

## Contrasting Pictures between The Nature and The Modern Ideology towards it in The Nissim Ezekiel's Poem "Urban"

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### ABSTRACT

*For decades, the debates over the imbalance in Ecosystem of the Earth have been in the centre of the world's community. Their inclination towards preserving the nature has come out in its full motion. For this nationally or internationally, the intellectuals from every field of study have come together upon a dais to consider over the bitter environmental issues which the present world is facing. Scientists, ecologists, environmentalists, political leaders, NGOs, and also the common people are today considering this burning issue. As for the literature, it will not be wrong to say that what it has done or is doing these days for protecting the nature is absolutely admirable. In this field, a lot of literary figures for centuries have shown their great interest. Romantic Age in the history of English literature is a fine example that is entirely based on the people's consciousness towards the natural beauty and its value to the life of the man. The present paper, "Contrasting Pictures between the Nature and the Modern Ideology towards It in the Nissim Ezekiel's Poem the Urban," deals with the author's vigilant eyes towards the natural destruction by the present highly modernized and technologized society of the world with a brief outline of Romanticism, Nature, Eco-criticism, Ecosystem, Ecology, Environment.*

### 1. Introduction

Without any doubts or questions, we have brought heaps of destructions to the nature and its beauty. We have exploited its natural reserves to a greater extent which is the consequences of the imbalance in the Ecosystem of the Earth. Due to this, the whole entities of the world have gone into the sea of danger. However, these days, they have a little bit become aware towards the nature which is according to Frederic & Denis, "Nature, in the broadest sense, is the natural, physical, or material world or universe. "Nature" can refer to the phenomena of the physical world, and also to life in general. The study of nature is a large, if not the only, part of science. Although humans are part of nature, human activity is often understood as a separate category from other natural world." (Frederic & Denis). They say that humans are the part of the nature, yet they are separate from it. It is so because their activities have made them different from it.

To look forward to the nature and its hidden splendid beauty, Romanticism in literature existed which is "a literary, artistic, and philosophical movement originating in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, characterized chiefly by a reaction against emotions, and marked specially in English literature by sensibility and the use of autobiographical materials, an exaltation of the primitive and the common man, an appreciation of external nature, a predilection for melancholy and the use in poetry of older verse forms." (Merriam-Webster). With the above definition, what the Romanticism is becomes clear. 'Appreciation of external nature' and 'exaltation of the primitive and the common man' show the love for the nature, but here this highly materialistic society is neglecting it large. This neglect towards the nature drew the attention of the literary personalities to think over it seriously.

In literary theory and criticism, Eco-criticism emerged which is "the study of the relationship between the literature and the physical environment." (Glottelty xviii). Of course, Eco-criticism is a thought which talks of the relationship between the literature and the physical world that means a literary theorist studies the literature keeping in mind that what a particular author has talked about the nature and its relationship with the man.

To make aware of the Ecosystem of the Earth to the people of the present era, which is according to the definition "the simplest definition of an ecosystem is that it is a community or group of living organisms that live in and interact with each other in a specific environment?" (Youmatter), a literary intellectual through his/her literary productions is working day and night. Nissim Ezekiel is really one of them who have contributed a lot to bring out the unconscious of the man to look over it. From other definition Eco-system stands for, "a community of living organisms in conjunction with the nonliving components of their environment, interacting as a system," (Tansley, 1934; Molles, 1999, 482).

Nissim Ezekiel (16 Dec 1924-9 January 2004) was an Indian Jewish poet, actor, playwright, editor and art critic. He was a foundational figure in post colonial India's literary history, specifically for Indian poetry in English. (Wikipedia). Nissim Ezekiel, through his poetry has shaded light on the every activity of a rural India as well as the cities of his time. A deep and careful study of his poems reveals this.

### 2. Urban

No doubt, Ezekiel throughout his poems has tried his best to cover all the cultural and ritual activities of a rural village; he has also depicted very precisely the nature and its importance

in the life of a man. In the 'Urban' which is one of his best poems, he has sketched out the contrasting pictures of nature and the modern ideology towards it very vigilantly.

This hills are always far away.  
He knows the broken roads and moves  
In circles tracked within his head.  
Before he wakes and has his say,  
The river which he claims he loves  
It is dry, and all the winds lie dead.

From the above excerpts, it becomes clear that the nature is going far and far away from the life of the modern society. This is because of the modern man's indifference towards the nature and its importance. "Broken roads and moves" in the poem symbolizes the urbanization which is at its peak, today. This urbanization has brought a high damage to the ecosystem of the world.

At dawn, he never sees the skies,  
Which, silently, are born again.  
Nor feels the shadows of the night  
Recline their fingers on his eyes.  
His landscape has no depth or height.

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Growing pollution in the atmosphere of the Earth is overt in the above lines when Ezekiel says, "At dawn, he never sees the skies, / Which, silently, are born." One can feel here the contrasting pictures of the nature and the modern ideology towards it of the present world. The poem has explicit contrasting elements of the urban life and the nature which is disappearing from the sights of every man.

### 3. Conclusion

Nissim Ezekiel, with his simple and lucid language portrays almost every facet of a village which is very far away from the cities and towns. He is, however, in the notion to draw the picture of the modern towns and cities. His literary works have multidimensional aspect of the Indian and its countryside life where he talks also of the extinguishing cultures and rituals.

The poem the "Urban" is little bit different from the other ones where Ezekiel has made an excellent endeavor to pencil in the psyche of the modern world which is neglecting the environment at rapidly. The poem very explicitly describes the modern ideology towards the nature which is not proper at any cost for the present race as well as the coming one.