

Documents

Jia, L.^a, Mohsen, H.Y.A.^b, Gopal, R.A.P.^a, Hashim, R.S.^c

Nature and Memory in Tan Twan Eng's Novels: An Ecocultural Perspective
(2024) *World Journal of English Language*, 14 (6), pp. 380-389.

DOI: 10.5430/wjel.v14n6p380

^a English Language and Literature Department, Faculty of Languages and Communication, Sultan Idris Education University, Malaysia

^b Department of English Language and Literature, AbdulHamid AbuSulayman Kulliyah of Islamic Revealed Knowledge and Human Sciences, International Islamic University, Malaysia, Malaysia

^c School of Humanities and Fine Arts, University of Economics and Human Sciences, Warsaw, Poland

Abstract

Eco-culturalism, as a literary approach, is a growing field that examines the interconnectedness of culture and the environment. It underscores the symbiotic relationship between humans and the natural world, emphasizing the profound impact of ecological concerns on cultural practices, values, and narratives. This literary approach seeks to address critical environmental issues through storytelling, infusing literature with ecological awareness and promoting sustainable practices. Analyzing eco-culturalism in Tan Twan Eng's narrative, including *The Gift of Rain*, *The Garden of Evening Mists* and *The House of Doors*, this article offers profound insights into the dimensions through which eco-culturalism manifests in Tan's novels, illuminating the symbiotic relationship between culture, ecology and memory. Tan Twan Eng's novels are exquisite embroidery woven with intricate threads of culture, identity, and the natural world. From ecological values to ecological identity, and finally to ecological memories, these elements serve as both narrative tools and windows into the hearts and minds of his characters. Eco-culturalism is intricately woven into the narrative fabric, evolving across the three novels, further enriching Tan's narrative, and proving the power of literature in connecting culture and nature. The combination of eco-value and sustainable practice illustrates the deep connection between culture, ecology, memory, and human prosperity, allowing readers to more deeply appreciate Malaysian cultural diversity, especially the valuable exploration of identity, belonging and meaning in a nature-centered multicultural society. arch for meaning in a nature-centered multicultural society. © 2024 Sciedu Press. All rights reserved.

Author Keywords

Eco-culturalism; Eco-Postcolonialism; Identity; Malaysia; Multiculturalism; Novels; Tan Twan Eng

References

- Bate, J.
(2000) *The Song of the Earth*,
Harvard University Press
- Bell, S.
(2019) *Ecology and the End of Postcolonialism*,
Routledge
- Boyd, B.
(2009) *On the Origin of Stories: Evolution, Cognition, and Fiction*,
Harvard University Press
- Buell, L.
(2001) *Writing for an Endangered World: Literature, Culture, and Environment*,
Harvard University Press
- Celik, A.
(2019) *Eco-Cultural Networks and the British Empire: New Views on Environmental History*,
Bloomsbury Academic
- Curran, C.
(2015) *The Ecology of Postcolonial Literature: Animal, Human, Other*,
Routledge

- Fincham, G.
Ecology, Ethics, and the Future: Tan Twan Eng's The Garden of Evening Mists
(2014) *English Academy Review*, 31 (2), pp. 125-137.
- Garrard, G.
(2012) *Ecocriticism*,
Routledge
- Glotfelty, C., Fromm, H.
(1996) *The Ecocriticism Reader: Landmarks in Literary Ecology*,
(Eds). University of Georgia Press
- Glotfelty, C., Fromm, H.
(2014) *The Companion to Literature and the Environment*,
(Eds). Cambridge University Press
- Goh, R. B. H.
(2016) *Ecological Imaginations in the World Religions: An Ethnographic Analysis*,
Bloomsbury Publishing
- Grace, V. S. C., Mohammad, A. Q.
The Postcolonial Millennium: New Directions in Malaysian Literature in English
(2021) *Journal of Postcolonial Writing*, 57 (5), pp. 583-592.
- Hamoud, M., Othman, W., Raihanah, M. M.
Engaging Malaysia: Greening Postcolonial Memories in Tan's Novel The Garden of Evening Mists
(2023) *Alicante Journal of English Studies*, 39 (1), pp. 129-144.
- Heise, U. K.
(2016) *Imagining Extinction: the Cultural Meanings of Endangered Species*,
University of Chicago Press
- Huggan, G.
(2018) *Postcolonial Ecocriticism: Literature, Animals, Environment*,
Routledge
- Iovino, S., Oppermann, S.
(2016) *Environmental Humanities: Voices from the Anthropocene*,
(Eds). Rowman & Littlefield International
- Liu, J.
Out of Shadow: Tan Twan Eng in the Malaysian Literary Context
(2024) *Theory and Practice in Language Studies*, 14 (3), pp. 674-682.
- Neill, J.
(2019) *Ecocriticism and Indigenous Studies: Conversations from Earth to Cosmos*,
Routledge
- Parham, J.
(2018) *The Colonial Lives of Property*,
University of Chicago Press
- (2012) *Across Cultures: Narrative Transculturation*,
University of Minnesota Press
- Rigby, K.
(2016) *Ecocritical Explorations in Literary and Cultural Studies: Fences, Boundaries, and Fields*,
Lexington Books

- Rumens, N., Jones, M.
(2019) *Ecology and Ethnography of Muslim Habitats*,
(Eds). Springer
- Twan Eng, Tan
(2007) *The Gift of Rain*,
Myrmidon
- Twan Eng, Tan
(2012) *The Garden of Evening Mists*,
Myrmidon
- Twan Eng, Tan
(2023) *The House of Doors*,
Myrmidon
- Westling, L.
(2021) *The Green Breast of the New World: Landscape, Gender, and American Fiction*,
University of Georgia Press

Correspondence Address

Mohsen H.Y.A.; Department of English Language and Literature, Malaysia; email: hamoud@iiium.edu.my

Publisher: Sciedu Press

ISSN: 19250703

Language of Original Document: English

Abbreviated Source Title: World J. English Lang.

2-s2.0-85212119415

Document Type: Article

Publication Stage: Final

Source: Scopus

ELSEVIER

Copyright © 2024 Elsevier B.V. All rights reserved. Scopus® is a registered trademark of Elsevier B.V.

 RELX Group™