

**An Environmental study to echo the endangerment of ecocidal human activities by  
endorsing the ideas of an Eco-terrorist through Abby Geni's Wildlands**

Thesis submitted in  
partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree  
of Master of Arts in English

By

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*Declaration*

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## DECLARATION

I declare that the dissertation entitled **An Environmental study to echo the endangerment of ecocidal human activities by endorsing the ideas of a Eco-terrorist through Abby Geni's Wildlands** submitted by me for the degree of Master of English literature is the record of work carried out by **S.Priyadarshni** during the period from **December 2020- May 2021** under the guidance of **G. Harine MA English.,MATamil.,M.phil** Department of English, Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women, Coimbatore and has not formed the basis for the award of any Degree, Diploma, Associateship, Fellowship, Titles in the University or any other University or other similar Institutions of Higher Learning.

**Signature of the Candidate**

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## **CERTIFICATE FROM THE SUPERVISOR**

I certify that the dissertation entitled **Literature banality: An Environmental study to echo the endangerment of ecocidal human activities by endorsing the ideas of a Eco-terrorist through Abby Geni's Wildlands** submitted for the degree of Master of in English by is the record of research work carried out by her **S.Priyadarshni** during the period from **December 2020- May 2021** under my guide **Harine G.MA English.,MA Tamil.,M.Phil.**, and supervision and that this work has not formed the basis for the award of any Degree, Diploma, Associateship, Fellowship, Titles in the University or any other University or other similar Institutions of Higher Learning.

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*Acknowledgement*

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# *Chapter I*

## *Introduction*



## Introduction

Literature is a part of human life that is passed from generation to generation which describes the culture of a country. It can be defined as a piece of writing which were valued as works of art. Literature is the stream of ideas which is said to be the world of developed thoughts. It discusses all ups and downs of life and also it have authentic description of future. Writers can create world of imagination and on the power of imagination they think ahead of their time while scientists and engineers deal with existing time.

Through literature, readers have developed thoughts and better know how to deal with life. Literature also make person civilized, according to, Bertrand Russell, civilization is not development of material adjuncts, it is basically development of thought and literature develops it. It is classified as the variety of systems including language, national origin, historical period, genre and subject matter. It is partly or completely a symbolic language that gives the human life a new meaning.

Writings in literature had taken on a more comprehensive role of mirroring society in order for human to study themselves and understand the underlying truths common to all people. It also represents the culture and tradition of a language or a people. It is transparent that literature shows versatile dimension and deals with every aspect of life more or less. It is to be mentioned that the viewpoint of grasping and the degree of infusing in the conscience of the

same literary work can be different in case of different people from different social, political, cultural, economic or intellectual background.

There is a lot of stimulating ingredients in literature that can influence people life one has to grab that accordingly. Literature works are with direct or implied moral and it is an emphatic force of education. Literature and life of a society reflect upon each other and it can reflect the real pattern of any society.

Literary studies are not only connected with human life and society but also having a close relationship with all existing nature lives. This relationship has been reflected through writers throughout different cultures across the world. It influences people in various aspects and makes reader to understand the every walks of life. Narratives, in particular, inspire empathy and give people a new perspective on their lives and the lives of others. Clearly, it serves as a reflection of reality, a product of art, and a window to an ideology. In literature, a work of fiction implies the inventive construction of an imaginary world and, most commonly, its audience typically expects it to deviate in some ways from the real world rather than presenting only characters who are actual people or portrayals that are factually true.

Fiction is generally understood as not fully adhering to the real world, which consequently leaves its themes and its context that relates to the real world or real issues. Fiction contains certain symbolic and thematic features known as literary merits. In other words, fiction narrates a story, which aims at something bigger than merely a story. It is to entertain, educate,

and inspire the readers and the audience. Literature in general and fiction in particular, is capable enough to sweep our emotions. Therefore, fiction gives the audience an experience beyond their daily lives.

A fictional work would incorporate fantastical and imaginary ideas from everyday life. It comprises some important elements such as plot, exposition, foreshadowing, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution. The author invents the story and makes up the characters, the plot or storyline, the dialogue and sometimes even the setting. A fictional work does not claim to tell a true story. Instead, it immerse people in experiences that never have in real life, introduce reader to many types of people that they never otherwise meet and takes with lots of information that people never heard. Fiction can inspire, intrigue, scare and engage in new ideas.

There are three main types of fiction: the short story, the novella and the novel.

Short story, brief fictional prose narrative that is shorter than a novel and that usually deals with only a few characters, which was written in prose form. Anecdotes, fables, fairy tales, and parables are some of the examples. A novella is a standalone piece of fiction that is shorter than a full-length novel but longer than a short story or novelette. Example, Leo Tolstoy's *The Death of Ivan Ilich*, and Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness* and so on. Novels are even more complex than novellas, and they usually have more than one plot or storyline and many welldeveloped characters. There are many types of novels that includes, mysteries, thrillers, suspense, detective, science fiction, romantic, historical, realist or even postmodern.

It provides them an insight into the life of the characters, their manners, transitions, and events related to them. It also used to point out the flaws and drawbacks of a society, race, and nation in a manner that it does not touch the boundary of criticism. Moreover, fiction not only made to sweep all emotions of reader but also to make us understand the importance of all creation in universe including, the world of nature

. Due to lots of interesting genres in fiction, most of the environmentalists or environmental writers were intended to contribute more ideas on fiction. To enhance and tensile the study this research focused fiction to illustrate the far out awareness of nature. Among various genres in novels this study involves eco-thriller which also plays a prominent role in contemporary literature.

There was a time when the vast majority of thrillers involving environmental issues, called Eco-Thrillers, dealt with catastrophic, world-wide, or science fiction or horror type calamities. For the most part, they were not about climate change or localized issues. An ecothriller is a novel in which the action involves an environmental calamity that will be a worldwide in scope or that will change some significant aspect of the Earth as know it. Possibly, this activity seems unethical, at worst it is criminal. Frequently, greedy corporations or super-wealthy individuals are the antagonists.

The people who purposefully enroll themselves in the criminal activity on the behalf of saving nature and environment are said to be the real protagonists. Ecothriller books contain part thriller, part science fiction, and perhaps part horror novel or speculative fiction.

Usually, the thrillers are served with the heightened feelings of suspense, excitement, surprise, anticipation and anxiety. But here the fictional stories deal with real-world environmental issues such as unregulated development, contaminated drinking water, oil spills, industrialization, and animal liberation and so on. There are no legal proceedings in the book or they are only tangential to the story.

Apart from legalism all other authors have poured their writings on this particular genre which sometimes attack government acts indirectly or directly. Such writings only have the essence of environmentalism that changed the view of reader on nature. There are many such eco-thrillers that people came across, one of among with the same essence, quality and the content of above mentioned is the recent novel by Abby Geni, *The Wildlands* in 2018. It treated with the idea of environmental sustainability in track of eco-thriller genre.

Now a days people are highly concentrated on controversial issues that endangers human but there are only less people who speaks of the environmental problems and it's threatening. So this study will intend to reveal the items that cause environmental discrimination. Usually, crimes are meant to be illegal and it is considered as sin but here the crimes are committed selflessly for the sake of environment and it influence the study to take this particular genre. In this computation order there comes the author named Abby Geni, who was a contemporary writer and she inspired lots of people by her awful writings.

Abby Geni is an American fictional writer. Her writings are Chicago based and it starts with her popular debut short story collection, *The Last Animal* in 2013 and then her debut novel, *The Lightkeepers* which was published in the year 2016 and her second new novel, *The Wildlands* which published in 2018. Her books have been translated into seven languages and have won the Barnes & Noble Discover Award and the Chicago Review of Books Awards, among other honors. She has completed her Bachelor of Arts degree at Oberlin College in the year 2001 which was located in Oberlin, Ohio.

And then she completed her Master of Fine Arts in the university of Iowa writers' workshop in 2003. Her latest novel, *The Wildlands*, was named one of the best books of 2018 by Kirkus and Buzzfeed and was a finalist for the L.A. Times Book Prize. Geni is a core faculty member at Story Studio Chicago and now she recently served as Visiting Associate Professor of Fiction at the University of Iowa Writers' Workshop.

For the author, the natural world is the lens that makes the most sense. She tends to see humans as a part of a greater ecosystem. She speaks of the existing relationship that humans having with nature because she tells that whenever she go through a newspaper she often finds the news of state, race, rights, problems within states, technology sports, economy and so on.

But none of these issues seems as vital to the relationship to nature. Nothing says about Climate change, super storms, the free fall of mass extinction, the death of the oceans. These

things are the base for her to write her works. The usage of animals in the stories also through what she visualized and experienced in her own town. In all of her works Abby Geni writes about emotional intersections: between animals and humans and the landscapes in which both inhabit.

Abby Geni's characters locate in two ways, one through passions and another through their problems. In one interview Geni had listed out her influence toward writers which their writings are helpful or inspired in all her works. She had a huge influence with the writings of Jeannette Winterson, each of her private poems affected Geni and pay attention to sentences.

Through the works of E.M. Forster she acquired to express emotions. Barbara Kingsolver can incorporate the natural world into stories in a deep and intrinsic way. Alice Thomas Ellis's each of her books is sort of the same book (polite British human drama, plus the supernatural), and she read and loved them all. But Marilynne Robinson probably had the biggest impact because through his work *Housekeeping* (1980) she gains confident which had all that slowness and crystalline beauty.

In her works people can easily able to find out the space she given to nature which defines her perspective and speculative thoughts that brought back in her each novel. In order to reveal the backdrop issues of environment she uses her protagonist of story as a tool in a proper way to evident or justify those issues and through defending nature she convey some strong

message to readers. Her books directly gave much importance to the environmental alignment. In all her writings there is a clear cut of observation of her intention to makeover the ecosystem.

Among the rest two works, her recent novel, *The Wildlands* made huge impact between pupils and she carried every portion of story in authentic manner. *The Wildlands* hitting reader with the actual feelings of what author felt. And it surely make a change in the minds of reader, changes the perspective of environment as well as human and it make sure the bond humans have with nature. This novel not only engaged with the touch of human relationship with ecosystem but also it addressed the mistakes of humans on handling environment.

So this study tends to reveal the elements of this particular novel, *The Wildlands* which is a remarkable haunting literary eco-thriller from critically acclaimed writer Abby Geni, one that examines what happens when one family becomes trapped in the tenuous space between the human and animal worlds.

There are four main characters in the novel within whom the story revolves around, they are, Tucker and his sisters Darlene Jane and Cora these four of them belong to McCloud's family. Cora was the narrator of story and they were lived in the place, called Mercy, in Oklahoma. The story opens with setting of category 5 tornado, in order to save their lives from tornado the McCloud family hides themselves in tornado shelter in basement. But unfortunately it hits their father and farm and take everything from them. They made media headlines figured

as McCloud orphans because they were already motherless and now tornado sweeps all the wealth from them including their animals.

The setting of climate has been changing throughout the novel, now the family's authority had been handed over to Darlene who is the elder of all. She was the one who takes care of family and her two sisters Jane and Cora. Tucker has been missed because she left her sisters as it was after tornado hits them. Jane was a soccer player, Darlene worked in a Supermarket and Cora was a 9 year old girl who pursued her schooling. Darlene missed Tucker badly whenever she goes along for a walk in Shady acres at night. She filled with the memories of her brother such as his love towards animals and animal's affection towards him, his promise of releasing animals freely and all the things he speaks about animals.

One day on her walk at night she feels a sudden shake of ground but she did not care that much. The next day there was a serious discussion goes on in the TV news which announced the last night explosion in a Jolly cosmetic factory. In which news reader says no one in the factory had been harmed including animals. Only the person who blasted it got injured.

On that day Cora found Tucker in her home with wounds and come to know he was the one who blasts factory and escapes from there. Next day Tucker escorted her from house after

clearing all his wounds with the help of Cora. Cora also accepted to accompany with him because she loves him more than anything. And now the setting changed to winter season where Darlene and Jane were suffered with Cora's absence. Roy, the police officer came Shady Acres to ask about Tucker but Darlene refuse to say.

After sometime, Darlene filled with memories of that Tucker because in between their angry argument only Tucker left home three years back. Roy's investigation had proven that the Tucker was a criminal whose criminal activities had linked with ECO (Environmental Conservative Organization). And now Darlene combined with Roy in all his investigations about Tucker and Cora. They both tried to find out Tucker and Cora at to the best.

One day Cora made a call to Darlene to convey that she was happy with Tucker and tells about their plan on Anthropocene mass extinction. She continuously explained about the mass extinction and when Darlene asked her to come home she declined and shut her call. And then story slowly move on to Tucker and Cora's adventures. And now Tucker changed Cora as Corey meanwhile Cora transformed as a boy by her appearance.

And also Tucker gave a brief explanation about the classification of wildness. In between all their ways Tucker tells something to Cora in order to know. Now they are heading towards Texas, Cora was happy and love to hear all the stories of Tucker, he usually tells stories by relating Tucker and Corey as heroes. Whenever Cora asks of her father and mother Tucker explains about them and their valuable wordings to them. He also tells about various happenings of his life and his cheated friends and

all.

On their travelling, Tucker have released few horses from being domestication and then in a tiny town of Texas people followed the ritual called “rattle snake roundup” in which they killed thousands of snakes a day. Tucker made fire with arson and let the snakes escaped from there. And again their way to another plan Tucker explained Cora about the Wildlands which was often mentioned by their mother, the Wildlands are none other than the land that is cultivated or unfit for cultivation and added to this he also explains something about food chain, natural changes and all. After that they released the dog from shop in which the dead animals are showcased.

Tucker burnt the shop and escaped and then they reached Amarillo to free the animals from chicken man by killing him. On the other side Darlene and Roy conducting an intensive research about Tucker’s next move and now they became lovers. One by one Roy had encountered all the actions of Tucker. Darlene got a message through Roy that tells a younger man and a little girl snatched candies from a shop which was recorded in CCTV. And then a phone vibrates which was Cora she thought that Darlene would come and save her after seeing the snatching. She did that crime intentionally.

At last Tucker and Cora reached California where someone never ended. Now their new home would be the mausoleum. Here Tucker worked as an employee in Pacific zoo and now that his behavior completely changed and he restricted Cora in all ways. Now his plan was to release all the animals from zoo so he acts according to that. For this Tucker accompanied with Cora one night and releases all the animals from the cage of Pacific Zoo such as Panda, Monkeys,

Gibbons, Crocodile, Moose, Anteaters, Zebras, Tiger, Polar Bears, Elephants, Tortoise, Giraffe and Lions.

Now the animals are in all over California by escaping from the Zoo and in order to save themselves from police and animals they climb on a Tree to save their lives. At once Tucker climb out to pick a car from alley, he was caught by a polar bear and it hit him heavily and kills him. On the next day Tucker's body has been confirmed by Darlene and buried. Cora has been hospitalized and after this their life had changed, Corey had changed into Cora. Several decades later Cora founded Wildlands that is; she owned an animal Sanctuary in which there are many wild animals had been under the maintenance of Cora. And now she fulfilled the dream of Tucker but in a different way.

And next move on to the other popular works of Abby Geni. Starting with, *The Last Animal* (2013) which contains a remarkable series of stories or a collection of short stories which was unified around one theme that is, people who use the interface between the human and the natural world to contend with their modern challenges in love, loss, and family life. In

*The Last Animal*, she wanted to talk about the myriad ways in which human beings connect to nature. To fully explore that idea, she scattered the stories across different characters: an aquarist, an ostrich farmer, a gardener, a dog owner. *Terror Birds*, *Dharma at the Gate*, *Captivity*, *Silence*, *The Girl of Apache Bryn Mawr*, *Isaiah on Sunday*, *In the Spirit Room*, *Fire Blight*, and *The Last Animal* are the works that presented in *The Last Animal*.

The places in *Last Animal* was not a coincident but it is author's own town where she born and bred. It is said to be a mere experience of the author what she experienced in her country is portrayed in these stories. *Terror Birds* awes with its power. It's set in an Arizona ostrich farm, told through alternating first person narrations of mother and son. It tracks the dissolution of a marriage set against an ostrich farm in the sweltering Arizona desert.

*Dharma at the Gate* setting up a compelling triangle: an emotionally damaged teenage boy, his girlfriend who is desperate but unable to break away, and her loyal dog. As she fights for possession of her own future and her own soul, she recognizes what she must give up to attain the freedom that calls to her. *Captivity* is beautiful in its terseness, focusing on a 31-yearold octopus handler living with her mother and struggling to make sense of her brother's disappearance.

Eventually, her definition of being alive shifts and changes. In *Silence*, is about Jesse who is dying from a malignant brain tumor that is gradually stealing his neurological abilities. He is certain of one thing that he does not want to die in a hospital instead he wants to die at home. He is working on building a full scale model of the Wright Brothers' plane that he hopes to fly before he dies.

*The Girls of Apache Bryn Mawr*, the story of twelve year old girls at a Jewish summer camp in the mid-west who was in awe of their shiksa counselor, Danielle. When she suddenly

disappears under mysterious circumstances, they think they know what happened to her but lack the courage and wherewithal to follow up on their suspicions. *Isaiah on Sunday* is about Isaiah who left home at seventeen to work full-time as a cashier at a supermarket.

Living at home with his missionary parents and all their foster children was too much for him, especially after he lost his own faith in god. One night, Frances, his fourteen year old sister, bicycles to his apartment in the middle of the night. She has run away from home. The whole story centered what Isaiah can do to make things right with his family.

*“In the Spirit Room”* a brother and a sister each deal with their mother’s death from Alzheimer’s in their own unique way. Jolene is organized and goes through the commonly held stages of grief. Max is completely unmoored and spends his days and nights at work at the Museum of Natural History in D.C. where he works and his mother used to work. Seeking to unclutter his mind, he sleeps in a different office of the museum every night for three weeks trying to find a way to start life anew. In *“Fire Blight”* a father grieving over his wife’s recent miscarriage finds an outlet for comfort in their backyard garden and makes a surprising discovery on how to cherish living things.

And in *The Last Animal*, Delilah, deserted by her husband thirty years previously, follows in the footsteps of where she last received letters from him in Mexico about thirty years ago. Lew had returned from the Korean War with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and was emotionally unbalanced. While she was waiting in a doctor’s office for him to pick her up, he never returned.

She was pregnant at the time with one child at home. She raised two children alone. In Mexico, where she last heard from him, she visits all the places that were postmarked on his letters and ritually burns each letter. At the same time she is privy to seeing some remarkable things that no one will likely believe she's seen - a manatee, a sting ray, and a huge ocean animal with a boy holding on to its fins.

Another important work of Abby Geni is, *The Lightkeepers*, her debut novel, which was in the structure of mysterious novel but explores the wider themes of the natural world, the power of loss, and the nature of recovery. *The Lightkeepers*, in this, story follows Miranda, a nature photographer who travels to the Farallon Islands, an exotic and dangerous archipelagos off the coast of California, for a one-year residency capturing the landscape.

Her only companions are the scientists studying there, odd and quirky refugees from the mainland living in rustic conditions; they document the fish populations around the island, the bold trio of sharks called the sisters that hunt the surrounding waters, and the overwhelming bird population who, at times, create the need to wear hard hats as protection from their attacks. Shortly after her arrival, Miranda is assaulted by one of the inhabitants of the islands. A few days later, her assailant is found dead, perhaps the result of an accident.

*The Lightkeepers* upends the traditional structure of a mystery novel that is, an isolated environment, a limited group of characters who might not be trustworthy, a death that may or may not have been accidental, a balance of discovery and action. The only inhabitants of the islands are a group of six quirky biologists who are there to research the various seasons of

sharks, whales, seals, and birds. As Miranda canvasses the islands with her camera to make sense of it all, Author zooms in with her picture-perfect prose that brings to life this desolate world.

Abby Geni learned of the extremely isolated and restricted archipelago off the coast of California from reading Susan Casey's memoir, *The Devil's Teeth*. Borrowing the set of this fascinatingly spooky natural reserve and what she calls the "perfect architecture" of an Agatha Christie plot. *The Lightkeepers* charts a rarely glimpsed view of humans grappling with extraordinary natural and sometimes supernatural phenomenon. Like many literary classics and novels that are destined to be classics, *The Lightkeepers* raises questions about humanity that are anything but light.

There are some other outstanding eco-thrillers that preceding the novel, *The Wildlands*, are listed below. They are, *Zoo* (2012) by James Patterson, in which all of the animals of the world turned against humans, here animals tend to be gathering in swarms, and the images Patterson produces about great swirling mounds of dogs or rats are intense and disgusting, but oddly compelling. *Jaws* (1974) by Peter Benchley in which Great White sharks develop a sweet tooth for humans, and *Jurassic Park* (1990) by Michael Crichton in which dinosaurs are brought back to life with cataclysmic results. Preston and Child's work, *Relic* and the sequel, *Reliquary* (1997) dealt with a monster accidentally brought back from the rain forest and lives in and under the New York Academy of Sciences.

Rather than this, there are some books that having some sort of different ideas, the concept that they implied within the text was completely different from the thrillers. Books like

*Monkey Wrench Gang* (1975), *State of Fear* (2004) and *Pelican Brief* (1992) are said to be eco thrillers but their subjects are different from each other and the only common denominator is an impact on or to the environment.

Edward Abbey's *The Monkey Wrench Gang*, it is a novel that shows the detailed actions of flawed protagonists, as well as their compelling love for the Southwest. The themes in this book are land use and development, activism, anarchy, and land ownership. Michael Crichton's *State of Fear*, though the book incorporates many aspects of global warming and climate change on Earth, it is actually a fiction work in which eco-terrorists plot mass murder in order to draw attention to the impending catastrophe resulting from global warming.

*The Pelican Brief* by John Grisham and it tells the story of Darby Shaw, taut thriller about a young law student whose legal brief about the assassination of two Supreme Court justices causes her to be targeted by killers. Apart from thrillers these fictional works place eco terrorism as a central subject. P. J. Lazos's *Oil and Water* (2016), it is about an insightful, emotional, and deeply relevant novel about an oil industry conspiracy.

Michael J. Fitzgerald's *The Fracking War* (2013), veteran investigative reporter Jack Stafford relocates from California to rural Upstate New York to take a job with a small weekly newspaper after the death of his wife, and immediately discovers a citizen rebellion that models itself after Edward Abbey's 1975 novel *The Monkey Wrench Gang*.

When looking through some contemporary authors of Abby Geni there are many, but this study going to discuss few of among who are closely related to her writings and her works. First comes the author, Peter Abrahams was a South African-born novelist, journalist and political commentator. He was the best-selling author of *Down the Rabbit Hole* (2005), a novel which is for children. He is also the author of the Chet and Bernie mystery series that starts with *Dog on it* in 2009 with the latest book *Scents and Sensibility* that was published in 2015. *Oblivion* is one of his famous works which was similar to that of Geni's *The Lightkeepers*. It was an absolute thriller in which the character called Nick Petrov has a talent for finding missing children.

Susan Casey is the author of *The Wave: In Pursuit of the Rogues, Freaks, and Giants of the Ocean* (2010), and *The Devil's Teeth: A True Story of Obsession and Survival among America's Great White Sharks* (2005). Both books are *New York Times* bestsellers, with *The Wave* named one of 2010's Most Notable Books. Her latest book was also been chosen as one of Amazon's Best Books of 2016. From 2009 to 2013, Casey served as the editor in chief of *O, The Oprah Magazine*.

*The Devil's Teeth* is also alike Geni's *The Lightkeepers* in which Susan Casey, a journalist and ocean lover, became infatuated with great white sharks of the Farallon Islands dubbed by sailors in the 1850s *the devil's teeth*. And there also a character Miranda a nature photographer who travels to the Farallon Islands The sharks there are the alphas among alphas,

some longer than twenty feet, and they congregate just twenty-seven miles off the coast of San Francisco. After going through many restrictions and barriers, she manages to join a group of scientists studying predation patterns by great white sharks within the Red Triangle. It is a story of crossing the boundary between society and an untamed place where humans are neither wanted nor needed. Peter's weather prediction held.

Michael James Fitzgerald is an American writer. He is the author of more than 20 books, and is best known for his technical books. *The Fracking War* (2014) was one of his best known and it is a tale about the escalating tensions between energy companies using technology known as hydrofracking and environmentalists who want the technology banned. Another best novel he published in the year 2015, *Fracking Justice* that looks at how the energy industry has been able to influence governments and the justice system to often label environmental activists as not simply protesters, but eco-terrorists. This particular novel, *Fracking Justice* closely resembled with Abby Geni's *The Wildlands* which have same characteristics. When comparing these two novels the reason is different but their motives are similar. Environmental justice became the central part of the novels.

T. Coraghessan Boyle is an American novelist and short story writer. Since the mid1970s, he has published sixteen novels and more than 100 short stories. *A Friend of the Earth* is a 2000 novel by T. Coraghessan Boyle was a popular and environmental based novel. This novel contains the story of environmental destruction set in 2025 as a result of global warming and the greenhouse effect, the climate has drastically changed, and, accordingly,

biodiversity is a thing of the past. And this novel again has some qualities that *The Wildlands* had. In one interview of Abby Geni says that *The Wildlands* had been written in order to convey readers the seriousness of climate changes out of global warming and greenhouse emission. People see traces of climate changes in both of these novels.

John Michael Crichton was an American author and filmmaker. His books have sold over 200 million copies worldwide, and over a dozen have been adapted into films. One of popular novel of Michael Crichton was his 2004 novel *State of Fear* portrays eco-terrorists, in this case a group of environmentalists who seek to raise awareness about anthropogenic global warming by creating extreme weather events in a negative light. This was absolutely similar to that of the major concept that portrays in Abby Geni's, *The Wildlands*, in which the seriousness of anthropogenic mass extinction had been illustrated through protagonist's behavior. This *State of Fear* is despite being a work of fiction; the book contains many graphs and footnotes, two appendices, and a 20-page bibliography in support of Crichton's beliefs about global warming.

The above contemporary authors are some of them who lived in the age of Abby Geni and they seem similar and practical in their ideologies. Environmental thrillers are taking more of the spotlight on current writers which highlights the issues of environment that have been resembled with real world consequences. Now a days many authors has been shifted to environmental writings and their writings have impact on today's society as awareness on ecosystem.

There are many contemporary writers rather than the above mentioned, like Greta Thunberg, Barbara Kingsolver, Michael Pollan, Harriet A. Washigton and so on. This has been proven that the writers and the young environmentalists started showing their concerns on ecological factors and they began writing on accordingly.

As an environmental writer, Abby Geni's, *The Wildlands* mainly explores the human's relationship with nature and what drives a person or a group of persons to involve in an ecoterrorist activity. By seeing and go through all such things, this study would like to answer some questions in ongoing research on the basis of environment, they are, what happens when humans are against human civilization? Who risks the lives of natural creatures? How eco-terrorists differ from current materialistic society and what makes them to do such crimes? Who are the real liars and terrorists in front of nature? When eco-terroristic activities are wrong and illegal then how come destroying environment for the sake of oneself is right and legal? What are anthropocene mass extinction and its effects? Whether human domination is part in destructing nature? These are some of the questions that became the reason for this research and by choosing this novel, *The Wildlands* as a tool to attain study's goal and to achieve this particular movement called eco-terrorism.

This broad study is to understand and analyze the environmental destructions such as climatic changes and animal cruelty which are considered to be the prominent cause of today's ecosystem. Scientists are trying to control these changes but human impacts on earth highly damaged it than before. And also on the other side, this research focused on the activities of ecoterrorism that are considered to be as environmental activity that is, which are far differed

from terrorism and human destruction. Through this study, people will gain some ideas about anthropogenic activities, eco-terrorists and their motives. Exposure of this study is to reveal the real sinners and criminals of this natural society and giving awareness towards human activity against nature and explaining some important facts of anthropocene mass extinction.

This is a kind of environmental research by applying eco-criticism and eco-feminism in eco-thriller novel; *The Wildlands* which unfolds the reality of planet which examines anthropogenic mass extinction, climate changes, humans and nature relationships, people domination over nature, eco-terrorism and their activities and animal liberation. By applying these theories it is easy for the readers to understand as well as it gives a standard research quality. Moreover, in general, Living beings are always living beings; the matter here is how people value them. It doesn't sense whether it would be an animal, plant or human but their values are equally same. People are highly value invisible and celestial gods whether they are theist or atheist or they exist or not but they denied to see the people and environment around them. The point is that how every individual should value lives and give equal importance or response to all the existing creatures in the mother earth.

No law says no humans have the rights to demolish environment, pollute the earth or kill animals for their personal benefits but every laws says no man shall have the right to murder a single human. By having superior powers, government had undertaken many laws and rules but that sometimes will lead a serious disaster against environment. There are some environmental activists and animal activists who risk their lives in order to defend nature and animals by taking

laws in their own hands which is said to be an eco-terrorist activity. This study is a sort of awareness about environmental discriminations and animal liberations and it view things differently but more interestingly and uniquely.

A leading aim of this research is to prove that the eco-terrorists are not the real terrorists but the society; the people who push them to do such activities are the real ones. An environmental based fiction helps to educate, interact, aware and demolish the problems of environmental disasters and hence this research is an attempt to educate people about their responsibilities on defending nature, for this purpose the novel *The Wildlands* has been choosed which will educate the readers about the serious environmental issues of our society. Each character in the novel have some specific quality and their passions will deliver some message to all the readers. Especially, the character called Tucker, who was an environmentalist later portrayed as an eco-terrorist; he make the readers to feel things via his point of approaching natural beings.

The thesis is divided into five chapters. The first chapter is introduction which gives a detailed note of eco thriller, author, contemporary authors and her works, summary of selected novel and explains the aim and objective of the research. The second chapter deals with the detailed explanation of theories that used in the analysis. The third chapter deals with the analysis of anthropogenic point of view of handling nature and has given some important facts of mass extinction and climate changes by applying Eco-criticism theory. The fourth chapter deals with the analysis of what if a man struck between human and animal world? And also it discussed

something about human domination over natural society by applying Eco-feminism theory. The fifth chapter discussed about the solutions to control natural disasters and it further gives a brief summary of previous chapters and few scopes for further research.



## *Chapter II*

### *Ecocriticism and Ecofeminism*

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## **Ecocriticism and Ecofeminism**

Environmental literature is writing that comments intelligently on environmental themes, particularly as applied to the relationships between man, society and the environment. In literature, the second half of 18th century, writers from various zone started writing about nature. It is an interesting study for a literary critic to study the texts of writers who have discussed the close relationship between man and nature. Many authors have expressed their concern for nature due to the avarice of human beings and growing population. There are many such theories in this school of thought they are, ecology, eco-criticism, deep ecology, social ecology, biopolitics, eco-feminism and so on. Among all environmental studies, this study focuses on two particular theories that is, “Eco-criticism and Eco-feminism” which enhance more essence to this research.

### **Eco-criticism:**

Now the study slightly moves on to the concepts of eco-criticism. Eco-criticism is the study of the relationship between literature and the physical environment which has been defined by Cheryll Glotfelty in his essay entitled “*The Ecocriticism Reader: Landmarks in literary Ecology* (1996)”. But the word eco-criticism has been introduced or appeared in the essay of William Rueckert, “*Literature and ecology: an experiment in ecocriticism* (1978)” which means this concept of eco-criticism first arose in the late 1970s in USA. Eco is short of ecology, which is concerned with the relationships between living organisms in their natural environment as well

as their relationships with that environment. In UK the word ecocriticism has been termed as green studies but both denoted the same meanings and the concepts.

This theory states, Man and nature are not just interdependent but also interrelated. Likely, eco criticism is concerned with the relationships between literature and earth's environment. It is in interdisciplinary point of view of where all sciences or scholars come together to analyze the environment and gave brainstorm possible solutions for the correction of the contemporary environmental situation and examine the various ways literature treats the subject of nature. Ecocriticism often investigates the relation between humans and the natural world in literature. It acted toward how environmental issues, cultural issues concerning the environment and attitudes towards nature are presented and analyzed.

One of the vital goals in ecocriticism is to study how individuals in society behave and react in relation to nature and ecological aspects. This structure of criticism has gained a lot of attention during recent years due to higher social emphasis on environmental destruction and increased technology. Ecocriticism characterized with the relationship between culture and nature and here critics reject the notion that everything is socially or linguistically constructed. There are many such ways that authors have, to explore environmental ideas and depletion in their works. In some books it is been a central theme, while in others, it is secondary. For Example, Ecocriticism now exists in USA, takes its literary bearings from three major nineteenth century American writers whose works celebrate nature, life and the wilderness they are, Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882), Margaret Fuller (1810-1850) and Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862).

All three were members of the group of transcendentalists which means they sees humans and nature as inherently good, Emerson's first short book named, *Nature* (1836) is selective

essay on the impact upon him of the natural world. Fuller's first book was *Summer on the Lakes* (1843), which is powerfully written journal of her encounter with the American landscape at large. Thoreau's *Walden* is an account of his two years of stay; it is perhaps, the classic account of dropping out of modern life and seeking to renew the self by a return to nature. These three books can be seen as the foundational works of American ecocentred writing. Meanwhile, UK version of green studies takes its bearings from the British Romanticism of 1790s rather than American transcendentalism of 1840s.

Eco-criticism has been divided into "waves" to historicize the movement in a clear trajectory. The "first wave" of eco-criticism tended to take a historicized approach to "nature," often overlooking more political and theoretical dimensions and tending toward a celebratory approach of wilderness and nature writing. Eco-criticism expanded into a "second wave," offering new ways of approaching literary analysis by, for example, theorizing and deconstructing human-centered scholarship in eco studies; imperialism and ecological degradation; agency for animals and plants; gender and race as ecological concepts; and problems of scale. The "third wave" advocates for a global understanding of eco critical practice through issues like global warming, anthropocene, eco-cosmopolitanism, eco-feminism, animality, eco-masculinism and so on. It combines elements from the first and second waves but aims to move beyond Anglo-American prominence. There are currently hundreds of books and thousands of articles and chapters written about eco-criticism.

The late twentieth century that is third wave of ecocriticism has woken up to a new threat, that is, ecological disaster. The most important environmental problems that humankind faces *as a whole* are, nuclear war, depletion of valuable natural resources, population explosion,

proliferation of exploitative technologies, conquest of space preliminary to using it as a garbage dump, pollution, extinction of species among others., which is considered to be the Anthropocene mass extinction. In such a context, literary and cultural theory has begun to address the issue as a part of academic discourse. The theory states that the current era is called the Holocene, which starts from 11,700 years ago after the end of last ice age. It also proposed that new geological era has now dawned that is called Anthropocene means “the Human Age.” The word Anthropocene is derived from the Greek words *anthropo*, for man, and *cene* for new, it was coined by chemist Paul Crutzen in 2000. The term reflects the idea that humans are now the main-drivers of the Earth’s geology.

For this purpose the study takes Timothy Morton and his intervention as example, Timothy Morton is a philosopher and an expert in the literature of the Romantic period. Along with Graham Harman, Ian Bogost, and Levy Bryant, which they proposes a strongly antianthropocentric (that is against nature) reinterpretation of our relationship with the world, objects, and hierarchies. Morton uses piece of popular culture and a language which is full of poetic and ironic turns to sharply deconstruct the ecological crisis stemming from the anthropocene and introduced new philosophical concepts such as “hyperobjects” in which objects so massively distributed in time and space as to be impossible to distinguish or detect directly, like the biosphere and global warming.

Unlike traditional forms of ecocriticism linked to the late twentieth-century counterculture, Morton’s notion of “dark ecology” is a realistic stone thrown against the glass dome that still mentally isolates them which was an attempt to simplify and appease collective guilt from that which we refer to as “the environment”. In order to filling the gaps between assymetry, causality, phenomenology, coexistence, and temporality, Morton’s theories highlight

the trauma inherent to this era, ideally in order to awaken consciousness and favor a reevaluation of humanity's role and impact on the planet. The concept of hyperobject introduced in his book named, *Hyperobjects: Philosophy and Ecology after the End of the World* in 2013.

### **Eco-feminism**

Next, the study intended to discuss about Ecofeminism which is a branch of feminism that examines the connection between women and nature. Eco-feminist thinkers draw the concept of gender to analyze the relationships between humans and the natural world. The term was coined by the French writer Françoise d'Eaubonne in her book *Le Féminisme ou la Mort* in 1974. Eco-feminist theory asserts that a feminist perspective of equality does not place women in the dominant position of power, a revaluing of non-patriarchal or nonlinear structures, and a view of the world that respects organic processes, holistic connections, and the merits of intuition and collaboration. To these point of view ecofeminism adds both a commitment to the environment and an awareness associated between women and nature Today, there are several branches of ecofeminism, with varying approaches and analyses, including liberal ecofeminism, spiritual or cultural ecofeminism, and social ecofeminism or materialist ecofeminism.

Ecofeminism links the domination of nature to that of women. In analyzing descriptive and normative statements about nature and women, ecofeminists observe that changes in the latter are often preceded by changes in the former. From the sixteenth century onward and with the advent of the Scientific and Industrial Revolutions, ecofeminists argue that women and nature were viewed as wild resources to be tamed and exploited materially, psychologically, and recreationally. Eco-feminist analysis explores the connections between women and nature in culture, religion, and literature addresses the parallels between the oppression of nature and the oppression of women. These parallels include that are not limited to seeing women and nature as

property, seeing men as the curators of culture and women as the curators of nature, and how men dominate women and humans dominate nature. Ecofeminism stresses both women and nature must be respected. Charlene Spretnak has offered one way of categorizing eco-feminist work one through the study of political theory as well as history, another through the belief and study of nature-based religions and finally through environmentalism.

For example the works of Vandana Shiva plays a major role in the global ecofeminist movement. She viewed the dominant stream of modern science not as objective science but as a projection of Western men's values. The privilege of determining what is considered scientific knowledge and its usage has been controlled by men, and for the most part of history restricted to men. Example includes the medicalization of childbirth and the industrialization of plant reproduction. According to her 2004 article *Empowering Women*, a more sustainable and productive approach to agriculture can be achieved by reinstating the system of farming in India that is more centered on engaging women. She advocates against the prevalent patriarchal logic of exclusion, claiming that a woman-focused system would be a great improvement. She believes that ecological destruction and industrial catastrophes threaten daily life, and the maintenance of these problems has become women's responsibility.

Ecofeminism developed out of anarchy-feminist which suggests the social freedom and liberty of women without needed dependence upon other groups or parties or gender. It concerns with abolishing all forms of domination, while focusing on the oppressive nature of humanity's relationship to the natural world. According to Françoise d' Eaubonne in her book *Le Féminisme ou la Mort* (1974), ecofeminism relates the oppression and domination of all marginalized groups such as women, people of color, children, the poor to the oppression and domination of nature animals, land, water, air, etc. In the book, the author argues that oppression, domination, exploitation, and colonization from the Western patriarchal society had directly caused

irreversible environmental damage. Françoise d' Eaubonne was an activist and organizer, and her writing encouraged the eradication of all social injustice, not just injustice against women but the environment too.

**Eco terrorism:**

Next come the popular movement called Eco-terrorism which is often defined as the use of violence carried out to any environmental policy change. Eco-terrorism is considered to be a sabotage which means vandalize activity that had been enacted to save environment from being destructed. Eco-terrorists aimed the property of humans like industries or factories that endanger species and ecosystem. This eco activism is said to be illegal and would be classified as a form of civil disobedience. Eco-terrorist uses protests and other civil actions to effect environmental change. Eco-terrorism can also include ecotage (sabotage carried out for ecological reasons) in the name of the environment, which is illegal as this includes crimes against property which could lead to harm to humans. In the United States, the FBI's (Federal Bureau of Investigation) definition of terrorism includes the act of violence against property, which makes most acts of sabotage fall in the realm of domestic terrorism.. Many acts of sabotage involve the damage of equipment and unmanned facilities using arson.

The term eco-terrorism was coined after 1960s. The term "eco-terrorism" was first introduced by Ron Arnold in a 1983 article, where it was defined as a crime committed to save nature. The term became a household name in the 90's with the increased activity of groups like Earth Liberation Front (ELF). In 2003 the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) defined "ecoterrorism" as the use or threatened use of violence of a criminal nature against people or property by an environmentally oriented, subnational group for environmental-political reasons. There have been incidents in history of people using terror to protect or defend the environment.

It can be seen in the War of Desmoiselles, or War of the Maidens. The War of the Demoiselles was a series of peasant revolts in response to the new forest codes implemented by the French government in 1827. In 1829 groups of peasant men dressed in women's clothes and terrorized forest guards and charcoal-makers who they felt had wrongfully taken the land to exploit it.

The above mentioned history is considered as an act of eco-terrorism due to the fact that the peasants used tactics similar to modern day eco-terrorist groups. The peasants of Ariège masked their identities and committed acts of terror. They specifically targeted government officials who infringed on the rights of the forest. However, this is considered a pre-history rather than an actual act of eco-terrorism due to the fact that the peasants weren't environmentalist. The peasants committed their acts to protect the environment because they felt they had a claim to it due to it being their main source of income and way of life for generations. This was the thing that impact modern day eco-terrorist to involve themselves in eco terrorism and also it would be a great example that humans are same from ancient to modern, they still fighting for justice against government.

The characteristics of ecoterrorism includes criminal trespass on the property of logging companies and other firms and obstruction of their operations, sometimes through the sabotage of company equipment or the environmentally harmless modification of natural resources in order to make them inaccessible or unsuitable for commercial use. Examples of this practice, known as "monkey wrenching," which has been first introduced in the work of Edward Abbey's, *The Monkey Wrench Gang* (1975). In that they are the plugging of factory waste outlets and driving spikes into trees so that they cannot be logged and milled. Other activities described as eco-terrorist include protest actions by animal rights groups, which have included the destruction

of property in stores that sell products, made of fur and the bombing of laboratories that perform experiments on animals

The thought behind eco-terrorism rises from the radical environmentalism movement, which gained currency during the 1960s. Ideas that arose from radical environmentalism are based on the belief that capitalism, patriarchal society, and the industrial revolution and its subsequent innovations were responsible for the despoliation of nature. Radical environmentalism is also characterized by the belief that human society is responsible for the depletion of the environment and, if current society is left unchecked, will lead to the ultimate complete degradation of the environment. Like deep ecologists, some eco-terrorists subscribe to the idea of biocentrism, which is described as a belief that human beings are just an ordinary member of the biological community and that all living things should have rights and deserve protection under the law. There are many such eco-terrorists that they are motivated by different aspects of deep ecology, like the goal to return the environment to its natural, that is, preindustrial, state. Eco-terrorism is a form of radical environmentalism that arose out of the same school of thought that brought about deep ecology, ecofeminism, social ecology, and bioregionalism.

Radical environmentalism is a grass root branch of the larger environmental movement that emerged from an eco-centrism based frustration and dealt with the concept of reconnected with nature. The movement is typified by leaderless resistance organizations such as Earth First! which subscribe to the idea of taking direct action in defense of Mother Earth including civil disobedience, ecotage and monkey wrenching. Movements such as the Earth Liberation Front (ELF) and Animal Liberation Front (ALF) also take this form of action, although focusing on economic sabotage, rather than civil disobedience. Radical

environmentalists can include earth liberationists as well as Eco-nationalism, anarchoprimitivists, animal liberationists, bio-regionalists, green anarchists, deep ecologists, ecopsychologists and less often, eco-feminists, neo-Pagans, Wiccans, Third Positionists, antiglobalisation and anti-capitalist protesters.

The Earth Liberation Front (ELF), is one of the eco-terrorist group that collective name was autonomous individuals or covert cells who, according to the ELF Press Office, use economic sabotage and guerrilla warfare to stop the exploitation and destruction of the environment. The ELF was founded in Brighton in UK in 1992, and the rest of Europe by 1994. It is now an international organization with actions reported in 17 countries and is widely regarded as descending from Animal Liberation Front because of the relationship and cooperation between the two movements. They said that it is an eco-defense group dedicated to taking the profit motive out of environmental destruction by causing economic damage to businesses through the use of property damage. The ELF was classified as the top domestic terror threat in the United States by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in February 2001, and its members classified as eco-terrorists. The name came to public prominence when they were featured on the television show 60 Minutes in 2005. The group was further highlighted in the 2011 Academy Award-nominated documentary “If a Tree Falls: A Story of the Earth Liberation Front”.

The ELF gained national attention for a series of actions which earned them the label of eco-terrorists, including the burning of a ski resort in Vail, Colorado in 1998, and the burning of an SUV dealership in Oregon in 1999. Following the September 11, 2001 attacks several laws were passed increasing the penalty for eco-terrorism. It was then announced in 2003 that ecoterrorist attacks are known as ecotage, and they had increased their terrorist groups from the

ELF, ELA and the Environmental Rangers, another name used by activists when engaging in similar activity.

The Animal Liberation Front (ALF) is an international, decentralized political and social resistance movement led by Ronnie Lee that engages in and promotes non-violent direct action in protest against incidents of animal cruelty. It originated in the 1970s from the Bands of Mercy. The activists state that their place is a modern-day Underground Railroad they do removing animals from laboratories and farms, destroying facilities, arranging safe houses, veterinary care and operating sanctuaries where the animals subsequently live. Critics have labeled them as terrorists. Activists say the movement is non-violent. According to the ALF's code, any act that furthers the cause of animal liberation, where all reasonable precautions are taken not to harm human or non-human life, may be claimed as an ALF action, including acts of vandalism causing economic damage.

The Earth Liberation Front (ELF) and its sister organization the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) are believed responsible for some 600 criminal acts between 1996 and 2002 and some million dollar damages. They have no discernible organizational structure and rely on members who understand the organization's goals and orientation to take action on their own initiative, making identification and prosecution of perpetrators very difficult. ELF prefers rollback of industrial civilization to preserve the environment. Their tactics emphasize attacks on property not people and include arson, sabotage, and vandalism designed to cause significant economic damage. Targets have included research laboratories, multi-national corporations, and the logging industry. ELF poses an immediate and direct threat to research facilities and labs involved in or seen as involved in research on genetically modified organisms, but could easily shift to nuclear industry targets.



## *Chapter III*

### *Anthropogenic Activity That Results in Natural Disaster*

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## **Anthropogenic activity results in natural disaster**

Nature, in the broad sense includes that everything related to natural, physical and materialistic in this universe. Nature simply refers to the physical environment and also to the life exists in that. It is also considered to be a part of science which enclose from small plants to the large mountains and from humans to animals. Human beings, in general, a culture bearing primates which are classified in the genus homo, especially the species Homo sapiens. Although the humans are part of nature, their activity is often separated from natural phenomena.

Everything in this world that happens is connected to something else that happens.

Interdependence is a word that refers to the aptness of all creatures in nature to be linked and mutually dependent upon each other. Likewise, the mother earth is considered to be the living system with some connectedness. Man has been in relation to his surrounding since ancient times. Humans are always dependent on their surroundings for survival.

This society has been not only made by humans but also all the other inclusive living creatures surrounded by them including nature which plays a major part in human's community.

The relationship between the man and the environment has been started and established in the early periods itself. Human beings live in the kingdom of nature and interact with it constantly and they are directly or indirectly interrelated with each other. Usually people influence nature unconsciously in the form of the air he breathes, the water he drinks, the food he eats, and the flow of energy and information. When we look back into the old times people at least gave

importance to agriculture and their lands to improve environment they put maximum effort to safeguard the environment. But in this modernized and urbanized world or society people are mainly rushing to seek properties by demolishing or without caring the wealth of environment.

Example, for the past few months farmers are protesting for agricultural lands and their wages in India. Because they think if private sectors are involved in agriculture they might fix their own rate and having chance of demolish agriculture and resulting by initiating industries. A deep look into these shows, only farmers in India are the one who protest for agriculture, rest of the people in India only stares at them but not helping them in any way to restore. Likewise, the environmentalists are the one who struggles to restore our mother earth as it is like before several years. They are giving awareness to the people as much as they can and they do their best to defend nature. Any change in the environment can not only result in devastating effects, but can also pose a threat to the human race. Changes in environment starts from when human race changes to urbanized life style.

The humans have various sides but when it is related to nature they have only two sides one side of people are the one who loves nature and get solace from that, they love to live along with the nature. Their acts being selfless and they have fear of losing planet because they think humans act can destroy nature. Another side of the people is the most dangerous, they do things selfishly without caring environment, and for attaining bright future they go to any extent to fulfill their needs. Human beings have existed for just 200,000 years, but yet their impacts on the planet is so great, people harm their own planet without their knowledge. The scientists call the period of humans in the earth's history as Anthropocene, which is said to be the age of humans.

The changes now had imposed a heavy toll on the natural world around people. It is vital that people should understand the impact they have.

A detailed analysis of Anthropocene mass extinction and its vital sign, climate changes and global warming which impose a serious threaten between human and other species. In order to prove, this study had used the character analysis of Tucker and Cora as a tool from “*The Wildlands*” by Abby Geni. Above 3.5 billion years ago the living organisms have flourished, multiplied and myriad to occupy every ecosystem on earth. The species expansion and extinctions are also a part of evolutionary life cycle. When the loss of species is faster than the formations of new species surmount enough to elicit is known as mass extinction. Simply, a mass extinction refers to the loss of about three quarters of all species in the earth’s extinction, it will happen over a short geographical span of time. This mass extinction lasts since Cambrian period that began around 540 million years ago.

The above mentioned were the similar things that resembles in the novel and encountered by Tucker through his serious study. Throughout the novel, the setting sets in Wild lands, whereas after Cora has been separated from Darlene and Jane, she started spending and exploring her life with Tucker. In that, he was the one who imposing her with the knowledge of environment as well as author uses him as tool to expose the facts of Anthropocene mass extinction, which is considered to be the most debated content of today’s society. Tucker often questions Cora that, “Have you ever heard of the Anthropocene mass extinction? There have

been five mass extinctions in the history of life on earth. Each time, the planet has been stripped of almost all its living things. Thousands of species dead. Did you know?"(*The Wildlands* 99)

Author uses the character, Tucker to impose question on every human. Because no one knows what does extinction contains and what are their impacts. Although many times the planet faced this mass extinction, this was completely different from of all. But this time the extinction is going to happen because of human activities. He explains everything about the big five extinctions of planet to Cora. He injected his sister with that information which made her to love environment and tempted her mind to defend nature. Eventually Cora missed these information of Tucker before and now she was completely happy to hear this all. Even as a child Cora was intelligent enough to understand everything that Tucker did. Whenever Tucker had a space in novel he infused people with the knowledge of anthropocene extinction. He mentioned this often because it implies the human relationship with nature. This one thing is enough to prove that humans have a worst relationship with their natural environment. The big five extinctions that Tucker stated has been as follows,

Earlier to this the planet has seen only the five big mass extinctions but now the situation is reversed due to the actions of human beings, they pushed to create the conditions for a sixth mass extinction. These five mass extinctions have happened on an average of every 100 million years and each event itself lasted between fifty thousand and 2.76 million years. Michael Greshko, a science writer in National Geographic, in the article *What are mass extinctions, and what causes them?*(web) explains the mass extinction in detail. He also encounters the same

event and movement that Tucker states. According to his study 90 percent of all organisms have extinct from the earth. He says that 75 to 90 percent of species on earth have disappeared in geology itself.

This was the accurate thing mentioned by Tucker in *The Wildlands*. He had done all the nasty things like his bombing in cosmetic factory, arson fire on rattle snake event, releasing animals in zoo out of breaking law and so on to secure the remaining species on earth. No one could ever feel free after knowing the complete facts of extinction that stimulates Tucker to risks his life as well as drag him to go to the extent. The first mass extinction had happened at the end of the Ordovician period and wiped out over 85% of all species. The second mass extinction happened during the Late Devonian period and this affected around 75% of all species, most of which were invertebrates in tropical seas at that time.

About all the five mass extinctions, the Permian-Triassic is the only one that wiped out large numbers of species that is over 60 thousand years, 96 percent of all marine species and about three of every four species on land died out. This was the particular thing that Tucker mentioned in the novel as, *The Great Dying*. It refers to the extinction of large amount of species. This great dying is caused because of the emission of CO<sub>2</sub> and today human minds are highly toxicated than CO<sub>2</sub>. Because they destroy all the wealth for the sake of their comfort and happiness. Earth in life took long time to recover from great dying. But about 201 million years ago, another major blow occurred that is, Triassic-Jurassic extinction. In that which we loss 80% of land and marine species. Huge amount of greenhouse gases released and some 76% of all species in the planet wiped off in Cretaceous Paleogene including nonavian dinosaurs. The

following graph illustrates the big five extinctions of this planet and also it represents the level of species lost,



The bar graph defines the percentage level of extinction and it also illustrates the level of species remained. This graph has made in order to support the points of Tucker which make reader easy to grasp. On about 444 million years ago, Ordovician extinction occurs, 85% of all species extinct including marine invertebrate. And in the late Devonian of about 374 million years ago the extinction happened, 75% of species wiped out including Brachiopods, Bivalves, and Sarcopterygians. Then about 252 million years ago the Permian extinction cause 96% of all species in world. Then about 201 million years ago the Jurassic extinction had happened, 80% of all species washed out from world such as Ichthyosaurs, many species of frogs, turtles, snakes, spiders and grasshoppers. Recent 66 millions of years ago, the Cretaceous extinction had caused about 76% of all species includes Non-avian dinosaurs, Bivalves, Inoceramids and Flying reptiles.

The above five mass extinctions are already completed or passed and right now the sixth mass extinction has been happening which is said to be Anthropocene sixth mass extinction. The novel also places this as its central theme of expression. In which Tucker says, “And it’s happening again, right now. This time, though, it’s not a natural disaster. It’s us. That’s what Anthropocene means: the Age of Humans.” (*Wildlands* 99) Tucker usually uttered these words to Cora throughout the novel. People can easily trace out these expressions all over the novel and this was the bridge that connected Cora and Tucker in all their activities for the protection of environment. And also this was the very first thing that stresses Tucker at most.

Tucker has been illustrated as a different character when comparing other characters in the novel and he seems unique not only by his personality, his unconditional love towards animals and environment made him eccentric. On the other hand, the rest five extinctions had occurred naturally and it had been a natural disaster. Also there are some species left out from the disasters and evolve and diversified into different species. But now the happenings are not like that, there are some signs that prove no such possibilities left to save natural beings from extinct, because this time it is not occurring naturally but purposefully, that is, human devastating nature. These human activities have not only affected the ecosystem and animals, this time it might destroy a large amount of human population.

This is the reason for marking the present era of happenings as the Age of Humans or the Sixth mass extinction. The Earth is currently experiencing an extinction crisis largely due to the

exploitation of the planet by people. Now humans are in 21<sup>st</sup> century where the earth is fulfilled by humans and natural species. But now the human activity highly collapsing the life of species and they are becoming extinct 100 times faster than earlier. For example, when lives of sparrows are analyzed, it is more extinct than evolving. The high usage of cellphones by human can cause high radiations on earth surface and this became the major reason behind losing large case of sparrows. Populations of wild animals have more than halved since 1970, while the human population is doubled. This planet had faced almost five extinction in its history ever before. Thereby scientists and conservationists call this happening as sixth mass extinction. And today the world is heading towards the sixth destruction.

Tucker's activities in the novel specify sixth mass extinction of the world. He considers himself and Cora as the heroes to protect animals from extinction. His choice of defending animals describes his hatred toward human race. Human usually go to any extent to protect their lives but animals not. They don't even know what is happening to them so Tucker in this novel run away from his home only to safe guard and defend animals from humans. Before Tornado itself Tucker enjoyed and solaced his life with animals in his farm. Always he was in the side of horses to feed them, serve them and to protect them. As an animal lover he discerns all information about animals and other species. Therefore, all his sabotage activity is based on extinctions and his fear of losing species. He didn't feel for his future or anything but he considered that it is his duty to protect animals.

The environmental issues discussed in the novel through the character Tucker can be analyzed in detail with the aid of Ecocriticism theory. Peter Barry in his book, *Beginning Theory:*

*An Introduction to Literary and Cultural theory* (1995) explained Ecocriticism theory in detail. But this study dealt with a part from ecocriticism, Anthropocene mass extinction is discussed in detail. He had given a distinct space to explain about Anthropocene and things. Actually the idea of ecocriticism is an interdisciplinary point of view which includes natural crises such as radioactive elements dispersed across the planet by nuclear bomb tests, pollution, over population, global warming, deforestation, sea level rise, climate changes, acceleration of anthropogenic that is human-generated carbon di oxide emissions and related global mass extinction of species. Therefore, Ecocriticism puts forth the idea that man is not master of the nature. It is not slave as well. The notion of the Anthropocene had a strong impact on ecocriticism.

As per the theory, *The Wildlands* focused and charged on the above given elements. People can see the traces of anthropogenic mass extinction throughout the novel whenever Tucker and Cora existed. Example, Whenever animal suffered of humans in the novel, Tucker emerged there to help them out of it. When he headed towards Amarillo, on their way he saw a herd of horses agonize or tortured by their master. In which that man had left horses with starvation, he did not even feed proper food for a day or serve them or freed them. Horses suffered to the core in their shelter from being domesticated. By seeing this, Tucker stops his vehicle and tended to feed horses and freed them to their wildlands. Tucker's humanity toward animals shows his concern toward this planet. Tucker considered domestication is the foremost array of extinction. The animals that Tucker saved were wild animals bred by humans.

This mass extinction serves as the main focal point of the novel, and so it can be proved through an eco-critical study. The theory states that the current era is called the Holocene, which starts from 11,700 years ago after the end of last ice age. It also proposed that new geological era has now dawned that is called Anthropocene means “the Human Age.” The word Anthropocene is derived from the Greek words *anthropo*, for man, and *cene* for new, it was coined by chemist Paul Crutzen in 2000. The term reflects the idea that humans are now the main-drivers of the Earth’s geology.

Ecocriticism has cross pollinated across the disciplines, in a series of waves or stages. Eco critics have been much more anxious about engaging environmental history, anthropology, geography, phenomenology, science studies and so on. Abby Geni’s novel has the above mentioned essence such as environmental history, anthropocene and geographical crisis. She has beautifully described these areas through Tucker and Cora’s adventures. And also on their exploration, Tucker discourse each and every happenings, causes, reason and extinctions of current environment. When Tucker accompanies Cora with him, throughout their adventures Cora’s learning would have been equal to pupils learning of human’s destruction. Here author sets Tucker as a teacher and Cora as a student who learns all the part of extinction and information from Tucker all over their exploration.

Cora learned that animals are the sufferers and humans are the destroyers in which she states, “Animals lose their homes and their families all the time. Human beings come in and take everything from them.” (*The Wildlands* 151) As like animals lose their homes and families here

the character Tucker and Cora loses their family out of tornado which wiped out his family from them. So they consider humans as enemy of nature who destruct all the families out there. Families are not only denoted for humans but also it is for nature society such as plants and animals and other species. They do have family they do have lives they do have feelings. Cora's understandable of things make sense to readers to understand it deeply and effectively. They lost their family so they decided hereafter no family should lose out of human's activity.

Even though the character Cora was too little, she was matured enough to understand what Tucker says about animals and their sufferings. Example, when they intend to save animals Tucker described every note of that animal's quality to Cora before get into action. Likewise, In Texas before they save beagle (a dog breed) Tucker describes every characteristics of that dog such as its kindness toward humans, its sweet tempered and even more if people do much anything to them they won't turn on them. So by hearing all that information from Tucker, Cora herself go into the shop named Big Tom's Taxidermy which means dead animals on display and save the dog from being killed. Cora do all the things that Tucker states out of her empathy toward animals and that made her to risk her life.

Author's use of elements such as social situation, nature, family, modes of living, community, companions, relationship between human and nature and so on have concentrated in the third wave of ecocriticism. The third wave of eco criticism starts from 2000s, it mainly concentrate on anthropogenic and it also gave major importance to nature by saying humans are the reason of destroying ecosystem. The activities of human such as deforestation, CO2

emissions on planet, pollution and industrial and materialistic activities can highly cause climate change and results in loss of species. It would be the latest eco critical wave its “material” turns in the 2000s.

Timothy Morton, a prominent figure in ecocriticism whose anthropocentric eco studies had depicted objects, substances, material etc., in literature. This often said to be a thing theory. In his book, *“Hyperobjects: Philosophy and Ecology after the End of the World”* (2013) he coined the term “Hyperobjects” which refers to things that are massively distributed in time and space relative to humans. He stated that it was too much to take in at once. Not only people are waking up inside of a gigantic object like finding themselves in the womb again, but it was a toxic womb which is polluted by humans and now it is their responsibility to recover it. In his book he makes global warming as his hyperobjects and specified them as a harbinger of a new epoch, planetary scale, and sign of knowing anthropocene, the current era human induced planetary change. And he related global warming was the one evolved out of human activities and humans are responsible for what they did.

Shifted to the novel, Abby Geni also uses hyperobject in her story. She manipulate tornado as a hyperobject to emerge the hidden ecological aspects. She delivered this thing through Tucker, in which he understand and analyze the real crises of environment only after tornado itself. The hyperobject tornado revolves around the whole novel because it happened by human beings who pollutes the planet and results in climate change. Also tornado here used as an intellectual element defining about the anthropocene mass extinction. It was just a thing or tool that acts as a sign of the sixth destruction. Tornado illustrate as a thing to project natural

warnings to human race. Tucker often says about the tornado that it was the one changed his life entirely because it made him understand about the seriousness of anthropocene.

“The tornado was a gift, Tucker often said. It opened my eyes.”(*The Wildlands* 161) This statement of Tucker states everything happens for a reason. So that he consider tornado as gift to him which opened his eyes to the way to the wild lands. It was the turning point of his life and the story. This created an impact on Tucker more than anything and paved a new way to attain his goal to protect animals. Almost half of his family and life had gone out of tornado that is similar to animals in which they lost all their families out of human’s activity. Tornado happened because of human’s activity which is the reason behind climate changes. So here Tucker decided his way should be only towards animals and wild lands which he consider as a prior duty to perform. Tornado alerts Tucker or to inform Tucker about the dangerous human activity against nature. So that he consider tornado as an alarm bell for planet.

In the Indian Express article titled, *Explained: What is the ongoing sixth mass extinction?* (*web*) Commented the researchers view on Anthropocene extinction which is as most serious environmental problem, since this loss must be permanent. One of the study claims that extinction is something that human caused and it is more severe than climate destruction. There are only 2% of species that ever lived are alive today but the number of species is greater than before. We humans evolved as a biological diverse in this world and such a world humans are destroying. The before extinctions were caused as a geological alterations to environment, they took million years to regain species. This was the exact thing that mentioned in eco critical study

also, in which the theory similarly supports nonhuman species against human. The theory simultaneously stresses that it was human responsibility and human should pay for it.

This mass extinction happened because of humans, this humanity became an unusual threat to many species out of uncontrollable growing population. Since then, the human population increased from 1 million to 7.7 million. There are also many species decimated by legal or illegal wildlife trade. This COVID 19 pandemic is also linked to wildlife trade. For sure, there will be more pandemics if we continue destroying habitats and trading wildlife for human consumption as food and traditional medicines. This continuous loss of species can impact in the loss of crop pollination, water purification and also it might collapse the function of ecosystem by impacting food chain.

There are repeated statement come across that this era is going to suffer with climate change. In every aspect the climate change would be a major debated theme whether it is natural or anthropogenic. What is climate change? How it affects the planet and in what ways it dealt with anthropogenic? The evolution of human civilization and the modern human's creation had collapsed ecosystem and climate variability. The climate change can not only affect ecosystem but also tempted many internal conflicts. The increase in population can lead to the shortage of food, water and land, so it is greater than the power of environment to produce proper resources. The global warming has been observed since mid of 20th century and when human expanded it result in releasing greenhouse gases on the earth surface.

Certain gases in the atmosphere might block heat from escaping. Long-lived gases remain semi-permanently in the atmosphere and do not respond both physically or chemically to changes in temperature and that is described as forcing climate change. Greenhouse gases include water vapor, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and chlorofluorocarbon. Climate extremes, such as droughts, floods and extreme temperatures, can lead to crop losses and threaten the livelihoods of agricultural producers and also the food security of communities worldwide. It not only collapsed the lives of species and also it poses threats on human.

Tucker in the novel also explains about changes human did to environment, “And level five is Human. There’s nothing else like us in the whole animal kingdom. We change everything we touch. We destroy most of it.” When Tucker discussed about the classification of wildness to Cora, he fits human in the fifth of classification and then he indirectly hits the human with climate changes, because humans are the core cause for planet’s climatic changes. And he compares human with animal that, they are not like animals because animal protect this ecosystem as much they can and it did not do anything that apart from its species duty but humans can implement many things that endangered both species and environment like industries which is said to be the major cause of climate changes and environmental degradation.

The gas it emitted will form as a greenhouse gas and the wastage it releases will highly pollute land and water resources. Tucker says the same thing that facts says wherever human exists there starts human extinction. The main concern of Tucker here is human’s

destruction that highly affected the species everywhere. There are many deaths and sufferings had been withhold by many animal species because of animal activity. He doesn't possess any concern for humans rather his major concern is for animals which protects the ecosystem.

For example, India emits about 3 gigatonne of CO<sub>2</sub> each year, and it may emit 7% of global emissions. India is highly exposed to natural disaster risks with both high exposure to drought, heat and flood, and also high vulnerability to poverty. Economic losses from the 2018 floods in the Indian state of Kerala alone exceeded damage from all flooding in India in 2017, and reduced real GDP growth in the state by 1%. The poor are the one undoubtedly impacted by climate change driven extreme weather, with vulnerability to climate impacts determined in levels of economic development as well as exposure to natural disasters. Climate change will widen inequality within India and it also leads to serious natural tragedy.

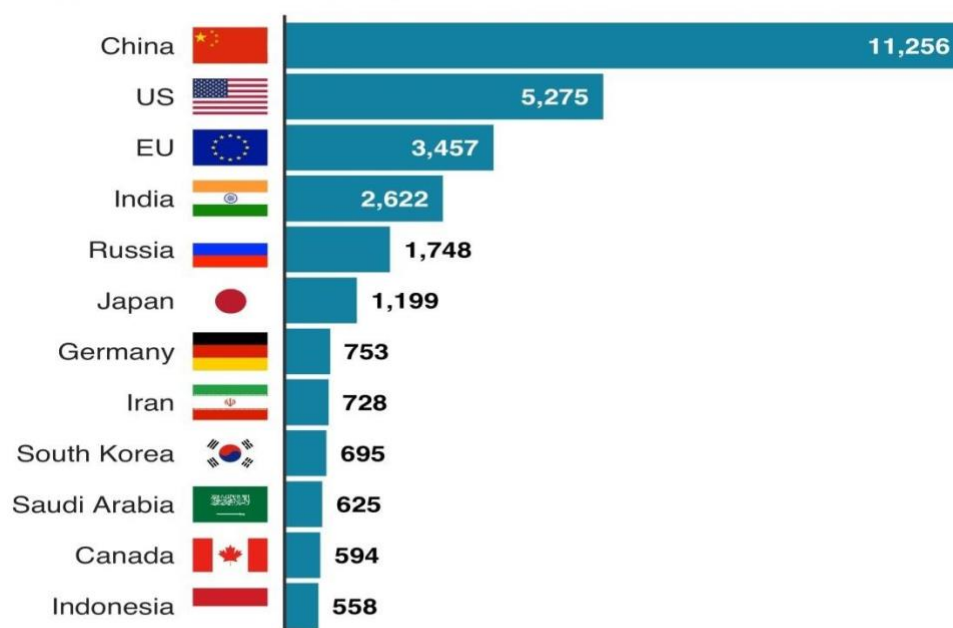
An article in Hindustan Times titled as, "*India seventh most affected by climate change in 2019 globally*" (*web*) states that, India was the seventh most affected country by the devastating impact of climate change globally in 2019 according to the Global Climate Risk Index 2021. In 2019, monsoon continued for a month longer than normal in India. From June to the end of September, 110% of the long-period average was recorded.

Flooding caused by heavy rain was responsible for 1,800 deaths across 14 states and led to the displacement of 1.8 million people. Overall, 11.8 million people were affected by the severe monsoon with the economic damage. There were eight tropical cyclones in India. Six of

the eight cyclones intensified to become very severe. Extremely severe cyclone Fani affected 28 million people, killing nearly 90 people in India and Bangladesh. Climate impacts affect people in developing countries, threatening lives and livelihoods. And now India ranks tenth in the climate change performance index 2021.

## The World's top emitters of Carbon dioxide

### Megatonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year



Note: One megatonne = 1,000,000 tonnes

The above mentioned diagram represents the countries emitting the most greenhouse gases in their excessive order. The most gases are from China and the US, because the countries are occupied by industries and they are mostly urbanized and industrialized so it emitted huge amount of CO<sub>2</sub>. Together they account for more than 40% of the global total. When US

government environment policy has shifted under the Trump administration, he has begun the process of withdrawing the US from the Paris climate change agreement. He said that the deal affect US businesses and workers. When coming back to the novel, in one interview of Abby Geni states that, her only motive of novel is to address the seriousness of climatic changes to readers. In her prior works, she portrayed these facts indirectly, but now in *The Wildlands* she directly commented the urgency of climate change because it was happening faster than scientists predict.

Before tornado occurs in Oklahoma it leave some sign like extreme weather, fast motion of waves in seas, change in colour of clouds and little rain. Through this author alerts the characters with the upcoming effects of tornado. Straight through Tucker's understanding of tornado and its effects on lives, author alerts reader about the changing of climate on planet. And also the result of climate change is the reason of Tucker's further ecotage actions. It denotes how these environmental changes can affect a person and change the character of them. Even more the novel's every chapter holds the season of climate, from summer to winter, the climate had often differs from one place to another, people can see this via Tucker and Cora's migration. And she also implies government's lack of response in that and it terrifies all the living organisms. She hits Trump's government for their irresponsibility towards environment.

“Bees were in trouble. A third of all the butterflies were already gone. Almost all the species of Orthoptera have kicked the bucket. That's crickets and katydids. He explained that

when pollinators died out, so did the plants. The forests of our world—all the prairies and orchards, each green and growing thing—would wither.” (*The Wildlands* 159)

Here Tucker orates about the practicality of today’s world. It defines the absolute materialistic society. When one species is permanently extinct from planet then the dependent also might. For example, if there are no bees, butterflies or small insects in this planet how come the pollination occurs? Once the pollinators completely exit from this world then it will affect the plants and also drive them to extinct along with it.

Tucker indirectly says, in this materialistic world people gave mere worth only to the things or objects that they want to seek or belong. They didn’t realize that their materials had no life but the objects they are destroying have life. This was the impact of industrial revolution whereas they distance humans far away from nature and from its real belongings. It not only devastated our own environment but also it highly pollutes the minds of people. The separation of human beings from ecosystem begun at the start of Industrial Revolution of the 1800s, when human activity had a great impact on carbon and methane in Earth’s atmosphere. The industrial revolution had changed people from living to non-living.

The environment has also been slowly changed out of the raise of industrial revolution which resulted in urbanization; now the world is divided and classified as urban and rural. When five extinctions occur the world is neutral there is no urban or rural but in this sixth destruction the world itself separated. Why I am saying this is industries occupy the entire world instead of

living organisms and natural things. Humans started to work with machines and engage themselves in the field of industries rather in the field of agriculture. There is no prediction of agriculture or forest to be alive in future. This world is completely different from the wild lands which encompass flora and fauna. Through this revolutionary process humans first toxicated themselves and then they began to toxicating our biome.

As in the novel, the character Cora says, “Tucker transported from our world to another, better place.”(*The Wildlands* 61) There are many such children thinking that our world would be like this which is full of machines, buildings and industries but we, this generation people are not having the chance to visit another world of this planet. But here Cora had a chance to explore natural world by the dint of Tucker. She thoroughly enjoyed their exploration and started more loving nature. Whenever a person wants to be alone, he or she can seek only the nature, they don't even go for their own species. This world transformed for the purpose of business, economical situations. These shifts had major effect on the world and continue to shape it today. This industrialization insisted people with lack of humanity. Humans can change and even their behavior can change but the constant thing that never change anymore is Ecosystem.

According to the analysis, Anthropocene had begun far earlier, when humans began farming. This was the same thing that existed in ecocriticism. When British industrial revolution had initiated they landed the world's first fossil fuel industry. Burning the organic carbon casts production and the world demands of carbon that was the time CO<sub>2</sub> emitted vulnerably. Industrialized and post-industrialized society had produced more emissions and use more resources than developing countries which results in all types of pollution. This industrial

revolution considered to be the starting point of Anthropocene mass extinction. And this was the same thing that portrayed in eco critical studies.

*The Wildlands* also stresses the constant thing when humans are versus to their own biosphere and when their ventures affect flora and fauna, that it would be the end of the world, that is, the Anthropocene mass extinction. Through Tucker and Cora's adventure people can trace all the events like five mass extinction and its effects on planet, ongoing anthropocene mass extinction that results in climate change which people experience in their day to day life, sixth mass extinction which will cause species mislay permanently. People can view this through the actions and intention of Tucker in the novel. From the above analysis, the study describes that not only this society push oneself into isolation but also changes in environment can even affect people with isolation and changes in character. Natural disasters are not occurred naturally but through the deed of humans.



## *Chapter VI*

### *Human's Inhabitancy Toward Ecosystem*

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## **Human's inhabitancy towards ecosystem**

Our environment had faced enormous crises and obstacles, one of the major crises of today's society is, human civilization. Man was created as one of kind of species to safe guard nature and to live in harmony with nature. But when we overview the relationship between nature and man it becomes worse day by day. Man uses all the resources from earth unlimitedly yet they refuse to stand beside them. However, just as man dominated women in the past, presently they dominate nature. There are various ways that intersects all living organisms in this planet such as plant, animal and human because they are interrelated with each other. Moreover their evolutions are like a circle, without one part there is no other. But man intentionally or purposefully made themself separated or distanced from ecosystem.

The human actions can harm ecosystem and the effects of climate change can cause internal fights and that results in the dividend of people into groups. The one group is, that supports human civilization and they fit themselves in this urbanized society. Whereas another group is one who is on the side of environment, they try their best to support and defend environment from human crises. In this planet, first, the humans are interrelated with nature, then humans are against nature and now in the ongoing days the threatened war is between human versus human. This war specifies not only between country to country or state to state but between animals and human and nature and human. In this, some people acts as the defenders of environment they fought on the behalf of animals and ecosystem.

A detailed analysis of human's occupancy over nature such as human dominance, human civilization and so on had shown in this chapter, through the novel, *The Wildlands* by Abby Geni. Also through the character of Tucker readers can easily understand the idea of eco terrorism and his point of view of approaching nature. In addition, we can able to observe the motive of Tucker as an eco-terrorist. In response to States' climate inaction and animal rights, a movement of civil activism has arose in recent years, which engaged in radical practices that have been termed as eco-terrorism. Here the character Tucker mainly acts as an animal right member. Because he thinks that humans are the very first reason of destroying resources as well as dominating nature which means domesticating animals. Here in the novel Tucker appeared as a zoophilist, means a lover of animals and a person who is concerned with the rights of animals and their consideration towards protecting animals from abuse. We can able to see all these qualities through Tucker's actions.

"I've taken the first step. I freed the animals and I blew the place up. I marked the day. I broke the law. I broke all kinds of laws."(*The Wildlands* 67) Before tornado hits him he lived a life in the grace of his father and enjoyed half of his life in the farm. But after tornado, his father and farm were taken away from him. After this, he made many research on tornado about their cause and reason so that he got to know things well than before through the study he found human activities is the reason for climate change and animal and nature destruction that named as Sixth mass extinction or Anthropocene mass extinction and this made him to do a deep analysis on mass extinctions. After realizing the grimness of natural disasters and human actions which resulted in extinction, he prepared himself to dedicate his whole life to save animals. His first intention is to discharge all animals from being domesticated. This made him feel happy than anything. For this he was not panic to break laws, because laws are made only to control

human's discipline but it should not affect animals. He thinks that being domesticating is like human domination.

From this statement, people can easily trace the qualities of eco terrorist through Tucker. Usually eco-terrorists are experts in breaking laws and they have no fear of government or anything in the world to stop them. This has been reflected through the character of Tucker he had done many crimes such as vandalized the properties of people, arson attack, murdered people who are tyrant toward animals, and so on to save animals by breaking all laws and legalities. Moreover he did not feel bad after running away from home because he considered nature is his only home. He had no fear to make a murder because his love towards nature and animal had blind fold his eyes. Another important characteristic of eco-terrorists seen through Tucker is his hatred towards human and their properties whenever he saw an animal suffered of inhumanity Tucker even did not care about his life and make animal freed. Even more ecoterrorists don't think their activity would be terroristic activity because they think their intention is good and they always differed from terrorism. The particular quality can be revealed through Tucker's action in the novel, example whenever he tells the story Corey and himself highlight themselves as heroes of animal world or defenders of animal.

When Tucker did a massive bomb blast on jolly cosmetic factory in that he didn't even bothered about his wound, he released all the animals from factory because they used large amount of animals for testing. They even brutally killed and tortured them for their production. This was not just an incident in the story; it is a portrayal from our everyday society. The medicines, drugs, and other products can only be tested on humans after going through a series of tests on animals. They are conducting research to make sure whether it is safe for humans or not. An article from i pleaders titled, "*All about animal testing*" says, Animal activists against animal

testing argues that animal experiments are ineffective, dangerous, cruel and brutal. They think humans are different from animals for example; raisins, grapes, chocolates, nuts, and avocados are harmless in people but highly toxic to dogs.

Before technological development, for animal testing Europe and US spends millions of dollars on research. Around 1975, animal activists began campaigns in Europe and US against the testing of cosmetics and toiletries on animal. And now in Europe, Brazil, Canada, Taiwan are some of countries that completely banned the testing or planning to ban. But still animal testing is legal in China; this was one of the reasons that we suffer of COVID19 pandemic. Yet, in United States they are not ready to ban the testing. In India the only good thing is they banned all other animal testing except the industry of Pharmaceutical for drugs, but that too done without harming or painning animals.

This man made laws can affect animals heavily and even risks their life. For breaking this law and let animals freed Tucker had given a name called eco terrorist. Tucker bombed the industry but that too for escaping animals from there. His bombing did not cause any harm to the human inside it only damaged the property. Only because a person is against law and breaking legal things he is named as an eco-terrorist. In this democratic society everyone have equal rights but why it is not for animals. And now a-days people are using animals for their personal use in order to seek money. But why this law is not ready to restrict these activities, actually the manmade laws are like encouraging pupils to involve more in such activities instead to protect them. Tucker as a zoophilist breaking all the laws to protect animals from human. He risked his own life through illegal activities. Although he knows doing illegal things can result him in vain but he did many blasts and attacks to protect animals and liberated them. And also he risks his

life by releasing animals in Pacific Zoo, once animal released from cage it has chance of attacking him in return but without considering his life he saved all the wild animals from Zoo.

Actually Tucker's thinking of terrorism is true, because terrorism is far distanced from eco-terrorism in which this has been committed only for the sake of environment. When comparing country's terrorism to eco terrorism, their intentions will sense people's concern. Even though Darlene was against Tucker's activity she indirectly supports the idea of Tucker. In which Darlene's soliloquy says,

“At the time, it was the worst terror attack the United States had ever experienced. Darlene had seen pictures of the Murrah Building after the explosion, one whole side calved away like an iceberg tumbling into the sea. Dozens of people died and hundreds of buildings in the downtown area were harmed or destroyed. By comparison, the bombing at Jolly Cosmetics had not been that bad.” (*The Wildlands* 82)

This has been narrated by Cora and she was the narrator of the story and the whole novel travels on the perspective of Cora. Through Darlene's instinct, author tried to make sure the difference between terrorism and eco terrorism. Darlene did not know who is the bomber would be, it was a future suspense here, without knowing she simply started to compare things in general.

This bombing is not mere a terrorism it's just an act that occurred for the sake of animals. Tucker's only intention is to protect animals from killing. People should be aware that cosmetic factories are killing animals not only for tests but also they deposit copious amount of wastages in river or else in any empty land, that would pollute both the environment and the human itself. In order to save people from risk zone they push whole environment into a hazardous factor. Moreover polluting environment and killing animals in the name of testing will not said to be a

crime anymore. This was the major comparison of author to reveal industrial crimes. Also she had mentioned some of industrial crimes with the sabotage act of Tucker such as his blast in slaughter house, pipe bombs has been used to blast cosmetic factory in town, along with his ECO Environmental Conservatory Organization, one of eco terrorist group members he used smoke bombs to break up a dogfighting in kingfisher, and even they sabotaged the engine of city van by releasing cargo into the prairie.

Even more there are huge difference between Environmental terrorism and Eco terrorism. Their historical origins and intended targets were quite different. In environmental terrorism, the environment can be used as a weapon to facilitate an attack against civilians or armed forces. Forest and bush fires may become the major concerned weapon of choice. This happens as an intentional act, or threat, of violence directly against environment, through either war or terror. In contrast, Eco-terrorism is a movement of civil activism developed in recent years, which engaged in radical practices. There are two groups of eco-terrorism in US which is still active, they are, Earth Liberation Front (ELF) and Animal Liberation Front (ALF). These groups do not generally seek harming human life but only properties which they consider as ecological destructive.

Their actions may be referred as an ecotage which means violence towards inanimate objects and they are not connected with terrorists. Simply, eco-terrorism is where individuals used violence against properties and civil rights in defense of the environment or to direct changes in environmental policy and also Tucker comes under this particular category. And environmental terrorism is where the destruction of the environment, either through war or acts of terror, was used to exert fear in the population to achieve organizational aims. As a citizen ever people have equal rights to pose question over government, if they refuse to listen or do so, people may engage themselves into a violent activities, it moreover seems like an attention

seeking. If a person is not listening to someone or something, they do some nasty things in order to get or gain their attention. This was the same thing that happened in the case of Tucker.

Tucker has been changed because this society pushed him to change his character against human civilization.

“That’s how I used to be too, Tucker said. The tornado changed me. It had stripped away the facade of human civilization. It reminded that he was an animal too.”(*The Wildlands* 161)

Tucker commenced that the word tornado changed him which means it transformed him to a new person, to a new world, to a new psyche and to a new perspective of viewing things. Before tornado, Tucker has lived under the control of his family and he was the person who gave much importance to his family members. After tornado, everyone in the city marked them as an orphan kids and people made interviews to increase their channel’s publicity but not to help them. That made Tucker with lack of interest in his family and even with his own life that made him to go out of their family and city. The tremendous change of Tucker would be an example that how society and people can cruelly involve in one’s life and ruined them and the society became reason behind their changes in character and life. As a result he returns home at last as an ecoterrorist. Here in this novel Tucker changed as a person who was against his own community or civilization.

Although the evolution of human civilization impact humans in internal conflicts and similarly it also affected animals. People usually didn’t even consider the lives of animal before deforesting or hurting or dominating them. This tornado not only changed Tucker into a new person but also a social worker, an animal liberationist and went one step further as an

ecoterrorist or an arsonist. Eco terrorism is the major movement that proves the revolution between humans which means that they are against their own civilization. Humans started to chase after the properties and on the other hand the eco-terrorist began to destroy all those properties in order to prevent the wildlife from extinction. These activities of eco-terrorism are considered to be a disruption in society but still no one blocks the devastating nature of humans towards environment. These eco-terrorists like Tucker are totally different from the real terrorists who destroy the world for their own sake. The tornado here is used as a major element that put back many characters life from McClouds family.

People can't be quite all the time simply by seeing society's unjustifying norms. One day every individual might burst out, change and voice out to get justice. Likewise here Tucker left helpless after tornado hits his family and took everything from him. So he takes himself as a weapon to protest against civilization. In reality US government had prohibited the protest for animal liberation. So this made many US people to involve in eco-terror. And it had been illustrated in the novel as Tucker to take eco-terrorism as his only hope to fight against injustice. He was changed because this present society had left him helpless; he was not like other people who didn't care of animal tragedy. He was different from the people who hesitate to see the cruelty of people against animals before their eyes. If everyone starts to think for the welfare of wildlife like Tucker then the animals and plants of our environment can be ceased from extinction. He pondered himself as an animal because only humans can protect them and also he is always ready to protect their country and lives. Tucker strongly believes that he is completely capable of protecting animals from extinction, and so he contemplates himself as a defender of nature and animals.

A good thought of Tucker to be revealed is he always wishes to make the next generation people aware about the natural crises and its causes. As a proof, Tucker often insisted Cora with environmental knowledge; he had injected her with all the facts and thoughts of planet as well he also tells her what he had learned from his research. In order to imprint in the mind of Cora he often ask questions like, “Who’s polluting the air and water? Humans. Who’s chopping down the rain forests? Humans. Who’s bringing in invasive species? Humans. Who’s destroying their habitats? Humans. Who’s killing them for sport? Humans.” (The Wildlands 160) Because he thinks by learning these things she would be able to understand the harmful nature of humans and safeguard the environment from those harmful hands like Tucker does. These questions by Tucker are direct attack on humans and it also unconsciously compels the readers to ask those questions to themselves. Dramatically this world is now heading towards tragedy. Nature had given everything unbiased to human for their survival in planet but in return people didn’t do anything to guard nature instead humans are collapsing and destroying resources than before.

People started to occupy all the wealth of nature. This must be the most incredible point of domination. Without their knowledge people started to dominate everything around them, it might be a plant or tree or animal or the whole environment. For instance, in the novel, people can see the sovereignty of humans through devastating environment. Here in the novel the jolly cosmetic factory had made a huge impact on lands in which they deposit wastages or bare dirt in unkempt prairie or in pools. By continuous depositing of toxic wastes on the earth made them barren lands and pools became toxicated. Not even the Oklahoma grass could overcome from the noxious stain of chemicals. It is said to be a mere domination of people. First people occupy the places of animals by deforesting them and now they toxicate all over the planet by industrial wastages. And this Oklahoma’s natural wealth has been left with the scars of bare dirt. Example,

in everyday life people go through many cutting down of trees, although many environmentalists had given awareness to people on spoiling trees still cutting down trees are increasing in number.

By cutting down the trees they are not only left with lack of oxygen but also stepping forward towards destruction. These will happen only for their personal uses like to get power lines, easy transportation, for building construction and so on. If they cut trees for so long how come this earth gets oxygen and reduce CO<sub>2</sub>, this was another reason CO<sub>2</sub> release in large amount which automatically ends in climate changes. The natural process of planet is that the trees and plants observe CO<sub>2</sub> and releases oxygen but here humans are trying to change those process and they become the major barrier of these natural process to occur.

Humans are responsible for what they face now. This materialistic world has largest concern on economic crises but they have lack of time to think about natural crises. It is human responsibility to regain ecosystem instead they are increasing the tensions of biosphere. It is not necessary to change like Tucker and take violence to protect the environment, if humans understand the aftermath of destructing nature they can definitively love and protect nature like Tucker. In an article of IBERDROLA titled, *“Little things you do that pollute the environment, even though you (might) not realize they do”* (web) commenced on little things that people do in everyday life can affect nature permanently. Every research in world says that our animals and plants are becoming extinct thousand times faster than they think.

Humans are now breaking a terrible record that has never occurred in the history of mankind. However, in this 21st century people are facing environ crises like oceans filled with plastics, with melting icecaps and parched forests becoming deserts. This was the thing that Tucker absolutely says, the planet is on the edge of pitfall and definitely humans are going down

with it but before this happened Tucker try to save animals as much as he can. While other people try to find out their meaning of life, here Tucker is immersed in the work of protecting the nature which he believes to be the meaning of his life. Tucker asks Cora that,

“What’s meaning of life?” When Cora asked him to tell he said, “It’s a stupid question. That’s what it is. A human question. Animals don’t worry about the meaning of life. They don’t get bored. They don’t sit around pondering their purpose.” (*The Wildlands* 186) In this novel, author has focused on the inhuman activities of humans towards the animals and plants around the environment through which she tries to prove that animals are far better than humans. Presently, people started to think this human life is to seek something such as in childhood they rush for their education and then in adulthood they are hurried to get jobs, as an adult they go behind money and property and as an old man he longs about some unfulfilled dreams. Every man of their age in this world has some wishes, dreams and necessities to complete. But most of their dreams are towards an elite materialistic lifestyle and only few countable souls dream about a healthy and wealthy environment.

Likewise, man throughout his life rushes to seek money, properties and more over their intention is to gain or fulfill all of their purposes which they considered as meaning of life. When comparing humans to animals they are not selfish, they are not running after money or property. All man thinks that they have greater capability than animals but that is not true. Humans often depend on their properties to win animal race. For example, if we put a lion and man in same room without weapons like guns, knife or anything, now who will be the winner and the loser? Who is greater than whom? By seeing everything as a property people now days started to see living organisms as a property too.

The meaning of life is differently portrayed in the novel *Wildlands*. This world has been created same for all the beings but because of maximum occupation of humans they think that it is their own home. Humans and animals have been created equally and more over human's chief duty is to protect nature and animals and also their allegiance depends on protecting and safe guarding natural society. But humans are ruling the world as actual owners of the land. Humans are spoiling their life as well as nature's life by damaging the environment. They should live their life as animals do, Humans life on earth is a temporary one, they should realize this before disrupting the nature around. Animals don't have communities, they do not have legal laws, they don't fear for anyone, they don't have any duties to do or make their country as well developed, they live freely, and happily they do whatever they want Animals don't have restrictions or limits in this world. They are not disturbing us but the human race are torturing them and destructing and occupying all their homes that is, forest. Having large amount of properties is not meant for attaining mere greatness but it lies in the fact that we have saved this world and ecosystem from destruction.

Tucker's only purpose of life is to save nature and animals from extinction. When Tucker was in his family he loved to play with horses and knows everything about them. But when tornado sweeps his lovable horse, 'Mojo' along with that, he was so hesitated and felt guilty for not saving his horse. Consequently, he decided that no animal should harm or affected by human activity. So that he saves animals whenever it was in danger, for example, he made an illegal protest at a zoo in Pawnee to save animals out there, along with his eco members he made many arson attack on factory that implement toxic substances on land or might be dangerous for animals, homemade pipe bombs has been infused in cosmetic factory to free all animals including rats from lab testing and at last his most threatening activity towards human society

was his release of wild animals in Pacific Zoo to all over California. This proved his love for nature and animals.

Because his only motive is to save animals from humans at least before he dies. In this selfish world, no one will think like Tucker and no one will risk their life for animals to be saved. Only few people like Tucker are grateful for their life and environment. Tucker is portrayed as a head among the animals in the novel. As like animals he did not care for anything he done and moreover he never gets panic for anything or anyone. Even he breaks all the human law and he refused to join in human civilization again. Tucker becomes angry whenever he saw a community of human race because he knows human activities are the one that damage environment harshly. So he ignores and hesitates to live among the humans. After knowing things well he dislikes to engage himself in human crowd. People can view this, whenever Cora and Tucker reached a place for their plan they stays in the place where human did not exist. Example, when they reach California to freed animals from Pacific Zoo they lived in Mausoleum which is located in forest area near ocean. One thing that Tucker thinks is they should not caught up by police and the thing is Tucker wants to be in the wild lands a place surrounded by natural beings rather than human civilization. This shows that Tucker is against his own human civilization. This kind of isolation from the human world might be the reason for his violence towards human and human properties.

He often informed Cora that he had a plan to save and change this planet, the plan indirectly mentions the devastating of all the properties of humans. His plans also reflected the anger that he have on humans and their properties that endanger species. He had learned all the violence through the animal group called ECO. They used homemade equipment like arson , pipe bombs , tree spiking , lamber crew and so on to demolish human's property such as factories,

labs, zoos, shops that display dead animals and so on. Hopefully, his isolation would be the reason of enter in sabotage by choosing violence in his hand. His isolation made him helpless and inherit him with savage essence thereby he opened the gates of wild animals in zoo to make human's life in consequence. He does this because he thinks when human lives are stressed, they would understand the lives and emotions of animals in cage.

The above study had discussed various aspects of human domination on nature. What is an actual domination of human on nature? Human alteration of earth is substantial and growing. Between one-third and one-half of the land surface has been transformed by human action. As per the theory of eco feminism in the paper of Susan Bunkingham, *Ecofeminism in the Twentieth-Century*, in which he states, the influence of eco-feminism on policy concerning gender in equality and the environment during the past 20 years. Eco-feminism links the domination of nature to that of women and it mainly interprets the relationship that women have with their environment. Because the changes now occur is preceded by the changes in former. We can take animals as an example, animals in zoo or in a lab testing industries are being caged, tortured and they were under the control of human. Whereas there are lots of women still now being dominated, apprehend, and even tortured by men, when comparing these two they may differ in species but their sufferings are same.

Animals are being tortured in name of testing and domesticating. There are women in society got educated and they have the capability to get rid of from those dominations, they used to get this freedom by voicing out. But who is there to help animals? Like humans they couldn't protest against their cause or voice out against humans. So the character Tucker had decided to stand in the side of or behalf of animals to defend them from human domination. As like a man dominated women here the whole human race or community is dominating nature and animals.

This is what eco-feminism has orated. People can see the traces of eco feminism in all over the novel. After saving animals from various places, lastly Tucker's vision turns on the side of Zoo. His point of view of approaching Zoo is like, "Zoos aren't just bad for animals. They're bad for people too. They bring the wilderness into civilization instead of people into the wilderness.

They're a fast-food version of the great outdoors."(*The Wildlands* 209)

Here, Tucker commented the facts of life. At first the women are being suppressed and people say they are not fit for the society. This was the actual thing that happening around to many animal lives, they are being suppressed, tortured and apprehend in the places that they are not belongs to. Tucker feels that it is better to live in their communities than diversifying. Zoos gave only the illusion of nature but it is not true. People won't think animals are also a kind of species or living thing instead they consider them as a painting in a museum. Identically, this happened to women for the past few years, men used women for all their purposes and throw them away after their job had done. Animals also suffer to the core as women did, humans used them to increase their economy without considering their emotions. In this planet, everyone possess equal rights to live in their lands but why it is ceased for animals? In the past a male dominated society snatched the rights of women and in the recent decades majority of the human crowd started to seize the rights of animals.

An article in National Geographic, under the title, "Zoo" says, zoo is a place where animals live in captivity and are put on display as a showcase to people. Critics of captive breeding programs say that releasing a few animals into the wild does little to help the species population. Animals are extinct in the wild due to loss of habitat. This was the equivalent thing that whole novel stresses, the loss of habitat can cause extinction of many species. Even the production of new animals or mammals does not recover the lost habitat. Without a proper

awakening of environment people continue to develop land for homes and businesses. Even government acts also encourage people to do such zoo conservation projects; how it would be possible to conserve animals by separating them from their wild lands. Critic says it is cruel to have animals in captivity. Living in captivity takes away wild animals, their natural behavior and instincts.

The wilderness in wild animals have had now transformed to human race. Because humans can incarnate themselves into any form and now they incarnated as with wilderness.. Man became money minded for so long and now they became vulnerable toward animals. As a government they should be loyal, impartial and their duty is to serve equal rights to all the living beings. But they failed to protect animals, moreover they failed in preserving humanity, domesticating a wild animal could not be an impartial rule of a government. In the novel, Tucker has been changed the name of Cora as Corey. Author as women why she changed the physical appearance and the name of Cora transformed her as a boy. Whether Tucker would she was not capable enough to survive with him as a girl. Another circumference of novel narrates why Tucker has changed the character of Cora as Corey. Whether he considered Cora as weak and Corey as strong?

Author being a woman, why she has changed the physical appearance of Cora and transformed her into a boy? Cora as a child she was unaware of what is happening to her. Out of her complete influence on Tucker made her cut off from taking decisions. Throughout the novel Cora struggles between characters. Tucker might think how come a woman be an environmentalist or ecoterrorist in this society? So that he changed her as a boy. It shows the biased thought of Tucker and also it states his comfort ability with his same gender. As an environmentalist, Tucker also felt comfortable when he is with his same gender, then how come

animals would live with different species like humans. Tucker as a male here he suppressed the appearance and quality of Cora as a female likewise, people around will suppress the quality of wild animals by caged them in zoos.

When differentiating Cora from Corey, Cora thinks or deceived herself by hiding her appearance beside her short hair and boy suit. She considered herself as brave when she was Corey but the actual fact is Cora was brave and strong enough than Corey. Because when she was with him she lived in a circle that created by Tucker like following all his instructions and engaged herself in sabotage which made her submissive and restrict her to think out of box. But when she returned as Cora she became broad minded and started differentiating things. Cora thinks another side of wild land but Corey not. Cora can move things without damaging properties anything but Corey follows what Tucker says. Finally, Cora don't wants to be Corey who was like a puppet of Tucker, she wants to be herself as like other women in society. Likewise, this planet wants to be polluted free or crises free as like before. As women like Cora in society, who proclaim for their identity to restrain, here nature tray to overcome from submissive behavior of humans. Hence eco-feminism had proved that this human civilization having absolute dominance towards nature and it felt its way in both the novel and in the society.

“Corey and Tucker were heroes. They didn't just sit back and let it happen. They fought against their own species on be-half of the animals.” (*The Wildlands* 282) Tucker had created the illusionistic characters of Tucker and Corey which resembles Tucker and Cora. Just as named Cora as Corey and which made her feel as a boy. He did this to understand the capability of Cora by herself. Whenever Cora felt herself as Corey she was bold enough to tackle all the problems. Corey was a character that implies a girl can do whatever she wants to, she is only a girl by gender not by appearance or by her thoughts. This made her strong enough both physically and

mentally. Tucker considered themselves as the heroes of this world who is going to save animals from humans and extinction. It implies about the sixth mass extinction that results in a war between human beings and animals. And Tucker and Corey would have been accompanying in the side of animals because animals don't know how to fight against a man community.

They are not like other humans who sail in the flow of human civilization. They are different from humans, they are the warriors of animals and this was the thing that made Tucker to involve in eco terror activity. There are many people in US supporting eco terrorism because they are not harming humans but their properties. Tucker was a person who cannot accept this society devastating nature, when no one is there to help to revive the environment he takes all the responsibilities in his hand and act upon it. He opens all the gates of animals from domesticating and gave them liberty. He considered his sabotage activity as just violence in war. Not only Tucker but all the eco-terrorists in world are indirectly pervading wars on humans.

They are not exactly attacking humans but indirectly vandalized all their wealth in order to show case their anger on humans. The damaged properties can be retrieved soon but what about the species, environment and the planet after extinction? How come it would be restored? The extinction is permanent now and there is no hope of regain. When everyone is busy with their duties and liabilities, here the eco-terrorists portrayed themselves as the real heroes of environment by voluntarily engaging themselves in ecotage and trying to safeguard nature as much they can.

*"If a Tree Falls: A Story of the Earth Liberation Front"* is a 2011 American documentary film by Marshall Curry. It was the complete story of the activist Daniel G. McGowan of ELF from his first arson attacks in 1996 to 2005 arrest by the department of justice. It investigates the darker side of the fight for our environment a radical group of activists had gone too extreme

lengths to protest against deforestation. This Daniel G. McGowan also damaged many things by his arson attack including timber companies, SUV dealerships, and wild horse slaughterhouses. No one in the terror being hurted or wounded, only property damages occurred. But Federal Bureau of investigation considered the group as “No.1 domestic terrorism threat” in the United States. For this acts he has been imprisoned about 7years. It is a thought provoking portrayal of complex environmental and political issues. Curry also illustrated some original video clippings of arson attacks which are realistic in nature.

McGown feels terrorism has become a term that people use to win public relations battles against their political opponents. Many people accept eco terrorism and they do support them but only the government of all countries considers them as terrorists. Similarly it was the thing that happened in the exposition of Tucker. Two counts of arson, some petty vandalism, one murder and the assaults on the Pacific Zoo are the activities done by Tucker in the novel; he had done these things to save animals from being domesticated. The murder is happened because the chicken man was the reason that countless chickens had died after bearing many years of tortures. And this civilization had fit themselves in many cultures and rituals, hither we should notice one thing that there are uncountable cultures in every country but whenever a man perform ritual he or she may sacrifice animals for their sake. These eco terrors are the real heroes of environment and animals because they value lives not properties. The real terrorists are the one who demolish the wealth of nature as well killing animals for their sake. And also people engage themselves in violent activity because they are distressed that humans have destroyed all the ancient eco system.

“The old ecosystem was gone,” Tucker said. “Humans had destroyed it. The Wildlands were something new. ‘Unfit for cultivation.’ That means no people, no civilization. Wild and

Tame and Domesticated and Feral—any living without a place on the food chain— all the outliers found their way there. All the Lost and lonely animals went to the Wildlands.” (*The Wildlands* 284)

Through the character Tucker, author conveys that we are already far away from our old way of ecosystem and we the humans are responsible for what had happened. The activities of humans had changed the total ecosystem and created new zone that is right for human beings. With these changes the planet has been going forward to the extinction of all species. Mainly the technological development had induced the minds of people and they are in the rush to increase countries wealth. Technology too had played major role in everyday life also they are highly helpful in many such cases. But when readers look deeper the avail is less and the effects are more. Especially it is highly harmful for our environment, through this there are many species had died and they are no more now.

These scientific advancements are considered to be one of the vigorous activities of human towards nature. For many research purpose animals are separated from their wild lands. The novel’s title itself suggested the implication of animals with their environment. The term “*The Wildlands*” indicated “unfit or uncultivated land.” Tucker meant it was the place of all refugees including Tucker and Corey who are now mingled with animals after segregated from human civilization. The animals he released from cosmetic industry, from being domesticated, assaults on Zoo and the release of rattle snakes reached their Wildlands and they became outliers now. Animals are kept far away from their place and wilderness, they struggle in lack of food, they experience cruelty in zoo by being captivated, even people made them away from ecosystem itself. Now the animals reached where it came from. Tucker gave them a freedom to go back to their Wildlands.

An article by Ashoka Mukpo, titled, "*As nature declines, so does human quality of life*" discusses that the past 50 years have seen a catastrophic decline in the planet's ecosystems and natural environments. As per the survey everyday there are at least 32,300 hectares of forest vanishes, and the size of wildlife populations dropped by an average of 60%. This study says that the destruction is a side effect of human economic development. Humans can realize this change only if they affected human life but the destruction of a tract of forest was counted as a decline. The changes in wilderness can affect the direct quality of life, For example, rise in deaths through air pollution, damage to the pollination systems to the reproduction of plant species used by people, and the impact of environmental catastrophes like floods and wildfires. Tucker also insisted exactly about this fact in the novel, he says if there is no proper food chain occurred then it is difficult for the lives of planet to survive. Safe guarding environment is the only way to guard oneself and the society.

Tucker thinks that he and Cora won't fit to the community of humans because their acts are against the whole human culture. So Tucker choose Wildlands as their best place to live where all the lives are doing their own duty without harming others there is no selfishness or material there, no greed, envy or jealous, moreover there is no people, no civilization, no laws, no legalism or anything. Wildlands are surrounded by green fields and blue skies, Tucker exactly want to be in the place where animal lies. In Wildlands animals will follow their normal food chains and pollination occurred between species so that the world became normal and there is no loss of species or extinction. This shows his longingness to live with nature and efforts to regain old ecosystem. Losing his farm and animals had made Tucker to think about this, he longs for the Wildlands that he enjoyed and played in his childhood.

This society cannot be transformed only through Tucker and Cora, it is possible when every individual thinks and acts on the right of nature. He tells Cora about all the incidents he had faced and he even more shared all the knowledge through his research on mass extinction. Author also insisted the same ideas to readers through Tucker's character. His lectures to Cora made a clear intention that he inherited Cora with the knowledge of Wildlands and he probably provoke a next generation of humans to live without selfishness and encouraging them to save animals from extinction. Because of his eco terror activity one day he might be caught and punished by the government, he does not bother about his life. His only aim is to transform his ideas on saving the environment to next generation and this was the intension of Abby Geni too. People should understand what is good and bad ,at the same time they should analyze things that happens around their environment. People should be aware of the serious disasters that humans implementing to nature.

The character Cora was little different from Tucker, while Tucker took violence in his hand Cora took her intelligence in her hand. Even though Cora was said to be a member of animal rights she made her own wild lands after Tucker gone but without violence. At last Cora made Tucker's dream true. The thought provoking lectures of Tucker made Cora an impact to build a wildlife sanctuary as a wild lands. It was not like zoo which is captivating, torturing and using animals for researches but it is wild lands where animals live in wilderness and of course no more animals would be a painting in museum. Cora made animals to live freely, happily and moreover there is no species extinct or loses, because it is a wild lands. This shows that an ecoterrorist is capable of recreating peace in the lives of animals and he can lay a foundation for a wealthy environment too like Tucker does.

## *Chapter V*

## *Conclusion*

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## Conclusion

Literature takes a role of mirroring the society, it reflects things as it is. It is a tool that writers used to implement their thoughts to the readers. And more over fiction as a part of literature gave freedom of writing to the authors to elaborate things or shortened things up to their ideas. In fiction, the genre eco-thriller had dealt with environmental crises of day to day life that recreates as thriller story. *The Wildlands* is also an eco-thriller which has been written by Abby Geni and published in the year 2018. She was an American writer whose works much based on nature and environmental crises. This novel, *The Wildlands* also depicted the major cause of today's society and also posturize Eco terrorism through the character, Tucker.

The core aim of this study to reveal the real sinners and terrorists of environment, they are humans who intentionally devastating nature and animals with their supremacy which has been discussed through novel. The central discussion of the study is to explore the effects or cause of human on earth in eco terrorist point of view. And it also dealt with the human cause which results in another possible extinction of this 21<sup>st</sup> century, that is, sixth mass extinction or Anthropocene mass extinction. Virtually, earth's entire ecosystem has been significantly changed through human's actions. Transformations have been especially rapid in the last 50 years and today speedy changes are taking place in developing countries. Actually, ecosystem depends upon the basic environmental cycles such as the repeated circulation of water, carbon and other nutrients. But now the human activities have harmed and modified the environment by increasing greenhouse gases and that resulted in climatic changes.

By analyzing the novel, *The Wildlands*, also possess people with the traces of

Anthropocene mass extinction all over the novel. The novel deals with the central theme of Anthropocene mass extinction in which Tucker's action will be staged by depending on this. Constantly, the novel also been agreed with the theory of eco-criticism which also dealt with the age of humans and the climate changes. The environmental issues in the novel are highlighted and analyzed with the ideas of eco- criticism theory. In which this study focused the part of Anthropocene in detail in first part of analysis. The causes of human activity can be discussed through the character of Tucker and Cora. They act as the defenders of environment of this planet in which they marks themselves as heroes.

Tucker as an environmentalist aims to save animals from being extinction. He can save lots of animals from various places of domestication or tyranny. Even though he was like other people he learns everything about animals. His concern and humanity toward animals has been compared with normal humans of world. Ecocriticism also states climate change like global warming which proves that this epoch is the era of humans in which their occupancy will results in various causes of planet. As per Timothy Morton's hyperobject Abby Geni used tornado as a hyperobject in many ways like as a changes in character, turning point of story, natural warning, vital sign of Anthropocene and it also implies people to realize the change in human activity.

As like Tucker every individual should think or consider the danger of natural crises and act according to that. Although it will not been able to preserve or maintain nature to the extent of Tucker. People must love nature as much as they can. There are many ways that people can follow to control these disasters and save planet from extinct. Geni's intention in this novel is to state or inherit reader with the knowledge of climatic changes as well she wants the readers to know about the seriousness of climatic change. And more over the industrial revolution had played a major role in earth's ecosystem. Ecosystems are getting damaged and the climates are

begun to change only after the implementation of industrial revolution on planet. So that many countries would think, only industries and their own productions will help to develop the countries and its wealth, they are not bothering about retaining the older ecosystem which will pave way to restore many extinct species and even it might save the human's life from the brink of destruction.

An article titled, "*How humans are driving the sixth mass extinction*" documented the impacts of human society on natural world. Rather people have to recognize that the impact is game-changing on this planet, that humans are all responsible, and what they have to do to become stewards of nature as a part of it. This has been stated by the leading author and geologist, Mark Williams. What he stated was the true events of present society. Moreover, Williams and team argue that future changes driven by humanity will go so far as to create not just the era of geological history but a fundamental reshaping of earth.

The scientist's says that it is not too late to avoid total mass extinction. They should agree it is possible to avoid mass extinction and tackle the current environmental crisis and it will require large scale changes not only in how society operates but how humans view their relation to the natural world. Humans must move on from the view that they are somehow separate from nature or that nature somehow exists separate from them, they should realize these things and act upon it. Whenever it is possible humans should engage themselves with ecosystem and they should strengthen their relationships. For example people sometime engage themselves in planting trees, avoid cutting trees or plants, lessen maximum use of vehicles, protecting animals if they are in trouble, instead of focusing industries and development, the government should show little concern on deforestation, soil eruption and greenhouse gas emissions to avoid problems.

The second part of this study dealt with the human occupancy over ecosystem especially toward animals. Also it focuses on eco-terrorism which is now said to be the most threatening activity of every society. Human's occupation or population itself not extended or expanded but also the human domination. Human became the predominant creature of this universe. And money speaks more than human, humans can respect human, they will respect their money and even more they value properties than living organisms. This domination refers to the activities of human that led to the destruction of environment. The human depletions like burning fossil fuel, usage of plastics, dispatching wastages of industries directly into the rivers, and mainly high emissions of greenhouse gases can damage our ecosphere more and more deeper than earlier. Persons like Tucker in the novel cannot bare these activities happening and also he doesn't want their ecosystem to be extinct before his eyes.

Tucker is an arsonist, bomber and a vigilante. He does things that people would never do, but his motives make complete sense to the reader. He sees what is happening to our planet, what humans are doing to our planet as a violent assault. When comparing to this assault Tucker's actions are not just that much big thing to mere terrorism. Humans are the one who does terrorism with their activities, the effects are in daily basis and many species in the world became extinct through that. With or without their knowledge people have depleted all the wealth of ecosystem and humans are the core cause for the extinction and destruction of many species. A single act of human can cause permanent change in ecosystem and moreover it ends all the lives of species. Eco-terror activity cannot aim to vandalize human's life but the properties of humans which has been the reason behind all the consequences.

The motive of eco-terrorism has been virtuous, when people look through in the point of view of Tucker they would have understand things well. When Cora was in the side of Tucker

she saw things through the eyes of Tucker but when she separated from Tucker she viewed things differently or from another side. When comparing the act of Cora with Tucker, the reader's perspective has been entirely changed. Both were handling things in similar motive but in different way. For this more ecotage act he has been died because of his wrong decision of releasing animals from zoo but Cora with his soft and temperance she achieved wild lands by implementing her own wildlife sanctuary.

Human occupancy over environment can cause the minds of people to involve themselves in animal cruelty. Human should value the lives of another. Even though the activists damaged the properties of human people won't really understand until an individual thinks of it. And also all over analysis states that humans will take these issues in a serious manner only when it affects their lives. Like Darlene in the novel who did not realize or even not ready to hear the words of Tucker changed completely after the kidnap of Cora by Tucker, she started realizing things and the reason of tornado and the motive of Tucker. Only then she came to know about Anthropocene mass extinction.

Moreover in real life crises like the deforestation which highly extracted the carbon level and now in this pandemic situation people are seeking for oxygen, this was also a dreadful condition created by humans. Before cutting down trees and destroying forests people should think once. Lots of people had died out of lack of oxygen. People have neglected the forests, trees and plants when it gives large amount of oxygen supply and now they are rushing toward oxygen to save their lives. The effects of environmental damage can be understood only when it affects human life. This indicates the prominent changes in environment; it is not only pressurizing biodiversity but also the human life and animal life. People are in the situation that

they don't even have proper air to breathe because the air they breathe is not purified it is highly polluted and more over now it is highly toxicated by virus.

That is why the scientists and environmentalists want the people to be aware and not to be foul nature. If they ponder to destroy nature they will be destroyed along with it. The actions can harm or lessen the geographical spread that is the decline of species such as animals and plants. For instance, a quarter of mammal species are currently threatened by extinction. Human interventions had caused most dreadful things than virtuous. Finally, it leads to the changes in regulation of climate, disease and other ecosystem processes. And this Anthropocene mass extinction had major impact on nature and the whole ecosystem. People did not understand the seriousness until when it dangers their lives.

Here, this study is not encouraging absolute terrorism but it shared Tucker's sense of helplessness and rage. When everyone was there to save human civilization, Tucker was the one who stand beside animals. So Tucker knows that the more people try to subdue the beast the more it destroys its compatibility. That's why this man and Cora had engaged themselves in eco terror activity to save animals. Cora had done whatever Tucker insisted her to do because when she was with Tucker she transformed herself as Corey. Corey may involve in violent activity but Cora not. "This is everything that wrong with humanity." he said. "Humans believe that they aren't a part of nature. And zoos reinforce that idea. The animals are on the side of the bars and we're over here. Of course we're not the same thing."(*The Wildlands* 208)

Here Tucker explains about the cruelty of people toward animals. He will state this because he sees many humans with out of humanity. Example, in the jolly cosmetic factory they use animals for lab testing, they used to kill animals by knowingly this was considered to be mere murder but for the human sake people in Oklahoma accept this and they did not define it as an animal

cruelty. Another incident in the novel explicit the idea people can use dead animals on display in their shop to seek money. When Tucker and Cora reached Texas they saved animals from that shop because they voluntarily killed animals for their business. These incidents show that the people inhumanity had been extended greatly towards all living organisms.

First people change their life style, and then lost their mind out of being materialistic; again lost ecosystem by being industrial and now humans lost their humanity to showcase our dominance. Humanity lacks in every place, not specifying all the humans but some with cruelty. People can go through all kind of cruelty against animals which are increasing in numbers now a-days. There are many news channels that telecasted many events that have performed against animals. The novel portrays only few events like they use animals for lab testing, being tortured in zoos, and people even more uses animals for sacrificing. But people can see many real events that happening in day to day life.

In reality, few days before, a flash news that says four to five elephants in Tamil Nadu forest resource had been hitting harshly by throwing stones at them only because they have wandered near the living places of humans, this has been enacted by young pupils of India. It was so incredible and more savage to watching. Forest is a place for wild animals, it is the mistake of humans to occupy there and disturbing animal's surrounding and it's not the fault of elephants wandering there. People believe that the young generations would be the hope of another developing country. If youngsters safeguard nature they can easily restore the old environment. But here the youngsters seem to be like they are lacking thorough humanity and building more cruelty than ever, this shows their barbaric nature of apprehending animals.

An Indian Express article titled, "*Humans losing humanity: Rising instances of animal cruelty in India, land where they are worshipped*" says India has been known to be the country

where animals are not only considered as a part of universe but they also had been worshiped. As per the Hindu mythology, cow, tiger, lion, elephant, monkey, horse and bull snake are worshipped as mere equal to god. Now in this modern era people changed to the practicality of mind and so the transformation happened from worship to cruelty. In this COVID 19 lockdown not only humans have experienced depression but also it reflects on caged animals in zoos and circuses.

This lockdown have come across lots of things, one side of people are helping poorer and they even feed animals but on other side the article reports many brutal activities like a killing of pregnant elephant from Kerala, a pregnant cow from Himachal Pradesh and a jackal from Tamil Nadu. In all three cases, the poor animals were fed explosives covered with some kind of edibles. There are many laws to prevent animal abuses but still it is happening at the same time there are many laws are favor with women but still women are abusing. This was the exact thing that expressed through eco feminism by analyzing the novel, *The Wildlands*. Animals inhumanity had staged all over the novel and Tucker appeared there as a hero to safe guard nature.

By using eco-feminism in this section the study can prove that human domination had been continued since or they are inherited. As like in the novel, human domination reflects their cruelty toward animals such as, beagles has been killed in lab testing cosmetic factory, the chemicals that deposit from factories can rule all over the land, whenever people want to seek money they use animals according to their needs, domesticating animals by charging brutal behavior, and kills them or uses them as puppet for performing human rituals. This is similar to that of the consequences of women because the above mentioned animal cruelty had been suited for women suppression since then. As like them they would have been arrested and tortured,

women would be the sufferer in every ritual and more over domestication is a word that also resembles for women society. Often the voice of Cora has been shut when she was in front of Tucker.

On the other side author ends the novel by inspiring reader with Cora, Even though Corey had involved in eco terrorism but Cora had handled things well. Not all the wars will end up in terrorism some ends up in peaceful note. Like here, Cora attained his brother's dream of Wildlands by setting a wildlife sanctuary and retaining the wilderness of wild animals. Tucker had performed eco terrorism out of helplessness and Cora uses her intelligence to build Wildlands by her own, their choice is different but their intentions are same, it is to save ecosystem and species from extinction.

This study is not conducted to threaten people or to encourage terrorism. But it compared things with their motives and awakened people to defend nature. People should be aware of ecosystem because people are not separated from nature anymore they are of course interrelated with each other. People as a living system are encompassed of all including plants and animals. People should not encourage things that they consider dangerous to our planet. It was all human responsibility to stop the extinction and get back with the old purifying resources.

There are several steps to prevent those destructions including rising awareness of the plight of biodiversity, the increasing potential for societies to create change at large scales and the possibility of rigid laws will dwindle destruction of environment. It is a big responsibility of every human in planet to retrieve the old ecosystem and practices. The destruction is bigger than any other species on Earth has ever faced and so far the changes should occur to alter biosphere from destruction not to increase risks. Changes in environmental policy can subside many of the negative consequences of growing pressures on environment.

Furthermore, this study also gives guidelines to researchers on other dimensions and critical estimation from which the topic can be explored. That is the researchers can further do study on gender inequality like what was Abby Geni's intention to make Cora as Corey, what would be the lineation between male and female. How Tucker passes his knowledge of information to next generation people and how Tucker consider himself as representative of upcoming generation. Tucker's concern toward nature and animal, his way of treating animals had made inspiring to readers. And researchers have also portray Cora as a silent sufferer, entangles and submissive because she first love to accompany Tucker but later Tucker's weird attitude made her to shut her mouth and cut off from her freedom of speech.

## *Chapter VI*

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