

Central Department Of English

Tribhuvan University

Nature as Culture: Ecological Awareness in Silko's Writings

A thesis submitted

in partial fulfillments of the requirements for the degree of

Master of Arts (M. A.) in English,

the faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tribhuvan University

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This thesis entitled "Nature as Culture: Ecological Awareness in Silko's Writings" by Bima Joshi has been submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University. It has been approved by the undersigned members of the research committee.

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Acknowledgements

First of all, I would like to dedicate this research to my father Mr. Jaya Raj Joshi. He always deserves a special place in my life.

This dissertation would not have been possible without the scholarly guidance, inspiration, and constant encouragement of my thesis supervisor, Mr. Amma Raj Joshi of Central Department of English, T. U., the one to provide me first hand ideas and materials in the field of ecocriticism. In addition, he has helped me by going through the script and correcting my innumerable mistakes. I express my sincerest gratitude to him for such kind cooperation in bringing this project to completion.

Dr. Ananda Sharma, Department of English, Ratna Rajya Campus, equally deserves special thanks for providing me ideas to understand Native American culture and the concept of ecocriticism in Silko's texts.

I would like to express my gratitude to Prof. Chandra Prakash Sharma, Head, Central Department of English, Kirtipur for granting me a chance to carry out this research work. Similarly, I deeply owe my gratitude to lecturers of Central Department of English, T. U.--Mr. Deepak Shrestha, Devi Gautam, and Ghanashayam Sharma--who paved a new way to generate and arrange my ideas systematically as well as provided the inspiration for thesis writing. I am thankful to all my teachers and friends, especially, Sumnima and Nutan, for their support in carrying out my dissertation in this present form. Mr. Manish also deserves special credit for his help in the process of typing this thesis.

Finally, my respect is always for my mother. I acknowledge her cooperation towards my education. Special thanks to my mother, brother, sisters, and other family members for their optimism, faith, and constant support at every step of my life without which, I would not be in the present stage. I am highly indebted to them.

September 1, 2006

Bima Joshi

Abstract

At this time of environmental degradation, human learning to preserve natural world has become a burning issue as nature is the foundation, the basis out of which emerges all that exist, and it is also the basis to bind together natural world with human identity in a complex web of relationship. Though the modern world has developed comfortable and sophisticated elements to cope with the contemporary lifestyle, it has been causing restlessness within the people's mind. The earth has been also losing its strength day by day. The permanent solution to these problems is to accept the nature's essentiality in our life. As a responsible part of human society, taking an earth centered issue, humanitarian scholars need to represent the co-existence between human and other natural elements in their writings.

In this context, L. M. Silko's writings bring forth the Native American Laguna Pueblo culture to reinforce ecocritical movement. Her writing hold indigenous views about nature to be the main source of their culture. Her texts view white American anthropocentric perspectives to be the main cause of modern environmental extinction. While reading her essays, stories, and poems, we find them supporting the ecocritical movement and speaking for biocentric world. Her texts reinforce the Laguna Pueblo belief and values that regard nature natural phenomena. She believes, if natural phenomena are obstructed, they create disaster in our nature based cultural society and a person who tries to cross this worldly attitude, will be punished at last by nature herself.

We cannot survive isolating ourselves from nature because it is nature from which we are safeguarded. Therefore, from her writings, Silko makes it very clear that our failure of understanding about nature is itself a failure of understanding our culture, we belong to.

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