

Tribhuvan University

Ecological Consciousness in Johanna Spyri's *Heidi*

A Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, T.U.

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the

Degree of Master of Arts in English

By

Sujata K.C.

Roll. No: 86

Symbol No: 280431

T.U. Regd. No: 9-2-278-1022-2011

Central Department of English

Kritipur, Kathmandu

March 2021

Letter of Approval

This thesis entitled “Ecological Consciousness in Johanna Spyari’s Heidi submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University by Sujata K.C. has been approved by the undersigned members of the research committee.

Members of the Research Committee:

Prof. Dr. Jib Lal Sapkota

Internal Examiner

Mr. Hem Lal Pandey

External Examiner

Prof. Dr. Jib Lal Sapkota

Head

Central Department of English

Date: _____

Acknowledgments

I would like to express my gratitude to my thesis supervisor Prof. Dr. Jib Lal Sapkota, Head of Central Department of English for his continuous support and guidance throughout this research project. His patience and encouragement along with his expertise have allowed me to explore the issues concerning the Ecological consciousness in Johanna Spyari's *Heidi*. Similarly, I would like to extend a special thanks to the Head of the Department Prof. Dr. Jib Lal Sapkota who provided golden opportunity to finalize this research work. Similarly, I owe my sincere gratitude to my teachers Shankar Subedi, Hem Lal Pandey, Khem Raj Khanal, Badri Acharya, Anju Gupta, Dr. Tara Lal Shrestha and Laxman Bhatt for their support in the time of difficulties while preparing this thesis.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere thanks to my colleagues who directly and indirectly helped me to complete this work.

March 2021

Sujata K.C

Abstract

This thesis examines and analyzes Spyri's novel Heidi and explores how she presents nature in an eco-feminine way. As this novel was written in mid- Victorian period, the effects of colonization is seen. This study explores that the nature-mother and hospitality of Heidi including her grandfather, Peter stood healer to Clara Seseman. Feminine traits are normally associated with the idea of beauty, creation, compassion and tolerance but here nature has presented in different way. The speaker in the novel is explicitly or implicitly female who celebrate nature as healer, open-book for the people who can understand the language of nature. The study employs theoretical insights from eco-feminist scholars. It precisely brings in the eco-critical insights developed by Carolyn Merchant and Val Plumwood as theoretical parameters to analyze the relationship between women and nature.

Keywords: confident, eco-feminism, healer, human-nature, motivator, nature, women

Ecological Consciousness in Johanna Spyri's *Heidi*: An Eco Feminist Reading

This research makes an attempt to explore ecological consciousness in Johanna Spyri's *Heidi* from eco-feminist perspective. Eventhough Heidi is parent less child, she is confident and motivator to others. She is capable of doing most of the activities in better way. So, eco-feminist awareness is being raised within Heidi herself. In doing so eco-feminist insights developed by Val Plumwood, Carolyn Merchant, Greta Gaard and Lori Gruen have been used as theoretical parameters to analyze the primary text. The researcher argues that eco-feminist awareness is being found within Heidi herself because she is closer to nature and other living creatures. And gained knowledge from nature, which is not within Klara. When Klara and Heidi both stay at city there Heidi felt suffocation. But, Klara was enjoying her living style. Heidi was searching in the situation where she can engage herself with nature. But when she stays at Dorfli she enjoys a lot with nature. Her sickness gets cured naturally. She suffers from thought of loneliness when she stays at house of Klara. Later she becomes successful to cure cripple girl Klara by the help of her living style and nature.

This novel was written in Mid Victorian period. In this novel the main character Heidi is presented as motivator, confident child even though she is orphan. Heidi stays with her aunt for some years later she was taken to Herr Seseman's home to help and to be friendly with Klara Seseman. At their house she feels suffocation due to the reflection of materialistic world. She feels her days like long night. She could not lead her life according to her nature. She has taken nature and animals as open book to gain knowledge. As she feels being isolated at Klara's house. To get rid from trouble of her thought she starts roaming around the city area lonely. Later she

brings some kittens and cats at Klara's house. Even though she gets scolded from Fraulein Rottenmeier she determines to keep some pet animals at any cost. At the beginning, Klara feels strange by observing such behavior of Heidi. Later she understands that she is nature lover and its living beings including human beings. She has similar thoughts, feelings with nature and animals similarly to human beings. Slowly Heidi persuades Klara to be the lover of nature and non-human world. But rest of others does not understand her thoughts and knowledge in her way. Later she goes to her house to stay with her grandfather. Klara also promises her to visit her house in the coming days. Due to loneliness her grandfather also spends his days in improper way. After she reaches her house, her caring habits change his life style in a better way. Her grandfather also slowly changes his habit. He starts to talk to other people and become friendly with them. Slowly, strange Alm uncle change into co-operative and friendly with others. She becomes successful to bring changes in the thoughts and behavior of other people towards her grandfather. Even though she doesn't go to school, she gets many ideas, knowledge in a practical way. But still she was good, polite and helpful to others. When she was at Klara's house she behaved rudely to some extent.

Later Klara with her parents come to visit Heidi's house. As Heidi explains the environment with Klara she listens to Heidi patiently. When Klara sees the place with her own eyes she finds the place more beautiful than Heidi explains before. After Klara's parent's returned to their own home, Klara stays with Heidi. Gradually Klara also starts to love, care about nature and animals. Due to the presence of Klara, Heidi could not give enough time to Peter, and then he feels jealous towards Klara. One-day Peter throws Klara's wheelchair toward the field downward. Due to the absence of the wheelchair Klara tries to stand erect on her feet without any support unknowingly.

She becomes successful in doing so. Heidi and grandfather become delighted that it happens as if miracle has occurred. At first Klara could not believe herself. Affection with nature and animals, care of Heidi with her grandfather and Peter, natural food all these elements play a vital role to bring physical and mental change in the lifestyle of Klara. When Klara's parents also came to know this at first they could not believe to their eyes. Later they became so delighted and grateful to Heidi, grandfather as well as Peter. With these entire situations it has been proved that ecofeminism awareness is being raised in this novel.

Here main character Heidi is presented as motivator, confident child even though she is orphan. To remain in such condition in stable form mostly she uses nature and living beings as open book. She gets back support from her own grandfather, her aunt, Peter and his grandmother as well. Those who don't understand the value of nature can't utilize properly. Even though, Peter plays, share most of his time with Heidi as he cannot utilize the knowledge that Heidi obtain from nature freely. When she shows her kindness to the little swan and the little bear, Peter feels strange by observing such activities. But he doesn't understand the intimacy between Heidi and goats. For Peter rest of the other animals and natural resources are just living beings but for Heidi it is worthy and important, as equal as human beings. People who stays downward the Alps they think that Heidi is spending worst day with her grandfather. But the person who resides at town and cities, think Heidi and her grandfather enjoys their life at Alps. She enjoys milk of goats, cheese, and butter from the milk of goats and playing with sheep's, ducks at their shelter.

When Heidi was taken to Klara Sesemans residence she spent lengthy and sorrowful day. Day by day she felt lonely even though there were many servants, other people and good facilities as well. She suffers from her thoughts at Klara's

house because she was spending entirely different schedule than her home. She was not happy at Sesemans home although she was facilitating by all sources of facilities like Klara. The more facilities she got there, she missed her home very badly. "I heard the fir trees roar, but I don't hear them any longer, answered Heidi, looking blankly in the direction where the rolling of the carriages had died away, a noise which in Heidi's ears had seemed like the raging of the wind in the firs, so that she had followed the sound in the highest glee (71)". When she used to sleep on the bed made out of straw she remains so happy and comfortable by utilizing it. While her grandfather stayed alone and seem to be mentally retarded person because he didn't remain polite, cooperative among others due to loneliness. After Heidi returns home, slowly her grandfather's behavior gets changed. On the request of her granddaughters, he repairs Peter's house selflessly. Even though she is child, she stood as good nurturer for grandfather. Sending Heidi away from her grandfather and from Peter's grandmother was like giving punishment to them. Because without Heidi both of them will not be able to spend their life comfortably. So, by observing such caring habit of Heidi we can say that even though she is a child she carries the features of feministic awareness. She is conscious about the environmental conservation. In indirect way she attracts the attention of people for the conservation of environment. Heidi's attention is towards environmentalism. There are different types of environmentalism. They are: ecofeminism, eco-criticism, eco Marxism etc. Among them I am focusing on the issue of ecofeminism. As ecofeminism is main issue, to support this I have used the theorist such as Carolyn Merchant, Val Plumwood, Greta Gaard and Lori Gruen.

Carolyn Merchant skillfully shows why it is vital to explore the multi-layered association of women with nature for human to make peace on the earth. Merchant's

gender-based investigations are inclusive and relational, reaching out to complementary analyses of class, race, culture and crucial eco-centered concerns. But she simultaneously demonstrates how the connections between women and nature are both unique and significant and thus why a gender-sensitive analysis is irreplaceable."(197).

Val Plumwood illuminates the relationship between women and nature and between ecological feminism and other feminist theories. His book shows how the feminist critique of dominant forms of rationality can be extended to integrate theories of gender, race and class operation with that of the domination of nature: for example, denying any dependence on or benefit from the other, seeing the other only as an instrument to be used or assuming that members of the other group are not only completely different from the master group but also all alike. Val Plumwood has argued that a reason/nature dualism undergirds traditional western frameworks in which whatever is seen as falling under the category of "reason" is considered to be radically different from and morally superior to whatever is seen as falling under the category of nature. This dualism forms a fault line and is the basis for the construction of a variety of other problematic dualisms such as reason/emotion, masculine/feminine and civilized/ primitive to name a few. In each case, whatever represents reason is thought to be radically different from and morally superior to whatever represents nature. Hence, men are seen to be more "reasonable" and women more emotional, and thus justify sexism, while the civilized/ primitive dualism justifies imperialism. Justifications for the system of American slavery included the fact that Africans were supposedly more primitive, more like animals and therefore less capable of reason than white northern Europeans.(167)".

One of the most influential eco-feminist scholars, Gaard has extended eco-

feminist theory by mapping linkages with queer theory and by compiling eco-feminist ideas concerning vegetarianism and animal liberation. Numerous scholars have since drawn upon that essay in formulating their theories. Drawing on the insights of ecology, feminism and socialism, ecofeminism's basic premise is that the ideology that authorizes oppression based on race, class, gender, sexuality, physical abilities and species is the same ideology that sanctions the oppression of nature.(1)" Lori Gruen provide insights into what is wrong with captivity. Gruen's volume contributes to an explosion of recent work on empathy and its role in moral life other's place and feeling what the other feels that provides these insights, but rather attention to a weighting to a human suffering on the basis of species.

According to Joy Law," The series may have been intended to be read in the home, to serve more than one child, and to grow with the child." (stan 1-23)

As *Heidi* is the novel which is based on main character Heidi who is a child herself. Eventhough she is a child, she is confident and a motivator to Peter, Klara, her grandfather and Peter's grandmother. So, they were growing with the child Heidi. Also, Alm uncle gets success to cure cripple girl Klara with the help of Heidi, nature and peter as well.

According to Charles Wharton Stork," if there is any quality in "Heidi" that gives it a particular charm, that quality is freshness, absolute spontaneity." (stan 1-23)

This is the novel where there is full of description of nature. Main character Heidi utilizes nature as open book. At the end of the novel she also gets success to prove that for any kind of mental or physical problem nature plays the vital role as healer to the sufferer who can understand the importance and power of nature. Nature provides charm to her and others as well. Nature mother has stood as nurturer here. Cripple girl Klara also gets rid from her physical disability by understanding freshness

quality of nature which is in spontaneous process.

According to Frances Hodgson Burnett, "The lush depictions of the majestic Swiss Alps convey their healing magic to the reader." (383)⁷

As Heidi is the novel most of the events has taken place at Alm which is situated at height. At the Mountain View, varieties of flower are with natural fragrance which can please anyone spiritually. Even Heidi's Grandfather is renaming as Alm uncle, because he resides at Alm which is rich with natural beauty and rich in healing power of nature. Klara is a girl who is city-dweller later comes to stay with Heidi. Due to their love and affection, healing power of nature cure her in miraculous way. So, the Swiss Alps, different natural sources stands as healer to the reader as well. Klara is a girl from good economic status family, spending luxurious and good medical care; still she was unable to be cured well at city. But, when she starts to stay with Heidi and becomes more familiar with the Alm and the natural resources present there it makes her better day by day. In this way good care of Heidi, her grandfather and the components of nature turn as a boon to her. Her physical disability has changed into physical capability like Heidi in miraculous way.

According to Belles Lettres, "An anonymous reviewer at the time found the book exceedingly pretty and graceful." (stan 1-23)

Heidi is the novel mainly for children. Main character Heidi is a girl child. Klara and Peter are her friends. After we read the novel, the more we read the more we enjoy. People of any age group can go through the novel and can enjoy the story. After reading this novel, we can develop positive thought within us. It helps to understand the value of natural resources. It teaches us to utilize the knowledge of nature in proper ways which is hidden from our normal ways of perceiving. Such condition gives us pleasure in our soul and memory forever. In the beginning, story

seems simple, but as we go through different chapters it provides us deep thought. It also provides us motivation to cope up with problematic situation.

According to Helene White, "The balance of her translating work was non-fiction and dealt with aspects of German history and military maneuvers. *Heidi* was Johanna Spyri's only book for children." (stan 1-23)

Heidi's author is Johanna Spyri, she is originally German. As her son use to remain sick in order to make him happy and to share children's interested story she has written this book Heidi. So, Heidi was her only book for children. But, people of any age group can enjoy such books. When this book was translated it remained non-fiction, as it was based on real life-style, natural beauty and the development of that time. When we go through the story there is explanation of World War II also.

Germany faces heavy loss during Second World War and also bears heavy physical and economic loss. So, in the novel Alm-uncle is presented as mentally retarded person. It is so because during the war he has lost intimate friend who was captain and commander during the war. Sentiments, frustrations, loss of hopes among people who survive after war is presented in the form of Alm uncle because he is the survivor and victim during the world war. When Alm uncle's friend got highly injured, he served a lot but at last captain could not fight against his death. So in the form of captain it tries to portray the picture of many dead soldiers as well as common people. In this way this novel is dealt with aspects of German history and military maneuvers.

According to Patsy Hallen, "Earth care is infused with an appropriate sense of urgency, a keen sense of history, a deep sensitivity to the "other" a marked appreciation of science as process, and a fine ability to articulate women's political agency". (Merchant 280)

This paper explores Spyri's novel examines how she presents nature in eco-

feminine way. When we go through the idea of Charles Wharton Stork," This novel provides freshness, absolute spontaneity." This statement is also right from that part. But, in this paper I want to prove that eventhough Heidi is parentless child she is being motivator and confident child. She presents eco-feminine characters in different roles and activities.

Normally child couldn't bear eco-feminine character. Here, in this novel Heidi is presented as motivator, confident child with eco-feminine characters. So, in this research I'm going to prove that child without parents can also develop their spirit high. She is not frustrating with the obstacles that she faces in her life. Heidi including her grandfather's contribution is seen directly, but when we observe Peter's role, it is great as well. Peter plays vital role in indirect way to cure disable Klara to able one in miraculous way. So, Peter is also important person as Heidi including her grandfather. Peter get success motivating Klara that she can stand on her own feet. Though Heidi is parentless child she is confident, motivator to other and she bear eco-feminine characters. Observing such facts, my research is innovative one.

The major argument is ecological consciousness in Johanna Spyri's Heidi. I have used eco-feminist insights envisioned by Val Plumwood, Carolyn Merchant, Greeta Gaard and Lori Gruen to analyze the text under scrutiny. Due to the enjoyment with natural environment and good care of Heidi disable Klara get cure as normal people. So, in this context love, affection of both nature and Heidi with her grandfather remain as healer.

One of the most influential ecofeminist scholars, Gaard has extended eco-feminist theory by mapping linkages with queer theory and by compiling eco-feminist ideas concerning vegetarianism and animal liberation. Numerous scholars have since drawn upon that essay in formulating their theories. Drawing on the insights of

ecology, feminism and socialism, ecofeminism's basic premise is that the ideology that authorizes oppression based on race, class, gender, sexuality, physical abilities and species is the same ideology that sanctions the oppression of nature.

Lori Gruen provides insights into what is wrong with captivity. Gruen's volume contributes to an explosion of recent work on empathy and its role in moral life other's place and feeling what the other feels that provides these insights, but rather attention to a weighting to a human suffering on the basis of species.

While doing research I have gone through Helene White's statement, comparing it with the novel Heidi especially this book is for children. But people of any age group can enjoy with this book. Through the medium of story, it tries to depict the picture of Second World War, the heavy loss of family members during world war. After the war, Alm uncle lost his captain even though he cures him a lot. Later he does not live anymore. Due to war people lose their faith. People lose their hope. After that Alm uncle remain up-set. He doesn't remain helpful to other neighboring people. When he stays with Heidi, love and affection of her make him co-operative to others. Later when he stays alone he remains unhappy and depress. It proves that although Heidi is child but her feminine features are presented here. Because when Alm uncle was with Heidi he was helpful and co-operative with others. Slowly he changes his lifestyle when he starts to stay alone. Time and again he remembers his past and thinks that he is unable to save his captain. Whenever he stays with Heidi he runs his life by focusing present situation and packing to past memory. When Alm remains alone he doesn't remain co-operative with others. Due to that neighboring people also think that he is mentally retarded man. As he remains introvert none of other people could understand his thought and feelings.

Similarly, Belles Lettres says, " An anonymous reviewer at the time found the

book exceedingly pretty and graceful." (stan 1-23)

After observing these lines, it is clear that Heidi is the novel mainly for children. Main character Heidi is orphan child. People of any age group can enjoy this novel. After reading this novel we can judge our capacity. We learn to tackle with problems and find out the solution. After reading this novel it gives idea of conserving natural resources. It develops our habit of conserving natural resources. It develops our habit of conserving and proper utilization of natural resources. Heidi is orphan child, but her nurturing, motivating ways help to Klara and Peter a lot changing their lifestyle. Due to motivation of Heidi Peter gradually indulge him with education. He become success to spell letters and later could read poems as well. Even his teacher feels surprise at his progress towards his study. The task of making able to read his books which is very difficult to teach for teachers, the same thing Heidi make possible in simpler way. Peter himself could not believe progress in his study.

In the presence of Heidi he catch the idea of learning fast than in the school. It is due to motivational way of Heidi towards peter. Heidi make able to view nature in her way. Slowly Peter also understands the importance of nature. Slowly he also knew that we can utilize our nature as open book. Whatever is visible with our eyes, it is not limited up to that level. Whatever we see in our surroundings we have to go beyond that. We should try to understand the value and gain knowledge from natural resources. Heidi plays vital role opening the eyes of Peter, Klara including her entire family viewing nature as open-book, nurturer etc. otherwise they could not view nature in that way.

When I go through the lines of Frances Hodgson Burnett," The lush depictions of the majestic Swiss Alps convey their healing magic to the reader."(383)⁷

Heidi is one of the novel where we can see beautiful representation of natural

resources. Alm is the place which is located at high altitude and mountain views can be seen. "Now you see it is just as I told you," replied Heidi much pleased. "That here at my grandfather's on the Alm is the loveliest spot in the whole world" (199). It is describe in the book where we can find varieties of flowers rich with sweet fragrances so, that anyone get please spiritually. When Heidi is at Klara's house she is not happy. She spend luxurious life then also she doesn't enjoy at there. After she return back to her home Heidi remain so happy. When she sleeps on bed out of straw also feel comfortable when Klara's parents come to visit Alm then they really enjoy seeing the views at there.

When Klara's parents reach there at Alm they feel amaze seeing their child. Klara stays at Alm with Heidi including grandfather. Slowly her boredom also decreases day to day. Klara increase her capacity of understanding value of nature. "Heidi, too, as she sat next to her, thought it had never been so beautiful up there before, and she did not know why she felt such joy in her heart, so that she had to keep shouting aloud. But suddenly it occurred to her that Klara had been made well; this was a far greater joy then all the beauty round them"(213).She remains busy with goats; enjoy different views which are available naturally. Due to good care of Heidi, grandfather and nutritious product from goat's milk cures Klara a lot. Finally, Klara's physical disability changes into capability. She stands on her own feet. This condition proves as miracle to Klara's family and medical institution. While observing simply we cannot understand the power of nature, but in deep down nature reamin as healer.

Similarly, Charles Wharton Stork justify, "If there is any quality in "Heidi" that gives it a particular charm, that quality is freshness, absolute spontaneity." This is the novel where there is full of description of nature. Main character Heidi has utilized nature as open book. Due to the power of understanding the value of nature

being orphan also she is role model for others. Although she is a child she takes good care of her grandfather and Peter's grandmother too. And I have mention in previous part that at the end of the novel, Heidi gets success to prove that for any kind of mental or physical problem nature can remain as healer to the sufferer who can understand the importance and healing power of nature.

Here, Peter, Klara change their way of thinking which they were in the past. Slowly both of them become able to understand more important aspect of nature, remain close to the lap of nature as nature-lover. At first Peter remain amaze due to the behavior react by Heidi towards goats, ducks and nature as well. Later he understands the pleasing, healing power of nature. Although Klara is cripple girl, city dwellers then also she remains quite happy, fresh and confident girl later on. She forgets that she is cripple girl, unknowingly she gets cure in miraculous way which become unbelievable to her along with parents. Heidi faces so many obstacles in her life. But, even she lost her own parents, later she grown-up on the lap of mother-earth. Such situation teaches her to be confident, capable and motivator as well. She is not good only to herself but to all who remain close to her. So, cripple girl Klara also get rid from her physical disability by understanding freshness quality of nature which is in spontaneous process.

Likewise, when we look at the statement by Joy Law," The series may have been intended to be read in the home, to serve more than one child, and to grow with the child." (stan 1-23)

Heidi is the novel which is based on main character Heidi, who is child herself. When we observe her behavior and the way of dealing others is praiseworthy. Even Klara is the girl from well- reputed family, presence of good care, education also she is not confident as Heidi. Heidi is depriving of child formal education.

Eventhough she is not school child also gain many practical knowledge freely from nature which is useful to everyone. Later when she stays at Klara's house then only she learns to start academic education. She becomes able to learn words and finally read books as well. But in absence of Heidi Peter's grandmother feel lonely. Alm uncle remain depress.

Alm uncle, Peter's grandmother is the people who remain in contact most of the time with Heidi. So, when they both remain far from Heidi they remain upset. She is the girl not only for her progress but also good motivator to those who are in touch to her. Eventhough Peter's grandmother is not relative by blood then also Heidi remain disturb worrying about her food and health. Listening Heidi's voice grandmother use to remain happy and fresh. Presence of Heidi makes absence of grandmother's sorrow and depression. So, here in this sense Heidi's grandfather and Peter's grandmother both of them grow with the child.

According to Jim Cheney calls defining relationships, that is relationships understood as in some sense defining who one is. These relationships include those of moral agents with the nonhuman natural world. He views: Spyri's finds female are more close to non- human natural world. When Heidi stays at Klara's house there she spends her boring day. Heidi isattach with goats and ducks at Alm. She can understand language, feelings of animals. Due to the attachment of animals she forgets her sorrows and sufferings. It also tries to show us that those who try to understand the feelings and emotions of animals and nature can understand like as human beings.

So, Heidi is the girl who can understand the emotions, feelings of animals and nature with its components. Although Heidi is parentless child she motivates herself by gaining lots of useful tips from nature mother. Peter is also highly attached with

nature like Heidi but he could not understand the emotions of other natural being excluding human being and nature mother. When Klara also starts to stay with Heidi, Peter feel jealous towards her that Klara is the one who is creating situation being less friendly with Peter. When he tries to give trouble to Klara then she became able to stand on her feet. "Oh, oh! Can you really step yourself? Can you walk now? Can you really walk yourself? Oh! If only grandfather would come! Now you can walk, now you can walk! She exclaimed again and again in triumphant delight"(213). Due to negative thought of Peter towards Klara she is able to stand on her own feet, Heidi remain so happy that she can't express in words only. Although Peter is spending most of his time with Heidi he could not open his eyes to utilize nature as open-book. But, though Klara spend short span of time also she can understand how Heidi tries to open her eyes to view the nature in wider way. At last, Peter also get success to understand the importance, and the way to utilize nature in wider range. So, by observing all these situations female is closer to non-human natural world.

Another critic, Brian McGrath posits that patriarchal culture of that time reflects the materialistic life of human beings. Exploitation of nature/ woman is not going to end. Nature is in the role of giver. Men are in the role of consumers. So, though nature is valorizing for its beauty, but it has been presented as an object to be consumed for the sake of life and survival. We can see this kind of view in the novel Heidi. Nature is taken as mother. Heidi is presented as care-taker of her grandfather, Peter's grandmother and preserver of nature. Eventhough ducks, goats, sheep rear at her house who couldn't express their feelings and emotions also she understands their feelings herself in better way. "Now and then a little goat would come and lie down them for a while; the affectionate Snow hopper came most frequently and laid her little head against Heidi, and would not have gone away at all if another one of the

flock had not driven off"(209). In this sense we can understand that men are in the form of consumers and nature/woman is presented as giver. In the patriarchal society female were dominated by male. And patriarchal culture of that time reflects the materialistic life of human beings. When Heidi use to go to visit Peter's grandmother then grandfather leave her with him. Again he teaches her granddaughter that she should come back home with Peter's help not so late.

Eventhough she is confident within herself she cannot utilize her capability as per her wish. She is bound by social norms and values which is prevalent in patriarchal society. Heidi is motivator herself then also she is not free from chain of traditions bound in the society. Then, it is so difficult to challenge the norms, values which are prevalent in the society by female." Heidi was now in her eighth year; she had learned all sorts of handiwork from her grandfather. She could go round with the goats as if she were one of them, and Little Swan and Little Bear followed her like trusty dogs, bleating loudly for joy if they merely heard her voice"(51). Here, although Heidi is eighth year she is deprive from school education. But, Peter is not interested to go to school also, he is sent forcefully. Nature mother is also consumed by male members in their own way. There is no any fix rule and regulations for male to utilize nature and natural resources. Male are taken more senior than female. Eventhough female are knowledgeable than male also their voice was unheard in the past. Before she went to Klara's house she was unfamiliar with formal education. Eventhough Peter is not interested in study his study was initiated without any progress. From this point also it is clear that female was dominated by male members in patriarchal society. So, exploitation of nature/woman is not going to end from the root level.

Tzaporah Berman discusses how despite nature's role as a mother, a creator, a

care giver and nurturer but it is not acknowledged. She argues, ' within patriarchal society women have been traditionally associated with motherhood and therefore responsible for nurturing, caring and giving. Mother's work in turn is unpaid and often unrecognized and devalued in capitalist society"(175-176).

Heidi is parentless child. Her mother gives birth to her. After some years lost her parents. She stays with her grandfather. In the past day he was not friendly with his neighbors but due to love, affection from Heidi grandfather's behavior change gradually. But she is deprive from her formal education. So, her aunt Deterealizes that and Heidi is taken with her aunt to be friendly with Klara. Heidi's aunt think that Heidi is parentless so, its her duty that she should provide the right to education and so on. Klara's house is well-equipped, rich so that Heidi can get everything that a child need. Klara is cripple girl. She is getting education at her own home from teachers. Even though Frau Seseman belongs to educated and wealthier family as mother she nurtures; take care of her family in better way. Herr Seseman is far from his home to run his business. Despite he is parent of Klara then also she plays vital role towards nurture of Klara.

Frau Sesemann is being grandmother also she plays vital role towards nurture of Klara. When we observe Peter's house also grandmother is blind, physically weak then also she is worried about status of her grandson Peter. She provides so many ideas to take good care of Peter to his own mother. Peter is boy belongs to the family having poor economic condition. Despite poverty his mother tries her best to complete his basic needs. Here Peter's father is not given role towards his son. Even though Klara's grandmother is from wealthier family her care; guidance towards her family is not given importance. Observing from outside Herr Seseman's role is seen vital role because he stood as income generator of the family. But, people don't think

that only money cannot fulfill all the desires that every family need. So, within patriarchal society women have been traditionally associated with motherhood and therefore responsible for nurturing, caring and giving.

Berman argues, " In patriarchal culture, it is our mother who satisfies all needs, takes away waste, clean and feed us without any cost to us" (175-176). This statement is at the heart of nature- men relationship. The mother-nature never demands any cost for her nature towards human beings like the mothers and wives are towards their children and husbands. But men always seek the return for any contribution they have made in the protection of nature. Comparing these lines with the novel Heidi Peter's mother, grandmother both of them plays vital role to take good care of him.

They manage the economic problem of the family and plays the role as care-taker, nurturer. But, their contribution is not taken as major role. Their service is unpaid. But Peter helps to Heidi's grandfather in rearing sheep then he gets some food stuffs from Alm uncle. So, he is paid to his service that he provides to Alm uncle. Through this novel Heidi tries to motivate that nature-mother is open book for all. Those can utilize nature as per their capability freely. By utilizing nature in their way nature is not paid with any cost. Nature- mother is not getting any cost by providing services to the consumers.

In the novel Heidi Spyri addresses nature as nature-mother. Nature also plays role like mother who satisfies all needs, takes away waste, clean and feed us without any cost. Nature is not expecting any asset in return of using her. Nature always enjoys moving in its own pace. We can view some imagery which reflects nature as nurturer, care-taker and the way to erase sorrow from life which is reflected in the given line below:

Today we languish

In grief and anguish,
 But earthly sorrow
 Shall fade tomorrow
 After the storm the sun shines bright
 Sweet peace and pleasure
 We know is given
 In the gardens of heaven
 And thither my hopes yearn day and night. (134)

When we observe these lines we come to understand Heidi is expressing her happiness in the presence of nature. Through the medium of these lines it is explain that our sorrow can go far away when we indulge ourselves with boon of nature. To remain happy, we should forget pain, sufferings of our life and move towards the path of joyful and prosperous life. Eventhough Heidi is orphan child, but she doesn't limit her thoughts within sorrow only. Rather she motivates herself at first and later she become capable of changing thought of others. Even grandmother of Peter who is blind herself make her lifestyle comfortable not by physical change but due to Heidi's motivational thoughts. She explains through the medium of poem that when there is darkness, it is initiation of bright day. When there is sorrow within us later we can feel better days in future too. So, we shouldn't lose our dreams and hopes. We cannot predict our future in present but to those who works hard, move in continuous flow of labour, self- control one day he/she can reach peak of success. Klara is cripple girl and she belongs to well-set up family then also her illness was not curable using medical treatments.

Later, as she remains busy with Heidi slowly she also develops faith that she will be able to stand on her feet one day. She also observes nature as mother and

open-book to anyone who can understand value of nature. When Klara stays with Heidi she changes her way of living at first. Gradually she develops positive thought that she will be like other capable people. Love, affection, hospitality of Heidi including her grandfather, Peter brings drastic change in her life. As a miracle, Klara become success to stand in her own feet which was unbelievable to everyone. So, as the above lines explain after the end of darkness there is always initiation of bright day. Same case occurs in Heidi's family, Klara, Peter as well.

In the novel Heidi, Spyri addresses nature as healer. Nature also plays an important role to cure physically challenged girl, Clara. We can view some imagery which reflects nature as boon to the people who can understand the importance of nature which is reflected in the given line below:

[...] Can't we sit down here? asked Clara. This was just what Heidi wished to do, and the children sat down in the midst of the flowers, Clara for the first time on the dry mountain ground. This pleased her more than she could tell. All round them the nodding bluebells, the shining golden roses, the red centauries and everywhere the sweet fragrance of the brown blossoms and the spicy wild plum. Everything was so lovely-so lovely. (213)

When we observe these lines, we come to understand that Clara also enjoy to connect with nature. When she views beautiful scenario then she feels stress-free. Despite of being well-settled family, Clara is closer to nature because of Heidi. Clara also initiate to utilize nature as an open book. Due to the presence of varieties of flowers, looking at them she forgets her sufferings. Clara enjoys a lot looking varieties of flora and fauna. Peter is friendly with Heidi from long duration of time, then also he is not able to understand healing power of nature. At first, Clara remains confuse that how Heidi gain knowledge from nature and motivate herself in better ways.

But slowly, Clara understands the way how to utilize ideas that we obtain from nature. Good hospitality of Heidi with her grandfather, Peter and pleasing environment at Alm develop her positive thought. Due to motivational thought of Heidi, Clara develop positive thought inside her so in miraculous way. Physically challenged Clara change into capable one. At first it was difficult for doctors and her parents to believe that she could be able to stand on her own feet, but ultimately they were elated to know about her physical development. And all this because of Heidi including her grandfather and Peter's hospitalities and keen interest of Clara to believe the healing power of nature. Clara contemplated and adapted all the possible aspects about nature and natural healing process that helped her throughout her physical development. Clara proved that nature could be a healer itself and nature mother can provide us so many useful aspects if used properly then it would be certainly beneficial for any human kind.

Eco-feminists such as Gray, Griffin, King, Ruether, Warren acknowledge up front their basic feminist value commitments: the twin dominations of women and nature exist are wrong and ought to be eliminated. Eco-feminists see these twin dominations as social problems rooted in very concrete, historical, socio-economic conditions as well in oppressive, patriarchal conceptual frameworks that maintain and sanction these conditions. When we go through the novel we can see different situation where there is full of dominations towards women and nature. As nature is stood as mother people are using her freely as open-book. Nature-mother has stood as boon in this novel. Clara is girl from wealthier family, she get proper medical care. But also her disability couldn't change into capability. Later when she stays with Heidi slowly her psychology get change. Peter doesn't co-operate with Klara. Due to presence of good natural resources, nice view at Alm plays vital role to change in her

way of thinking. Food- stuffs she has at Alm also, she get nutrients in proper amount. Gradually her disability changes into capability.

Eventhough Peter remain friendly with Heidi, mostly he is dominating nature-mother/ women both. He is not presented as contributor in preserving nature-mother. While throwing wheel-chair of Klara part of nature and Klara both get hurt. But, due to such situation Klara force herself to stand on her own feet which she couldn't believe on her eyes. Miracle occurs in her life and entire family. Peter and Heidi both are residing at nearby places then also he does not understand the importance, care of nature. So, in the form of Peter it tries to show that male are consumers of nature. Though Klara is from urban areas and stays with Heidi for short period of time also she understands importance of natural resources in our daily life. And get idea to preserve in better way. So, eco-feminist argue that the twin domination of women and nature exist are wrong and ought to be eliminated. People need to take out such thought from themselves to eradicate dominations towards nature/women.

According to Victoria Davion," Although some of Rolston's specific conclusions, particularly those regarding domesticated animals and sport hunting are highly relevant to, central views within ecological feminism." (Davion)

When we observe the novel Heidi is representing feminine character to some extent. Though she is orphan child she doesn't limit her capacity to child of her level only. She has stood as an example to adult people too. Klara belongs to educated, wealthier family. But, she is cripple girl. To be friendly with her, Heidi stays at Seseman's house. But nature of Heidi and that family is entirely different to each other. When Seseman's family remain in contact with Heidi slowly their psychology changes. Frau Seseman also slowly understands the importance of nature. Like Heidi's thought other people also develop such thought that nature is mother, she nurture to

every human and non-humans. Animals are also living beings. They have thoughts, emotions like people. We shouldn't take them in the form of consuming item only. Animals shouldn't be hunted in more extent.

Australian ecofeminist Ariel Salleh focuses on the magnitude of women's work, the nature of that work, and the level of exploitation of women's labour globally. She relates political ecology to the ethics of care. For Salleh, care involves openness to its objects and to the web of relationships in which those objects exist and that constitute them.

In the novel *Heidi*, Heidi is presented as motivator, role model for others. She belongs to the family who is capable of providing basic needs to the child. Heidi is deprived from formal education, and then also she is smart and confident. When Alm uncle stays alone, he remains upset and disturbed. In Heidi's house she doesn't have parents and grandmother. So, in their house due to lack of women member in the family both of them face trouble. They both have to manage so many tasks themselves. When we look at Peter's family, even though they are poor, Peter is getting good care from his mother and grandmother both. Peter's mother provides him parental care, manages economic problems through different labour.

In Heidi's house his grandfather seems to be a consumer of nature. Peter while providing fodder he takes them towards meadow. They utilize timber from forests as well. Heidi stays with grandfather only due to less family members and her interest towards nature attracts her with nature. Though she is a child she takes good care of goats, ducks etc. she understands the emotions, feelings of animals as well. Heidi is not a mature girl, and then also she takes good care of her belongings. "Heidi was never unhappy, for she always found something about her to enjoy"(40). Being a woman she is contributing a lot to her family and in the preservation of nature with its

components. Eventhough Peter is a bit mature then Heidi, obtaining good guidance of his family then also he is not knowledgeable as Heidi. He doesn't understand intimacy between animal and people. He doesn't think anyone can utilize nature as open-book. But, when Klara remain in contact with Heidi gradually she understands importance of nature. Accompany with Heidi, bring lots of change in Klara's life. The way of seeing toward nature of Klara gets change. Slowly Klara motivate herself towards healing power of nature. Klara's grandmother also gives permission to stay at Heidi's house. Frau Seseman belongs to wealthy family then her contribution, labour is more than male members of family. Though she is grandmother of Klara she provides parental care to her granddaughter. Accompany with Heidi bring drastic change in her lifestyle. Finally disable Klara turn into capable one. So, nature stood as healer in this situation. When we observe in wide range women's labour is exploited and men are consuming natural resources freely. Heidi teaches to her friends that mother- earth nurture as own mother of a child. On the lap of nature she is brought-up. We all have to think that we are part of nature, we are thinking of utilizing it only. But, we have to focus how to preserve nature and its components in better way. Female are seem to be care- taker of nature, but male also think they are also responsible to preserve nature.

Summing up, this researcher has argued that eco-feminist awareness is being raised within Heidi herself, because she is closer to nature and other living creatures and gain knowledge from nature which is not possible within Klara. When Klara and Heidi both stay at city there Heidi felt suffocation. But, Klara was enjoying her living style. Heidi was searching the situation where she can engage herself with nature. But when she stays at Dorfli she enjoys a lot with nature. Her sickness gets cured naturally. She suffers from thought of loneliness when she stays at house of Klara. Later she becomes successful to cure cripple girl Klaraby the help of her living style

and nature.

Eventhough Heidi is child; she doesn't behave as child only. She remains as motivator to the people who remain in contact with her. Due to her capability nature is presented as boon and healer to disable people like:-Klara, Peter's grandmother. Heidi get success to understand the emotions, feelings of nature and its part. She teaches to other that we can utilize nature as open-book. We can get many things from nature-mother so, we should preserve nature in better way. Male members shouldn't think to consume part of nature only. Rather they need to discourage to the people who exploit nature. Observing all these situations we can understand that Heidi is not normal girl. Her contribution towards Klara, Peter including his grandmother and her grandfather is praiseworthy. In the future, I would love to conduct research based on issue related to feminism.

Works Cited

- Berman, Tzaporah. "The Rape of Mother Nature? Woman in the Language of Environmental Discourse." *The Trumpeter Journal of Ecosophy*, vol.11, no.4, 1994, pp. 148-211.
- Davion, Victoria. Ed. *Nature, Value, Duty*. 2007. 167-181 <http://doi.org/10.1007/1-4020-4878-5-10> Corpus ID: 140971058.
- Gaard, Greta "Ecofeminism: women, animals, nature, edited by Greta Gaard, Temple University Press, Philadelphia, 1993, p. 1.
- Gruen, Lori. "Revaluing Nature." *Ecofeminism: Women, Culture, Nature*, edited by Karen J. Warren, Indiana UP, 1997, pp.356-74.
- Hellen, Pasty. Review - edited New York: Routledge. Pp.280. ISBN 0-415-90888-4 (paperback). Murdoch University. 1995. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/40338951>
- Merchant, Carolyn. "Nature as Female." *Eco-criticism the Essential Reader*, 2015.
- Plumwood, Val. "Feminism and the Mastery of Nature". Routledge, January 30th, 1994. Web https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/618308.Feminism_and_the_Mastery_of_Nature.
- Plumwood, Val. "The Blind spots of Centrism and Human Self-enclosure." *Environment Culture*, 2002, pp.97-117.
- Ruekert, William. "Literature and Ecology: An Experiment in Eco criticism." *Iowa Review* 9.1 (Winter 1978):71-86.
- Salleh, Ariel Kay. 1984. *Deeper than deep ecology: The eco-feminist connection. Environmental ethics* 6: 339-45.
- Spyri, Johanna, *Heidi*. Egmont Books Limited 2001.
- Spyri, Johanna. *Heidi*. Translated by Elisabeth P. Stork. Introduction by Charles Wharton Stork. Illustrated by Maria L. Kirk. J. P. Lippincott Co., 1915.

Vandana, Shiva. *Staying Alive: Women, Ecology and Development*. Zed Books. 1988

Waren, Karen j., and Jim Cheney. "Ecological Feminism and Ecosystem Ecology". *Hypatia*

vol.6, no. 1, 1991, pp. 179-197. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/3810040. Accessed 29

Jan 2021.

Warren, Karen J., editor. *Eco-feminism: Women, Culture, Nature*. Indian UP,

1997. Print

Zimmerman, Michael E., et al., editors. *Environmental Philosophy: From Animal*

Rights to Radical Ecology. Third Edition. Upper saddle River, Prentice Hall,

2001. Print