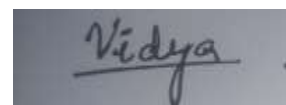


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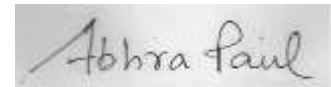
This is to certify that the Thesis titled, “*Writing the Earth: An Ecocritical Reading of the Selected Works of Barbara Kingsolver,*” submitted by *Abhra Paul (P15HS201)* to the Indian Institute of Technology Jodhpur for the award of the degree of *Doctor of Philosophy*, is a bonafide record of the research work done by her under my supervision. To the best of my knowledge, the contents of this report, in full or in parts, have not been submitted to any other Institute or University for the award of any degree or diploma.

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink. The signature appears to be 'Vidya' with a horizontal line underneath it.

Dr. Vidya Sarveswaran
Ph.D. Thesis Supervisor

Declaration

I hereby declare that the work presented in this Thesis titled *Writing the Earth: An Ecocritical Reading of the Selected Works of Barbara Kingsolver* submitted to the Indian Institute of Technology Jodhpur in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, is a bonafide record of the research work carried out under the supervision of Dr. Vidya Sarveswaran. The contents of this thesis in full or in parts, have not been submitted to, and will not be submitted by me to, any other Institute or University in India or abroad for the award of any degree or diploma.



Abhra Paul

P15HS201

ABSTRACT

The broad area of the research relates to American literature and Ecocriticism. The current planetary ecological crises have reached a magnitude beyond human understanding, and there is an urgent need to halt this global environmental decimation by humans. Habitat fragmentation, species extinction, global warming, dumping of radioactive waste, toxic chemicals, and depletion of local ecosystems are some of the issues of immediate concern.

The study concentrates on interpreting and analysing Barbara Kingsolver's works within the ecocritical context. Barbara Kingsolver is an eminent novelist, trained biologist, and environmentalist. Close readings of her fiction and non-fiction provide an in-depth insight into the various aspects of her novels that account for her engagement with seeing the wholeness of the world. Kingsolver's works exhibit an understanding that the human and the nonhuman interact and intersect in a meaningful way. Ecocriticism tends to analyse this relationship between humans and the physical environment represented in literature. The writings of Kingsolver posit her as a versatile writer exploring issues related to persistent ecological and environmental issues. Thus, an ecocritical lens is useful in analysing the literary works of Kingsolver.

The study attempts to examine her four novels, namely *Animal Dreams* (1990), *The Poisonwood Bible* (1998), *Prodigal Summer* (2000), *Flight Behaviour* (2012), and four works of non-fiction, namely *High Tide in Tucson* (1995), *Small Wonder* (2002), *Last Stand: America's Virgin Lands*, with photographer Annie

Griffiths Belt (2002), *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life* (2007) through an ecocritical perspective. Kingsolver, in these works, has discussed environmental awareness by depicting multiple pressing ecological issues. She informs the readers that human beings are neither dominant nor exclusive to this fragile ecosystem. This study proposes to analyse the predominant ecocritical themes in these literary pieces that emphasize the interconnectedness of all life forms. It is imperative that humans understand their relationship with other life forms on this planet, and this is often claimed as one of the important tenets of ecocriticism. The core chapters are analyses based on four specific centers of interest or perspectives. These are (i) Place: Bioregionalism and Eco-cosmopolitanism (ii) Ecofeminism: Partnership Ethics, (iii) Writing Animals: Ecocritical Animal Studies, (iv) the Anthropocene.

Key Words: Ecocriticism, Environmental Humanities, Barbara Kingsolver, Partnership Ethics, Eco-cosmopolitanism, Ecocritical Animal Studies, Anthropocene.

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