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A ZOOCRITICAL STUDY OF COLERIDGE'S 'THE RIME OF THE ANCIENT MARINER'

Bipasha Majumder (De)*

Zoocriticism is one of the fastest growing subfields within ecocritical literary studies. It is concerned with how the relationship between human beings and animals gets reflected in literature. However, it should be noted that zoocriticism is more than simply the study of animals represented in literary works. It has distinguished itself by the ethical stand it takes and its commitment to the animal community as a significant thing rather than merely as a thematic study. Zoocritics try, by a revisionary reading, to bring in to light the writer's biocentric world view reflected in his/her work so that the readers can be aware of the evil consequences of destroying the wild and the savage. My endeavour in this paper is to explore Coleridge's "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner" from the zoocritical perspective in order to show how Coleridge's biocentric world view finds a beautiful expression in the poem.

Keywords: *Anthropocentrism, Biocentrism, Ecocriticism, Environment, Wilderness, Zoocriticism.*

Zoocriticism is one of the fastest growing subfields within ecocritical literary studies. According to Aarthi Vadde, "zoocriticism traces its roots to animal studies, a formation that draws on philosophy, zoology, and religion, while ecocriticism is the literary contribution to environmental studies, a field that is also the province of history, anthropology, and geography." ("Cross-Pollination: Ecocriticism, Zoocriticism, Postcolonialism" *Contemporary Literature*, 567)

It is concerned with how the relationship between human beings and

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