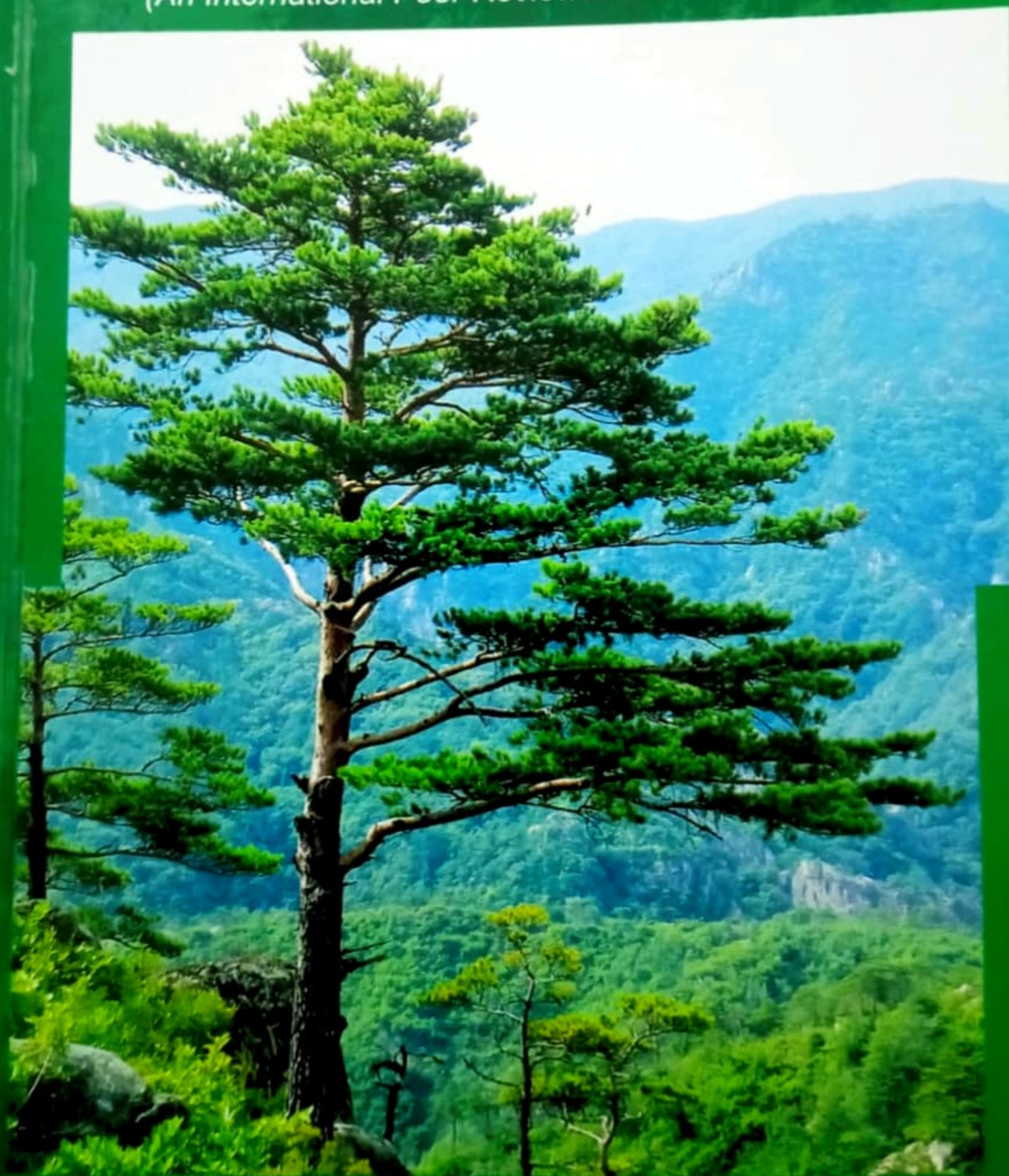


ISSN 0975-5365

Conifers Call

Shimla Journal of Poetry and Criticism

(An International Peer Reviewed Biannual Journal)



Autumn 2019 (Vol.11 No.2) & Spring 2020 (Vol.12 No.1)

Role of Folk Culture in Literature: An Ecocritical Perspective

Kajla
Sandhya Sharma

ABSTRACT

This research is concentrated on the role of folk culture in literature from ecocritical perspective based on the writings of W.B. Yeats. In modern times there is hardly any area that remains untouched by science and technological advancement. These advancements have brought artificiality to what was once organic to humans and non-humans. This artificiality is spoiling the physical, biological and social environment of all. Use of folklore in literature work as sustenance in modern times and challenges the artificiality which science and technology have bestowed on man. As a succor for humanity in modern times, folklore plays magical role in leading towards what was once organic.

Ecocriticism, as a new way of viewing literature, culture and ecology, is a recent phenomenon. It offers a cultural critique of post-modern science and technology driven industrial age which is chock-full of ineluctable environmental issues. It provides a framework for environmental discourse for arts and literature to deal with the situation socially. The ecocritics, Fischer and Hajer, censure some of capitalism's essential features, such as the continued reliance on economic growth and its insatiable desire to create new markets, as well as its use of such growth to create space for political interventions (5) for ecological crisis. They also blame various key practices of modernity working to further this political-economic dynamic: the dominance of scientific rationality and expert knowledge, the strong reliance on and belief in technological innovation as the agent of progress, the implicit legitimization of the use of violence, and the central tendency to see nature as an exploitable resource or as an externality (5).

Kajla, Associate Professor, Department of English, SCD Govt. College, Ludhiana
Dr. Sandhya Sharma, Associate Professor, COE, Degree College, Sanjauli,
Shimla - 6.

ISSN 0975-5365

Conifers Call

Shimla Journal of Poetry and Criticism

(An International Peer Reviewed Biannual Journal)



Autumn 2020 & Spring 2021 (Vol.12 No.2 & Vol.13 No.1)

Vedic and Oriental Influences in Ted Hughes' Poems

-Kajla & Sandhya Sharma

ABSTRACT

The present article aims to explore Ted Hughes' interest in Orient and Vedic literature, and how he incorporates their visions in his poetry. The traces of these visions show his concern for culturally deprived science-driven modern western man. His poetic imagination acquires transformational potential with the help of Oriental and Vedic flashes. Without sermonizing, his poetry targets man who has started colonizing nature through his so called 'intellectual' powers.

Throughout Ted Hughes' poetry a deep contrast is depicted between modern world and primitive age. Man's journey from unknown to known adds many feathers to his cap.

Modern man boasts of his achievements, his knowledge, his energy, his power, his control of everything that is other' to him. Taking pride in his achievements, modern man became egotistic, selfish, self-centred, and materialistic. Ironically, he started losing all the precious things which nature had blessed on him abundantly. His too much indulgence in science and technology in the name of advancement made him over-possessive and self-centred.

Materialism de-humanised him. His greed for power made him oppressor. Intoxicated by power, man started oppressing everything that he wanted to own. Power made him violent and barbaric. Post war modern man threatens and feels threatened by his own power. His violent and brutal actions, his irrationalities to satisfy his own ego, his greed, his culture of materiality, his undue control on what is natural failed man in his journey from unknown to known.

Ted Hughes' direct interrogation in poems captures the attention of modern day