has seen only limited environmentally conscious initiatives. Environmental agencies and departments within the country have primarily focused on studying the consequences of environmental degradation (Agarwal, 1991). There is a pressing necessity for heightened socio-political awareness regarding global environmental issues among Pakistani theorists, scientists, and writers. These individuals must actively pursue a more profound comprehension of how to forge a harmonious bond between the human and non-human components of society, with the ultimate goal of nurturing environmental consciousness within Pakistan (Karrar, 2015).

Uzma Aslam Khan's novels provide valuable insights into the repercussions of British colonization, U.S. militarism, and the resulting environmental transformations. They also delve into the socio-political frameworks aimed at addressing environmental degradation. Khan's literary works introduce a distinct perspective by elevating the environment to a central theme in the discourse—a pioneering move within Pakistani English fiction. This shift catapults environmental discussions to the forefront, not

only in scientific and socio-political contexts but also within the broad and inclusive arena of cultural imagination.

Khan's characters serve as windows into the diverse lived experiences of individuals from various ethnic backgrounds and social strata, offering glimpses into their lifestyles, dietary preferences, pastimes, forms of entertainment, and work routines. Through the portrayal of these life experiences, Khan unveils the inner thoughts and concealed depths of her characters' psyches (Carroll, 1997). Within the boundaries of the Pakistani cultural and political milieu, Khan employs a language that resonates with the landscape, displaying a profound appreciation for the land and the surrounding natural world that envelops her characters' existence (Cenkl, 2012). While Khan's literary works touch on various other significant themes explored by numerous writers, they uniquely emphasize the environmental dimensions of the country. In this sense, her novels vividly illustrate a deep-seated connection between literature and the environment (Clark, 2011).

Methodology & Research Design

This study is confined to the analysis of novels authored exclusively by Uzma Aslam Khan, with the researcher herself being the author of this study. The primary objective of this research is to establish socio-political objectives that can guide the formulation of policies related to environmental awareness and conservation. By examining Uzma Aslam Khan's novels, this study aspires to encourage academics and policymakers to prioritize environmental concerns, ultimately contributing to the well-being of both the environment and society's health and communal prosperity.

Research Approaches

This research consists of the main methodology, an inductive approach. Research design demonstrates how information is gathered in response to research questions (Saunders *et al.*, 2009). In this research, the investigation starts with the existing speculation about the factors leading to the act of environmentalism issue with "The Geometry of God and in the context of socio-political consciousness in Pakistan.

The research approach of this study is inductive because this approach investigates the **environmentalism issue with "The Geometry of God in the context of socio-political consciousness in Pakistan**. The inductive technique will derive generalizations by analyzing the facts. The primary objective of this approach is to derive generalizations and logical deductions from a small set of observations, thereby offering specific reasoning that applies to a broader context (Goeminne, 2010).

Selection of Research Methods

Qualitative Method

Considering that the current study places human cognition and observation at the forefront, the most suitable research approach is qualitative in nature. This qualitative research study involved an in-depth textual analysis of Khan's novel, "The Geometry of God," with the aim of examining environmental consciousness and the intricate interplay between human beings and the natural environment. Thematic analysis was employed to gauge and measure the central themes of the research (Marinković, 2013). Therefore in this study, we use a qualitative research approach. The method was chosen for the research in achieving the setout objective of a deeper understanding of **environmentalism issues with "The Geometry of God and in the context of socio-political consciousness in Pakistan**. Why the qualitative method is chosen and how it supports the research. The primary goal of the study is to evaluate environmentalism issues with "The Geometry of God in the context of socio-political consciousness in Pakistan (Maris, 2016).

Qualitative research incorporates secondary data but provides more in-depth information than a quantitative study since the goal of the study is to get better knowledge in this area (Bryman & Bell 2017). Because, Khan's creative fusing of local, regional, and cultural references with important insights from natural sciences makes her novels a worthy example of environmental criticism capturing the literature and-environment studies" (Buell The Future of Environmental Criticism). Bryman & Bell (2017) asserted that using secondary data is an

alternate method of data collection. Studies using a qualitative technique tend to have more participants and use literature questionnaires to gather information. They also use research papers with justifications to explain their results after doing data analysis. Because it had produced a more impersonal reaction and was thought to be less likely to succeed in achieving the goal of acquiring a deeper knowledge of environmentalism issues with "The Geometry of God and in the context of socio-political consciousness in Pakistan (Rigby, 2014).

Theoretical approach

Taking basic principles of Buell's Eco critical theory, this study examines the environmental themes discussed by Khan to create environmental consciousness in Pakistan. Generally following theories of Eco criticism about post-colonialism, a theoretical framework is prepared to analyze the selected novels to highlight how environmental degradation becomes a norm. In this regard, we developed a link between the policies and strategies of powerful groups to consume and dominate the natural environment and environmental resources and the resultant impact on the psyche of the natives and the local surroundings which has given rise.

Data Collection & Sampling Technique

From observation and data sampled, it seemed that Pakistanis are also unaware of the disconnect and pressing environmental concerns. Maltreatment of natural resources and negligence towards environmental issues have marginalized the environment. Khan engages in discourses regarding environmentalism and uses her writing as a means to present political criticism. This study reflects how the state institutional structures have created a gap between the public and real issues and oppressed the society to think for the environment. So to overcome this concern, the technique of convenience, volunteer, and snowball sampling have been used in this approach to solve this issue and to collect the data from the Pakistani People. The reason for choosing convenience, volunteer, and snowball sampling is the ease it offers in qualitative analysis. As the population

sample needs to be chosen, often for researcher it becomes cumbersome to decide the audience. Snowball sampling is particularly useful when looking for hard-to-reach or hidden populations, such as marginalized or stigmatized groups. It allows researchers to reach individuals who may not be easily identified by traditional sampling methods (Heckathorn, 1997).

we use online surveys to produce data relevant to the study's aims (Sharma, 2022). Information is gathered through online surveys (email done to certain people) administered to residents of Pakistani People. Responding to this survey took most people between five and ten minutes. About 10 days had been allotted to each

participant to complete the online survey. 10 respondents' replies were collected using Google Forms. The Likert scale was used to compile information from the respondents that was useful to the study. This method also snowballed and brought more volunteers and audience to fill out the questionnaire thereby making the present study more profound.

For background information regarding environmental issues, we collect data in the form of related Khan's novel *The Geometry of God*, research articles from various journals, newspapers electronic media, etc. accessed through archives, websites, and other relevant sources.

Search string for papers search

Papers are found using this string in Google Scholar advanced search.

Digital Library	Search String
IEEE	((Environmentalism" Geometry of God)" AND ("Socio-Political" "concerns")) AND (("Environment issues" Uzma Aslam Khan"")) AND ("PAK" OR "Pakistan")
Research Gate	
Scopus	
Google Scholar	

Table 1: Search String for Paper:

List of initially selected Papers and shortlisted papers after quality check

SLR protocol-designed search string to search the five digital repositories and discovered many pilot projects have been used. The quantity of results returned by the automated library varies

according to the numerous filtering options made available by search engines. The criteria for inclusion/exclusion are assumed to be the basis for selecting the most applicable research. Duplicate files were removed, and those that included relevant keywords in the title or abstract were chosen.

Phase	Process	Selection Criteria	Research Gate	Google Scholar	Scopus	IEEE	Total
1	Searching	Keywords	10	12	5	11	95
2	Screening	Title	18	21	16	19	87
3	Further screening	Abstract	14	11	11	6	46
4	Further screening	Introduction, and Conclusion	5	21	9	3	41

5	Evaluation	Complete Article	3	18	7	2	33
---	------------	------------------	---	----	---	---	----

Table 2: Number of papers after the selection step

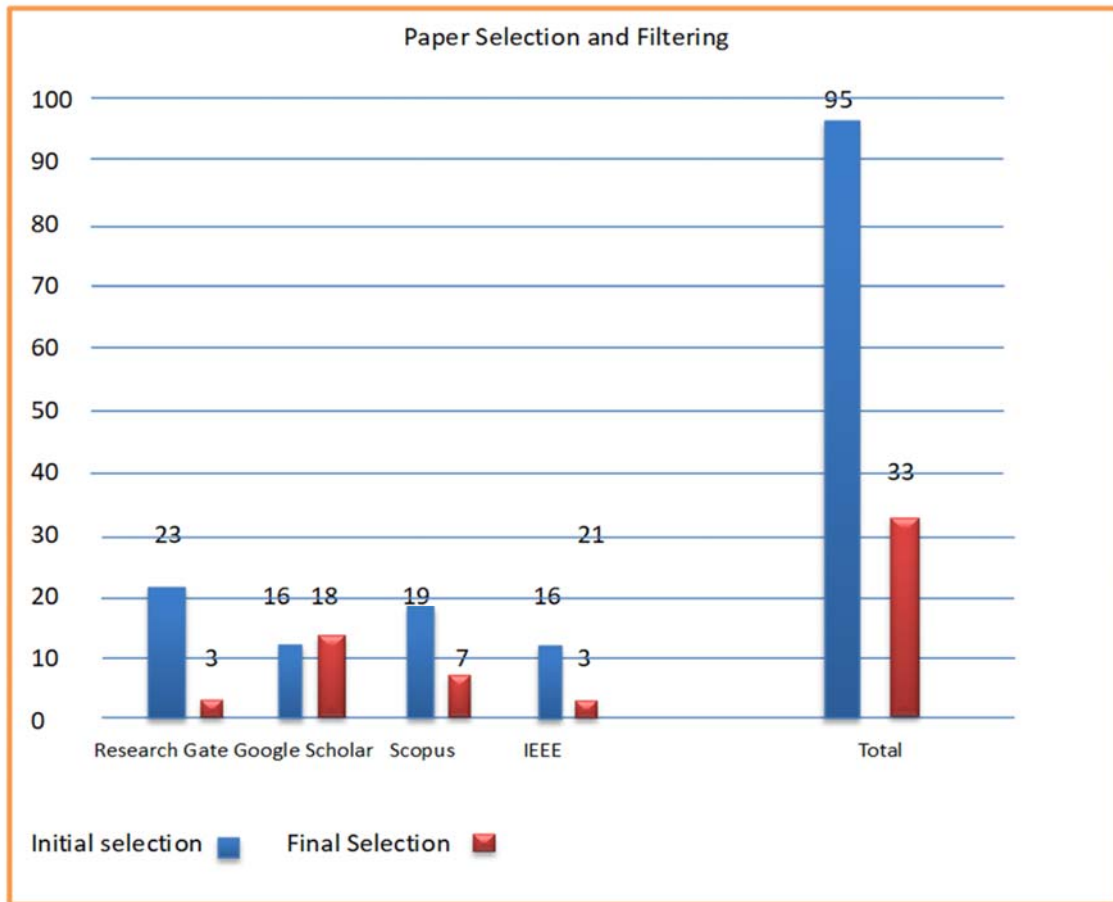


Figure 4: Paper selection and Filtering

Thematic Analysis

The objective of this study is to investigate how individuals react to the natural environment within the context of capitalist culture. Particular emphasis is placed on examining the connection between human beings and the natural world, as well as the psychological consequences of environmental degradation on individuals.

As stated above, the target population of Pakistan making them familiarized with the questions asked. All the research questions mentioned above point to one thing: familiarization of the Population with researchers and vice versa regarding both domains of environmentalism issue with "The Geometry of God and in the context of socio-political consciousness in Pakistan. Once this

step has been done, the researcher has adopted the coding strategy to pick up the concepts of significance. What codes and what keywords have been highlighted from the various secondary research found online. Such keywords hold significance as they will direct the study to reach a particular conclusion. The present research is inductive. It starts from specific and ends at generalization, therefore using the research questions mentioned above, each specific question answer was scrutinized with coding to narrow down the general meaning. As the target study mentioned 10 surveys, answers from them, based on similar keywords, clustering has been done.

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

Describes the results obtained after reading the

papers. These papers are selected after initial scrutiny and quality checking of the manuscripts. The criteria for the inclusion and exclusion of papers are discussed in the previous chapter. After the papers are selected, these papers are read line by line to find the answers to the research question. These answers are extracted and given against each question in this chapter.

Research Question 1: How and why the natural environment is textualized and set as a foreground in Khan's novels?

Generally, Pakistanis are primarily ignorant of ecological issues and values. No positive actions can be taken unless people become aware and active in demanding healthy living and a natural environment that is safe and sustainable. This is so because we are relying too heavily on the textually based methodologies of classical literary criticism. By incorporating the exploration of environmental values in the educational curricula, academicians can bring some innovative changes to the educational system. Creative literary writings about the natural environment can become part of the solution, reforming how human beings perceive, conceive, and behave toward the natural environment. Disturbance in the natural environment not only harms the other living and non-living components in the world but also affects human survival and economic activity. In this way, the eco-ethical concerns in environmental studies highlight how "both natural and cultural places and processes are connected and shape each other around the world and how human impact affects and changes this connectedness" and ultimately harms both human beings and nonhuman beings (Adams 21). So, it is interesting to note that Khan's works tackle many of the local issues in which the natural environment is a highly significant element. There is a peculiar cultural and nationalistic approach in terms of attending to the environment, but despite having different experiences living in many countries, Khan's attachment to her geographical landscape, the sense of place, the environmental crisis, the animals, the climate, and the human and nonhuman relationship make her an important

Pakistani writer. We analyze that idea of postcolonial environmental politics and environmental justice and make *Trespassing* a negative critique with a positive articulation. The analysis attempts to explore how human beings respond to the natural environment under the influence of capitalist culture. Special attention is paid to the relationship between humankind and the natural environment and the psychological impact of environmental degradation on human beings. So the analysis of this study is that an ideology in propagating consumerism and materialism and the resultant adverse effects on the criticality of individuals about the natural environment is studied too.

Research Question 2: How do Khan's novels talk about environmental issues?

Trespassing reflects Khan's strong ethical and political commitment to environmental issues as she criticizes public policies and silence on land encroachments through Salaamat's loss. She is particularly pointing to and criticizing the governmental policies that have failed to tackle environmental issues. The notion of common ownership and stewardship of the ecosystem, embracing all species, is the central theme of *Trespassing*. This research analysis of the two main characters, Salaamat and Dia, establishes Khan as a writer-activist who gives dramatic visibility to contemporary environmental issues of the global South and engages readers with some of the most difficult challenges concerning nature. Although Khan is rooted in the postcolonial discourse that focuses on the theoretical questions of nationalism and identity, she also embraces the environment as the most significant focus of *Trespassing*. But in an ecopolitical context, this novel becomes a critique of the exploitation of natural resources and ignorance of environmental issues and Khan presents a satirical view of colonial interruption and corruption of state institutions and political religious groups. So, we analyze that, in the modern or present times, socio-economic practices revolve around the environment more than ever before since natural resources have become objects of management and control for, mostly, capitalistic powers. Through local Pakistani and indigenous themes, environmental

issues are of global concern. This study has a new angle to explore the environment and makes a remarkable contribution to rethinking the role of literature in addressing local environmental issues.

Research Question 3: How far do the selected texts support the psychological and social transformation of the characters and their relationship with the natural environment?

Psychological transformation

The novel highlights that working-class people occupy the most dangerous jobs in Pakistan and are the first to be impacted by environmental disasters. By giving voice to underprivileged characters, and investigating their ecological displacements and psychological traumas, Khan depicts the changes in the environment affecting human and nonhuman actors. Khan strongly supports what Chellis Glendinning characterizes as, "We are creatures who grew from the Earth, who are physically and psychologically built to thrive in intimacy with the Earth" (52). Hence, his dive also installs him as an inseparable human component of the biotic system from other nonhuman components in the environment. Khan brings the real emotional and psychological dimension of experience. She experiences a sense of empowerment from feeling nature close to her in contrast to others who take their environment for granted just as they take day-to-day activities for granted. The idea of the innate connection between humans and nonhumans is also supported by Buell as very basic to humans' "psychological makeup" (Writing for an Endangered World 25). Disturbance in the natural environment not only harms the other living and non-living components in the world but also affects human survival and economic activity.

Social Transformation

This article explores romantic models of utopianism (Shelley's environmental and moral purification and social harmony) and melancholy (Keats's use of the language of melancholy) relevant to today's environmental concerns. We also analyzed a new emerging

subfield Postcolonial Ecocriticism. Postcolonial ecocritical approaches illustrate the hegemonic relations between social and environmental concerns. It will become a multi-ethnic movement when stronger connections are made between the environment and issues of social justice, and when a diversity of voices are encouraged to contribute to the discussion. the constitution of social relations, and with which people can identify" The concept of land division becomes meaningless to the characters, as highlighted in "The Future" (page 64). In some instances, Khan's literary works are significantly shaped by elements from social ecology. Within her writings, readers can observe the growth of environmentalism and its impact on the environment, intricately connected with the field of ecocriticism. Khan's depiction of social injustices suffered by marginalized communities, whether they are human or non-human, offers readers a deeper understanding of the concept of environmental injustice.

The analyses also emphasize the obligations of industrialized nations to mitigate and decrease the environmental as well as socio-economic consequences on developing countries. This recognition of responsibility arises from the understanding that. "The largest share of historical and current global emissions of greenhouse gases has originated in developed countries that per capita emissions in developing countries are still relatively low and that share of global emissions originating in developing countries will grow to meet their social and developmental needs"

Research Question 4: How can the field of literature contribute to increasing environmental and socio-political awareness within Pakistani society?

The research, titled "Exploring Environmental Consciousness in Uzma Aslam Khan's Fiction," represents the first comprehensive and meticulously researched work dedicated to the analysis of Khan's literary oeuvre. Its primary objective is to offer insights into Pakistan's standing in the realm of environmental politics through an in-depth literary investigation. To maintain a focused scope, this study exclusively

centers on the examination of novels authored by Uzma Aslam Khan. The research holds particular significance because it highlights a noticeable gap within the Pakistani socio-political landscape—a disconnect between governmental proclamations of environmental protection policies and the practical implementation and outcomes of these initiatives. Through the application of an ecocritical approach that scrutinizes Khan delves into discussions about environmentalism by examining both national and international policies, individual human attitudes and behaviors, the influence of imperialism, and the role of the environment. Through her writing, she uses her literary works as a platform for political critique, shedding light on various economic policies and foreign interventions in Pakistan that have had detrimental effects on the environment.

This study serves as a reflection of how institutional structures within the state have contributed to a gap between public awareness and genuine environmental issues, often suppressing societal concerns for the environment. It's crucial to note that the study does not assert that all political factions within the state are inherently negative, as there are individuals and groups actively working to support marginalized human and non-human communities. In this context, the analysis also delves into the ways in which socio-political factors impact human conditions and exert influence on the environment.

The selected novels under examination provide a lens through which to view environmental degradation, highlighting the psycho-social and socio-political attitudes and conditions that contribute to environmental collapse. The objective is to transform the way environmental issues are perceived within Pakistani culture, taking into account the technological and political aspects of contemporary society.

By shedding light on the shortcomings of political leaders who fail to recognize the profound impact of environmental concerns on the population, particularly the most vulnerable segments of society, this research serves as a critique. Ultimately, the researcher behind this

study aims to contribute to the establishment of socio-political objectives that can guide the adoption of policies promoting environmental consciousness and sustainable practices.

Findings

This research highlights the importance of Khan's novels as crucial ecocritical texts, as they incorporate ecological ideas and contextualize them within the framework of current global discussions. At a juncture when issues like global warming and climate change have assumed paramount importance, Khan's role as the first Pakistani woman to engage in ecocriticism within English literature is deserving of acknowledgment. Her literary works resonate with readers both within Pakistan and internationally, as they offer diverse characters' experiences across her novels. Additionally, this study highlights Khan's powerful use of giving voice to nonhuman elements, effectively breaking the silence surrounding environmental neglect.

One noteworthy example from Uzma Khan's novels is the story of Zahoor and Amal in "The Geometry of God," which sheds light on indigenous rights and the impact of deforestation on native communities. This novel intricately explores the convergence of religion, politics, and the environment, skillfully blending imagination with ethical considerations. Khan's narrative suggests a fundamental interconnection between human beings and the environment (Simberlof, 2016). These findings highlight that traditional creative literature from Pakistan introduces previously overlooked environmental perspectives and constructs a narrative structure that connects both narratological and eco-critical concerns.

Furthermore, this research explores how Khan utilizes her writing as a platform to nurture politically aware and activist readers. Khan emerges as a contemporary figure who, through her vision, cultural understanding, and imaginative prowess, has cultivated a significant and essential environmental discourse within

Pakistani academia. Her work serves as a catalyst for critical discussions on the intersection of literature, environmental consciousness, and socio-political awareness.

Future Research Direction

This study offers an exciting avenue for future research, particularly in the realm of comprehending how the environment can serve as a foundation for critically shaping the perspectives and actions of Pakistani readers. Uzma Aslam Khan's construction of an environmental narrative within Pakistani English eco-fiction represents a priceless contribution to the development of an eco-conscious outlook within the sphere of Pakistani academia. Through her literary works, she effectively bridges the gap between "theory" and "practice."

Khan's literary journey has introduced a fresh and innovative conceptual dimension to Pakistani literature and education. Her novels provide a platform for researchers to engage with ideas that may be unfamiliar to them, facilitating critical reflection on the voices of the nonhuman world. As her works challenge conventional boundaries and encourage readers to contemplate environmental issues, they become a valuable resource for fostering deeper ecological awareness and sustainable practices.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the examination of Uzma Aslam Khan's chosen texts using a critical ecocritical perspective exposes her intention to motivate active involvement and emphasize the difficulties encountered by eco-conscious discussions in Pakistan. Khan's literary creations act as a platform through which she portrays the environment as an urgent societal concern, contributing to the cultivation of environmentally aware citizens with values, ethics, and mindsets that prioritize environmental consciousness. Furthermore, Khan emerges as a noteworthy political commentator, shedding light on numerous economic policies and foreign interventions in

Pakistan that have negatively impacted the environment.

Through our observation and analysis, it becomes evident that Khan's works go beyond merely presenting ecological concepts; they create a pro-environmental ideology. Khan adeptly integrates environmental concepts into her storytelling, effectively promoting the principles of ecocriticism and emerging as a staunch advocate for it. In "The Geometry of God," she sheds light on the limitations imposed by pseudo-religious factions regarding the exploration and comprehension of the environment. These constraints lead to a distorted belief that nature exists solely for human exploitation.

Khan consistently underscores the importance of adopting environmentally conscious lifestyles at all levels as a critical step in establishing a sustainable societal framework for future generations in Pakistan. Our research also indicates that the younger generation is more receptive to environmental concerns and readily embraces social practices and attitudes that promote environmental sustainability. The portrayals within our study align with this observation. This study introduces fresh perspectives on environmental exploration and significantly contributes to reevaluating the role of literature in addressing local environmental challenges. In Khan's novels, the environment is intricately interwoven with natural and cultural histories, rendering the analysis of "The Geometry of God" akin to a metaphorical literary excavation that reveals a narrative that has long been marginalized.

Khan's literary works can be regarded as an effort to infuse environmental awareness and values into Pakistani literature, fostering a sense of environmental consciousness among the Pakistani population. Through her novels, Uzma Aslam Khan places a spotlight on the natural world, ecosystem dynamics, and the intricate relationships between humans and their environment, all while addressing other significant themes. In doing so, she redirects the readers' focus towards an aspect of Pakistan that has the potential to not only inspire the global community but also motivate the people of

Pakistan towards a culture that is environmentally aware and driven.

REFERENCES

- Religion, O. Adams, Douglas (1979), *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*. New York: Harmony Books. Allen, Woody (1980), *Stardust Memories*. Anselm (2001), *Proslogion*, with the Replies of Gaunilo and Anselm, trans. Thomas Williams. Indianapolis, IN: Hackett. *This page was intentionally left blank*, 178.
- Adamson, J. (2011). Environmental justice, cosmopolitics, and climate change. In *The Cambridge Companion to: Literature and the Environment* (pp. 169-183). Cambridge University Press.
- Adamson, J., & Slovic, S. (2009). Guest editors' Introduction The Shoulders We Stand on: An Introduction to ethnicity and Ecocriticism. *Melus*, 34(2), 5-24.
- Spyra, A. (2009). *The White Tiger* by Aravind Adiga, Free Press, 2008.
- Afzal, I. (2020). Ecocriticism: Crossing Boundaries between Human and Non-Human Spheres in Jamil Ahmed's *The Wandering Falcon*. *Journal of English Language, Literature and Education*, 1(04), 11-11.
- Agarwal, A., & Narain, S. (1991). *Global warming in an unequal world* (p. 81).
- Nobil Ahmad, A., & Karrar, H. H. (2015). Capitalism, Nature, and Socialism in South Asia: Perspectives on Ecology from India and Pakistan. *Capitalism Nature Socialism*, 26(3), 48-63.
- Collings, M. R. (1986). *Brian Aldiss* (Vol. 28). Wildside Press LLC.
- Roszak, T. E., Gomes, M. E., & Kanner, A. D. (1995). *Ecopsychology: Restoring the earth, healing the mind*. Sierra Club Books.
- Anand, R. (2002). *International environmental justice: A north-south dimension* (Doctoral dissertation, Purdue University).
- Roszak, T. E., Gomes, M. E., & Kanner, A. D. (1995). *Ecopsychology: Restoring the earth, healing the mind*. Sierra Club Books.
- Arshad, K. (2016, February). Representation of Romantic Ideals in Taufiq Rafat's Arrival of the Monsoon. In *Proceedings of INTCESS2016 3rd International Conference on Education and Social Sciences* (pp. 8-10).
- Armbruster, K., & Wallace, K. R. (Eds.). (2001). *Beyond nature writing: expanding the boundaries of ecocriticism*. University of Virginia Press.
- Azhar, I. A. K. (2008). *Overseas Migration and Its Socio-economic Impacts on the Families Left Behind in Pakistan: A Case Study in the Province Punjab, Pakistan* (Vol. 6). kassel university press GmbH.
- Solarewicz, K. (2013). Cyberpunk Goes East: Challenging the Western Culture in Contemporary Science Fiction. In *Stories in Post-Human Cultures* (pp. 187-196). Brill.
- Donnelly, S. (2014). Peak Oil Imagining in Cormac McCarthy's *The Road* and Paolo Bacigalupi's *The Windup Girl*. *English Academy Review*, 31(2), 156-169.
- Hageman, A. (2012). The challenge of imagining ecological futures: Paolo Bacigalupi's *The Windup Girl*. *Science Fiction Studies*, 39(2), 283-303
- Schäfer-Wünsche, E. (2005). Borders and Catastrophes: TC Boyle's Californian Ecology. In *Space in America* (pp. 401-417). Brill.
- Lilley, D. Critical Environments: Editor's Introduction.
- Brandt, S. L. (2021). Coyote Practices—Ecomasculinities in Postmodern North American Literature. *Men, Masculinities, and Earth: Contending with the (m) Anthropocene*,

- 445-461.
- Buell, L. (2001). *Writing for an endangered world: Literature, culture, and environment in the US and beyond*. Harvard University Press.
- Buell, L. (2009). *The future of environmental criticism: Environmental crisis and literary imagination*. John Wiley & Sons
- Murali, S. (2008). The Future of Environmental Criticism: Environmental Crisis and Literary Imagination.
- Carrigan, A. (2011). *Postcolonial tourism: literature, culture, and environment* (Vol. 33). Routledge.
- James, K., Carroll, R., & Prickett, S. (1997). The Bible: Authorized King James Version with Apocrypha.
- Cenkl, P. (2012). Reading Climate Change and Work in the Circumpolar North. *The Bioregional Imagination*, 295.
- Christensen, N. A. (2014). Facing the Weather in James Galvin's *The Meadow* and Cormac McCarthy's *The Road*. *Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment*, 21(1), 192-204.
- Cilano, C. (2014). *National identities in Pakistan: the 1971 war in contemporary Pakistani fiction* (Vol. 32). Routledge.
- Clark, T. (2011). *The Cambridge introduction to literature and the environment*. Cambridge University Press.
- Deckard, S. (2015). 'The Land that was Wounded': War Ecologies, Commodity Frontiers, and Sri Lankan Literature. *Ecocriticism of the Global South*. London: Lexington Books, 35-54.
- Eckersley, R. (1992). *Environmentalism and political theory: Toward an ecocentric approach*. Suny Press.
- Judith, F. (2003). The Victorian house: domestic life from childbirth to deathbed.
- Gaard, G. (2015, March). Ecofeminism and climate change. In *Women's Studies International Forum* (Vol. 49, pp. 20-33). Pergamon.
- Goeminne, G., & Paredis, E. (2010). The concept of ecological debt: some steps towards an enriched sustainability paradigm. *Environment, development and sustainability*, 12, 691-712.
- Marinković, D. (2013). David Harvey: Rebel cities: From the right to the city to the urban revolution, Verso, London and New York, 2012. *Panoeconomicus*, 60(5), 699-705.
- Isbister, J. (2003). Promises not kept: Poverty and the betrayal of third world development. (*No Title*).
- Kerridge, R. (2010). Environmental fiction and narrative openness. In *Process* (pp. 65-85). Brill.
- Martin, J. L., Maris, V., & Simberloff, D. S. (2016). The need to respect nature and its limits challenges society and conservation science. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 113(22), 6105-6112.
- O'Brien, S. (2001). Articulating a world of difference: Ecocriticism, postcolonialism and globalization. *Canadian Literature*, (170-171), 140-158.
- Rigby, C. (2014). Confronting catastrophe: ec