

**ECOCRITICAL CONCERNS IN *TRACKS* BY LOUISE  
ERDRICH AND *THE STONE CARVERS* BY JANE  
URQUHART**

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By

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## CERTIFICATE

I declare that the dissertation entitled "ECOCRITICAL CONCERNS IN *TRACKS* BY LOUISE ERDRICH AND *THE STONE CARVERS* BY JANE URQUHART" has been prepared by me under the guidance of Dr. Zameerpal Kaur, Associate Professor, and Centre for Comparative Literature, School of Languages, Literature and Culture, Central University of Punjab. No part of this dissertation has formed the basis for the award of any degree or fellowship previously.

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## ABSTRACT

### ECOCRITICAL CONCERNS IN *TRACKS* BY LOUISE ERDRICH AND *THE STONE CARVERS* BY JANE URQUHART

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Ecocriticism is a new approach to literature and an ecological criticism that examines the human representation of nature. Humans try to dominate the whole Earth and its inhabitants. The Ecocritical theory distributes the fundamental principle that human civilization is connected to the physical world and in return affected by it. Ecocriticism examines the critical apprehensions connected with nature such as deforestation, devastation of wildlife, overuse of natural resources, pollution regarding air, water, soil, and noise and rising level of sea water, etc. These issues are raised by scientists and environmentalists who focus on environmental issues and supremacy of man over non-human living and non-living substance. The comparative study of *Tracks* and *The Stone Carvers* reveal the ecocritical perspectives and suggest the preservation of nature and to live in peace with nature. These novels show their deep rooted social consciousness and ecological consciousness of their society. Natural environment has always remained a significant part of these texts and with the current increase environmental problems and issues, writers have exclusively paying attention on environmental problems.

(Jaskaran Kaur)

(Dr. Zameerpal Kaur)

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## CHAPTER 1

### Theoretical Understanding of Ecocriticism

#### Introduction

Environment has created suitable place for every species on the earth. Literature and art influence human life and human life too influence the art and literature. Man and animal both belong to the mother earth. The environment is the main concern of this contemporary world. Nowadays, the whole world is facing environment related problems, which has threatened for the advancement of human society and natural world. Human considers himself higher to all species for completing his own needs. It is a general phenomenon which applies everywhere. Ecocriticism emerged as a study of the relationship between literature and natural environment in the mid-1990's. The Ecocritical theory distributes the fundamental principle that human civilization is connected to the physical world and in return affected by it. The interpretation of natural environment which depicts rural life, its simplicity, peace and harmony is put to contrast with industrial urban areas.

The main focus of Ecocriticism theory is to present the significance of the environment (nature) in human life and its manifestation and explanation in literature. It is such kind of theory or technique in which humans struggle for their own world in which they live. Natural surroundings are the essential elements in ecocritical approach. At the same time as Peter Barry proclaims,

Ecocriticism is not to reduce literary piece to ecological considerations, but rather to add an ecological dimension to all other issues which more traditionally approach have always seen in the work. (259)

Ecocriticism examines the critical apprehensions connected with nature such as deforestation, devastation of wildlife, overuse of natural resources, pollution regarding air, water, soil, and noise and rising level of sea water, etc. These issues are raised by scientists and environmentalists who focus on environmental issues and supremacy of man over non-human living and non-living substance.

In ecocriticism nature is treated as the centre of everything, instead of the human-centered perspective that has traditionally dominated Western philosophy.

In the renaissance period, man was taken as the centre of everything which gives birth to binary opposition man/nature. This theory attempts to study ecological perspective and inspecting natural aspects, for example the relationship between man and nature. Cheryl Glotfelty defines ecocriticism in 1996, as

. . . the study of the relationship between literature and the physical environment. Just as feminist criticism examines language and literature from a gender-conscious perspective, and Marxist criticism brings an awareness of modes of production and economic class to its reading of texts, ecocriticism takes an earth-centered approach to literary studies. (18)

Ecocritical theory gives importance to human beings and non-humans in literature. It is an interdisciplinary study of man's relation to the environment. Interdisciplinary means involving two or more scholastic disciplines such as history, economics, philosophy, and psychology. Ecocriticism emerged as a different theory of literary criticism which explores the result of man's action in this natural world. It also gives equal importance non-human world like plants, animals, landscape etc. Ecocritical theory studies different features of nature and ecology as expressed in literature. It aims to create awareness among the readers about the ecological concerns such as misuse and devastation of nature and natural substance for material needs, capitalistic control over the natural things.

Ecocriticism is a recent form of cultural and literary illumination that emphasizes on the role played by the physical environment in literary texts. According to ecocritics, environment concerns of a text should be taken into consideration instead of its linguistic aspects. As in the theory of structuralism, structure of a particular text is being studied. In the same way in the theory of ecocriticism, kinship between man and nature is main concern. Environmentalists also interrogate the human interactions with nature which affected human life and the natural world. Ecocriticism are more concerned about the philosophical and cultural implications of human understanding and its influence on the natural environment. Ecological criticism is based on the premise that culture and physical world are connected and both affect each other Language and literature are cultural artifacts.

This study of nature includes the both biotic (living organism) and abiotic (non-living) environment. All aspects of nature- water, plants, mountains, forests and our atmosphere come in this study. Firstly, Environmentalists has started paying attention to pollution in our world which occurred due to the rapid growth of industries. Pollution becomes the main concern and environment has taken it seriously and tries to find possible solutions to it through the study of literature. Deforestation, degradation in the environment, polluted water and polluted air are main concerns to examine. Developing countries are facing this problem of pollution. It also contracts with the environmental concerns and consciousness to protect environmental balance.

Through ecocriticism, man's relationship to this natural world is studied. It deals with how a man treats the nature in reality and how nature is treated in literature as a subject. Nature plays a vital role in shaping human attitudes and behavior. It also deals with important animal studies, consideration of protecting environment performance. The Human- Animal studies are the most recent developed type of ecocriticism. It is the study which deals with the relationship of animals and humans. It is an interdisciplinary field that explores all the fields of society and culture of human. Environment refers to the entirety of the physical surroundings, circumstances, conditions, on the earth, especially as affected by human activity. It studies the interdependence of all mechanism of the environment. It spreads attentiveness about environment through literature.

Ecocriticism is the study of nature or natural things in literature and it is theory that is enthusiastic to implementation change analyzing the function thematic, creative, historical, ideological, speculative, or the natural surroundings. When the human beings tried to exploit the non-human world, then the non-human endanger the very existence of humanity. Glen. A. S Love articulates:

As the circumstances of the natural world intrude ever more pressingly into our teaching and writing, the need to consider the interconnections, the implicit dialogue between the text and the environmental surroundings, becomes more and more insistent. Ecocriticism is developing as an explicit critical response to this unheard dialogue and attempts to raise it to a higher level of human consciousness. (16)

Ecocritics explore such things as the fundamental ecological values. Ecology is the science that studies the relationships between living entities and their relation to physical environment. In other words, ecologists concerned with the living organisms in the normal environment. Human ecology deals with how mankind interconnects with the earth, soil and mineral resources, with its water, air, climates and weather, animals and planets. Greg Garrard in his *Ecocriticism* lists out the various concerns of Ecocriticism- pollution, wilderness, dwelling, animals, and the earth. These living entities and non-living creatures are interdependent. If there were no life on earth, its environment would have been different. If the environment had not changed, the earth would have been devoid of many animals and plant species. The ecocritics seeks to find possible solution for the improvement of the contemporary environmental situation.

Ecocriticism is not only the study of ecology and ecological values in the literature but also corresponds to the interconnected web of natural, cultural and supernatural phenomena. Ecocriticism examines man's relation with nature. The continuous destruction of environment has aroused the conscious of many scholars to protect the nature. Intellectuals are working in their different disciplines to cope with the problems of nature.

Ecocriticism is a new approach to literature and an ecological criticism that examines the human representation of nature. Unlike feminist critics who reads the texts from gender conscious perspectives and helps in establishing a canon of feminist writers, ecocritics re-examined canonical texts from the perspective of ecocritical approach and promote teaching and research of environmental non-fiction. Theory of ecocriticism is different from other theories of literary criticism. Feminist critics locate the state of women in male controlled society and Marxist criticism is more about class consciousness and modes of production. Like other theories ecocriticism has its own perspective, it is an earth centered approach to literature where nature is given priority than things.

### **History of Ecocriticism**

The term Ecocriticism has its roots in Greek words oikos and kritis. "Oikos" implies "household," soul and nature. "Kritis" means to judge. Ecocriticism studies environment issues in literature. It is also known as Environmental Criticism, Green

Studies, and Eco poetics. As an academic discipline, it began in earliest in the 1990's although its origin goes back to the late 1970's.

The ecological association appears due to the destruction of nature by humans and these associations help to protect the natural world. James Thomson's long poem *The Season* (1726-30) presents a view that one should save the lost cleanness and return to unspoiled nature. The environmental movement came, because of the destruction of nature by humans and this movement came to preserve the wildlife. The reflection of the movement is seen in the writings of John Muir (1838-1914) and some other American writers. During the twentieth century, the number of warnings by scientists increased and Rachel Carson's book *Silent Spring* (1962), concerns the climate pesticides effects on land, wildlife and it also influences land and water.

Ecocriticism emerged as a different theory in 1990's in the USA and later in Europe influenced and inspired by Environmentalism and 'Deep ecology' which started emerging in the second half of the twentieth century, in response to perceptions of how dangerous environmental damage had been become.

In the word ecocriticism 'eco' is a short form of ecology which describes relationship between natural environment and living organism. Word ecology is combination of two words oikos and logos, whereas oikos means household and logos means knowledge and ecology means knowledge of household science. The word ecology first appeared in the English language in 1873. Ernst Heinrich Haeckel, a German biologist and philosopher, used for the initial time the term ecology in 1876. The historians' described the reciprocal relationship between humans and land. They draw the connection between environmental circumstances, economic and modes of production and cultural thoughts through time.

Ecocriticism as a concept first occurred in the late 1970s, at a meeting of the Western Literature Association (WLA); whose field of interest is the literature of America West. William Rueckert is the first person to use the term Ecocriticism. In 1978, Rueckert published an essay titled *Literature and Ecology: An Experiment in Ecocriticism*. He made an important suggestion to apply ecology and ecological concepts to the study of literature. Ecologically minded individuals and scholars

have been publishing progressive works of eco theory and criticism since the explosion of environmentalism in the late 1970s and 1980s. In this essay he talks about Barry Commoner who is an American environmental scientist. Barry Commoner states the first law of ecology is "Everything is connected to everything else." Applying this idea to literature, the ecocritic considers that literature is not separate from society, culture and environment. Literature and nature are not separate entities but are closely related to each other.

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Cheryll Glotfelty argues the ecological interest among scholars of anthropology, psychology, philosophy and theology in her book *The Ecocriticism Reader: Landmarks in Literary Ecology*. Ecocriticism began in the United States of America in the late 1980's. It obtained its literary approach from the nineteenth century in America, theory of ecocriticism was originated from American Transcendentalism of the 1840's. It was originated from works of Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau and Margaret Fuller in 1840's. They are pioneers in this field and are also known as Transcendentalists.

Ecocriticism started developing in the 1990s. Lawrence Buells writes that the study of literature in relation to significant atmosphere dates back the fictional analysis itself, only in 1990. Ecocritics have originated their association ASLE (Association for the Study of Literature and Environment) in 1992 and their journal ISLE (Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment) in 1993. The definition of ecocritical studies included in English Literature offered by Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE). This association described that "ecocriticism is the relationship between literary, cultural artifacts and natural environment." (58). The Association for the Study of Literature and Environment is started at a meeting of the Western Literature association. ASLE has sponsored five major conferences on ecocriticism from 1995 in Biennial, Flagstaff, Arizona, and Boston, Massachusetts. These conferences were mainly based on the agendas of ASLE which focuses on themes of environment, studies of places, environmental justice and postcolonial issues. ISLE reader depicts ecocriticism as a term at

present usually used to express ideas that are concerned with the environmental implications of literary texts.

Ecocriticism led to the formation of a group named OSLE (Organization for Studies in Literature and Environment India) in Chennai. It has published two book collections one entitled the *Other Culture and Media: Ecocritical Explorations* (2014) and *Essays in Ecocriticism* (2007) and three volumes of the Indian Journal of Ecocriticism; and twelve online issues of the OSLE India Newsletter. It also extended ecocriticism to media through its Eco media Team.

The Green Studies began in the United Kingdom in the early 1990's. The Green Studies acquire its manners from the Romanticism of the 1790s. Jonathan Bate, the critic, is the originator of Green Studies. He is the writer of *Romantic Ecology: Wordsworth and the Environmental Tradition*. The term 'Green Studies' is used by the British writers and the American writers. They are fascinated in the study of nature writing and in reading literature with a focus on environment concerns. By the early 1990's ecocriticism has appeared as a specialized discipline within the literature departments of the American Universities.

Although ecocriticism flourished in the end of twentieth century, but it had to face many difficulties in attaining its present status. African American writers, who believe that they are socially, economically and politically marginalized, have not accepted the theory of ecocriticism because nature is a secondary concern.

### **Environment and religious conviction**

Nature is portrayed in religious scriptures, all religions of the world furnished equal importance to humans and nature. Hinduism is an environment philosophy in which *Vedas*, *Ramayana* and *Bhagavad Gita* present a message to save and conserve nature and environment. The gods that are devoted in the *Vedas* depict natural forces like Surya, Ushas, and Maruti etc. Vedic Rishis also accomplish harmony with our environment in earliest times. They illustrate the five elements like earth, air, light, space and water. Earth is known as 'Bhumi Devi', the earth goddess. Even Hindu deities are presented as having animal heads and bodies. Meditation was an important part of ancient Hindu life and it was done only in natural surroundings. Nature is the creation of God. So it is known as the divine creation of God.

In most ancient times humans were exceptionally close to nature and feel relaxation in the lap of nature. Hindu scriptures moralise the people to seek peace and survive in harmony with nature. The protection of nature has always been a most important concern since the Vedic times in India. It is the responsibility of all human beings to preserve and concern for the environment. There is a deep connection between the earth and human beings. In Yajurveda, it is pointed out that all lives, human and non-human are of equal value and all have the same right to survival. The Buddhist emperor, Ashoka also expressed his anxiety about the welfare of creatures, plants, and trees through pillar edicts at different places. He approved various punishments for the killing of animals.

The importance of nature is told in old scriptures, ancient texts, and religious books. Veda's teaches the concept of 'ahimsa'. Ahimsa means to be non-violent and live in peace with each other. In Vedas, nature is treated as sacred. Nature is worshiped in many religions. It is considered that nature is created by God. Nature should not be exploited and it is the duty of men to protect and preserve the nature.

The Sikh scripture, *Guru Granth Sahib*, states that the principle of human beings is to attain a peaceful state and to be in harmony with the earth and all creation. The elements like air is distinct as the Guru, water considered as the father, the Earth is considered as the mother of all, Days and Nights are considered as nurses which have grabbed all creation in their lap. Here Sri Guru Granth Sahib asserts that humans should live in harmony with this creation of God and should not harm this natural environment:

They believed that all these elements belong to the god and god exists in everything. It is believed to be the strongest power than man or any other living being.

Development of science has assured man's control over nature. Modern technology has become new humanistic religion and man started worshiping it. Joseph Meeker views that politicians, scientist, businessmen and citizens become the part of this humanistic religion and this will lead to destruction of biological environment. A lot of raw material is used in industries and it is an over destruction of the natural resources. Human activities are responsible for the degradation brought to the environment. The earth has been largely exaggerated by the global

warming. It is very much important for the man to reconsider his relationship with the non-human aspects of the world. It helps to define, explore, and even resolve ecological problems.

### **Waves of Ecocriticism**

In the study of ecocriticism, there are three waves of it. The first wave developed in the 1980s and started in the field of ecocriticism in 1990s. Ecocritics focused on fields such as nature writing, nature poetry and wilderness fiction. The critics of the first wave describe literature that depicts the traditional conceptualization of nature, wilderness and the non-human world. They wrote the texts that describes the moral responsibilities about human dealings with nature.

Thoreau is a founder of nature writings and first wave of ecocriticism. He writes nature writings. Primary objective of first wave was to evoke the conscious of people for nature preservation. Philosophy of Heidegger, Naess, Merleau and Bachelard has strongly influenced the works of this period. Ecocentric or biocentric views are towards nature are presented in the first wave which focused on nature as a primary sources and intimate relation between man and nature. This wave seeks to connect reader's awareness to environmental morals.

Ecocriticism's first wave is included in deep ecology, see nature and human beings as opposed to one another. This wave holds that the proper response to environmental criticism should be to help protect the natural environment from the devastation of human culture. During the first wave ecocriticism, 'environment' is actually referred to 'natural environment'. The second wave of ecocriticism theory began in mid the 1990s.

The second wave deals with human concerns as well as nonhuman nature; to urban and sub urban environments as well as to wilderness surroundings. Environmental justice began to appear at the time of second world movement. Second wave of ecocriticism deals with literature that shows the concerns for worst impacts of industrialization on nature. This wave emphasized on environment injustice.

In second wave literary critics thinks that human beings and the environment are different to one another, but as an alternative focused on the ways in which they were interdependent. The Second wave ecocritics observes how gender, class,

race and sexuality mediate the awareness of environment. Second wave movement describes that 'nature' contains not only plants and animals, but also defines the rural and urban livings. Ecocritics describes the environmental disaster and its solution. It considers the destruction of environment by human action. A significant development with the second wave ecocriticism is ecofeminism. Ecofeminist critics depict relationship between the domination of women and nature.

Third wave of ecocriticism is started after 2000 and Joni Adamson used the term third wave ecocriticism in 2009. Third wave of ecocriticism accounts for the study of the association between literature and environment that describes global condition. It identifies ethnic, cultural and national boundaries. This third wave searches all facts of human experience from an environmental perspective. With the emergence of third wave, its main focus is to assimilate the artistic demonstration of environmental conditions. The third wave movement describes environmental righteousness criticism, urban and suburban familiarities.

### **Multiple Approaches**

In the theory of ecocriticism there are multiple approaches to deal with different aspects of environment in literature such as Deep Ecology, Eco-feminism, Eco-Marxism and Ecosphere and Environment Justice. With the help of these approaches nature can be studied through different perspectives. These radical forms describe the relationship between culture and nature through different perspectives.

### **Ecofeminism**

Ecofeminism is a branch of eco-criticism in which the women are subjugated by men as nature is destroyed by the human considerations. Eco feminism is based on the assumption that the domination of women and the domination of nature are basically linked. Ecofeminism is a movement that distinguishes a connection between the misuse of the natural world and the subordination and oppression of women.

Ecofeminism is a term which is invented by Francois d' Eaubonne in 1974. It is a philosophy and movement born from the union of feminist and ecological thinkers. D 'Eaubonne focuses on the similarities or interconnectedness of the way

women and nature are treated in male dominated societies. This idea of a parallel between the treatment of women and treatment of nature is one of the hallmarks of ecofeminism.

Dr. Vandana Shiva associates the idea of interconnectedness of women and nature. It emerged from second wave feminism and green movements in 1970. It is dealing with the elements of both feminist and green movement and also challenges both. It adopted the concern of the impact of human actions on non-human from green movement and from feminist. It takes the view that humanity is gendered which subordinate, exploit and oppress women.

This idea of a corresponding between the treatment of women and dealing of nature is one of the features of ecofeminism. It is a social movement and convenient investigation which unites andocentric and the environmental destruction.

There are diverse types of ecofeminism which focus on regions such as economics, spirituality, immigration, class struggle or racial discrimination. It is also well-known as ecological feminism. It is a societal and political movement which summits the subsistence of considerable general ground linking environmentalism and feminism. Since, from ecological point of view, this theory illustrates the women/nature connections: the dominance, exploitation, utilization and horror of both women and nature are characteristic of patriarchal opinion. It is a theory describes consistent domination of nature- psyche and sexuality, individual repression and non-human nature. It identifies the relationship between nature and culture, appearance of exploitation of nature and forms of subjugation of women. Ecofeminist school of thought considers that women have an extraordinary relationship with nature by virtue of their biological role and environment has to be enlightened from the repressive male ethos.

The relationship between social ecology and ecofeminism is complicated and goes with several apprehensions. One is the resultant place of feminism with social ecology. An essay "Ecology and Revolutionary Thought" published in 1971 that furnishes enlightenment of the connection between growing ecological devastation, social hierarchies and industrial labor.

Ecofeminism believes that women's culture is dissimilar from the whole culture, it is only limited to her body, flesh, sentiments, thoughts and personal life. On the other hand, male culture dominates the mind, culture, economics and public life of women. Ecofeminism is working for the liberation of nature from this male oppression and to respect environment as a life provider. Cultural ecofeminism seeks to develop women based actions and their autonomy from male culture.

Ecological perspectives, eco-feminism makes the women/nature connections: the domination, exploitation, and fear of both women and nature are characteristic of patriarchal thinking. So, it is a movement which focuses on the connections between the domination of nature and oppression of women. It is a new term which grows out from various social movements like feminist, peace and ecology movement

### **Anthropocentrism and Androcentrism**

Anthropocentrism is the fundamental element of environmental philosophy. Anthropocentrism is human based; human centered thinking that relies upon the superiority of human over nature and androcentrism is male centered thinking which shows the superiority of male over female.

Anthropocentrism word was coined in 1860. The concept of androcentric started developing from 1911 in Charlotte Perkins Gilman's *The Man-Made World or Our Androcentric Culture*. Androcentrism culture considers women as subordinate. Androcentrism is a concept in feminism that bases on sexism. The term gave an image, where man is at the center of something. Male occupies a center position in androcentrism theory culture and philosophy.

Anthropocentrism is the belief that human beings are the significant and superior species on earth. In western culture, it can be seen in Aristotle's *Politics*. The anthropocentrism views are interpreting the ways; humans relate themselves with nature and other species. It views that humans have intrinsic value than other creatures. There are two similar terms of anthropocentrism that are human chauvinism and human bias.

Karen Warren in her *Ecofeminist Philosophy*, discussed philosophies and perspective are biased and for it, she gave three ways. All theories, all observations,

all conceptual frameworks, all points of view are biased, because “they are never context-free” (154). There is another reason for this, is that all this developed in a particular location. Every judgment could be claimed to be human biased, since every judgment “can be made to reveal any evidence of dependency on a human location in the cosmos, on human scale”. (16)

In androcentrism, male bias can be described to show the sex and gender-context bias. Sex- related to of biology that includes body, flesh and bones on the other side gender related to the realm of culture. The sex context bias describes that male in groups or individuals have a center and the other sex and their members have their own centre, and this limited biological perspective create a narrow boundary on this wide world. Male chauvinism beliefs that women are less important and men are superior. These male bias beliefs that the life of a girl is less important than the life of a boy and the needs of a male child is important than a female child.

### **Eco –Marxism**

Eco-Marxism is an approach of ecocriticism. Eco-Marxism is a movement and has its origin in the works of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels. Eco-Marxists say that the ecological crisis has its roots in relations of hierarchy and domination in the society.

The domination of environment is taken as a product of domination within society. Marx and Engels could anticipate that the very existence of private property will lead to an estrangement of human life from nature. In “The Manifesto of the Communist Party”, Marx comments on how the mechanization of production can naturally lead to overexploitation of natural resources as well as the alienation of labor. He defines the subjugation of fellow humans and the appropriation of nature resulting from the same instincts of egoism and the desire for power and money. Marxist criticism brings an awareness of modes of production and economic class to its reading of texts.

The relations between Marx and ecology defines Marx’s concept of labor. The concept of labor has precisely exemplified mankind’s attitudes to nature as well as the relations between humanity and nature. Eco- Marxism shows the aspects of natural laws. Humans achieve their own aims through working on nature.

Eco-Marxism shows how the social and ecological perspectives are linked. The historical process that brings about the divisions between rich and poor is also the process that created the rift between man and nature. Both labour and nature are sources of wealth, and both are being exhausted by capitalist class. Eco-Marxists explain how the appropriation of the forests and the land was followed by the mines, for factories, for industries. The available reserves of coal, and later natural gas and oil, thus became private property.

The materialistic world becomes destructive sources of nature which are common in contemporary green theory (ecocriticism). The Italian geographer Massimo Quaini has observed, "Marx denounced the spoliation of nature before a modern bourgeois ecological conscience was born." (Foster, 9)

Eco-Marxism is the interrelations of social class, capitalist production, and oppression, from Marxism, and the feminist realization. So, the domination and exploitation of nature is an extension of these other systems of oppression.

Marx notes that agricultural prices on the market are determined by the production costs on fertile fields. This means that anyone working on more fertile soil, and hence producing more, for surplus profit. so they try to make the land 'more productive' in the short term by using pesticides, machines, hybrid seeds. Their monopolization of the access to or supply of land and its resources by landowners. In this way, they use the natural resources as the destructive way. The domination of environment is taken as a product of domination within society. Human beings take it as their right to exploit the nature. So the Eco-Marxists compare the exploitation of nature with the power structures within the society.

## **Deep Ecology**

Deep Ecologists, Arne Naess, Bill Devall and George Sessions have taken conceptual positions in their philosophy of nature. Deep Ecology believes in the fundamental interconnectedness of all life forms and natural features. The term *deep ecology* was coined by Arne Naess, a Norwegian philosopher, in 1973. Deep Ecology believes in the basic, interrelated of all life forms and natural features. It believes that anthropocentric thinking has alienated humans from their natural surroundings and caused them to utilize it.

The foundations of deep ecology are the basic perceptions which comprise ecological consciousness. Deep ecology stresses on the point that humans should not use environment as a resource. An individual must act as a citizen in this natural world and it is his responsibility to save the environment. Deep ecology points the unity of man with the biotic and non-biotic environment. Man should live in peace with nature and must protect it rather than use it as a resource to exploit. Ethics of deep ecology stresses that for richness and diversity of life in this world one must realize the deep ecological values. Human beings have no right to exploit this diversity and natural beauty of the world to fulfill his daily needs.

Gary Snyder represents a combination of deep ecology and social ecology. Social ecology means that social and environmental problems are intertwined. Deep Ecologists believe that nature has the same natural rights as human beings. Thus, Deep Ecology proposes a respect not only for all life forms but also towards landscapes such as rivers and mountains.

Human population is increasing day by day which serves as a challenge for a sustainable development. Human interference with the natural world causes great harms to the environment. Deep ecology demands a shift from a human-centered to a nature-centered system of values. Deep ecology is an approach of ecocriticism which demands a sustainable development.

Deep ecology emphasizes the role of the individual or human being who is invited to behave as a citizen of the World and Earth and to take responsibility for it. Deep ecology formulated present human intervention with the non-human world is excessive, and the situation is rapidly worsening.

### **Environmental Justice**

Environmental justice movement is an important part of the ecocritical theory. Environmental justice movement emerged in India just as the movements for the rights of people, without considering their caste or race. It includes the sacredness of the mother earth. It aims to recognize intersections of social issues and environmental destruction. Everyone has right to remain free from the destruction of ecology. The environmental justice association is a united term for the efforts of poor communities to preserve themselves besides the dumping of toxic waste, the loss of their lands and livelihoods, the harmful contamination of their air, food and water, and the indifference of governments and corporations. It is mixture of social

rights and ecological protection that demands secure healthy life-giving surroundings for everybody.

### **Ecocentrism Vs Biocentrism**

Ecocentrism and Biocentrism endeavor to place the ecosystem at the center. Ecocentrism includes land ethics that focuses on protecting biotic and ecological relationships. It includes responsibility to nature as well as responsibility for nature. It is the core of a number of environmental positions that are focused on protecting holistic natural entities such as species, landscape and ecosystem. The classical conception of ecocentrism is found in environmental ethics. The environmental ethics focus on people and non-human such as plants and animals. Ecocentrists believe that traditional norms and ethical theories focus on the relationship between humans and non-humans (plants and animals).

Ecocentrism and Biocentrism focus on the natural world. Both encompass all environmental ethics that extend the status of the moral object from human beings to all living things in nature. Environmental ethics describes moral norms to govern our action with norms. These ethics calls for a rethinking of the relationship between humans and nature.

Ecocentrism is often confused within biocentrism. The biocentrists include intrinsically value an individual animals and plants, but only as individual organism. For the biocentrist, species are nothing more than the collection of individual organism. They believe that ecosystem is nothing more than collection of individual organism located in particular place. It means they consider ecosystem as an only place where individual organisms are kept. In contrast, ecocentrists locate intrinsic value more than individual organisms. Biocentrists often emphasize the value of individual organisms (only plants and animals), while ecocentrists tend to be characterized by a more holistic approach, giving value to species, ecosystems, or the earth as a whole.

### **Anthropomorphism and Zoomorphism**

Anthropomorphism is a term which allocates the human characteristics to the non-human. Animals and deities are shown as having certain human-like habits. Anthromorphic elements can be noticed in fairy tales and children's literature, where animals are shown as speaking like animals. Lewis Carroll's work *Alice's Adventures*

*in Wonderland* (1865) and Rudyard Kipling's work *The Jungle Book* (1894) are good examples of anthromorphism which animals are attributed human-like characteristics.

Zoomorphism is a term came under the theory of ecocriticism. It stands for Art that imagines humans as non-human or animals. It attributes animal form or other animal characteristics to humans. The word Zoomorphism is derived from two Greek *zoom* means animal and *morphe* which means form or shape and word *ism* stands for doctrine or theory. So it is a study of animal like shaped. It is also used as a literary technique for effective description of characters.

### **Eco-spirituality**

Ecospirituality has been defined as a spiritual correlation between human beings and the environment. Ecospirituality identifies the link between religion and environment. The image of God is reflected in nature as can be seen in spiritual poetry. The peace, which human beings can find in religion and spirituality, can also be found in the natural scenario. This concept is also known as *vasudhaiv kutumbakam*, refers to all human beings as well as other creatures living on earth as members of the same extended family.

It is based on the sacredness of nature, earth and universe. Non-violence means admiration for life in all its manifestations like human, non-human, animal, vegetable and mineral. It contracts with harmonies of natural resources and with respect for the natural order. It defines that the environment is God's gift to every person, so we have a responsibility towards nature, towards future generations and towards humanity as a whole. Eco-spirituality is community-oriented and here group of people designates interdependence with other ecosystems of the earth. The important feature of eco-spirituality is eco-feminism, the idea that the destruction of the earth is representatively linked to the domination of women.

Spirituality and moral principles shape our thoughts towards nature. Sustainable development includes spiritual and material progress without exploitation and destruction. Spiritual understanding and cooperation at the global level are necessary for the realization of the welfare and caring of all beings. Eco-

spirituality strengthens respect for nature. It influences and promotes sustainable development.

### **Ecopsychology**

Ecopsychology means the conscious and unconscious affinity between human and non-humans. It means that ecopsychology studies the relationship between human beings and the natural world through ecological and psychological principles. It widens away from the conservative view of psychology, which was based upon the significance of human mind in the world. It includes both the psychological and the environmental in connection.

The division of nature and human beings lead to suffering of environment and humans. There is impact of nature on human's mind. Sometimes, they have had positive experiences in the natural world and they wish to promote these experiences for others. Ecospirituality refers to the spiritual connection with God through nature. It emerges out of the realization of ecological crisis and damage of mother earth. The rising consciousness of environment demands the wellbeing of earth.

### **Ecocide**

The term Ecocide is associated with the destruction of the natural environment and it is a most important concern of eco criticism. It is recent term deals with the destructive effect of human action on natural environment. Glen A. Love talks about various types of ecological disaster in this physical environment i.e. destruction of ozone layer, deforestation, loss of ground water through desertification, killing of animals and toxic poisoning of water. Deforestation occurs primarily as a result of agriculture, fuel use and construction, wood harvesting, pasture-clearing for livestock animals, and expanding human settlements. Agriculture is main cause of deforestation. The most dramatic impact of cutting trees is a loss of habitat for millions of species. Animals are regarded by human beings as objects as they do not have any soul. A man treats them as they do not have the capability to realize the pain. This is the major reason that they are perceived as a commodity to be used in whichever way the man desire.

Ecocide is committed through exploitation of this planet. Killing or cutting of trees is refers as ecocide. Humans commit this ecocide to fill their daily needs which

leads to the destruction of this environment. According to Patrick Hossay a U.S environmental theorist, human species is committing suicide through industrialization. Humans are consciously or unconsciously exploiting this global environment.

### **Ecosphere**

Ecosphere is the biosphere of the earth that defines the communication between the living and non-living components. The over cutting of the world 's lasting great forests also effect the human settlement because the loss of land. The ground water's desertification, deforestation, contamination are main problems of human settlement. Ecosphere examines the importance of place and its influence. In the ecosystem everything is interrelated such as plants, animals, physical environment. In ecosphere this relation between the living and non-living things is studied and analyzed.

In this eco-system all the organisms live in balance with one another, biosphere which is continually changing and evolving. The environment is the necessary reading unit in the ecosystem, which explains a collection of interconnected living things such as plants, animals and the physical environment.

### **Tropes of ecocriticism**

Ecocritics focus on a variety of issues like the symbol of nature in literary works, nature writing as a genre, the environmental values expressed in a work, influence of metaphors on the treatment of land, place as a new critical category, impact of gender on writing, human's association with the natural world, idea of wilderness over a period of time. There are four tropes of this theory.

### **Pastoral**

The pastoral trope constructs idea of difference among urban and rural areas, often expressed by a retreat by the protagonist with the original purity. The poetry of Wordsworth and other writers of the Romantic age also depict the contrasts between relationships of alienation in the urban environment and the relationship of renewal in the contact with rural environment. The key fundamentals of pastoral trope are retreat and return refreshed. Pastoral texts depict the antidotal as well as harmonious environment.

### **Wilderness**

In the wilderness trope, characters are challenged by the environment which is represented as difficult and threaten the antagonist. Wilderness stands for a

space that is separated from humans. Shakespeare observed wilderness as morally pure and unsophisticated. Ecocriticism presents a dualistic view of nature. Wilderness refers to the places which are visited by human beings but not treated as home. Wilderness refers to the places which are visited by human beings but not treated as home. According to human point of view that places should be turned in to gardens for human use. These are places you visit, rather than a place you live in as home.

This approach examines the ways in which wilderness is constructed and valued. Representations of wilderness in British and American culture can be separated into a few main tropes. Primary, previous wilderness displays wilderness as a place beyond the borders of civilization, wherein wilderness is treated as a threat, a place of exile (62). This trope can be seen in Biblical tales of creation and early British culture. New World wilderness is seen in portrayals of wilderness in later American literature, applies the pastoral trope of the retreat to wilderness itself.

### **Apocalypse**

The third trope is the trope of apocalypse; it includes the representation of death, war, and famine and pestilence as depicted in the biblical book of exposure and shapes this trope. As described in The Bible, Apocalypse is the final destruction of the world. This trope also suggests the widespread destruction of environment. This trope delineates the profound changes to human beings as they are forced to adapt to altered environmental conditions. In Bible apocalypse is presented as doom's day, the day when whole world will come to an end. Tidal waves, nuclear wars, Climate change and ecological disaster can be better understood in apocalyptic sense and can become the reason of the end of the world. With the advancement of civilization, environment richness of the world is declining and apocalyptic imagination views no hope for earth. Aim of the ecocritic is to save the earth and inspires the humans to contribute in it.

Rachel Carson 's classic *Silent Spring* (1962) highlights the dangers of pesticide and great environmental disputes of the twentieth century. Nuclear wars, global ecological disaster, tidal waves, bio-engineering, man-made or natural are depicted in this trope. The idea of the apocalypse is the older one which symbolizes the final destruction of the world.

## **Georgic**

This trope deals with the current concerns for agricultural practices. It also defines how these can make sure humans and ecological crisis in the future. For Garrad, the works of American writer Wendell Berry presents an example of georgic. His poetry and fictions describe the use and care of environment which takes into account the needs of the generation. His figurative devices depict human's relationships with the environment.

Human activities are responsible for the degradation brought to the environment. The earth has been largely affected by the global warming. One of the main reasons for the destruction of natural resources and dominion over the animals is the belief that the humans are in the centre of the universe and they can use nature and animals for their own benefit. The relations between humans and nature have become the relation of power and powerlessness respectively.

Natural environment influences humans, climate change and weather conditions and humans. Ecologists describe rustic ways of life and they are worried about natural shortage and pollution of the natural world. Ecocriticism includes everything related to the natural resources for i.e. mountain, sky, earth, sea, water and forest etc. It also consists landscape and their interaction with natural elements. It articulates the symbiotic relationship between land and landscape. Ecocritic observes human perception of wilderness and deforestation.

## **Major Critics of Ecocriticism**

The natural environment has always defined a significant part of many literary texts and with the increase of ecological problems and issues, writers have specifically focused on environmental problems. Ralph Waldo Emerson was an American essayist. He has expressed the philosophy of Transcendentalism in his landmark essay "Nature" (1836) is a series of essays represents ten years of study in religion, philosophy and literature. The concept of Transcendentalism was directed by Ralph Waldo Emerson in the early 19th-century American school of philosophy. It stands for essential unity of all creation and a deep continuity between nature and humans. Nature leads to spiritual reality and to the unity of one can gain access to transcendental truth, which has the highest value. To understand spiritual truths, sensitivity, and communion with nature must be developed. Philosophy of

transcendentalism argued for liberation from tradition and unity of human and nature. Close association with nature leads to ultimate spiritual reality.

Emerson, in his essay he talks about the mystical unity of nature. He urges his readers to enjoy a relationship with the environment. Emerson's conversation concerns with the religious harmony of nature. He urges his scholars to get pleasure from a connection with the environment. He spoke the philosophy of transcendentalism in his landmark essay "Nature". To the Transcendentalists, everything is related to divine spirit. Divine spirit is omniscient and supreme mind which is present in nature and humans. The existence of the divine spirit in human soul and nature makes a close and direct understanding of the god.

He also talks about the impact that human have had on the environment and our multifaceted dealings with the material circumstances of the earth. He describes that nature provides spiritual nourishment and also fulfills individual's material needs, aesthetic sentiments. Emerson distinguishes three kinds of beauty in nature that is the beauty of external structure, another is spiritual beauty, by means of good quality as its fundamental nature; and the intellectual beauty distinguished by a look for the complete arrange of things. In this work, Emerson discusses on the subject of the spiritual harmony of nature and urges his readers to take pleasure in a relationship with the environment.

Peter Barry included a section named Ecocriticism in his *Beginning Theory: An Introduction to Literary and cultural theory* (2002), describes that one of the most common concerns of ecocriticism is the study of the relationship between the human and the non-human, throughout human cultural history. As Peter Barry opines an ecocriticism is "to re-read major literary works from an eco-centric perspective, with particular attention to the representation of the natural world" (264). Main concern of ecocriticism is to study different works of literature from an ecocritical perspective. Environmental problems of the past and present are studied to question the ideological structures that are responsible for environmental destruction and biases.

*The Comedy of Survival* (1972) by J. Meeker has been credited as the beginning of the work in the field of literary ecology, the study of relationships between the literary arts and scientific ecology. Joseph. W. Meeker, in the book *The*

*comedy of survival: Studies in Literary Ecology* (1972), has presented an environment philosophy which has later dominated the scenario of ecocriticism. According to him the reason of environment degradation is cultural tradition of west that treats culture and nature as different ones. The ecology refers to the study of biological themes and relationships which shows in literary works. It discovers what roles have been played by literature in ecological of human species.

Joseph Meeker expands his consideration of comedy and tragedy, not as theatrical ornamentation for humor and sadness but rather as forms of adaptive behavior in the natural world. In this work Meeker has studied the comedy and tragedy not as dramatic patterns of amusement and sadness but as modes of adaptive behavior. According to him tragedy is the outcome of western anthropocentric views and has its roots in heroic myths. Tragedy does not portray life as natural but present life in a fateful misrepresentation. Tragedy is characterized by a struggle between heroes and forces greater than themselves. These forces can be hatred, passionate love, morality nature and heroes die in their attempt to overcome these forces and as a result his sacrifice he is rewarded with heavenly remembrance. Meeker opines that this tragedy is a cultural artifact which seems to be unnatural and does not presents a good understanding of life. Tragedy presents human as superior to nature which justifies the view of their right to exploit the nature.

Glen A. Love's text *Practical Ecocriticism: Literature, Biology, and the Environment* (2003) visibly describe the better understanding of science ecology. Ecocriticism is concerned with nature inscription and ecological themes in all literature. According to Glen A. Love, Ecocriticism focuses on the inter connections between the material world and human culture, specifically the artistic language and literature. He has listed the potential threats to the earth such as nuclear holocaust, chemical or germ warfare, radiation poisoning, growth of the world's population. The potential threats to human life on earth evidences are global warming, destruction of the protective ozone layer, harmful effects of acid rain, cutting of the great forests, the critical loss of topsoil and groundwater, destruction of plant and animal species. There are profound threats to our biological survival.

Lawrence Buell, is one of the most famous and persistent ecocritic. Lawrence Buell defines, Ecocriticism as a study of the relationship between literature and the environment conducted in a spirit of commitment to environmentalist praxis. Ecocritical theory provides equal importance humans and non-humans in literature. Ecocriticism has its important goal that it is the study that how individual behave towards nature. Buell describes affinity between American writers to indicate the homeland and nature. He identifies two phases of ecocriticism, the first wave ecocriticism and the second wave of ecocriticism. As discussed, the first wave ecocritics focused on such genres as natural writings, nature verses and wilderness fiction. Second wave ecocritics inclined towards environmental justice issues and a social ecocriticism that takes urban and degraded landscapes.

Lawrence Buell is an ecocritical theorist. His work "*The Future of Environmental Criticism: Environmental Crisis and Literary Imagination*" presents the over view of ecocriticism as movement. This work deals major issues of the ecocriticism. He has presented his view that environment studies should be an integral part of literature and cultural studies. His second most important work is "*The Environmental Imagination: Thoreau, Nature Writing, and the Formation of American Culture*" in which Thoreau's Walden is a central reference and serves as a touch stone and a quest for environment consciousness. In this work he also discusses the problems of American literary pastoral. He proposes to found new ways of perceiving man's relation to nature especially during industrialization. He had also examined environment themes in non-fiction from colonial times to present. In this he focused on problems of American literary pastorals. Buell discusses the influence of culture and ideologies on literary representation of nature and place.

William Rueckert published an essay titled *Literature and Ecology: An Experiment in Ecocriticism*. His purpose was to focus on the application of ecology and ecological concepts to the study of literature. In his views, ecology as a science, as a discipline, as the basis for human visualization has the greatest importance to the present and future of the world. He describes that the possible relations between literature and nature are examined in terms of ecological perceptions.

In the book *Ecocriticism*, Greg Garrad defines Ecocriticism is closely related with environmental related development in philosophy and political theory.

development in philosophy and political theory. Development of insight earlier critical movements, ecofeminists, social ecologists and environmental justice advocate seeks a synthesis of environmental and societal concerns. Greg Garrad defines ecocriticism as the study of the relationship between the human and the non-human. Greg Garrard defines that Ecocriticism is unique amongst contemporary literary and educational theories because of its close relationship with the science of ecology. Ecofeminism is a branch of ecocriticism that gives importance to female and nature and their oppression and domination in society. It focuses on the similarities and interconnections in the way women and nature are treated in societies.

Cheryll Glotfelty also declares that Ecocriticism takes as its subject the interconnections between nature and culture, specifically the cultural facts of language and literature. The subject of ecocriticism is the connection between culture and nature. In the beginning years, it presented its interest in nature writing, wilderness narrative and romantic poetry but in the last few years, it turns to cultural ecocriticism. Cheryll Glotfelty is the renowned originator of Ecocriticism in the United States of America. Cheryll Glotfelty talks about association among literature and natural world and in her essential works. She put importance on Natural world and humanity.

Ramchandra Guha is a most important Indian environmental historian. His seminal texts *The Unquiet woods* (1989) and *Environmentalism, a global history* (2000) are his contribution in this field. His works deal with environmentalism as a movement and how it was started. Guha opines that Ecocriticism develops a language and symbolism that helps the people to think. He has divided the movement of environmentalism into two parts. Nineteenth and early twentieth centuries are considered as the first wave of movement which is led by naturalists and philosophers as a reaction against industrialization with three different ideals to establish a proper relation between man and nature.

The historians have been writing environmental histories. They explain the reciprocal relationship between humans and land. They have observed that economic modes of production, environmental conditions, and cultural values are interconnected. The most famous historian Donald Worster observed the

connection between the contemporary global environmental crisis and the function of ethical systems. If people overlook ecological values and over use the natural sources, the human life in the country suffers. Industrial revolution again remade the ecology, economy and conceptions of nature in the region. The other writer Merchant argues that past ways of relating to the land could become an inspiration for renewing resources and achieving sustainability in the future. Past ways of relating to land will help people to establish ethical relationship with nature in the context of globalization and climate change.

Poets like William Wordsworth, Shelley and Keats has portrayed the beauty of nature during the time of romantic period in English literature. The eighteenth century was a time when nature was the main theme of literature and Man's relation with nature was emphasized. In the works of words worth nature influences the man. In his works, he has manifested the rivers mountain and flowers. Wordsworth is very concerned with the naming of people, places and locations in his poems. He concerns with the modern man's neglectful treatment of Nature. Wordsworth's autobiographical poem *The Prelude* and *The Excursion* are extensive hypothetical suggestion on the link of humanity and nature. Ecocriticism is perceived as the relationship between nature and culture, especially in the cultural artifacts of language and literature as from the theoretical perspective, ecocriticism connects the human and the non-human creatures.

Many thinkers have raised their voice against environment destruction. This was a time when writers started writing consciously about the protection of nature. Rachel Carson, a nature author and marine biologist, is one of the pioneers who raised her voice against environment injustice. Her book *Silent Spring* (1962) deals with the excessive use of pesticides and its bad impact on birds. Rachel Carson points that how these synthetic pesticides are entered in to the food chain and is harmful for everyone and also is the major reason of cancer. Her book shows her concern for environment problems caused by these synthetic pesticides. She had accused chemical industries and public officials for ignorance. This conscious gave birth to an environment movement. Consciousness of bad impacts of pesticides leads to the ban of DDT in America for agriculture uses. This book brought environmental concerns to the American public. After that U.S Environmental Protection agency was created to protect the environment.

Ecocriticism depicts how the life of humans is linked to the life of nature, which includes all the members of ecosphere such as soils, rivers, animals, rocks, trees, etc. This theory emerged in 1990s. Cheryll Glotfelty is the recognized originator of Ecocriticism in the United States of America. There are multiple radical forms like ecofeminism, Deep ecology, ecopsychology, eco-spirituality and eco-marxism. Environmental crises are a result of humanity's detachment from the natural world. Through these ancient examples Buell assert that the environmental discourse has been existing within both individual thoughts traditions and worldwide. All this shows that the environmental discourse is an emerging discourse with the very ancient times. History shows how human beings led a harmonious life with nature during pre- historic times and it also captures the loss of the harmony with the arrival of Science and Technology. In the ancient times, nature and human lived in harmony and a balance was maintained between the two. But now man has adopted a different attitude towards nature which resulted in disruption of ecological balance. As we have discussed various critics of ecocriticism theory who defines their views regarding humans and nature. The ecocritics seeks the possible solution for the problems of human beings and nature. Literature always deals with the happenings in the world.

The main concern of the present research work is to discuss the ecological perspective in the comparative study of the fictions of Louise Erdrich and Jane Urquhart. The two interesting and distinctive novel *The Stone Carvers* by Jane Urquhart and *Tracks* by Louise Erdrich are selected from the ecocritical perspective. The selected writers' emphasis the connection between human and non- human world. These novels bring out the inhumanity of the human world whose actions destroy the non-human world. The above novels are at excellence to be read through the aspects of ecocriticism. The next chapter portrays the potentiality of comparative literature within the above selected novels.

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## Chapter 2

### Potentiality of Comparative Analysis in *Tracks* and *The Stone Carvers*

The comparative study of two texts is not only the study of two stories and styles, but complete analysis of two culture, language, folk and themes. The etymological formation of word comparative means the analogy of two terms. Literature is a documentation of human emotions and feelings. Consequently, comparative literature comprises analogous elements of society. That is why, comparative literature consists of emotions and feelings of the human beings who are living in a particular community, and group or they are concerned with a particular movement that is prevailing in the society. The main focus of comparative literature is to find out common areas between two kinds of literature, to study the literature is in comparison, not in isolation. So, comparative literature is the study of inter-relationship between any two or more than two significant literary works or literature.

The present comparative study deals with American literature and Canadian literature. Louise Erdrich belongs to American literature while Jane Urquhart belongs to Canadian literature. *Tracks* and *The Stone Carvers* are the texts written by these authors on the view point of ecocriticism. These writers have presented the destructive condition of nature in selected texts. Though both the writers belong to the different nationalities, they have projected the similar situation of destruction of environment. Both the writers have very well portrayed the contemporary situations and culture of their respective countries. Instead of being related to different culture, society and religion, they exhibit some common feature of their writings. The definition of comparative literature given by Bijay Kumar Das: -

The simple way to define comparative literature is to say that it is a comparison between the two literatures. Comparative literature analyses the similarities and dissimilarities and parallels between two literatures. It further studies themes, modes, conventions and use of folk tales, myths in two different literatures or even more. (3)

Comparative literature deals with the information of more than one national language. It means the knowledge of other disciplines for the study of literature. It

is an academic field dealing with the literature of two or more different linguistic, artistic or nationalized groups. Comparative literature involves the study of texts across cultures, that it is interdisciplinary and that it is concerned with patterns of connection in literatures across both time and space. The comparatists make use of new tools and techniques for examine the features of a work and other regulation such as anthropology, philosophy, sociology, psychology, history of art while studying the comparative literature. It involves a study of literature which employs comparison as its major instrument.

Comparative literature shows the relationship between the two texts or two authors in one country or in the different country. The comparative study of *Tracks* and *The Stone Carvers* is comparing two different kinds of literature and cultures. The purpose of this comparative study of these two texts is to discover the resemblances and difference between two dissimilar cultures, societies, literatures and countries. As per the focus of comparative literature, the present study tries to find out the common areas between two different kinds of literature, to study the literature is in comparison. Authors from different languages try to find out, the elements of unity, in different languages and different nations.

In 1860 in Germany it came out as 'Literature Compare.' It got recognition as a study in 1897. Comparative literature will be studied within the references of other literature. It is the study of national literatures in relation to each other. The main objective of comparative literature is to study the interrelationship between different kinds of literature. The term comparative literature has common characteristics with related terms and conceptions such as universal literature, international literature, general literature, and world literatures. Rene Wellek gives explanation the term as:

An examination of literary texts (including works of literary theory and criticism) in more than one language, through an investigation of contrast, analogy, provenance or a study of literary relations and communications between two or more groups that speak different languages. (2)

During 19<sup>th</sup> century, in England it is the outcome of the reaction against autonomy. The beginners of this study were Romans and its beginning is in Christian era. They compared the work of writers and poets of Greek and Roman

and also find out similarities between their works. Comparative literature uses its multiple-dimensions like-linguistic, literary, spiritual, economic, community and historical factors of different societies. Louise Erdrich and Jane Urquhart are the writers of two selected texts, belong to two different cultures. The social and economic condition of the both writers and selected texts are different from each other. Although the text and characters are different from culture, religion and economic conditions, but the historical and social factors are similar in these two texts. Women have been given the second position in both societies similar to nature, and not only women but also the destruction of nature is presented in the texts. Both the selected novels describe the connection man vs nature, woman vs culture. They belong to different culture but there is similarity to define the condition of natural conditions.

R. S Pathak has contributed in the development of theory of comparative Literature. R.S. Pathak has signified well-known aspects of traditional comparative studies i.e. Folklore, Influence, Genres and Themes. Pathak says:

Mathew Arnold made meaningful efforts in English world and emphasized strongly the significance of the comparative approach to literary works. He wrote in a letter in 1848, "every critic should try and possess one great literature at least besides his own and more the unlike his own, the better. (Dhawan22)

In comparative study, there is not an only comparison of styles and texts but other methods such as explanations, classification, interpretation, narration, estimation are employed. The comparators will find out, the similarities and dissimilarities among different works that he has undertaken for the purpose of comparison and justification lie in the detail that his approach ought to be unbiased and impartial to reach the eventual truth. Comparative literature suggests about the existence, truth, fact as a basis for historical, reasoning, cultural, discussion and beliefs living different people of different countries.

Jane Urquhart has also portrayed the contemporary situations through his writings. Erdrich has presented the life and problems of Ojibwa community. She has depicted the life of Native American people, culture and society. Deforestation and

environment degradation is the major concern of hilly areas exhibited by Erdrich and Urquhart.

Henry Remak in his book on *Comparative Literature* depicts two languages, one source language and second is the target language. Further the scope of comparative literature extended the importance of single literature. He describes the connection between literature and other areas of knowledge. Here he means to say that the comparative study is not limited to text but deep and proper understanding of literature. He said comparators should need the knowledge of beliefs of those areas. He describes comparative literature:

... is the study of literature beyond the confines of one particular country, and the study of the relationships between literature on one hand and other areas of knowledge and belief, such as the arts for e.g. painting, sculpture, architecture, music, philosophy, history, the social sciences, (e.g. politics, economics, sociology), the sciences, religion, etc., on the other. In brief it is the comparison of one literature with another or others, and the comparison of literature with other spheres of human expression. (17)

The three important theoreticians of comparative literature are Rene Wellek, Rene Etiemble and Harry Levin. They define comparative literature in three different ways. First is that it is the study of verbal literature, which is the important part of culture. Here the main focus is on the folk-tale themes, their appearance, expansions, how and when the folk-tale themes get the higher position in literature. Subsequently they define the study of relationships between two or more literatures. There is one thing, which gets attention that literature is mainly known for its languages. In post-colonial period, there is an immense development in different kinds of literature which are English literature, American literature and Indian English Literature. In the third sense, they are identifying comparative literature with world literature. This concept of world literature came from Goethe's *Weltliterature*. The conception of this world literature is, no one country or nation has its own individuality, and the literature of all countries should be studied as one literature. (Das 3)

In world literature many scholars are studying literature, in Sanskrit, but during that time, literature was also written in some other languages like Marathi and Sindhi. The medieval Indian reader almost felt the existence of links between texts written in different languages. Few literatures were attracting with each other, due to these new themes and genres are coming. With the existence of Persian in Indian literature, its influence can be seen on many works. The interaction between two languages, created few new languages like Persian and Khariboli and created Hindi manuscript. Hindi developed into the language of fictitious expressing, in the seventh century. The appearance of Sanskrit presents a significant role in the growth of comparative literature. Rene Wellek in *Concepts of Criticism* presents:

...comparative literature is identical with the study of literature independent of linguistic, ethnic and political boundaries. It cannot be confined to a single method: description, characterization, interpretation, narration, explanation, evaluation are used in its discourse just as much as comparison. (19)

The comparative study of *Tracks* and *The Stone Carvers* focus on views of situations and circumstances of texts. It is not merely focuses on the theoretical perspectives of a text, rather it analyses the methods in which a culture and a society are described. The study of texts shows that how these novels are emphasised on social problems. Both writers are using different techniques and methodology, to present themes.

Comparative literature is relatively a new term. It is considered that it is an outcome of globalization. Due to globalization nations and people came closer to each other which results in the comparative study of their literature, culture and social structures. In this way, the theory of comparative literature emerges. Anthropologists and ecologist all have started playing the role of comparators and started comparing the cultures of different countries by underlying similarities and dissimilarities in it.

It consists of various motifs to study literary texts. Firstly, the qualities of literary texts can be better defined by comparing it with different languages. Secondly is comparative literature providing a balanced view of different kinds of literature. The third motif of comparative literature, is not to separate a literature from

other literature. The one important thing of this study is the study of different national traditions, which is only possible by comparing literature of literary text. It includes experiences of human life and behavior as a whole. The pattern of this dissertation on a comparative is similar to the motifs of comparative literature. The comparison between *Tracks* and the *Stone Carvers*, bring various new points to analyses and this comparison between two texts, create balance among two kinds of literature, between American Literature and Canadian literature.

## Theme

The thematological categories in comparative literature focus on various themes, myths and artistic strategies. It is main idea of the text in any literature. The environmental movements bring into consideration of various themes in novels such as *Tracks and The Stone Carvers*. Dhawan deals with themes, motifs and patterns such as:

... includes various thematological categories such as motif, recurrent images etc. the study of themes may also take into account 'associations' of all types governed and directed by variety of psychological and cultural factors which establish rules and patterns for them. (24)

The relationship of man and nature is the important aspect in both novels. Nature has a strong impact on the characters' minds and lives in *The Stone Carvers* and the *Tracks*. Erdrich writes about Chippewa community's shortage and destruction. While narrating his story, Nanapush tells his granddaughter Lulu Lamartine that how they had tolerated such a hard time during the Dawes Act. The struggle for survival is one of the similar themes in both novels. In *Tracks*, characters in the novel are survivors of not only the environment, famines, and epidemics, but also the historical reality of genocide, dispossession, and deprivation. Jane Urquhart's *The Stone Carvers* has drawn attention to the fact that in the present world the more important problem is exploitation of land rather than the exploitation of race and class. There are interconnections between nature, gender, race, and class.

Erdrich explores the mysteries of religion, culture, and family ties in her stories and novels. She raises virtually all of the issues important to an understanding of the human condition: accidents of birth and parentage, falling in love, generosity, greed, psychological damage, joy, motherhood, separation, and death. In *The Stone Carvers*, the main theme is obsession, Allward's obsession with stone, Klara's obsessions for love, Eamon's obsession to fly, Tilman's obsession to leave his restrictive home are major themes. Obsession, love for nature, isolation, frustration are recurrent ideas of these novels. Both the novels represent the main theme human being's interaction within nature.

## **Genre**

A literary genre is a part of literary composition. Genre has been an important element of comparative literature. Most common genres in literature are epic, poetry, novel and short story. There is always a history behind the evolution of any genre. Louise Erdrich and Jane Urquhart are well-known writers for their novels and poems.

Novel is considered straight forward as compared to short stories and other genres. It consists of several numbers of characters, plots and incidents is considered straight forward as compared to other genres. It consists of several numbers of characters, plots and incidents.

Louise Erdrich and Jane Urquhart both are prominent novelist and has perfectly expressed their views through their novels and she is a pioneer in children's literature in America. As Erdrich is 21<sup>th</sup> century American writer, contributed a lot in modern American literature. Urquhart is the most influential Canadian novelist and. Though both the writers have written poems also, but are well known as novelists.

## **Symbols and motifs**

A symbol represents idea, image, belief and action. The motif is an image, character, sound, and a word. In the novel *Tracks*, the image of the bear is seen throughout the novel. The bear is most notably associated with the Pillager family; especially Fleur. The lake and the water also take on a much darker symbol, such as death. In the other novel *The Stone Carvers*, the bird is symbolizing freedom and

this freedom is towards Tilman. The pond is symbolic meaning of the state of opposition between nature and machine. Jane Urquhart describes the pond where Klara and Eamon swim and love to each other's. Klara prefers to live near with nature. The most important symbols in the novel are pond, water, airplane migrating birds. In both texts symbols are related with natural imagery and human beings.

## **French school**

In the 20<sup>th</sup> century during the time of World War 2, the time was known as empiricist and positivist approach, known as French school. In it, scholars mainly discarded about the origin and influence of the works of two different writers. Literary comparative studies are linked to history. The originators of this school define comparative literature as bindings between two or more literatures. The French school of comparative literature describes it as a branch of literary study. It creates a relation between two linguistically and internationally different kinds of literature.

In French school, its fields of study are literary schools and genres, ideological echoes, image echoes and verbal echoes. Comparators must find a connection between them. The ideological history of a nation is generally formed by the history of philosophy, religion, ethics, culture and politics. It made a distinction between influence, reception, borrowing and imitation. Influence is an idea and theme that are affecting one literature or language from one to another. French school is relating with literary and non-literary and direct and in-direct influence. The concept of 'literary influence' emerged in the type of comparative study that tries to trace the mutual relation between two or more literary works. This sort of study is the touchstone of the French comparative literature. In many cases, influence can exist between two different writers, without there being any direct relation between them because of the language barrier.

There are some important concepts such as imitation and borrowing. Imitation is a technique wherever author takes exacting part of any foreign work and demonstrates it just in its unique form exclusive of viewing his/her inventiveness. While in case of borrowing, the writer borrows any foreign work and reshape it in such a way which suits the experience of his/her own countrymen. Both the writers are influenced by their culture.

Literary influence is the relation between two or more literary works. This is the main discussion point of the French school of comparative literature. Direct influence is that which came in existence because of direct contact between two writers. The comparatists interested in emphasizing the direct influence between different writers are in this way as they verify an actual relation between them, such as personal contacts or letters. In some cases, influence is seen between two writers, without any direct relation between them, because of languages problem.

Mostly writers have indirect relation between them, with their journals and periodicals and sometimes through translations. If there is such type of contact between two writers, it is considered as indirect influence. In further passive influence is observed when the writer discovers any formation connected to any priest figure or literary work and gets an adviser to write in reaction to that exacting literary creation. It clearly established a relationship between two linguistically and globally diverse literature. The French school studies as well as analyses the relationship of impact between. They fixed two conditions, first is it studies literary texts and at the same time it will study how that particular text is influenced or impacted.

Jane Urquhart and Louise Erdrich have written about human beings and nature associations in literature in selected texts. Both the writers are influenced by their childhood memories and current circumstances. Jane Urquhart claims to have been strongly influenced by the Irish cultural revivalist Lady Gregory. Jane Urquhart is fascinated by her own Irish roots, makes the connection with Gregory and ultimately links her to the Irish immigration experience. On the other hand, Louise Erdrich has created landscapes from her experience and imagination and she is directly influenced by her heritage. These landscapes become as real to her readers as their own hometowns. She was influenced by Argus, North Dakota and a town like a place where she grew up. She defines these places in her works. Both of the selected writers are inspired from their societies and from their circumstances. *Tracks* represent central problems of ethnicity and history seen from the perspective of Native American tradition.

## American school

American literature appeared in the half of the twentieth century. Henry Remark is the father of this school, states comparative literature should not be the study of its own subject, but it should be the link between subjects or subject areas. Comparison in the views of American school should be between two different kinds of literature, or between literature of the other forms like music, painting, philosophy, and religion. American school made an emergence and concentrated the study on universalism and interdisciplinary. American theorists are constructing the model of interdisciplinary. Bassant says about the American school that

“The American perspective on comparative literature was based from the start on ideas of interdisciplinary and universalism.” (48)

American Literature defines that due to difference in culture and tradition there are more things in common. Many American and Eastern European comparators used parallel theory. Parallelism claims that there are affinities between two different kinds of literature. Reference of one text to another is intertextuality. It is the relation which is affecting the ways of reading another text. The corporatists of American school have a model of interdisciplinary study, which is neglected by French school. These models of interdisciplinary study go beyond the national, linguistic and political boundaries to study literature. Parallelism theory is based on the idea of similarities. This means that there are similarities in social and historical evaluation by individuals. Intertextuality means the relation between two literary texts or it is the reference to one text of other.

Both selected texts are presenting the images of parallelism. *The Stone Carvers*, Urquhart tells the story of immigrants from Europe settling in Ontario, where the settlers struggle against a harsh environment. Erdrich pays a special attention to gender in her novel about the immigrant struggle to belong in a new land and to construct a new identity. Both explore the mysteries of culture and family ties in her stories and novels. This notion of a connection between land and mindscapes has always been a fundamental characteristic in both texts.

Intertextuality is an interrelationship between texts, especially works of literature and the way that similar or related texts influence, reflect or differ from

each other. Erdrich's use of intertextuality is a natural process of using and reworking traditional family stories, mythical narratives, and community narratives to continue traditions of oral storytelling. Erdrich's fiction which has been discussed in the light of postmodernism is intertextuality, analyzed by Hertha D. Wong. Wong also observes that Erdrich's use of intertextuality becomes manifest in the interrelated novels.

### **Translation Studies**

Translation is yet another important component of Comparative Literature. In Comparative Studies translation has a significant place. Translations are valuable in bringing about similarities and dissimilarities between important works of literature. It is also very supportive in the field of research. Fitzgerald's translation of Omar Khayyam's Rubaiyat is a main point to be considered. The Translation should be as close to the original work so that it is possible to understand and evaluate the original literary work. Translation is the most important in comparative studies of world literatures as well as regional literatures.

Translation can be used as a tool for comparative study. Translation helps to comparative literature to grow an international approach in different subjects such as fictional, economic, societal, philosophical, spiritual, artistic, historical and artistic values. The comparatist who compares two literary works should be bi-lingual as well as a successful translator. Both text *Tracks* and *The Stone Carvers* are written in English. Jane Urquhart's novel *The Stone Carvers* is translated into French Language from English. Her works are translated into many foreign languages also. Her works are translated by novelists Roch Carrier. The other novel *Tracks* is written in English language and also translated in native tongue of the author.

As Comparative literature deals with two or more literatures, at a time, the subject of Comparative Studies generally explores various kinds of literatures of the world. Comparative study deals with the literatures from different countries or communities with different languages, cultures and traditions. *Tracks* being an American Text and *The Stone Carvers* a Canadian belong to different kinds of literature, cultures and nations, which indicates its wide scope for comparative study. Different genres, themes, influences, intertextuality and parallelism were located in both the texts. The appearance of these concepts in selected works

makes it clear that there is potential for comparative study in *Tracks* and *The Stone Carvers*. The next chapter describes the comparative study of the writers Louise Erdrich and Jane Urquhart.

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## Chapter 3

### **Louise Erdrich and Jane Urquhart: A Comparative Analysis**

This chapter presents a comparative study of Louise Erdrich and Jane Urquhart as authors. Both Erdrich and Jane grew up in different life conditions and culture and hence their early life, education, background, career as writers, influence of contemporary society and influence of their writings on other writers will be compared in the chapter. Different perspectives such as their social circumstances, themes, characterization and language of their writings would be examined in this chapter.

Jane Urquhart has been strongly influenced by the Irish cultural revivalist Lady Gregory. Jane Urquhart is fascinated by her own Irish roots that makes the connection with Gregory and eventually links her to the Irish immigration skill. She is also influenced by Emily Bronte and Charlotte Bronte. The idea of a connection between land and human has always been a fundamental characteristic of Canadian literature that is shown in the works of Urquhart. Contrary, Erdrich's fiction is influenced both by her heritage and her life experiences. She is Native American writers of the twentieth century. She is greatly influenced by the Shakespeare. She was introduced to the writing of Shakespeare early in life and was encouraged by her father to write her own stories. Erdrich's influence is shown with integrating traditional Native American language and mixing it with the English prose.

Karen Louise Erdrich and Jane Urquhart wrote in many genres such as novels, poetry and short stories etc. Erdrich was born in Little Falls, Minnesota on July 6, 1954. She is a daughter of a Chippewa Indian mother and a German-American father. She grew up in Wahpeton, North Dakota where her parents trained at the Bureau of Indian Affairs School. At an early age, Erdrich was inspired by her parents to write stories. In high school, Erdrich continued her writing by keeping a journal. In 1972, Erdrich was among the first women admitted to Dartmouth College.

Jane Urquhart was born on June 21, 1949, in Little Longlac, a small mining town in northern Ontario. Urquhart was elevated in the small mining settlement of Little Long Lac until she was five or six years old for the reason that her father was a mining engineer. After that, she moved with her family to Toronto. As a child, she was a voracious reader and she has referred Emily and Charlotte Bronte, Robert

Louis Stevenson, L. M. Montgomery, Frances Hodgson Burnett, and Charles Dickens as between her favorite authors. Attending junior college in Vancouver in the late 1960s, Urquhart returned to Ontario where she received a B. A. in English in 1971 from the University of Guelph. Urquhart began to a writing career in 1977, and then she starts working as a poet and then turning to fiction.

Louise Erdrich had published ten novels in North Dakota. *Love Medicine*, *The Beet Queen*, *Tracks*, *The Bingo Palace*, *Tales of Burning Love*, *The Antelope Wife*, *The Last Report on the Miracles at Little No Horse*, *The Master Butchers Singing Club*, *Four Souls*, and *The Painted Drum*. She joined and wrote novels with her husband Michael Dorris. Her poetry and short fiction have appeared in the Paris Review. She lives in Minnesota, where she owns the bookstore Birch bark Books. Her poems are *Jacklight*, *Baptism of Desire*, and *Original Fire: Selected and New Poems*.

On the other side, Jane Urquhart published many novels including *The Whirlpool*, *Changing Heaven*, *Fragment of a Novel in Progress*, *Away*, *The Underpainter*, *The Stone Carvers*, *A Map of Glass*, *Sanctuary Line*. Urquhart has also written three books of poetry: *False Shuffles*, published in 1982, *I am Walking in the Garden of His Imaginary Palace*, and *The Little Flowers of Madame de Montespan*. (Boyd)

Louise Erdrich and Jane Urquhart were awarded with many prizes. Erdrich is a receiver of the 1975 Academy of American Poets Prize and the Best Fiction Award from the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters. Her novel *The Round House* won the 2012 National Book Award. *The Beet Queen* was nominated in Weekly's best books (1986) and won the National Magazine Fiction award. She won the National Book Award finalist, for *The Last Report on the Miracles at Little No Horse*, 2001. She became Associate Poet Laureate of North Dakota in 2005.

On Contrary, Jane Urquhart's *The Stone Carver*, was nominated for Giller prize. Urquhart's fourth novel, *The Underpainter*, won the Governor General's Award for fiction in 1997. Jane Urquhart's sixth novel, *A Map of Glass* (2005), returns to 19th-century Ontario to present another dramatic family saga, that of Andrew Woodman's timber baron ancestors. Jane Urquhart was the recipient of the Marion Engel Award.

Erdrich's novels deal with her childhood memories. The novel *The Stone Carvers* describes the landscape of Ontario; her native land. *The Bingo Palace* weaves a story of spiritual pursuit with elements of modern reservation life. It portrays contemporary life on a Chippewa reservation in North Dakota. These novels are connected to one another, sharing a setting in the North Dakota landscape and a community of characters whose lives frequently intersect. (Chornokur 18)

Erdrich and Urquhart have explained few similar themes in their different writings. The survival of settlers in a harsh environment, the destruction of nature by industry, an artist's approach to nature, and the consequence of the First World War are main themes that occur frequently in Urquhart's work. Destruction and change are probably the two themes in her works. On the other side, Louise Erdrich describes issues that deal with the human condition, accidents of birth and parentage, falling in love, generosity, greed, psychological damage, joy, alienation, vulnerability, differentness, parenting, aging as the major themes of Erdrich's works.

The central theme of colonialism is defined in Erdrich's works and she defined the home and the land, where identity is clearly constructed out of climate. Her works define the natural world and Ojibwa tribal culture and tradition. Louise Erdrich also defines that the wildlife and landscape is impacted by colonialism. As Louise Erdrich explains, “

Native land is under huge pressure from the fossil fuel industry, the mining industry, the nuclear industry. In every day it can be taken, and will be exploited or taken. If we want an opportunities for our children and for our people, we have to protect the earth. (17)

Urquhart's themes present ecological consideration and awareness of nature. In *The Stone Carvers*, the theme of art is described by Joseph Becker, teaches wood carving to his grandchildren Klara and Tilman. Klara is also inculcating in the art of sewing by her mother, and she is eager to practice both crafts. Her later novels *The Underpainter*, *The Stone Carvers*, and *A Map of Glass* indicate the exploration of art. The themes of memory, storytelling, and the construction of narrative identity developed in *The Stone Carvers*. There is the

appearance of the connection between the individual and her community, as well as between physical and emotional realities in her works.

Both the writers explained their actual life experience of native land. In Erdrich's *Tracks*, Nanapush tells about the Chippewa struggle to protect their land and culture. Native people struggled for their land and survival. In her works, the land is the symbol of Ojibwa identity, community and survival. She defines the crisis of history and identity. Like Erdrich, Urquhart's novel, *The Stone Carvers*, Urquhart tells the story of immigrants from Europe settling in Ontario, where the settlers move violently against a harsh environment. *Tales of Burning Love*, Erdrich's sixth novel, set in her North Dakota landscape, indirect with the mysterious powers of love in the tale of four widows; comparing notes at the funeral of the man they each had once married. The novel *The Antelope Wife* defines the lives of two Ojibwa families living in Minneapolis. So, Louise Erdrich's novels made up of several stories about the people on a Chippewa reservation in North Dakota. On the other hand, like Erdrich, many of Urquhart's works are placed on Ontario, her native land.

Erdrich's first book *Jacklight* is a inspiring and agreeable volume of poetry which describes everyday situations with mythic qualities. Erdrich's literary book-length publications began in 1984 with a collection of poems, *Jacklight*. It represents the exploitation of nature by hunting. On the other hand, Urquhart's *False Shuffles* that there is a relationship between poets and magicians, making numerous allusions to the art of prestidigitation.

The writing styles of both writers are explained in various ways. Louise Erdrich's language is concrete and specific and her allusions are restrained. Louise Erdrich has created landscapes from her experience and imagination that become as real to her readers as their own hometowns. For her, its Argus, North Dakota, towns like a place where she grew up. Erdrich's style and language reflect and presentation of cultures and boundaries between myth and reality. On the other hand, Urquhart uses intense and suggestive language in her works. She conjugates the themes of memory and unconsciousness with indirect speech acts and the latent possibilities of language.

Erdrich uses many narrators in her novels such as *Tracks* present the history of several Chippewa family members related by two individuals, Nanapush and

Pauline. Erdrich's *Love Medicine* is a book of complicated structure. There is not one narrator and a straightforward story. Like *Love Medicine*, in her novel *The Beet Queen*, there are numerous narrators describe the personal stories. In this novel, she explains the special stories of several white and mixed- blood Indian characters in Argus. In *The Bingo Place*, the story of the children and grandchildren of previous generations is told by different narrators. Louise Mengelkoch says,

Louise Erdrich is also a postmodernist novelist, although slightly less accessible because of complexity of her narrative technique. (Quennet 8)

On the other hand, Jane Urquhart in her works deals with several past events in the texts and Urquhart examine how the presence and knowledge of the narrator influence readers. Like Louise Erdrich, there is a duality in the narratives in her works such as *The Whirlpool* and *The Underpainter*. Jane Urquhart narrates the experience of the war in her works through the observer. It is through the observer that readers learn about the war in these retellings.

Erdrich's fictions use thoughts, visions, and miracles and passionate intensity of her characters. Her characters are closed to Native American culture. They are men and women of white community, Indian and mixed blood heritage. She writes about Native American life in the twentieth century. Erdrich also writes poetry and powerful images and complex metaphors that are found throughout her fiction. The characters of Erdrich are either victims of fate or the victims of traditional and cultural patterns set by their elders. Erdrich uses natural elements such as air, earth, fire and water to define her characters. Characters in *Tracks* and *The Beet Queen* are often of mixed racial heritage or sexual orientation. Erdrich employs numerous images and characters connected with the Chippewa mythology and Indian myths. On the other hand, Urquhart defines the characters that have a close relation with nature; her characters do not struggle for their identity.

Urquhart often uses her imaginary characters with chronological artists, such as Patrick and Robert Browning in *The Whirlpool*, Klara Becker and Walter Allward in *The Stone Carvers*, and Jerome McNaughton and Robert Smithson in *A Map of Glass*. (Omhovere1). Urquhart's description of landscape is discussed by her characters; these characters increase their powers through their close and magical

deal to the natural environment. Urquhart's characters are driven by an obsession for something and deal with their surroundings. In *The Whirlpool*, the natural phenomenon signifies an obsession for each character. In *The Underpainter*, the protagonist is obsessed with the northern scenery that he wants to cover. In these novels, the outer landscape is mirrored in the inner landscape of the characters, a landscape of obsessions, fears and hope (Federici 162). Fleda is completely obsessed with poetry and spends her days reading the works of Wordsworth and Browning.

On Contrary, in the works of Erdrich, characters are workers and strugglers. In the novel *Tracks*, Fleur and Pauline work in a butcher shop. In *Love Medicine*, women characters are house takers and male characters provide the financial support for the family.

Family stories have been a basic element in shaping Erdrich's narrative style and community narratives are natural extensions of Chippewa familial and clan identity and of identity shaped by a small-town community (Wong 181). The Characters tell the story of the past events. On the other hand, in Jane Urquhart's works deals with the present and past. The characters in Urquhart's works tell about the present situation and connected with the past. Like Erdrich, there are also family stories. Example, in Erdrich's novel *Tracks*, Nanapush tells to Lulu concerning the past, when her mother left her to Nanapush. He also describes the past incidents, when there is plague and their land is also sold to white people. On the other hand, in the novel *The Stone Carvers*, Father Gstyr talks about the present situation in Canada and this situation is connected with the past Bavaria where he had lived.

Both the novelist exhibit the female's condition in their works. In Erdrich's novels, women are isolated. Erdrich's novel *Love Medicine* represents the situation of female characters and their situation in society. In *Love Medicine* women are usually contributed mostly to the home-creating, take care of the house, children and also a husband. Women in *Love Medicine* are so closely connected to their homes. Erdrich's another novel *Tracks* too discusses the contrasting loyalties to assimilation and tradition by the two important characters Pauline and Fleur. Thus, the powerful women groups of past are depicted as isolated women in Erdrich's novels. The main character of the novel *Love Medicine* June is abused when she is

a child and beaten by her husband after her marriage. Men try to use their power and authority on women and children of their community.

Jane Urquhart also represents the female characters and their situation in Society. Urquhart's first novel, *The Whirlpool* defines the domestic lives of two central female characters, Maud Grady and Fleda McDougal. Two characters struggle to compromise the disparity between their individual desires and self-perceptions and identities. They are some restrictions on the women in their societies. The female character in *Whirlpool*, Maud is embarrassed by the roles of bride, wife, widow that were imposed on her first by her marriage, and then by her husband Charles's death. Like the black crape dress, she is expected to wear, the funeral home in which she lives and works has become a symbol of internment for Maud, who has adopted the rituals and traditions of mourning in place of creating her own life. The strong feeling of physical and psychological constraint is also presented in *The Whirlpool* through the character of Maud.

Jane Urquhart describes the relationship between humanity and nature. *The Whirlpool* is based upon elements of earth and water. *Changing Heaven*, a novel of the upper world, derives its imaginative qualities from the element of air and the varied types of weather. She is the writer of the material imagination. The pond is symbolic meaning of the state of opposition between nature and machine in the novel *The Stone Carvers*. On the other hand, Louise Erdrich also uses symbolism and natural imagery in her texts. The lake and the water are taken as darker symbol, such as death in the novel *Tracks*. There are images of the bear throughout the novel. The bear is most notably associated with the Pillager family in *Tracks*.

In works of Erdrich, Pauline and Fleur, Lulu and Marie, Eleanor and Dot, Zosie and Mary are dual characters' demonstrated co-existence and interconnectedness between the unconscious and the conscious, evil and good, death and life. The images of the bear are seen throughout the novel and bear represents the strength of Fleur in the novel *Tracks*. The dominant image of *Love Medicine* is water; of *The Beet Queen* is air, of *Tracks* and *The Antelope Wife's* land. The images of fire and ice are represented in *The Bingo Palace* and *Tales of Burning Love*. Erdrich uses religious symbols a means of examining the spiritual and cultural

relationship between Catholicism and Ojibwa traditional beliefs. The lake and the water are taken as darker symbol, such as death in the novel *Tracks*.

On the other side, Urquhart used the symbols and images of natural elements like air, water, earth. Urquhart's imagination generates the images and symbols. Urquhart focuses on water and earth in *The Whirlpool*, on air and weather in *Changing Heaven*, and on minerals along with earth and water in *Away*. In the novel *The Stone Carvers*, immigrant bird is a symbol of freedom. The pond is symbolic meaning of the state of opposition between nature and machine in the novel *The Stone Carvers*.

Erdrich's fiction which has been discussed in the light of postmodernism is intertextuality, analyzed by Hertha D. Wong in her article "Narrative Communities and the Short Story Sequence," which places Erdrich's novels in the larger "constellation of narratives" (Myk157). Hertha D. Wong also observes that Erdrich's use of intertextuality becomes obvious in the unified novels, each of which should be related with one of the four natural elements such as *Love Medicine* with water, *The Beet Queen* with air, *Tracks* with earth, and *Tales of Burning Love* with fire. Like Erdrich, Urquhart connected her works with the different element such as *The Stone Carve* is connected with stones and *The Underpainter* is connected with art.

Erdrich manages in the dramatic situation of the novels to create actions. In *Tracks* Louise Erdrich focuses on language, on oral traditions and their importance to tribal culture. In an important sense, language may be seen as the subject of the Nanapush sections, for his narrative reveals the power of the spoken word in the tribal world. The final image of unity within the novel occurs at the end with the return of Lulu from the boarding school. On the other hand, She conjugates the themes of memory and forgetfulness, of repression and perseverance in her works.

Erdrich describes life the stories of her ancestors and the struggle of American people. In 1990, African American women have very fewer rights. Women think and treated as possessions, firstly by her father and then by a husband. Though the slavery was ended at that time, but some people were treated like slaves and women were treated as lower beings in the society. Louise Erdrich's works defined the home and the land, where identity is clearly constructed out of climate and the season. Louise Erdrich perceives strongly the need to understand the

history to preserve the traditional culture of her tribe Ojibwe. The fear and sadness of losing the home is revealed there from the child's perspective. Louise Erdrich also defines that the wildlife and landscape also impacted by colonialism. As Louise Erdrich explains,

Native land is under huge pressure from the fossil fuel industry, the mining industry, the nuclear industry. In every day it can be taken, and will be exploited or taken. If we want a future for our children and for our people, we have to protect the land. ( Kurup,17 )

Erdrich and Urquhart grow up in different circumstances and both have comparative childhood experiences. Both of them are influenced by the life and struggle of her parents. In her novels, Erdrich depicts the life of the tribe, its struggle for land with the white institutions, and the problems with identity some of the characters have to deal with. On the other side, Urquhart's Irish heritage significantly influenced her work. They represent the memory of past events. The narrators describes about their past and attached the stories with the present. Erdrich and Urquhart's works represent the present times and correlated the stories with the past. In *False Shuffles*, Urquhart reveals her obsession with the past:

The narrating daughter is the speaker and the oral tradition plays and has played, an enormous role in that both the grandmother and the mother have passed their interpretation of events down to the narrating daughter. I was dealing with the idea that in many works of literary art, a thousand stories have filtered down to the person who has either the skills or the inclination to record, after they have passed it through their own imagination, what they have heard of the past. (38)

Jane Urquhart's works explore her fascination with the past and also at her home in southwestern Ontario. Her different novels embody the different themes. Urquhart's novel, *Changing Heaven*, pays admiration to the world of the Bronte by mixing the stories of a Bronte scholar's love affair with an art historian balloonist's conversations with the ghost of Emily Bronte. The novel continues Urquhart's fondness for the Victorian period and the Gothic elements put in her story. *Away* (1993), Urquhart's third novel and it was on the best-seller list and defines the

experiences of an Irish woman, Mary O'Malley. The novel remembers Urquhart's perspectives on her poetry in *False Shuffles*. She herself influenced by Irish culture, that's why she defined Irish culture in her novels.

In *The Whirlpool*, Urquhart moved to her husband's family, which had managed an undertaking business in Niagara Falls, Ontario. She found a little notebook, written by her husband's grandmother, with metaphors of a variety of bodies and parts of bodies that were found in the Niagara River. The notebook was written by her husband's grandmother. Urquhart, enthralled by this woman she had never met. *The Underpainter* (1997) was Urquhart's fourth novel and she is the recipient of the Governor General's Award for fiction. In this novel, Urquhart returns to the land of her youth, the north shore of Lake better that is related the travails of Austin Fraser, an American minimalist painter, who uses his art to cut off himself from human involvement. He keeps himself at a removed distance from everyone he knows. As an artist, however, he needs to understand others around him.

*The Stone Carvers* (2002), Urquhart examines the dreams of late nineteenth-century German immigrants to rural southwestern Ontario. She defines the struggles with memory and a difficult past that lead them ultimately to Toronto sculptor Walter All ward's in-process war monument at Vim, France. *The Stone Carvers* further explores Urquhart's fascination with the past, both of her own homes in southwestern Ontario and in France.

Like Urquhart, Erdrich also presents their characters with their earlier period. She draws her themes from rich traditions of Native literature, the myths, legends and folk tales. She uses story telling technique and styles of their ancestors in her novels. The themes of her novels are self-realization of a personality , practicing native traditions and ceremonies, influence of Christianity on Ojibwas communities, theme of love , homosexual relation, responsibility in love, violence in romantic obsession, extremes and greed in love, homecoming. The common theme of her writing is the struggle of Native Americans to reconnect with the rich heritage of the past. Her heritage from both parents is influential in her life and prominent in her world. She uses of multiple themes add to the storytelling. Louise Erdrich writes about ordinary people. They are not superheroes or even heroes. They are people who move violently to play the hand that fate has dealt them through nature and nurture.

In 1979 she wrote "The World's Greatest Fisherman", a short story about June Kershaw, a divorced Ojibwe woman. Her death by hypothermia brought her relatives home to a fictional North Dakota reservation for her funeral. It became the first chapter of her debut novel, *Love Medicine*.

*Love Medicine* became the first of Erdrich's Argus novels defining several generations of three Ojibwe families living in Argus, North Dakota, between from 1912 and the 1980s. *Love Medicine* begins with June Morrissey freezing to death on her way home to the reservation. Although she dies at the beginning, the figure of June holds the novel together. Similarly, a love triangle among Lulu, Marie, and Nectar is a link among the narratives. The home is a theme in the novel.

Erdrich's second novel *The Beet Queen* covers a 40-year distance beginning in 1932. The temperament like orphans Karl and Mary Adare and Celestine James and her daughter, Erdrich explores the interactions between the worlds of whites, Native Americans, and half-breeds. The center of this story concerns three children, Karl and Mary Adare and their newborn baby who are abandoned by their mother, Adelaide. She was in depressed due to the death of her lover and the loss of his support. At that time, Adelaide goes to Great Omar. Then, her baby is kidnapped by a couple who have just lost their own baby. The couple brings him up as their own baby. The end of the book defines the events in Argus and in Mary's life. Karl who becomes a salesman, and the baby brother, who grows up to be a priest, will inevitably be drawn back into the tale.

Erdrich followed the interactions between the worlds of whites and Native Americans in the novel *Tracks*. In this novel, Erdrich represents the dissimilar views of Native Americans. *Tracks* follow a North Dakota Indian tribe and its move violently to keep their land out of the hands of white people. The story is told from the first-person point of view of the characters, Pauline and Nanapush. Nanapush's views about religion, land, and whites are totally different from Pauline's. Two different characters explain their different views. Nanapush wants the reservation to stay the same while Pauline does not care about the whites buying land. He has problems with definite white people, while she prefers whites to Indians and even wants to be white. Nanapush tells about wanting to hold on to the Indian traditions, while Pauline shows a breaking away from traditions.

Louise Erdrich's *Tracks* weaves jointly the stories of several members of the Chippewa tribe who lived in North Dakota between 1912 and 1924. The tribe's

trickster character, Nanapush, and Fleur Pillager, the strange woman who lives in terrible sorrows, return in her novel *Four Souls*. Near the end of *Tracks*, Fleur loses her land to be registered company run by John James Mauser. In the novel, *The Round House*, Louise Erdrich takes us back to the North Dakota Ojibwe reservation. She focuses on one nuclear family and the 13-year-old Joe Coutts, his mother, Geraldine; and his father, Judge Antone Coutts that is shattered and renovated after a terrible event. The novel opens with a detective story that tells how Joe is initiated into the sadness and disillusionment of grown-up life and the dark realities of his people's history.

The event that changes the Coutts family's lives is the rape and fierce beating of Geraldine that occurs in 1988 near the round house. This place is used for holy ceremonies in the old days when Indians could not practice their religion. The attackers also extinguish Geraldine with gasoline and effort to set her on fire, before she manages to escape. When Joe suspects that the police study has been less than systematic, he sets out to resolve the crime himself.

Erdrich's novel *Bingo Palace* is a story about love, tradition and spirituality. The novel follows the lives of a group of people who live in North Dakota. The main characters struggle with life and coming of age on a Native American reservation in North Dakota.

Erdrich and Urquhart, both are such type of writers, who grow up in different circumstances but they gave few similar themes in their writings. This study describes that how the human beings survive in different circumstances. Both writers are concerned with social problems as well as with the natural problems. Their main focus point is on need to stop the exploitation of nature.

The comparative study of both writers reflects that these both female writers Jane Urquhart and Louise Erdrich are sometimes differ from many aspects and also similar in many ways. They born in totally different circumstances and their childhood experience is little different from each other. From the every phase of life, these both writers bear little similar circumstances, which are reflected in their early writings. The starting point of their writing career, their inspiration and their influences sources, remain in their parents and ancestors. Both explain the rights and conditions of women and their freedom. So, most of their writings are based on feminist themes. In their novels, where on the one side, Urquhart is focusing on the psychological aspects of women and man and try to reveal the inner conflicts of

women. On the other side, Erdrich tries to center on the life of African- American women, because she is suffering double oppression in white community that is dominant society. Both the writers symbolize the association between human-beings and nature.

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## Chapter- 4

### Ecocritical Perspectives in *Tracks* and *The Stone Carvers*

As earlier discussed in first chapter, theory of ecocriticism investigates the relationship between man and nature. The comparative study of *Tracks* and *The Stone Carvers* reveal the ecocritical perspectives and suggest the preservation of nature and to live in peace with nature. These novels show their deep rooted social consciousness and ecological consciousness of their society. There are lots of novels which deal with the environmental themes and out of these novels *Tracks* and *The Stone Carvers* are well-established with the ecological theme from the beginning to end. This chapter is an attempt to Louise Erdrich and Jane Urquhart in the context of theories of ecocriticism. Natural environment has always remained a significant part of these texts and with the current increase environmental problems and issues, writers have exclusively paying attention on environmental problems.

The novels are to be discussed in this dissertation are preferred to draw attention to the themes of devastation of nature and the interrelation of human beings with the environment. The comparative studies of both selected novels draw attention to the concerns of gender, social order, class and race and also compared from the characteristic of relations of human beings have with environment and investigated the material crisis of humans and environment. While writers describe about the particular and personal life of women, they raise the social issues and the society of that particular country. There are lots of ecocritical concerns in the midst of both these novels. The study of both these novels from an ecocritical perspective begins with the representation of landscape.

Both the novels *Tracks* and *The Stone Carvers* have occupied a distinguished place in American and Canadian literature. The novels represent the characters with their relationship with the natural world. The novel *Tracks* defines with many characters and families – the Kashpaws, Pillagers, and Morrisseys. This novel is divided on seasonal rotation in nine parts. *Tracks* seek to examine the struggle of Native Americans during the first two decades of the twentieth century. It is an era marked by natural obstacles, including plague and famine. The second novel *The Stone Carvers* follows three generations of a Canadian family. It starts

with a wood carver Joseph Becker who makes friends with an immigrant German priest who originated a church in an isolated town in the 19th century Ontario. The story depicts the lives of the wood carver's two grandchildren Klara and Tilman as it discovers the devastation of World War I. Then, the story revolves around the Empson and Klara's affection for nature.

The novel *Tracks*, is a story of Fleur Pillager, her family and community struggle through the epidemics that removes the tribe and the loss of their land due to their incapability to give government taxes. She is the only one of her family to survive when an epidemic strikes the reservation. She is escaped by Nanapush who has lost his own family and behaves Fleur as a daughter. Nanapush formulates a very clear association among land loss and sickness associating with ruined agreements of white people and the Dawes Act. Fleur in the novel defeated all the men in cards in Butcher's shop. On the other hand, *The Stone Carvers*, Klara is a broken heart person like Fleur in *Tracks*. Klara was one of the female members in her community who works and earn their money. She had freedom to do what she wanted with her life but she was still restricted by her society because she was still a woman. This novel defines Eamon and Klara's relations to the natural world and other characters like father Gstyr struggles to master resisting nature.

The novel *Tracks*, published in 1988, Nanapush, tries to reconcile mother and daughter by telling Lulu (Fleur's daughter) about the events between 1912 and 1924. From Nanapush's viewpoint, the novel begins beginning the year 1912 that was accurately twenty-five years before the division of Indian lands according to Dawes Act. *Tracks* compacts with the devastation of the Anishinabe that is also known as Chippewa or Ojibwe. On the other hand, *The Stone Carvers* starts in 1934 near Arras in France, at the site of the Vimy Ridge War Memorial, which was built to honor the sixty-six thousand Canadians killed in France during World War I. The novel published in 2001, depicts nature's conditions in Bavaria compares with those of northern Canada through Father Gstyr's personal journey to Canada.

The title of the novel *Tracks* is symbolic; here *Tracks* refer to both tracks left by living beings as they lead through the land and the letters they are written on the paper that is used to take land and natural resources of Chippewa. The author tracks down the hardships borne by the men and women of North Dakota who ceaselessly

fought against the weather. On the second hand, *The Stone Carvers* symbolizes the character of Walter Seymour Allward, the Canadian engineer of the monuments (as a stone carver). He was obsessed with his fantastic designs. He wishes to build a place to commemorate the memory of the dead soldiers in a pure enormous way.

There are few similar themes in both novels that focus on natural world like misuse of nature, struggles of characters in opposition to nature, love for landscapes etc. In the novel *Tracks*, the major characters in the novel are survivors and fighter of the environment, dispossession, starvation, and epidemics, genocide and deprivation. Erdrich delineates the native way of life and symbiotic connection with the environment. The tribal system is wholly disputed by the white way of life. There is a destruction of natural resources, greed for land, and oppression by legal codes in this novel. In the novel, Fleur, her family, and community struggle through the epidemics that sweep the ethnic group and the loss of their land because they are not able to pay the taxes. Fleur is cheated by her in-laws when they acquired the money that was supposed to pay for her land and uses it completely on their own debt. So, these similar themes are presented in the novel *The Stone Carvers*. There is also exploitation of nature by German colonizer for their purpose deforestation. Father Gstir also feels very happy in Bavaria where he survives in the lap of nature, but in Canada he struggles against nature.

In *Tracks*, because of disease and war, amongst other causes, the Native population in the United States which diminishes to “250,000 to 300,000 Indians by the end of the nineteenth century” (Cheyfitz 8). This is the accomplishment for Erdrich’s novel and the surroundings which we are made aware of in the opening chapter of *Tracks*. Nanapush enlightens Lulu:

We started dying before the snow, and like the snow, we continued to fall. It was surprising there were so many of us left to die. For those who survived the spotted sickness from the south, our long fight west to Nadouissioux land where we signed the what descended from the north in 1912 seemed impossible. (1)

Instead, Nanapush prefers to tell the story of the results of this ailments, famine and virtual genocide. Here, Nanapush makes us aware to the events which take place after the First World War was over.

In the second novel *The Stone Carvers*, there is a contrast between the landscape of Bavaria and Canada. Nature has a strong impact on the characters' minds and lives in *The Stone Carvers*. The landscape of Bavaria is stunning and peaceful, these are domesticated and harmless. The representation of northern Canada, on the other hand, articulates a genuine wilderness with all its inhabitants and vengeful weather. This contrast between pleasant Bavaria and the defensive nature of Canada define, throughout the character Father Gstyr. Nature in Bavaria differs significantly from nature in Canada and in Bavaria nature has been sophisticated by years of civilization. But Canada's pure wilderness move towards the settlers in the mid-nineteenth-century, demanding them to work hard in order to survive. This revengeful environment becomes their new home and this is a place of the hard conditions, in spite of this, they decide to settle down. One day, the God articulates to Father Gstyr to go to Canada, when he plucks flowers and has discussion with God. Father Gstyr comes safely in Canada. The Atlantic challenges him with "a six-month-long hellish journey over water" (12). There, farmers are trying to turn deforested wastelands into fields. The settlers are striking themselves on nature and nature is trying to stop them. Humans usually observe themselves as superior to nature.

There are several symbols in the novels which symbolizes character's love and opposition for nature. In *The Stone Carvers*, birds are compared to humans. This happens when Eamon compares Klara to a variety of birds including a swan and a dove. Tilman follows the birds and feels free and his relation with the migrating birds illustrates nature's strong influence on him. The environment at the harmonious beautiful pond is romantic and filled with anticipations. In the novel *Tracks*, the position of the Lake Matchimanito and water monster, Misshepesh, presents distinctive of danger and mystery associated with the old world.

In the second novel *The Stone Carvers*, Klara desires to live in symbiosis with nature. After her parents' death, she survives alone on the farm producing apples and raising cows. During her life she works with wood and later with stone when sculpturing pieces of art. She is also powerful and self -dependent woman and inner pictures of Klara's character and she was associated with the positive sides of nature. Contrary, Fleur symbolizes with the nature and she is compared with the animal like wolf. She tries to save the native land to pay her all savings.

Ecocriticism theory is to present the importance of environment (nature) in human's life and its reflection. Ecocriticism has its important goal that it is the study that how individual behave towards nature. So in both novels, characters are described with their relationship to non-human world, like landscapes, lakes, bridge, pond, birds, etc.

In the novel *Tracks*, both Nanapush and Fleur are connected with a tradition of Native Americans. Nanapush and Fleur face their greatest threat which is specified by White people who planned to acquire their land. Fleur revolves the forces of nature, against the white attacker oh her body and her land. Nanapush makes a very clear correlation among sickness and land loss associating with wrecked agreements and the Dawes Act. At this point, community and Nanapush struggle for saving their land. In the second novel *The Stone Carver*, there is great affection of Father Gstir for landscape of Bavaria, when he comes to Canada from Bavaria.

The tribal people spend their life without devastation tools of advancement in the novel *Tracks*. They lead a life of harmony with nature. For tribal people, environment is supernatural being and each aspect and form of nature is devoted as gods and goddesses. Land and people are one entity and people ought to show deep admiration to nature in order to preserve the environmental balance. In every breath, the Native Indians always struggle to keep their own land from destruction, but the white men start the exploitation of nature. At that time the inconsistency arises between people of nature and people of apparatus. In the second novel, *The Stone Carvers*, landscape of Bavaria is beautiful and harmless. But farmers are trying to turn deforested harsh environment into fields in Canada where German Immigrants clear the forest for agriculture.

In the novel *The Stone Carvers*, there is an idealistic occurrence by the pond where Klara and Eamon spend their late afternoons. Klara's understandable participation with the natural world communicates a sense of stability and security. She is comfortable with herself and her environment. Eamon, on the other hand, is lacking confidence and wants machines to assert himself. The objects uses to build a machine might come from nature and humans are the mediators between nature and technical innovations like Eamon. So, Klara's character is connected with the

positive sides of nature while Eamon, who is less connected to nature, is depicted in a slightly negative way. In the other novel *Tracks*, Fleur is also associated with positive sides of nature, because she always tries to save her land from the white people. Her lover Eli Kashpaw is a hunter and she meets Eli Kashpaw while hunting in the woods one day. Eli is qualified to honor nature as it provides him with everything he desires. Eli shoots a deer and then follows it persistently for a day. As a hunter, he is also less concerned about nature like Eamon.

In both novels, characters are compared with the animals and birds. In the novel *Tracks*, Fleur portrays an exceptionally strong and self-determining woman. Nanapush finds Fleur alone in a cabin, having endured a disease that killed her whole family. When Nanapush describes Fleur, he declares:

“She was wild as a filthy wolf, a big bony girl whose sudden bursts of strength and snarling cries terrified the listening Pukwan” (3).

Fleur is contrasted to a wolf that Fleur is a strong and main character in the novel. Fleur's livelihood and sense of individuality has been consulted by the loss of her family land. Fleur's mistreatment becomes obvious when the men of Argus harshly attack and rape Fleur at the opening of her story. But in butcher shop, while she was raped she whimpers for help. In that situation, it destroys the connection between Fleur and her animalistic characteristic symbolize the connection between humans and nature. Fleur's rape disconnects her from the characteristics of a physically powerful wolf. Pauline's disaster for Fleur is presented in the novel *Tracks*. Pauline feels that Fleur's spirit animal (the bear) is stronger and more dominant than her own. Pauline's ignorance is seen here:

Fleur messed with evil, laughed at the old women's advice and dressed like a man...and went out, hunting, not even in her own body. We know for sure because the next morning, in the snow or dust, we followed the tracks of her bare feet and saw where they changed, where the claws sprang out, the pad broadened and pressed into the dirt. By night we heard her chuffing cough, the bear cough. (12)

In the second novel *The Stone Carvers*, Eamon aspects animalistic features to Klara .On one occasion, for example, “he thought her hands were like white doves” and that “everything about her was birdlike” (156). Eamon himself alternatively, is seduced by technology. He constricts the invention made of steel, which he considers to bring him strength and splendor. Simultaneously, he is connected to nature as well Eamon is depicted less of a nature person than Klara. There is an episode when Eamon present to send Tilman a note with one of his birds:

“I’ll talk to him and tell him to look for your brother” (83).

In opposite to Eamon, Klara’s brother Tilman' s relation to nature is strong and apparent. Nature has always had a constructive impact on Tilman. His relation with the migrating birds illustrates nature’s strong influence on him. Every autumn when the migrating birds arrive, he roams away, trying to follow the birds. It is possible to see a similar relationship between Tilman and the migrating birds. When, his connection with the birds is disconnected and that makes him deeply worried. At that point in time he articulates:-

“he had come to the edge, to the end of the world” (61)

Human beings feel that nature is treated like a slave by humans and they use nature according to their requirements. In the novel *Tracks* portrays an ancient community in danger of extinction by the forces of white society and industry. People are distressing on account of the white government's mistreatment of their land. In the second novel *The Stone Carvers*, the farmers are cutting the forest for the place of fields. In both the novels, there is exploitation of animals by hunting for their purposes.

Animals are considered as mere substances in both novels as they do not have any spirit. Man treats them as they do not have the ability to realize the pain. One of the main causes for the destruction of natural resources and domination over the animals is the belief that the humans are in the center of the universe and they can use nature and animals for their own advantages. The relationship between humans and nature has become the relation of power and powerlessness correspondingly. In the novel, *Tracks* Nanapush taught Eli hunting skills and other

conventional ways of life. Both the characters be acquainted with the skills of hunting. His favorite hunting tool was snared and Nanapush explains his ties to hunting when he says,

"I think like animals, have perfect understanding for where they hide, and in my time I have tracked a deer back through time and brush and cleared field, to the place it was born" (40)

"a hunter who used my brains as my weapon"(118)

"demand clever fingers and the ability to think exactly like your prey"(118)

In the *Tracks*, there is a destruction of animals killing by Nanapush and Eli Kashpaw. The novel is describing the environment related issues such as exploitation of natural resources and urban deprivation. In the second novel, *The Stone Carvers*, Eamon is seduced by technology and clinches the invention made of steel. Tilman is being sensitively involved to nature and that he does not want to hunt animals in *The Stone Carvers*.

In the novel *Tracks*, the main purpose to pass Dawes act is to support the self-supporting farming and ranching among American Indian society according to the Government. In real, the purpose behind the Dawes act is to offer detailed necessities to diminish the Indian lands in Chippewa community. The tribal people deliberated to sell the unallotted lands to whites and the society is wholly changed after the bill passed. This act caused the huge amount of insufficiency and starvation that weakened the native communities.

In the novel *The Stone Carvers*, farmers are trying to turn deforested wastelands into fields. Together with mill workers and farmers, Father Gstyr struggles to master opposed nature. Urquhart claims that "all of them were trying to force western culture into a place where it undoubtedly had no business to be" (25). The settlers are imposing themselves on nature but nature is doing its best to stop them. Humans demonstrate themselves superior to nature.

Both novels are full of symbols that are also related to natural imagery and non-human world. The symbol of the bear is a large part of the novel *Tracks*. We

see images of the bear throughout the novel. The bear is most remarkably associated with the Pillager family; particularly Fleur. The bear is an extremely powerful creature, and because the Pillager family is associated with this creature and she has taken on many characteristics of a bear. Fleur Pillager is closely connected with the power of the Bear Spirit (animal power).

“People went there although they didn’t want to meet the dead or the living, Fleur especially,” (35)

Another important symbol in the novel *Tracks* is the character’s hair and it also represents their age, their supremacy and their civilization. Fleur’s hair was also a sign of her power and beauty. Her hair was long and beautiful, as Pauline describes at the beginning of the novel “Her glossy braids were like the tails of animals, and swung against her when she moved” (18). The lake and the water are taken as darker symbol, such as death. In the novel *Tracks*, when death is in close proximity to, it is often described as water. Nanapush explains in the beginning, “We were filled with the water of the drowned, cold and black airless water that lapped against the seal of our tongues or leaked slowly from the corners of our eyes.” (6)

Like the novel *Tracks*, there are many symbols in the novel *The Stone Carvers* that represent nature. The pond is symbolic meaning of the circumstances of opposition between nature and machine. Jane Urquhart depicts the beauty of the pond where Klara and Eamon swim there and there is intimacy between them. This is beautiful place colored by the growing intimacy between Klara and Eamon. The romantic feeling is ended, despite the fact that, when an intruding machine in the form of an aero plane causes a break in the couple’s intimacy and he is fascinated by the plane and the power.

In the novel, *The Stone Carvers*, The migrating birds are symbols of nature’s role as a healer. There are restrictions on Tilman and his father hits him and his mother tries to gain control over him by watching him closely and locking the door in his room. His parents chained him simultaneously would be a dog or other animal, agitates his sense of identity. He is much closer to nature than other family members. There is a parallel relationship between Tilman and the migrating birds. In the novel *The Stone Carvers*, Klara and Eamon fall on the ice jointly and their hands touch and she is still freezing into her conservative role. Reversing the

imagery connected with the monument and its surroundings in *The Stone Carvers* shows how the island washed by waters becomes inconsistently a desert. Klara also passed through across the ocean in male costume, apt for her imaginative art.

*Tracks* show the connection between culture and nature. The tribal people of Ojibwe lead their life without devastation tools of nature. In the novel supernatural being represents nature and people show deep affection for nature in order to maintain the ecological balance. The Native Indians had to fight to save their own land from degradation. Erdrich represents the Ojibwe; natives consequently lost their land and cultural domination by the European Americans. There is a representation of the Ojibwe's struggle to maintain and continue committing their culture and land. The people who are struggling to preserve their land and their way of life while both are collapsing. Nanapush has power to see that the "waters were so muddy" (61) between these two cultures, Ojibwe and European Americans. Fleur and Pauline, two women representing the two conflicting responses to the culture clash within one tribal band. There are two names, the Ojibwe and the Chippewa, for one community. There are two nations, the Anishinaabeg and the United States of America, engaging the land of Ojibwe.

On the other hand, in the novel *The Stone Carvers*, the similar situation is represented and there is also contrast between culture and nature. Nature's conditions in Bavaria contrasted with northern Canada. There is disparity between two culture of Bavaria and Canada and demonstration of nature. Nature in Bavaria differs greatly from nature in Canada. In Bavaria nature has been domesticated and people in Bavaria are harmless to nature but in people of Canada are cutting trees for their purposes.

In both the novels, nature plays dual roles healer and destroyer. As a healer for the Native Americans, nature is like a religion. Pagans formerly believed in the few basic elements – fire, earth, water and air; Different figures and forms of nature are various facts of supernatural spirits that are the governing forces of human lives in Native America. They think that for satisfying gods and goddesses, man must have close attachment with nature. The effects of nature develop strong resistance on Moses against the diseases introduced by colonizers in their land and his body mostly remains covered with leaves.

The other character in *Tracks*, Nanapush also gets additional special treatment from nature. His spiritual union with nature keeps on getting stronger with the passage of time and he talks with nature. The tribal member whether alive or dead feel relax themselves with nature and the spirits of the death ones achieve relief in connection with nature. Nanapush' s mind remains haunted by fearful ideas and he failed to bury the dead Pillagers and at that time, he does not want to bury the death body of Pauline. At the death bed, nature plays as a role of healer and Nanapush realizes his spiritual commitment to bury the dead Pillagers and he feels remain under the protection of nature spirits.

In the other novel *The Stone Carvers*, there is nature's aptitude to comfort and heal Tilman. When he finds the bridge, he avoids close contact with other human beings. Just then, he feels free and live close to nature. When he is punished by his parents, one day he decides to stay under the bridge that is surrounded by forest. He feels that the villages are not too close and provides him relaxation. Nature provides him with protection; the bridge and the bushes on either side on river banks create a perfect hideaway. He has found a place where he can feel relax and feel at home when he finds himself in the lap of nature. He can stay here for a few months and found a new home and he is able to study and "finally to understand the language of the water: quiet water and water that speaks."(191). Nature, provides the necessary safe and hidden refuge for Tilman. He prefers the shady shelter:

He loved the bridge with a child's love, the way a boy will love a tree house in the yard or a clubhouse in a scrub lot. But he loved it too in a way peculiar to his own nature, because it gave him shelter without closing him in (191).

Nature provides Tilman an ideal home where he is able to live free a bird. This place is not in a house and it is a bridge which is out in the open air. Here, he feels safe:

He had had, though he did not know it, his first encounter with intimacy, his first experience of knowing something, anything, so well and in such proximity that he would never forget it. (192)

The other character in *The Stone Carvers*, Monsieur Recouvrir is nature personified for Tilman. He feels happy in the company of Recouvrir and experiences a link between nature and human life in Recouvrir.

Nature as a destroyer, in the novel *The Stone Carvers*, Father Gstyr, tolerates nature's hard conditions. He has his first encounter with a place in Canada is very different from his native land Bavaria. The Atlantic challenges him with "a six-month-long hellish journey over water" (12). Then, Klara is lonely and a little frightened and the atmosphere of a beautiful pond is romantic and filled with expectation. The situation becomes demoralizing consequences for their love and future life together. The arrival of the plane conveys a feeling of interruption and their separation. Klara who is considered as a person who works with woods (nature) after their parents' death but her lover Eamon makes equipments and this machine separates both lovers while swimming.

On the other novel *Tracks*, nature also plays as a role of destroyer. There are environmental problems such as cutting of trees (deforestation) and the primordial people's loss of native land. White people destroyed the land with their need to acquire. Nanapush makes a very clear relationship between sickness and loss of land. In the novel Nanapush states:

Disaster must surely have spent its force that disease must have claimed all the Anishinaabe that the earth could hold and bury. But the earth is limitless and so is luck and so were [the Ojibwe] people once (1).

Nature gives life and comfort to human beings, but her services have no value in this materialistic world. Canadian people (German Immigrant) are using roof leaf for their houses and agriculture but nature is demanding nothing for her service. In the second novel *Tracks*, white people destroyed nature for their commercial needs. In novels, nature and environment are oppressed for their own benefits. Like humans, this non-human world have also their feelings and when people cut them they also feel pain and tears. The images of Canadian landscape present the unsympathetic human behavior towards nature.

## **Deep Ecology**

Deep ecology shows great concern for both living and non living environment. It is basically one's personal development towards the protection of nature. Deep ecology points the unity of man with the biotic and non biotic environment. Man should live in peace with nature and must protect it rather than use it as a resource to exploit. In deep ecology, every species on the earth have equal values. And they have their equal rights.

The concepts of deep ecology are seen in these two selected novels that deal with well-being of both human and non- human. In the novel *Tracks*, humans depend on non-human world and they depend on their land for their own existence. But when the non- human destroyed nature, their life was destroyed when their earth is sold, their lives are also ruined. They are not capable to pay the taxes of their land to the white people. Nanapush and Eli depend on animals for food and survival. In the second novel, *The Stone Carvers*, the settlers of Canada are depended on non-humans. The people are depended on animals and on trees. At what time they cut trees for agriculture, there is a disturbance in ecology.

### **Environmental Injustice**

Environmental injustice has an inconsistent impact on women, low income populations, and inhabitants of color, observes the connection of literary narratives with greater environmental, community, economic, and historical narratives to recognize how the misuse of nature is connected to the exploitation of natives. Nanapush registers the house's mechanism; he unambiguously connects the predatory of natural resources on Native lands with the mistreatment of labor used to acquire them. Thus his redefinition of this exacting environment replicates environmental justice approaches that "foreground race and labor in definition of what constitutes nature" (163).

The dispossession of Ojibwe lands and the violence of human and animal labor with the railroad and lumber money allocate the house's landowner to justify its expenses. Consequently the site of the house, in Nanapush's descriptions of accounts, highlights the gap among suppositions of innocent prospect and the unknown violent behavior on which it actually relies. Whereas this place defines a sacred and historically imperative site for Ojibwa people and a site of depression and agony for the laborers. On the other hand, in *The Stone Carvers* there is destruction of landscape by human beings. The devastations of lands and violation

birds define the superiority of humans being over the non- human world. The landscape of Bavaria explains crucial site for the natives.

### **Ecofeminism**

Ecofeminism describes connections between feminism and environmental. Ecofeminism describes the parallelism between masculine, capitalistic oppression, domination and subjugation of women and the oppression and destruction of nature. In these texts, there is also subordination and oppression of women. In this contemporary society, men are exploiting women as well as nature for their own selfish motives. Men are using both nature and women as objects in this commercial market. To explore the women- nature destruction is the important aspect of ecofeminism.

From the ecofeminism perspective, the novel *Tracks* depicts ecofeminism theory. But the other novel *The Stone Carvers*, there is representation of the protagonist Klara's connection with natural elements and his isolation from the social order. In the novel *Tracks*, Erdrich shows Fleur's connections to her community and land. As Erdrich connects her female characters to the environment, the novel is also related with ecofeminist theory. The female characters, oppressions of Fleur and Klara represent the gradual destruction of the environment. There is significant contrast between Fleur's and Pauline character from the beginning to the end of *Tracks*. In the novel, Fleur compares to a wolf that shows Fleur is stronger and her strength is equivalent the strength of the environment. Throughout the novel, Fleur's mistreatment becomes observable when the men of Argus brutally attack and rape her at the beginning of her story. This represents also domination of women by society and also shows eventually leading to her termination at society's hand.

Nanapush, the old inhabitant, one of the trickster and also a narrator in this novel, he reminds Fleur as a courageous spirited woman:

She followed her trees and, from that, we grew convinced that she was determined to cut down the man who took them. She had lived among those oak and pine trees when their roots grew deep beneath her and their leaves thick above. (4)

In the novel, *Tracks* the connection between Fleur and her bear spirit represent a connection between humans and nature. Fleur's rape shows how man

displays his power over nature in an extremely terrible way. Erdrich begins Fleur's falling with rape to make obvious the cruelty of women and environmental issues. Rape represents almost the worst abuse a woman by man. Fleur still connects strongly with the environment and an animal character, Erdrich preserves that starting destruction of the environment assimilates to raping the environment.

In the second novel *The Stone Carvers*, there is representation of Klara's connection to nature and her family. Klara Becker is a 38 year old spinster who lives alone on her family's small town of Shoneval in Ontario. She is a stature of mystery to those around her for unlike the other unmarried women in the village. She is a talented tailor and an extraordinary wood carver. Her young lover, Eamon O' Sullivan, was one of the Canadian soldiers and went to Europe to fight in the Great War and there he was dead in the war.

This loss of her lover Eamon combined with the early victims of all her family members. Her brother Tilman who ran away from his home when he was just a child and never meet again. It incidents cause the other villagers to consider her "geist-ridden" (29). Because she is recognised as a person who is haunted and she is allowed to foster her extraordinary independence in ways that other women in Shoneval are not. This independence is both a blessing and a curse for her. Isolated from her community and even from the rest of life by her grief, Klara feels that:

"her own connections slipped downstream, against the current, toward the swiftly disappearing past. What, beyond the most cursory, practical knowledge of fashion, had the present to do with her?"  
(168)

In the autumn of 1934, a stranger who comes and enters her home, places himself at her table. For one terrible moment, she wonders if Eamon has returned. But on devastating moment she realises that

"this man was not Eamon. Eamon was dead" (229)

"this vaguely familiar stranger is in fact her brother, Tilman. Overwhelmed by her warring emotions of shock and renewed grief, she responds by "[flying] at her brother with her fists" .(230)

When Klara has to dress as a man in order to journey to France and get a job. A woman is not be respected and she would be abused if she traveled by herself. In the novel *Tracks*, the second female character, Pauline's struggles throughout *Tracks* explain the dual oppressions of woman and the environment. Men only exploit Pauline for her work in a butcher shop. At the beginning of the novel, Pauline describes her plight when she first discards and leaves her Native American family and moves to a new town:

I was fifteen, alone, and so poor-looking I was invisible to most customers and to the men in the shop. Until they needed me, I blended into the stained brown walls, a skinny big-nosed girl with staring eyes. (15-16)

Through Pauline's perception of her societal position, her lack of importance and visibility in her workplace also defines her oppression in society. Pauline has no value of working in the shop. Pauline's awful treatment in the shop demonstrates her position as a girl in society. This position disrespects and depreciates Pauline as a human being. Pauline describes herself falling asleep, lowering herself "into a mound of swept saw dust" (20). The color connection and her comparison to a heap of sawdust in this quotation demonstrate the connections between Pauline and nature. Pauline compares herself visually to the nature and the colors of the earth.

Pauline's religious devotion demonstrates her subordinate position of women. Religion controls Pauline's life just as humans control nature. Pauline's Native American society equates her with a crane or a raven, Nature's scavengers.

## **Ecopsychology**

Ecopsychology studies the relationship between human beings and the natural world through ecological and psychological values. Ecopsychological approach would include both the psychological and the environmental in such reconnection. Ecopsychology emphasize nature's influence on the characters's minds. Nature has a strong impact on the characters's minds and lives in *The Stone Carvers*. In the novel, Tilman feels an affinity to nature and he is being attached to nature and that he does not want to hunt animals. The bridge becomes the rotating point on Tilman's way to a better life. Tilman is nature personified and his relation

with the migrating birds show nature's strong influence on him. The other character Klara's mind is also influenced by nature. After her parents's death, she lives alone on the farm harvesting apples and raising cows. She works with wood and later with stone when sculpturing pieces of art. Fleur's cousin Moses, who "was found alive in the woods" (7)

Ecopsychology means the conscious and unconscious affinity between human and non-humans. It means that ecopsychology studies the relationship between human beings and the natural world through ecological and psychological principles. Father Gstir is also effected by Bavaria's beautiful landscapes and enjoys his work as well as the beautiful landscape outside the church. During the weekends, he takes long walks in the Bavarian hills with amazing views of the scenic Knappensteig. The representation of landscape resides in the ways in which places and objects within those places that provide her characters with a physical connection and their society.

In the second novel *Tracks*, land and people are connected to each others. People should confirm respect to nature in order to maintain the ecological balance. The land is here signified nature. The Native Indians had to fight to save their own land from degradation. The tribal people love their land, but they sold the land only for one hundred pound weight of flour. Nanapush and Fleur try to save their land from the white people. For them, nature is god given and each element and form of nature is worshiped as gods and goddesses. Moses has collected different kinds of rocks, barks and herbs for treating different ailments. The characters in the novel are totally influenced by nature and they attached the nature with their god and goddess.

### **Eco-Marxism**

Eco-Marxism is the relationship between Marx ideology and ecology. As per the Marx's concept of labor. The concept of labor has accurately illustrated mankind's attitudes to nature as well as the relations between humanity and nature is also represented in both texts. From the ecomarxism concept, in the novel *Tracks*, the land is sold to white people for their own beneficial. The hardships bear by the men and women of North Dakota who endlessly fought against the white people. They also suffer because of their subordinate position and works as inferior

and attempt to save their land. The people living in the best place of harmony (land) were driven to snow and suffering when their living space was assaulted by gun and power. On the other hand, in the novel *The Stone Carvers*, Urquhart discovers that the settlers are cutting forest for their livings. There is hardship agricultural labor and the settlers are struggle for their leaving.

### **Anthropocentrism and Androcentrism**

*Tracks* and *The Stone Carvers*, reflect anthropocentrism and androcentrism. Anthropocentrism is human centered and describe the human superiority over nature while androcentrism all the way through light on male superiority over female.

Erdrich and Urquhart elegantly intertwine this story with significant ecological issues which requirements severe concentration, consciousness, and biological awareness. Clear-cutting is one of the serious mistreatment of natural possessions.

The novel *Tracks* and *The Stone Carvers* are depicting the environment related problems such as exploitation of usual resources, factory farming, and urban deprivation. Erdrich constructs up a vibrant sense of position, the plains of North Dakota, the reluctance forests, ponds, and the hills. Theses novels define the main concern deforestation which causes environmental inconsistency in natural world. Native people are grudging of their land and their natural possessions. Erdrich proves the troubles of the Native American people's life in reservation forest and tells the devastation of these native people privileges for their land. Deforestation is the main environmental troubles which is one of the major sources of our current environmental destruction. On the other hand, *The Stone Carvers* Father Gstyr defines the environmental problems of Canadian landscape within the comparison of the landscapes of Canada and Bavaria.

The complete story of two selected texts represents these two terms. In *Tracks*, humans are shown superior over nature and Eli Kaspaw gives the image of human beings superiority. The white people also represent themselves superior to nature. Similar to this in *The Stone Carvers*, the destruction of Canada, show human superiority over nature that whatsoever human beings want they can do with nature. Central characters of both texts Eli Kashpaw and Eamon are representing the androcentric theme in novels.

The *Tracks* and *The Stone Carvers* reflect the oppression of male over female. Women in every society or in every culture are not free and equal to men. The all women characters belonged to American society and Canadian society. In these, both societies' women have second position in society. The central characters Pauline and Fleur represent the second position of women in American society. In the novel *The Stone Carvers*, Klara Becker represents the second position in Canadian society.

The destruction of nature is described a little bit in similar ways by of writers. In the novel *Tracks*, Nanapush tells about the greed of White people. The greed of white people describes to take the land of native people and obliterate their homes and fields and use for their commercial purposes. Half of the village wiped out and the remaining people died with an epidemic. The people lead to the sale of unclaimed allotments land to whites, and those whites became the owners of land. The machinations of the government officials and commercial companies are interested in exploiting and miss-using the natural resources. *Tracks* is an especially powerful expression of natural force since many deaths result from natural destruction. In the other novel, *The Stone Carvers*, there is destruction of nature by German Immigrant. There is a destruction of nature by hunting and deforestation.

Erdrich compares the nature and mythical beings. In *Tracks*, Lake Monsters, or rather lake entities are mysterious natural and mythical beings living close to people, who observe them. In the novel *Tracks*, nature as imagined by the Indian natives is fundamentally different from the concept in the white capitalist symbolic system. Erdrich's novel insists that there is a strong sense of physical and spiritual interconnectedness of all things on earth where all are equal to one another. White capitalist system use natural resources such as lands are commodities. The tribal people are not wild for nature and they love nature and live in harmony .On the other novel *The Stone Carvers*, Bavarian people live with nature and they love nature and there is no destruction of nature. But the Canadian people use land for only for their purposes like the white people in *Tracks*.

So, both the novels represent the ecocritical concepts. On the one side the novel *Tracks* represents the relationship between human and non humans through the character of Fleur, Nanapush and Pauline. The novel represents their

relationship with their land, here land symbolize the nature. There is also a destruction of nature (hunting) by Eli Kashpaw and Nanapush. On other side, *The Stone Carvers* represents relationship nature and non-human world through the character of Klara, Father Gstyr and Emnon. There is exploitation of nature through deforestation by natives. In this novel the relationship between Tilman and birds also represent the ecopsychology.

Louise Erdrich and Jane Urquhart symbolically interlink the connection of non-human world with human world. In both the novels the non-human world tells the story of the characters especially upcoming incidents in their life. The violation of nature is linked the violation and marginalization of women. Both the novels illustrate evidence of the interconnected domination of nature and women by the various entities of the patriarchal or masculine worldviews. Both writers linked women's situation to the deteriorating state of environment. Erdrich uses the images of death of animals and natives are victims of various human actions. Images of death are set in in the narrative and metaphoric pattern of the novel. On the other hand, Urquhart defines the efficiently the ecological crisis in present world and generates ecological consciousness towards deforestation. Thus Louise Erdrich's *Tracks* and Urquhart's *The Stone Carvers* have drawn attention to the fact that in the present world the more important problem is exploitation of land. Both writers tell a brilliant story of Native American culture and Canadian culture, their belief and exceptional orientation to the spiritual relationship with the people's interconnection with land, nature and their tribal community.

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## Findings and Conclusion

Ecocriticism has increased consideration to literary representative of nature and it is sensitive to interdependencies that ground the author character or work in the ecological system. This approach shifts critical focus from social relations towards natural relationships and views the individual as a member of ecosystem. Ecocriticism appeared in 1970 with the union of criticism. It is a substance oriented form of literary theory in which literary and non literary texts evaluated. It includes natural experience, their ecological consciousness, their credit of variety, their approach to non human appearance of existence. The writings of John Muir and other American writers reflect this movement. Environmental studies in ecocriticism comprise traditional, postcolonial and post cultural ways. 'Eco' in ecocriticism is the part of ecology that speaks about human beings with environment.

The important and main prominence of ecocriticism is to replicate the position of environment in human life and its use in literature. Ecocriticism is an instructive influence started in concentrated in the 1990s. The word ecocriticism was invented in 1978 by William Rueckert in his essay "Literature and Ecology: An Experiment in Ecocriticism." His intention was to spotlight on the relevance of ecology and environmental concepts to the reading of literature. In the mid-1980s, researchers started to attempt together to launch ecocriticism as a genre.

Ecologists define rustic ways of life and are worried about natural shortage and pollution of natural world. Ecocriticism has very deep roots and with itself includes everything related to the naturally resources for example mountain, sky, earth, sea, water and forest etc. environment also includes cultivate and built landscape, the natural elements. It also includes aspects of landscape and their interaction with natural elements. It articulates the symbiotic relationship between land and landscape.

Ecocriticism is unique in the middle of current literary and cultural theories for the reason that of its close connection within the knowledge of environmentalism. Ecocriticism advocates for an understanding of the world that works to improve the

environmental harms that humans have imposed upon it. It is not a single approach but it deals with several other related subfields such as green cultural studies, eco-poetics, and environmental literary criticism. The basic of all the different approaches have been discussed in first chapter. It studies the interdependence of all components of environment. It spreads awareness about environment through literature. Estok argues that ecocriticism is the study of nature or natural things in literature and it is theory that is committed to effecting change analyzing the function thematic, artistic, social, historical, ideological, theoretical, or the natural environment

It has given attention to literary representative of nature and sensitive to inter-relevancies that ground the author, character and works in the natural system. This approach shifts critical focus from social relations towards natural relationship and views the human being as a member of ecology. Ecocriticism has multiple approaches that deal with the subject of atmosphere and symbols. Ecocriticism refers to a type of literary criticism which studies the association among literature and nature based on ecologies. On the other hand, a variety of approaches like ecological ethics, deep ecology, ecofeminism and social ecology, ecopsychology, ecospirituality and ecomarxism are represented in both works.

The basis of all the different approaches has been discussed in the first and fourth chapters. The purpose of environmentalism premise relates it with deep ecology. Arne Naess is the creator of deep ecology and he explains that all human beings and non-human beings on this earth have the equal value. Anthropocentrism is the concern that deals with that human beings are better on this world than the other groups of world, while androcentrism depicts women subordination to men. It brings the human being in the center position. Ecofeminism is a political movement within environmentalism. It focuses on the convergence between women and nature. Both women and nature are exploited by man on this earth. They are objectified and politically marginalized.

The study of these texts has been carried out comparative paradigm the study has revealed many aspects related to environment. It has found that these two writers are writing for their society as well as concerns are close to environment or

the entire ecosphere. Reading of these two texts from ecocritical perspective has shown a web of interconnectness of ecosystem.

Comparative study offers connection among two or more than two literatures, at a one time. It is the mixture of two words: literature and comparative. It is enlightening and interdisciplinary reading. It gave significance to other literature than national literature. It focuses on themes, legends, appearances, creative approaches, communal and spiritual actions and styles into thought. It is also a rational ground like comparative structure, ruling, and philosophy. Response alongside nationalism is dependable for the appearance of this comparative literature in 19<sup>th</sup> century. Romans are recognized as the basics of this theory. Mathew Arnold depicts in relation to myths, influence, genres and themes characteristics of comparative literature.

The current research work is a conversation on the environmental perspective in the fiction of Louise Erdrich and Jane Urquhart. These two selective texts that are *The Stone Carvers* and *Tracks* are written by these well known authors and gave their fine contribution to find ecological aspects in these works. The brief analysis of their major works also raises various issues regarding nature and its significance, animal rights, impact of war and postcolonial issues. One of the crucial wide problems that we face today is the deterioration of land and ecology and its consequence of human life and living.

Both the writers wrote their novels after the arrival of the ecocritical theory. The works of these writers deals with representative ecocritical view points. This study deals with the purposes of ecocriticism to draw the interconnectedness of all beings. It laid emphasis on the position of physical settings in the plot of both novels. The touching connection among the human and non human members is studied in the novels. It stresses on the significance of surroundings in shaping a human being's mind, as oppose to the conventional importance given to society and social sphere. Both writers focused on impact of biosphere on its characters in their novels.

These writers belong to modern era of English writings. Moreover, these novels are published a quantity of gap period. Louise Erdrich and Jane Urquhart both faced opposite economic conditions in her life. Jane Urquhart has been strongly influenced by the Irish cultural. Jane Urquhart is rapt by her own Irish roots.

Erdrich influenced from her ancestors and also from the struggle of her parents. Both writers exhort others to keep a dialectical relation with nature. Their readers cannot miss the writer's real concern for the predicament of the different species of animals and nature.

Erdrich's reverence for the Native American culture and belief in it has laid to the formulation of ecological view. She advocates a holistic view that promotes harmony and peace coexistence before the dealing of their land. One of the Erdrich's greatest achievements as writer would be her ability to describe anything impressionistically. The characters in Erdrich's writings are the people, who are slashing off from civilization. Her center is on human mind, while Urquhart writes about fundamental fear, culture and the life condition of Canadian people. The female characters in Erdrich's writings are responsive and male characters are coherent. The women characters of Erdrich's novels are facing exploitation of men in society.

On the other hand, Jane Urquhart portrays the decay of human relationship as a symbolic of ecological crisis. The characters in her novels are reflected by nature like birds and animals. Crisis in the relationship of the characters and environment goes parallel in the novels. Human relations and their difficulty and man – nature relation is the essential theme in Erdrich's novels at the same time as the writings of Urquhart give courage and voice to unvoiced and oppressed people. One common thing about these both writers is that they both are well known for their insightful female characters. Another resemblance in both writers is that their following description in their writings and social explanation is fully explained.

Louise Erdrich and Jane Urquhart's unique style of writing and theme of living harmoniously in the lap of nature reveals theirs to be persons not only dedicated to their culture but seems dedicated to discover nature through their writings. They have given detail and innumerable description of nature.

The name of the novel *Tracks* is symbolic because it refers to tracks left by living beings as they go athwart the land. On the second hand, *The Stone Carvers* depicts the character of Walter Seymour Allward and the Canadian engineer of the monuments (as a stone carver). He was fanatical with designs. Erdrich and Urquhart use dissimilar images and symbols in their writings. Erdrich is presenting the

situation and life of oppressed people in Africa but Urquhart is focusing on the traditional image of Baravia. In the novel, *The Stone Carvers*, the migrating birds are symbols of nature. The symbol of the bear is a big part of the novel *Tracks*. We see images of the bear all through the novel. The bear is the majority linked with the Pillager family. The text embodies the images and symbols, nature as a healer, nature as a destroyer, women-nature relationship.

In study of *Tracks* and *The Stone Carvers* through the ecocritical perspective, the study has presented a new interpretation of how the landscape, non human world are used to shape the stories of the novels. Both these novels represent the multi dimensional aspects of the landscape. *Tracks* is the realistic portrayal of land and villages. Both these novels focused on the landscapes of dissimilar countries. *The Stone Carvers* also deals with landscape of Baravia and Canada. Both the novels witness the proficiency of the writers to examine the small things on the earth such as non human world, animals and birds.

The study also examines the novels from ecofeminist perspective: it exposes the connection between women and nature. Both the writers reflect the patriarchal social injustice. The subjugation of women is also described with the characters of Klara and Fleur Pillager and Pauline, while on exploitation of nature with the name of commercialism. There is obliteration of natural resources, greed for land, and oppression by legal codes in this novel. In *Tracks*, the female characters, Pauline and Fleur's oppressions stand for the regular destruction of the environment. Fleur, a strange and strong female character's failing similar the physical obliteration of the environment. In *The Stone Carvers*, is documented as one who is troubled, Klara is allowed to promote her strange freedom in ways that other women in Shoneval are not. This freedom is both an approval and an annoyance, isolated from her community and even from the respite of life by her grief.

Women culture is related to their body, flesh, natural process, emotions and feelings. The image of cultural ecofeminism is seen in selected texts. The cultural situation of women is equal to the situation of nature. Like women's child bearing qualities and nature's life providing qualities have similar importance.

There are themes like exploitation of nature, struggles of characters against nature, love for landscapes etc. The novels are depicting the destruction of nature

in society. Two selected novels are presenting women-nature connection like, Fleur is comparing with filthy wolf. She compares with powerful animals and in *The Stone Carvers*, her life she works with wood and later with stone when sculpturing pieces of art.

The association between humans and nature has become the relation of authority and powerlessness correspondingly. In the novel, *Tracks* Nanapush taught Eli hunting skills and other conventional ways of life. Both the characters know the skills of hunting. In the novel *The Stone Carvers*, farmers are demanding to turn deforested wastelands into fields. They cleared the land for their benefits.

Interconnectedness among culture and nature is also presented in *Tracks* and *The Stone Carvers*. People have their own limited civilization and each part of their pleasure was related to tree, land and fields. White people obliterate their fields and trees due to that with this their culture was also unconcerned. In the novel *The Stone Carvers*, nature's conditions in Bavaria contrasted with northern Canada. There is contrast between two culture of Bavaria and Canada and representation of nature. People in Bavaria are undistruptive to nature. But in people of Canada are cutting trees for their purposes. So, both the texts represent the relationship between human-being and their physical environment.

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