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Roots of Emotions: A Computational and Traditional Analysis of Environmental Destruction

This paper attempts to address the question of how language and stylistic choices contribute to shaping unique portrayals of environmental destruction in eco-fiction. More specifically, the central question underlying this research is: “how does linguistic and stylistic choices of authors shape portrayals of environmental destruction in eco-fiction centered around the indigenous perspective?” The corpus consists of *The Marrow Thieves* and “On the Wings of this Prayer,” both Indigenous-authored narratives along with *The Word for World is Forest*, a text offering an Indigenous perspective, despite having been written by a non-Indigenous author.

This study analyzes language usage around environmental destruction in these narratives through the identification of patterns. Sentiment analysis, building on the work of Simone Rebora, will target passages on environmental destruction to identify emotional patterns unique to each author’s perspective. Corpus linguistics is the second methodology drawing from Douglas Biber. It builds off his use of corpus statistics and stylistic linguistics in literary studies (Biber). Close reading provides an essential non-computational counterpoint, which, as argued by Elkins and Chun, will be useful to go beyond the insights provided by computation.

The results of this study will reveal that cultural background affects the language used around environmental destruction through the sentiments evoked, lexical choices, and sentence structures or that it is the theme itself that causes those patterns. The goal of this research paper is to provide an answer to the research question that has been presented while simultaneously demonstrating the use of this new combinatory methodology.

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N-grams and Collocations of the Anthropocene and the Indirect Anthropocene

This study explores the linguistic representation of the Anthropocene in academic discourse through a corpus-based analysis. Focusing on n-grams and collocations, it examines how the term "Anthropocene" and its underlying concept are presented in scholarly texts. The analysis distinguishes between sentences that explicitly use the word "Anthropocene" and those that describe or imply the concept indirectly, providing a comparative perspective on how language shapes the discourse around this pivotal geologic and cultural framework. By analyzing explicit mentions, the study identifies patterns and associations that characterize the direct discussion of the Anthropocene, including its links to environmental change, human impact, and temporal frameworks. Conversely, examining indirect references uncovers subtle linguistic cues and alternative framings that suggest the Anthropocene without naming it.

The findings reveal variations in word choice, syntactic structures, and thematic emphasis, highlighting how academic disciplines may align with or diverge from explicit Anthropocene discourse. This research contributes to understanding how language reflects and constructs knowledge about complex environmental issues, emphasizing the role of implicit discourse in shaping collective perspectives. Ultimately, the study underscores the importance of linguistic analysis in tracing the diffusion of Anthropocene-related ideas across academic and interdisciplinary contexts.

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Tracing the Evolution of Nature's Language: A Diachronic Analysis

This paper examines the diachronic evolution of language used to describe nature, tracing linguistic shifts across historical periods to uncover changing human perspectives and relationships with the natural world. Drawing from a corpus of literary, scientific, and cultural texts spanning several centuries, the study investigates how word choices, metaphors, and thematic emphases reflect broader societal transformations, including industrialization, environmentalism, and climate awareness.

By analyzing key lexical items and collocations associated with nature, the research highlights significant shifts, such as the transition from reverential and pastoral depictions of nature in pre-industrial texts to exploitative and mechanistic framings during the industrial revolution. The study also identifies contemporary trends in environmental discourse, including the rise of terminology linked to sustainability and anthropogenic impact. Special attention is given to the emergence and diffusion of key terms, such as "wilderness," "biodiversity," and "climate change," revealing how linguistic innovations coincide with shifts in environmental ideologies.

The findings suggest that language not only mirrors societal attitudes toward nature but also actively shapes how people conceptualize and engage with the environment. This study contributes to understanding how linguistic change interacts with cultural and ecological shifts, offering insights into the evolving human-nature dynamic. By exploring these changes, the paper underscores the potential for language to influence and reflect ongoing environmental narratives, providing a critical lens for examining the Anthropocene and future environmental discourse.

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Discourse Analysis of Environmental Destruction: Medieval to Modern Perspectives

This study examines the discourse surrounding environmental destruction from medieval to modern periods, emphasizing linguistic and rhetorical strategies that shape perceptions of humanity's relationship with nature. Drawing from a diverse corpus of texts, including medieval allegories, Enlightenment treatises, Romantic poetry, and contemporary environmental literature, the analysis identifies how language reflects evolving attitudes toward ecological degradation. The research applies discourse analysis to trace shifts in narrative frameworks, metaphorical constructions, and the agency attributed to both humans and the natural world.

In medieval texts, environmental harm is often portrayed through moralistic allegory, where nature's degradation symbolizes spiritual decline. By contrast, early modern and Romantic perspectives foreground the exploitation of natural resources as both a marker of progress and a source of ethical tension. Contemporary discourse increasingly problematizes human impact through explicit references to ecological crises, employing scientific and activist rhetoric to call for systemic change.

This study also explores the role of intertextuality in constructing environmental narratives, highlighting how modern texts reinterpret medieval and Romantic motifs to emphasize continuity and rupture in environmental consciousness. The findings contribute to interdisciplinary discussions in ecocriticism, historical linguistics, and environmental humanities, offering insights into how language not only reflects but also shapes societal responses to ecological destruction. Ultimately, this research underscores the importance of historical perspectives in addressing current environmental challenges.

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Nature and the Divine: Eco-Critical Readings of Religious Medieval Poetry

This study challenges the assumption that ecological thought is a predominantly modern phenomenon, revealing instead that medieval religious poetry demonstrates a profound engagement with nature and its divine significance. By applying an eco-critical lens to a selection of medieval religious texts, this research explores how these works articulate a deep interconnectedness between the natural world and spiritual belief systems, positioning ecological awareness as a central theme in one of the oldest literary traditions.

Medieval religious poetry frequently portrays nature as a reflection of divine will, intertwining ecological and theological narratives. These texts depict the natural world as both sacred and vulnerable, emphasizing human responsibility for its stewardship. Far from being limited to symbolic or allegorical representations, they contain insights into humanity's role in the preservation or destruction of the environment, predating modern ecological discourses.

This study examines recurring motifs such as the depiction of landscapes as sacred spaces, the moral implications of environmental degradation, and the use of nature imagery to evoke spiritual reflection. By tracing these themes, the research demonstrates that medieval religious poetry laid the groundwork for eco-critical thought, centuries before its formal articulation in the Romantic era. This perspective reframes the history of ecological literature, emphasizing its origins in medieval religious expression and its enduring relevance to contemporary environmental discussions.

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Nature as Scriptura: Reading Divine Will in the Medieval Landscape

This study argues that medieval conceptions of nature, far from being merely utilitarian or symbolic, reveal a sophisticated understanding of the natural world as a text imbued with divine meaning. Through the lens of eco-criticism, this research examines how medieval writings conceptualize nature as *scriptura*, a parallel to sacred scripture, wherein landscapes, plants, and creatures serve as mediums for interpreting divine will. By tracing this perspective, the study challenges modern assumptions that ecological thought emerged solely during the Romantic era, demonstrating instead that such ideas have deep roots in medieval intellectual and literary traditions.

Medieval texts often portray nature as an extension of God's word, designed to instruct humanity in spiritual truths. This study explores how writers of the period used imagery, metaphor, and allegory to read divine intention in the environment, from lush gardens symbolizing paradise to barren landscapes reflecting sin and divine punishment. These works reveal a profound reverence for the natural world, coupled with an acute awareness of human impact on its balance.

By examining key texts and their theological underpinnings, this research situates the medieval landscape as central to ecological discourse. It reframes the history of eco-literature as a continuum that began with medieval thought, offering a historical foundation for modern discussions on environmental ethics and spirituality.

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Mapping Invisible Forces: How Environmental Anthropology Reveals Climate Inequalities

Environmental anthropology offers a critical lens through which to explore the intersection of human cultures, environmental systems, and the unequal distribution of climate impacts. This paper examines how the field uncovers "invisible forces"—social, economic, and political dynamics shaping climate inequalities. These forces manifest in marginalized communities disproportionately affected by environmental degradation and climate change, often due to systemic inequities such as colonial histories, resource extraction, and global economic hierarchies.

Through a multidisciplinary approach that integrates ethnographic research, ecological science, and spatial mapping, environmental anthropology provides tools to visualize and understand the unequal burdens of climate change. This paper focuses on case studies from Indigenous and Global South communities, highlighting the disproportionate effects of resource extraction and climate displacement. It also explores how local knowledge systems can inform equitable environmental policies, providing a counter-narrative to dominant approaches rooted in Western frameworks.

By employing methods such as participatory mapping and long-term community engagement, environmental anthropologists make the invisible visible, uncovering patterns of exploitation and resilience. The paper argues that addressing climate inequalities requires dismantling entrenched power structures and amplifying the voices of those most affected by climate change. This work contributes to a broader understanding of justice in the Anthropocene, emphasizing the role of anthropology in fostering interdisciplinary solutions to global environmental crises.

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Tracing the Anthropocene in Material Culture: Artifacts of Environmental Change

Material culture offers a unique lens through which to trace the Anthropocene, an epoch defined by humanity's profound impact on Earth's systems. This paper explores how artifacts—both mundane and monumental—serve as tangible records of environmental change, revealing the intersections of human activity, ecological transformation, and cultural production. From industrial debris and fossilized plastics to urban architecture and land-use patterns, these artifacts embody the Anthropocene's complex legacies.

Drawing on interdisciplinary methodologies from archaeology, anthropology, and environmental science, the study examines material evidence that documents shift in ecosystems, resource exploitation, and climate patterns. Case studies include the examination of microplastics in marine environments, the spread of techno-fossils, and the cultural artifacts of communities navigating environmental degradation. These objects not only illustrate the scale of anthropogenic impact but also reveal localized stories of adaptation, resistance, and resilience.

The paper argues that understanding the Anthropocene through material culture provides critical insights into the lived experience of environmental change, emphasizing the entanglement of social systems and ecological processes. It further discusses the potential of these artifacts to inspire reflection and action, urging scholars, policymakers, and the public to engage with the material legacies of the Anthropocene. By situating environmental change in the realm of human history and culture, the paper contributes to a broader understanding of our shared planetary future.

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Futures of Sustainability: Indigenous Practices and Anthropological Perspectives

This paper critically examines the potential contributions of Indigenous knowledge systems to sustainable futures within the context of anthropological inquiry. Rooted in deeply relational epistemologies and long-standing ecological practices, Indigenous approaches to land management, resource use, and environmental stewardship offer transformative alternatives to dominant paradigms of sustainability, which often prioritize technocentric and extractive models. By drawing on ethnographic case studies and interdisciplinary scholarship, this research investigates how Indigenous practices can inform global strategies for addressing pressing environmental crises.

The analysis focuses on specific practices, such as traditional ecological knowledge (TEK), agroecological systems, and community-based water governance, highlighting their efficacy in maintaining biodiversity, fostering resilience, and mitigating climate change. These practices are situated within broader socio-political contexts, emphasizing the enduring impacts of colonialism, resource extraction, and policy marginalization on Indigenous communities. Anthropological methodologies, including participatory research and decolonial frameworks, are employed to explore the complex interplay between Indigenous knowledge and the global sustainability discourse.

The paper argues that achieving equitable and effective sustainability requires a paradigm shift that recognizes and integrates Indigenous epistemologies as central to environmental governance. By foregrounding these perspectives, this research contributes to broader theoretical and practical discussions on sustainability, advocating for structural transformations that prioritize ecological interdependence, cultural diversity, and social justice in addressing the Anthropocene's challenges.

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Eco-Narratives: Storytelling for a Changing Planet

This paper examines the critical role of literature in fostering environmental consciousness amid the climate crisis. As humanity faces unprecedented ecological challenges, storytelling emerges as a vital tool for reshaping perceptions of the natural world and inspiring sustainable action. The paper investigates how eco-narratives—literary works centered on environmental themes—engage readers emotionally and intellectually to prompt ecological awareness and activism. Drawing on examples from contemporary and historical texts, this study explores the narrative strategies authors use to highlight the interconnectedness of humans and ecosystems, emphasize the urgency of environmental degradation, and propose alternative futures.

The analysis focuses on three primary aspects: the role of character and setting in portraying ecological systems, the use of metaphor and symbolism to convey environmental themes, and the integration of Indigenous perspectives and non-Western ecological knowledge. Additionally, the paper explores the ethical dimensions of storytelling in an era of environmental crisis, considering the potential of literature to either perpetuate or challenge anthropocentric worldviews. By bridging literary studies and environmental philosophy, this research underscores the transformative potential of stories in shaping public discourse, fostering empathy for non-human life, and envisioning equitable ecological futures. Ultimately, the paper argues that eco-narratives are not merely reflections of a changing planet but active agents in its transformation.

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Posthuman Ecologies: Literature Beyond the Anthropocentric Lens

This paper explores the intersection of posthuman studies and eco-criticism to reconsider how literature addresses environmental crises. Posthumanism challenges traditional anthropocentric frameworks, advocating for a decentered view of humanity's place within ecological systems. By analyzing literary texts through a posthuman lens, this study investigates how narratives disrupt human-centered paradigms, foregrounding the agency of non-human entities and the entanglements of human and non-human worlds.

The paper focuses on three key dimensions of posthuman ecologies in literature: the depiction of multi-species relationships, the representation of material agency in ecological processes, and the narrative strategies that blur the boundaries between human and non-human perspectives. Drawing on examples from speculative fiction, Indigenous storytelling, and contemporary environmental literature, the analysis reveals how posthuman narratives expand eco-critical approaches by emphasizing interconnectedness, hybridity, and the dissolution of hierarchical binaries.

Additionally, the study considers the ethical and philosophical implications of posthumanism, highlighting its potential to reshape environmental consciousness and promote ecological justice. By integrating insights from posthuman studies, this research argues that literature offers a unique medium for reimagining ecological relations and fostering a more inclusive vision of life on Earth. Ultimately, the paper contends that posthuman ecologies in literature challenge us to think beyond human exceptionalism, inviting new possibilities for coexistence in a more-than-human world.

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Gender and Ecology in the Literary Imagination

This paper examines the role of gender in eco-critical literature, highlighting how gendered perspectives shape narratives of environmental engagement and activism. Eco-criticism has increasingly recognized the intersections between ecological degradation and systems of social inequality, including gender, race, and class. This study focuses on how literary texts illuminate the connections between gendered experiences and environmental justice, drawing attention to the ways patriarchal structures perpetuate ecological harm and marginalize voices advocating for sustainable futures.

The paper explores three key areas: the portrayal of women and marginalized genders as stewards of ecological knowledge, the use of feminist and queer ecologies to challenge dominant environmental discourses, and the literary strategies that foreground intersectional approaches to ecological crises. By analyzing works by eco-feminist authors, Indigenous writers, and queer environmentalists, this study underscores the diverse ways in which gendered experiences influence environmental storytelling.

Additionally, the research considers how literary imagination can both critique and reimagine the relationship between gender and ecology, offering alternative visions of environmental care and community. By bridging feminist theory, intersectionality, and eco-criticism, this paper argues that gender is a crucial lens for understanding and addressing ecological challenges. Ultimately, it highlights the transformative power of gender-conscious eco-critical literature to foster equity, resilience, and ecological well-being.

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Beyond the Human: Ethical Considerations in the More-Than-Human World

This paper explores the ethical frameworks necessary to navigate the complexities of the more-than-human world, emphasizing the interconnectedness of human and non-human entities. Rooted in ecocriticism and environmental philosophy, it challenges anthropocentric perspectives that prioritize human needs above ecological integrity. The term "more-than-human" encompasses non-human animals, plants, ecosystems, and even technological entities, interrogating their agency and roles within ethical systems. By drawing on theories from thinkers such as Donna Haraway and Bruno Latour, this study examines how ethical responsibility extends beyond the human, urging a reconfiguration of human-centric moral paradigms.

The paper discusses key concepts such as relationality, multispecies justice, and the rights of nature, addressing how these ideas reshape traditional approaches to environmental ethics. It investigates case studies in conservation, climate justice, and Indigenous knowledge systems to highlight alternative pathways that honor the intrinsic value of all life forms. Furthermore, it critiques current global policies that fail to account for the voices and agency of the more-than-human, suggesting actionable frameworks for ethical coexistence.

By advocating for an ethic of care that transcends human boundaries, this research underscores the necessity of rethinking humanity's place within the biosphere. Ultimately, it calls for a collective ethical imagination that fosters respect, reciprocity, and coexistence in the face of planetary crises, redefining the parameters of moral responsibility in a more-than-human world.

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Water Wars and Political Ecology: Navigating Ethics in Resource Scarcity

This paper investigates the intersection of water scarcity, conflict, and political ecology, focusing on the ethical dilemmas that arise in the management and distribution of dwindling freshwater resources. Water scarcity, exacerbated by climate change, population growth, and unequal access, has increasingly become a source of geopolitical tension, social inequality, and ecological degradation. Drawing on political ecology frameworks, this study examines how power dynamics, governance structures, and historical inequalities shape access to water and exacerbate resource conflicts.

The research explores case studies from regions prone to "water wars," including transboundary river disputes and localized struggles over privatization and commodification. It highlights the ways in which marginalized communities, Indigenous peoples, and ecosystems are disproportionately affected by resource scarcity, calling into question the ethics of current water governance models. The study also integrates concepts from environmental justice and the rights of nature, suggesting alternative frameworks that prioritize equity, sustainability, and interspecies coexistence.

Through a critical analysis of existing policies and practices, the paper argues for a paradigm shift towards participatory, community-centered water management that acknowledges the interconnectedness of human and ecological systems. By addressing the ethical dimensions of resource allocation and proposing strategies for equitable governance, this research contributes to the broader discourse on sustainability and justice in an era of intensifying water crises.

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Marketing the Environment for Destructive Purposes

Marketing strategies often exploit environmental imagery to appeal to consumers' growing ecological consciousness, yet the products being promoted frequently contribute to environmental degradation. This paper examines the dissonance between the portrayal of nature in advertising and the ecological impact of the associated products. Through a critical analysis of advertisements from industries such as automotive, household cleaning, and outdoor recreation, this study reveals how marketing campaigns frame products as tools for connecting with and protecting nature while masking their environmentally harmful effects.

Key examples include car commercials that glorify driving through pristine landscapes, reinforcing a connection to nature, while ignoring the carbon emissions and ecological damage caused by vehicle production and use. Similarly, advertisements for Dawn dish soap showcase its use in cleaning wildlife affected by oil spills, diverting attention from the role of petroleum-based products in creating environmental crises. This juxtaposition of eco-friendly imagery with environmentally detrimental products is termed "greenwashing"—a practice that misleads consumers into associating these products with environmental stewardship.

The paper argues that such marketing not only undermines genuine efforts toward sustainability but also perpetuates consumer behaviors that harm the environment. By analyzing these campaigns' rhetorical strategies, the paper exposes the gap between marketing promises and environmental realities, urging greater transparency and consumer awareness to combat the pervasive issue of environmental exploitation in advertising.

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