

ABSTRACT

Comparative Literature encompasses the study of the literary works of diverse cultures and languages of different nations providing a worldview and creating a world literature. A wide spatial location of literary production is studied under the comparative study of literature. Nobel laureate John Ernst Steinbeck Jr. (1902–1968) and his major works, set in the idyllic Californian milieu, weave the values embedded in nature thereby seeking to find out humankind's place in it. Naga Novelist Easterine Kire (1959–) creates a tapestry of Naga culture and history rooted in the mythic as well as the realistic trajectory of nature. This study will see their novels from the perspective of Naturalism and Deep Ecology. Naturalism, a literary movement, believes that one's heredity and social environment have a dominant role in determining one's character and actions. The Literary Naturalist excavates the dark side of human life. Ecocriticism as a literary theory studies the relationship that exists between literature and the environment in accordance with human and nonhuman interactions. An essential part of ecocriticism, Deep Ecology investigates the egalitarian and holistic environment where all biota have intrinsic value, and each shares an interconnectedness. The research would, from the perspective of Literary Naturalism and Deep Ecology, take up a comparative study of the selected works of John Steinbeck and Easterine Kire and attempt to understand the existence of convergences in their works. By analyzing their selected works, an understanding will be drawn towards the role played by one's milieu in shaping one's behavior, and humankind's dependence on the milieu to attain their identity. The role of memory and mystical adherences will also be under the purview of the study leading to the self-realization that mutual coexistence with mutual respect will only bring sustenance to living.

Keywords: Comparative Literature, Naturalism, Ecocriticism, Deep Ecology, Milieu, Memory, Mysticism