



MARGARET ATWOOD'S 'SURFACING' : ECO FEMINIST STUDY

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ABSTRACT

The term Eco-feminism is mixture of ecology and feminism François d' Eaubonne say's Eco feminism refer close association of domination of woman and the domination of nature. In 'surfacing' Margaret Atwood reveals the exploitation of woman and nature her novels are put based on environmental crisis as and nature i Her oppression of women. Surfacing movingly dramatizes the eco feminist Idea of male domination. surfacing the narrator the exploitation of nature in Canada by civilized Society. When narrator returns to her hometown in search of her father She witnesses the exploitation of nature by Americans in name of economic development. The narrator in 'Surfacing!' compares herself with heron. She compares brutal murder of heron with the death of her psychology, she feels disgust with American's action of killing heron she feels it one kind of harassment of woman, Protagonist realizes the difference between the life of mother on island and her own. city life, Mother accepted The values and tradition, that respect the nature She was capable of protecting her family's life. But protagonist migrates to city and get exploited there.

Key Words. : Ecology, Eco-feminism, protagonist, patriarchy, Exploitation.

INTRODUCTION

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The term Eco-feminism is mixture of ecology and feminism François d’ Eaubonne say’s Eco feminism refer close association of domination of woman and the domination of nature. The aim of eco feminism to liberate the woman and nature from the domination of patriarchy. In order to culminate domination of patriarchy, on woman as well as nature eco feminist emphasizes on the challenge to patriarchal power the present paper focused on inquisition to know eco feminism represented in ‘surfacing’ by Margaret Atwood.

In ‘surfacing’ Margaret Atwood reveals the exploitation of woman and nature her novels are put based on environmental crisis as and nature i Her oppression of women. Surfacing movingly dramatizes the eco feminist Idea of male domination. Ariel Salleh, a eco feminist is of opinion , “the basic premise in eco feminism is acknowledgement of the parceled in men's thinking between their sight to exploit nature, on one hand and the use they make of women on the other.” [www. Socialalternatives.com](http://www.Socialalternatives.com)

Surfacing the narrator the exploitation of nature in Canada by civilized Society. When narrator returns to her hometown in search of her father She witnesses the exploitation of nature by Americans in name of economic development. She is more concerned for nature and reveals her consciousness of woman and nature bonding. Throughout the more Leader witnessed the hunting of animals by people only for pleasure Meaningless killing of animals is evidenced at two times as the shooting of heron and the explosion made by Americans for fishing. These incidents harm narrator. Woman naturally by nature is tender hearted, caring and loving so the narrator is always careful of nature. She realizes that human and nature have an intimate relationship because human being is akin to living with other human. The nature like a woman possess quality of nature, that the navel ‘surfacing’ reveals in one of the incidents in which the narrator is informed of the father's missing the People think “ She should be filled with death, (she) should be in mourning, (surfacing, p.160) But in reality she is not in grief as know she is part of nature she know the and death is also part of it, The



narrator embraces the eco feminist intent when she realizes that the fulfillment of our humanity is profoundly linked with learning to appreciate the mature within us and without (Atwood, 1972 P-43). The protagonist of the novel later on rejects to go back to the constructed woman without any change. Then the novel decides to shift in oratorical woman and wanted to live in a natural way a male presence from the burden of culture, she puts herself in the entire natural world in the lake and there she wants to be. She immerses herself to get power of salvation

"Hence When she from the depth of the lake, she surfaces with new knowledge protagonist surfaces about herself that entails a re-assessment of herself in relation to the world" (Atwood p.82). The Protagonist reveals eco feminist bent of Mind by that human beings are not radically separate from that the fulfillment of own humanity is profoundly linked with learning to appreciate the mature within us and without" (Atwood P. 40)

The protagonist realizes she is artificially constructed woman when she encounters nature. Atwood emphasized the fact men exploit bodies of women for their needs. They even control the process of childbirth which nature has assigned only to women. The protagonist also questions, is the guise of assisting woman robbing her of the ability to sense her bodily rhythm. The novelist tries to reveal the relationship between exploited narrator and the damaged landscape in Quebec. She realizes nature has helped her in discovering her real self!

The narrator in 'Surfacing!' compares herself with heron. She compares the brutal murder of heron with the death of her psychology, she feels disgust with American's action of killing heron. She feels it one kind of harassment of woman, she says "Why had they string it up like a fetter victim, why didn't they just throw it away like the trash & To prove they I could do it, they had the power to kill, otherwise, it was valueless they only relations they could have to a thing like that was to destroy" (surfacing, p.80)

She links her own life with nature, she is able to perceive the rhythm of nature, its life cycle of life and death. She survives on natural resources as mushrooms, plants and natural resources as marsh berries. She merges with the plants and trees. She feels

"Through the freed the sun glances; The swamp around me smolders, energy of decay turning to growth, green rise. I remember the heron; by now it will be insects, frogs, Fish and other reasons. b. my body also changes, the creature in me, plant -animal sends but filaments in me, I Ferry et secure between death and life I multiply"



Like a true ecologist she makes the earth her literal home for she knows that in the natural world all life is interrelated. She is not afraid one. She becomes one with her Sacred Mother earth. She throws away all her respect to seek harmony. That totally relies on nature. She gains freedom now. Firmly rooted to the earth like the original people.

Protagonist realizes the difference between the life of mother on island and her own. city life, Mother accepted The values and tradition, that respect the nature She was capable of protecting her family's life. But protagonist migrates to city and get exploited there. She deceived by her lover. she become pregnant by him and compelled to abort child she hates how mechanized the process.

Thus in 'surfacing' Atwood tries to explore connection between woman's oppression and exploitation of nature the narrator is victim of exploitation by patriarchal society. She is married to a man with children. She is a representative of Canadian psyche, feminine, passive identity suffering. She becomes an embodiment of woman empowerment who protest against patriarchal domination

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