

PEOPLE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA
MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH
MOULOUD MAMMERI UNIVERSITY OF TIZI-OUZOU

MOULOUD MAMMERI UNIVERSITY OF TIZI-OUZOU
FACULTY OF LETTERS & LANGUAGES
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
OPTION : LITERATURE INTER-DISCIPLINARY APPROACHES



**A Dissertation Submitted in Partial Fulfilment of the
Requirements for a Master's Degree in English**

**An Eco- critical Study of the Selected Novels: E.Hemingway's
The Old Man and the Sea (1952), R. Carson's *Silent Spring*
(1962) and C. McCarthy's *The Road* (2006).**

Submitted by:

**-Boubakour Ania
-Hamitouche Kamelia**

Supervised by:

Dr. KHELIFA Arezki

Panel of Examiners:

- Rafik LACEB, MCA, UMMTO, Président;
- Arezki KHELIFA, MCA, UMMTO, Encadrant;
- Ahcene CHERIFI, MCB, UMMTO, Examineur.

Academic year: 2023/ 2024

The Master domiciliation laboratory:

Dedication

We dedicate this work to our lovely families, relatives, and friends, who always support and encourage us .

Acknowledgements

We would like to express our thanks and gratitude to Dr. Khelifa Arezki, our supervisor who supports and helps us to complete our dissertation. We also would like to thank him for his guidance and advice. we are sincerely, grateful and appreciative to the panel of examiners, Dr. Cherifi Ahcene and Dr. Laced Rafik for their willingness to examine and correct our work, and for their remarks and instructions. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to our teachers.

Abstract

The present dissertation deals with three works, the non-fiction book *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson, *The Road* by Cormac McCarthy and Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea* according to ecocritical theory. Further, the first chapter deals with Carson's *Silent Spring* book which tackles the human abuse on nature by using chemical pesticides and providing some scientific solutions to avoid these chemicals. Hence, we find that through these literary works the reader can understand the importance of interdependence of all living creatures on earth. The second chapter is about McCarthy's *The Road* which deals with the revenge of nature in a post-apocalyptic world, in this chapter we find that by using literature particularly novels, the reader will know that nature has its proper laws that people can not violate. The last chapter concerns Hemingway's *The Old Man and the sea*, tackles the human struggle with the marine creatures, however this struggle became as a respect and preservation of nature. Therefore we find that this novel contains energy that flow to the reader and creates on him a sense of ecological values. To complete our work, we have used William Rueckert theory of ecocriticism, in which he advocates to relate literary works to ecological concepts, therefore he challenges the anthropocentric vision and sheds light on the interconnection of all living beings. Also he believes that literature has a stored energy which helps to raise human awareness about environmental issues.

Key words : William Rueckert, Anthropocentricim, Interconnectedness, Environmental Ethics.

Contents

Dedication.....	i
Acknowledgments.....	ii
Abstract.....	iii
Contents.....	iv
I. Introduction.....	1
The Review of Literature.....	2
Issues and working Hypothesisises.....	5
Methodological Outling.....	6
II. Methods and Materials	7
1. Mthods.....	7
a. William Ruckert.....	7
2. Materials.....	9
a. Biographies of the authors.....	9
. Rachel Carson.....	9
. Cormac McCarthy.....	10
. Ernest Hemingway.....	10
b. Synopsis of the novels.....	11
. <i>Silent Spring</i>	11
. <i>The Road</i>	12

. <i>The Old Man and The Sea</i>	12
III. Results	13
VI. Discussion	14
Chapter one : Anthropocentrism and Environmental Ethics in Carson’s <i>Silent Spring</i>	
a. Human Abuse on Nature.....	15
b. Interdependence of Life.....	19
c. Nature Preservation.....	22
Chapter two : Culture v.s Wilderness in McCarthy’s <i>The Road</i>	
a. The Interconnection between Characters and Nature	28
b. Revenge of nature in <i>The Road</i>	31
c. Nature and culture relationship.....	35
Chapter three : Energy transmutation in Hemingway’s <i>The Old Man the Sea</i> from Meaning to Ecological Symbiosis	
a. Santiago vs nature	41
b. Santiago’s eco-personality	46
c. Santiago’s sympathy towards nature.....	50
IV. Conclusion	54
V. Bibliography	54

I.Introduction

Nature is an important part of mankind. It is a miracle that God offers to humanity, therefore, we have to appreciate the value of this blessing ; however, humans fail in protecting the natural world. Virtually, nature is everything that surrounded us like the air we breathe,the water we drink, the sounds of animals we hear and more. Nature had been existed long before humans, hence they should not consider themselves as the owners of earth because they are just a part of it and the survival of mankind without nature is impossible. The ecosystem contributes to human well-being in various ways ; it provides the necessary resources of food, water, shelter and energy, therefore as nature has the ability to protect and nurture humans, also it has the power to destroy the entire mankind in case that it is mistreated.

Nature has been always a source of inspiration for great poets, writers and artists, whose amazing creations inspired them to write poems and stories about it. The American biologist Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*, Cormac Mccarthy's *The Road* and Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea* stand as important contributions to this rich range of ecocritical literature. The three novels provide a deep understanding of environmental issues by focusing on man's abuse on nature, and how nature responds to these mistreatments following the concepts of ecocriticism.

Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* is a nonfiction book that became one of the most influential in the modern environmental movement which is the a broader networks of people and organizations engaged in collective action in the pursuit of environmental benefits. The book represented the danger of the application of agricultural chemicals, pesticides and other modern chemicals on environment, and also the harm they cause to human health. The novel tackled broader themes of destruction of nature, interdependence of life, and environmental consciousness in the context of ecological concepts. The second book, *The Road*, is a post-

apocalyptic novel that depicts the character's struggle to survive and to overcome the bad conditions caused by nature's revenge on human actions and attitudes. Additionally, Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea* depict the human's awareness about the importance of keeping nature safe and giving it respect and protection, this was exposed with the character Santiago who saw nature as an active entity even he shows his love and respect toward his environment.

By examining *Silent Spring*, *The Road*, and *The Old Man and the Sea* as an ecocritical novels, this research paper attempts to explore the deep ways in which these texts reveal the difficulties of ecological issues and how humans become conscious of the importance of the environment. Through examining and analyzing the ideas and character's experiences of the three novels, we will explore the author insights of ecocritical theory according to William Rueckert's concepts and perspectives.

Review of the Literature

It is essential to undertake a review of the critical literature of the novels *Silent Spring*, *The Road*, and the novella *The Old Man and the Sea* that will be investigated in the present research paper. To begin with, Micheal B. Smith in his review entitled *Silence miss Carson, science, gender and the reception of Silent Spring (2001)* argues "Carson was also threatening because, she was a woma," (p.734). This quote explores the social issue that Carson was facing as female scientist because at that time a woman has no value in any field comparing to man, also Smith in his article highlights gender discrimination, hence Smith (2001) states that "an independent scholar whose sex and lack of institutional ties placed her outside the nexus of the production and application of conventional knowledge," (p.734). As we know, Carson's *Silent Spring* deals with danger of insecticides and their damage to ecosystems. Accordingly, the same critic describes Rachel Carson as being a communist

sympathizer, Smith argues “miss Carson reference to the selfishness of insecticides manufactures probably reflects her communist sympathizer,”(p.741). This quotation means that Carson’s critic of insecticides is a kind of being a communist sympathizer which indicates that Carson expresses support for the principles of communism, and that her motivations were political rather than environmental.

Another interesting review is *How to Make a Villain: Rachel Carson and the Politics of Anti-environmentalism*, written by David K. Hecht in 2012. The author criticizes Carson’s novel for its powerful position against insecticides particularly Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane, the author (2012) argues “in fact, today millions of people around the world suffer the painful and often deadly effects of malaria because one person sounded a false alarm. That person is Rachel Carson, author of the bestselling book *Silent Spring*”(149). This quote is a critic used by Hecht to show that Carson was wrong especially when she leads to the banning of DDT, because after these restrictions, cases of malaria have increased in the world. Another critic about this novel was founded in Linda Lear article Rachel Carson’s *Silent Spring* (1993), she states a critic from Time Magazine which considers the book as ‘oversimplifications and downright errors’, calling it ‘an emotional and inaccurate outburst,’(1993,p.27). This journal considers the novel as full of errors and she used her emotions rather than her rational thinking.

Several critics have tackled Cormac McCarthy’s *The Road* (2006). The novel deals with the environmental issues which are demonstrated on nature’s revenge that characters faced because of their abuse on nature, however some writers have studied the novel from another perspectives. Jordan Dominy in his article entitled *The Road and The End of Capitalism*, discussed the idea of cannibalism which is founded on the novel *The Road*, hence Dominy(2015) argues that “The cannibalism prominent in Cormac McCarty’s *The Road* (2006) significantly places the novel in conversation with depictions of cannibalism in earlier

literatures and portrays an imagined end of capitalism linked with other manners of unbridled consumption,”(p.143). This quotation means that the idea of cannibalism was seen by Dominy as metaphor used by McCarty to symbolize the extreme practices of capitalism and to criticize the destructive and exploitative capitalist consumption, as the novel depicts cannibalism where people eat others to survive, therefore the novel reflects the way capitalism can lead to the consumption of resources for profits. In addition, Carmen Lagurta writes a review called *Trauma and Existentialism in Cormac McCarthy's The Road* (2019), she states “As I aim to demonstrate, the constant violence exerted on the characters in the story leads them to a traumatic state that does nothing but increase their existential feeling of absurdity, a feeling in which McCarthy seems to be most interested while exploring the different responses that can be adopted in the face of the traumatic situations he portrays in his fiction,”(p.75). In this quotation, Carmen Lagurta combines trauma studies with the existential philosophy to examine characters struggle to survive in a meaningless world, so she used these perspectives to explain that the novel has the power to protest in both the depiction of the emotional consequences of a collective trauma and the existentialist message.

The Road has also been studied from another lens, in this article *Id, Ego and Sperego McCarthy's The Road (2023)* written by Barra Nazim Jamal and Sussan Rahma Jaf has examined the novel from a psychological perspective. Jamal and Jaf(2023) assert that “this paper pursues to understand human behaviour, why and how he/she does such things and further to realize how these individuals are thinking and feeling,”(p.173). Hence, they explain the Id as a part of psyche driven by instincts and desires; this one is represented in the novel by the cannibals, “In this novel cannibals people reflect the Id, as events reveal how this type of people reach the stage of moral detachment from higher values through eating human meat,” (Ibid) . Additionally, the Ego which is the conscious part of the personality to make a decision, the two authors represent the father's character experiences the Ego, therefore he

was trying to make a decision about his journey with his son, also the father was trying to make a balance between the need to protect his son and to overcome the cannibals and the difficulties they are facing in the environment . The Superego was represented by the boy who is questioning the morality of their actions.

In the same way, a critic has dealt with Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea*. Matthew Bishop criticized this novella from a psychoanalytic theory, Bishop (2017) suggests "The Old Man and the Sea portrays psychoanalytic theory, which describes human's thoughts, behaviors and actions,"(p.1) . In this quote, Bishop highlights the important role that the psychology plays in the novella which depicts human's actions and thoughts. Hence Bishop considers the failure of Santiago as a tool that awakes his Id "santiago's failures had caused him to display his id , composing of his wants and desire,"(Bishop,2017,p.1). This quote means that Santiago follows his desire and wants to catch a bigger fish, however his Ego intervenes and makes a balance between his desires and the morality of his actions and starts to feel pity for the Marline. Then his Superego helps him to take a decision and to realise that killing a Marline is unethical.

Issue and Working Hypothesis

From the above Review of Literature, we have perceived that critics has shed light on different perspectives on Carson's *Silent Spring*, McCarthy's *The Road* and Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea*, yet, to our knowledge no study has blended the three novels and Rueckert's theory together in one work. Therefore, it is our concern to undertake this piece of research to examine and analyze the three novels according to William Ruckert theory. To do so , we have formulated the following working hypothesis.

Initially, we will deal with the novel *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson that centers in the challenge of the anthropocentric vision by advocating a biocentric one. She explores the

danger of using chemical pesticides, after that she highlights the interconnectedness of all living creatures on earth and that humans are part of natural world, also Carson calls for the preservation of the environment. So, how she used to convince people about the risks of chemicals? what are the solutions she provides for the protection of natural world?

Secondly, concern with Cormac McCarthy's novel *The Road*, which explores the revenge of nature through an unknown natural disaster. This disaster leads to a profound impact on the main characters, hence in the second chapter we will try to answer this following question; what push nature to take its revenge on humanity ? The third novel by Ernest Hemingway *The Old Man and The Sea*, spotlight on the relationship between human and other natural creatures and the dependence of man to nature for survival. Also, the novel sheds light on the human respect and preservation of the environment, so what have push the characters to become aware about environmental issues according to William Rueckert perspectives. The answer to these hypothesis will be in the discussion sections of our dissertation.

Methodological Outline

This dissertation follows the IMRAD approach. we divided our work into five sections. The first section has to do with the Introduction that involves four main parts, it opens with an introduction of the topic, and a review of literature of all the novels *Silent Spring*, *The Road*, and *The Old Man and TheSea*. It also provides the Issue and Working Hypothesis. In the Methods and Materials section , we will summarize the theory and explain its concepts by applying them in our analysis of the three novels , then we will present the synopsis of the novels and the biography of Rachel Carson, Cormac McCarthy, and Ernest Hemingway. In the Result section we will provide the findings of our research. The Discussion part contains three chapters and each chapter will focus on the concepts used on the theory. In the first we,

put emphasis on human abuse on nature and its consequences also providing some solutions to this abuse. The second chapter will deal with nature's revenge. In the third, we will highlight the respect and protection of nature. The last section of our work provides the conclusion by restating the main ideas of the whole dissertation.

II. Methods and Materials

Methods

This section of our work deals with the American theorist William Rueckert and the theory of ecocriticism which he developed in his essay *Literature and Ecology: An Experiment in Ecocriticism*. In this dissertation we will take only those concepts related to our work specifically Anthropocentrism, Interconnectedness and Environmental Ethics.

William Howe Rueckert is an American educator, theorist, and writer. He has a Bachelor's degree from Williams college and Master's and Ph.D from the university of Michigan. he works in various teaching positions than he became a professor of the English Department State University of New York and a chairman at the same university. Rueckert has made a great improvement to literary criticism, especially ecocriticism, therefore he is the one who coined the term of Ecocriticism in 1978 in his essay *Literature and Ecology: An Experiment in Ecocriticism*, in which he explores the relationship between literature and environmental issues and advising for the combination of ecological perspectives into literary works.

Anthropocentrism

In his essay, he criticized the anthropocentric vision. which is the perspective that put human beings interest as the central in the universe over ecological ones. Rueckert (1978) argues:

The view we get of humans in the biosphere from the ecologist these days is a tragic one, as a pure and classic as the Greek or Shakespearean views: in partial knowledge or often in total ignorance, we are violating the laws of nature, and the retribution from the biosphere will be more terrible than any inflicted on humans by the gods. In ecology, man's tragic flaw is his anthropocentric (as opposed to biocentric) vision, and his compulsion to conquer, humanize, domesticate, violate and exploit every natural thing. (p.113).

In this statement, Rueckert deals with the anthropocentric perspective, in which he expresses the profound impact of human destruction of the environment. He believes that ecologists see the human interaction with nature as a tragic flaw which means that the hubris or the excessive pride of humans towards nature will conduct them to their downfall, hence Rueckert compares this tragic flaw to Greek and Shakespearean tragedies where the main character's flaw leads to his death. This illustration refers to the anthropocentric vision in which humans use to dominate and manipulate the environment for their own benefit, this vision is considered by Rueckert as a human tragic flaw that will lead to his self-destruction.

Interconnectedness

William Rueckert in his essay put emphasis on the concept of interconnectedness, in which he explores the relationship between literature and ecological principles also he tied this concept to energy transmutation in literature and ecology. Rueckert (1978) states:

What a poem is saying is probably always less important than what it is doing and how – in the deep sense – it coheres. properly understood, poems can be studied as models for energy flow, community building, and ecosystems. The first law of ecology – that everything is connected to everything else – applies to poems as well as to nature. (p.110)

Rueckert focuses on the interconnection of natural world and literature also he explores the idea of energy transformation. For him both ecosystems and poems exist together no one of them can be in isolation. He explains that poems have an energy flow, the creative imagination of poets are transformed to poems than this last will be transmuted to readers creating a dynamic system of meaning. In essence, Rueckert suggests that as we study

ecosystems for their interconnection also literature particularly poems can also be studied as a system of interrelation and energy.

Environmental Ethics

Rueckert suggests that ecocriticism should engage with environmental ethics, by studying how literature can contribute to ethical discussions about environmental responsibility and sustainability. According to him literature has the power to raise moral questions about humanity's treatment for natural world and to encourage readers to consider the ethical consequences of their actions. In this context he asserts :

The idea that nature should also be protected by human laws, that trees (dolphins and whals, hawks and whooping cranes) should have lawyers to articulate and defend their rights is one of the most marvelous and characteristic parts of the ecological vision.(Ruckert,1978,p.108).

Rueckert calls for environmental ethics in which the rights of nature should be legally recognized like human rights . This can be done through literature in which poets and writers engage with this concept by advocating for the protection and respect of the environment. The readers will understand the text and get the meaning which they will transform into beneficial actions for the environment.

Materials

Biographies of the authors

Rachel Carson

Rachel Louise Carson a marine biologist, writer and environmentalist, she was born on 27th May 1907 in Springdale, Pennsylvania. She grew up in a rural family, hence her mother had a great interest in nature and shared that with her daughter. Since her childhood, she enjoyed

writing and reading stories about nature's creatures. She also had a story published when she was only eleven years. As she loves and respects nature, she got a Bachelor's degree in biology from the Pennsylvania College for women and then Master's degree in Zoology from Johns Hopkins University in Maryland. After graduation, Carson worked with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, then she used to educate people on marine biology, after that she became a marine biologist and was a chief editor for publications for the fish and wildlife service. She wrote many books concerning nature, *Under the Sea Wind*(1941), *The Sea around Us*(1951), and *The Edge of the Sea*(1955). In the year of 1962 Carson wrote her most influential book *Silent Spring*. The novel became very popular and brought the environmental issue of pesticides to the public.

Cormac McCarthy

Cormac McCarthy is a novelist, playwright and an American screenwriter; he was born on July 20, 1933 in Providence. He was regarded as one of the most influential writer of his generation. McCarthy spend much of his life in Tennessee, therefore his early works were influenced by that region. He attended university there but in 1960 left Tennessee without his degree and moved to Chicago and continued his writing. Also he served in the U.S. Air Force from 1953 to 1955. McCarthy wrote several books among them *The Orchard Keeper* (1965), *Outer Dark*(1968), *Child of God*(1974), *Blood Meridian*(1985) and *NO Country For Men*(2005). After, in 2006 he wrote his post apocalyptic novel *The Road*, which deals with man and a boy struggling to survive after an unknown natural disaster in the United States. Cormac McCarthy died on 13th June, 2023.

Ernest Hemingway

Ernest Miller Hemingway the American writer of the 20th century, was born in July 21st, 1899 in Oak Park, Illinois. He graduated from Oak Park high school in 1917. He worked as an

ambulance driver for the red cross in Europe. As the first American who has survived after his injure in Italy during the first world war, Hemingway a warded a medal from the Italian government. Ernest Hemingway began his writing by presenting short stories and poems, hence he coined the theory of Iceberg to his unique style of writing. Hemingway wrote many novels by using his fascinating style like *Death in The Afternoon*(1932), *The Snows of Kilimanjaro* (1936), *for Whom The BellTolls* (1940), and among others. In the year of 1952 he wrote his most celebrated works *The OldMan and The Sea*, which awarded Pulitzer prize for fiction and nobel prize in literature in 1954. Hemingway died in July 2, 1961.

Synopsis of the Novels

Silent Spring

The book *Silent Spring* was published in 1962 by Rachel Carson, is a seminal non-fictional work in environmental literature. The book is divided into seventeen chapters and each one continuing the other, in the first one entitled *A Fable For Tomorrow* she used to tell a predictable story where every creature lives in harmony, however with the arrival of people to this town everythig is destroyed. Moreover, on her following chapters she esxplores the danger of using chemical pesticides especially DDT, that were being handled through aerial spraying in an attempt to control insect populations, therefore she illustrates by giving scientific evidence about the impact of those chemical on nature and even on human's health. Next, Carson challenges the anthropocentric vision by highlighting the interconnectedness of all life forms on earth , she used to demonstrate the relation between man and natural world including its creatures and that no one can live in isolation , all organisms including mankind depend on natural world. At the end of her novel , she advocates and calls for preservation of the environment by using a biotic control instead of the chemical one.

The Road

The book was published by Cormac McCarthy in 2006. It is about unnamed characters the father and his son who struggle to survive in a postapocalyptic American world . Hence the main conflict of the novel is to stay alive. Also it demonstrates the revenge of nature through an unknown natural disaster. This revenge is directed to the father and his son and all the humanity, the father is hopeless about his hard life , however , he retains some hope that he provides for the boy to keep him alive. Following an apocalyptic world, the most important materials needed are food, water, and home which the characters of the novel are seeking. The father and the boy share a deep bond of love; they planned to move along the road to southAmerica searching for better life conditions where they will find food, water and clothes from the ruins of homes and towns. The characters are the good guys who do not seek to harm others as cannibals do, instead they help all people they encountered. At the end the father died lying next to his son, eventually the boy met a kind family who invited him to go with them, than he started a new journey with this family.

The Old Man and the Sea

The novel was written by the American famous writer Ernest Hemingway and published in 1952. *The Old Man andThe Sea* is a story of struggle between an old fisherman and the marine creatures including the marlin and the sharks. The main protagonist Santiago was unable to catch a fish for eighty-four days; hence, he decided to return to the sea in order to fish. When he began his journey on the sea, he takes his skiff into the deep waters of the Gulf Stream , where he catches a huge marlin and from there he starts his battle with the big fish on the sea until he succeeded to lash it into the boat. However, Santiago was attacked by the sharks, although he manages to kill few of them, the sharks eat the marlin. The old man returns to the harbour with marlin's skeleton tied to his boat.

III. Results

In this dissertation, we provide an ecocritical study of *Silent Spring* book which represents human abuse on the natural world by using chemicals, and McCarthy's novel *The Road* which depicts the revenge of nature on humans due to their actions, also we examine Hemingway's novel *The Old Man and The Sea* which highlights the humans dependence on nature and its resources, even it shows the character preservation, respect, and admiration of the natural world. To achieve our aim, we rely on William Rueckert's theory and concepts of his seminal work *Literature and Ecology : An Experiment in Ecocriticism*.

The first chapter deals with the human abuse on the environment by using chemical pesticides, therefore the author challenged the anthropocentric vision by highlighting the interconnectedness of all living being on earth among them mankind. Also the novel provides some scientific solutions to avoid using those chemicals. In this chapter , we have found that through this literary work the reader can understand the importance of the interconnection of living creatures with the natural world.

The second chapter portrays the human struggle to survive in a post-apocalyptic world because of an unknown natural disaster, the revenge of nature in this novel serves as a reaction towards human actions and behaviour on the environment. Also this work deals the collapse in that darkest world due to the destruction of nature. In this chapter we noted that literature can help the human community to understand the laws of nature, and to understand the connection between nature, human, and culture.

The third chapter deals with the character's struggle with the marine creatures which push him to understand his dependence on nature , the latter lead him to develop an ecological personality . hence the character shows his perseverance, respect, and admiration for the

natural world. In this chapter we notice that this literary work contain a certain enrgy that flow to the reader which guides him to have a sense of ecological values.

At last, we reached this result, the three novels *Silent spring*, *The Road*, and *The Old Man and The Sea* are related to each other . The first book *Silent Spring* is mostly about human abuse on nature, the second book *The Road* since it deals with nature 's revenge; therefore, it serves as a result of the human abuse on nature . The last novel *The Old Man and the Sea* demonstrates human consciousness , preservation and respect for the natural world , as the result of nature's revenge.

VI .Discussion

Chapter One: Anthropocentrism and Environmental Ethics in Carson's

Silent Spring

In recent years, ecocriticism has been considered as a prominent branch of literary criticism, therefore in the first chapter we aim to analyze Carson's *Silent Spring* from the lens of William Rueckert's essay *Literature and Ecology*. Rachel Carson is a writer, she is interested in environment from her childhood and she is well known for her writings on environmental pollution and the natural history of the sea. The book *Silent Spring* was first published on the New Yorker and the impetus of this novel was a letter written in January 1958 by Carson's friend in which he described the death of birds in Massachusetts as a result of spraying of DDT to kill mosquitoes, hence, she writes this book to alert the public opinion about the danger of using insecticides.

Silent Spring one of the landmark book of the 20th century which reflects the human abuse on the natural world by using harmful pesticides that lead to the destruction of all living organism, causing damage to the food chain and spread of environmental health problems. Also this abuse on nature did not lead only to environment pollution, but also to self destructive motive in which humans as well are in danger. Carson did many researches and cited many scientific reports to prove her work hence she succeeded to influence the public, even to make a new vision about the danger of chemicals and her work had a deeper impact on environmental policy and public awareness. Hence, the years follow *Silent Spring's* publication, several insecticides were banned in the United States and later in 2004 there were banned internationally.

a) Humans Abuse on Nature

The novel *Silent Spring* deals with the human abuse on the environment, the author Carson tries to explain the danger of chlorinated hydrocarbons and organic phosphates including : DDT , chlordane, dieldrin and others. Since human is the who discovers these insecticides, therefore he is the first accused of destroying the natural world and himself. The novel contains many records that show the danger of those insecticides on the environment . Carson has demonstrated how pesticides lead to the death of birds , fish and other wildlife in order to raise awareness on human to ban those chemicals.

Rachel Carson begins her novel by telling a predictable story about a mysterious event occurring in nature where everything has become silent . Miss Carson used to blame human actions and behaviour that led to natural destruction Carson (1962) points out : “no witchcraft, no enemy action had silenced the rebirth of new life in this stricken world . The people had done it themselves ,”(p.4). Further , we find in this book an explanation of the composition of chlorinated hydrocarbons as the author uses it to highlight their dangerous consequences on living creatures . It is argued that “they should not be called ‘insecticides’ but ‘biocides’,”(Carson ,1962,p.7). This quote shows that insecticides are misleading because it does not kill just bad insects but also harms the good one and those chemicals would cause an environmental imbalance.

In addition, Carson in her book criticized the concept of anthropocentrism which is the belief that the human being is at the centre of existence. She depicts the seriousness of this concept by revealing environmental damage represented by the spread of mysterious diseases. Thus she explores the idea of insect resistance to pesticides, Carson (1962) states “Attempts to restore control with dieldrin met with little success, for in some places the flies developed strong resistance to this chemical within only two months ,”(p.220) . Carson uses this

evidence to show the rapid resistance that made the pesticides ineffective and more dangerous to human community . The author has challenged the anthropocentric vision by giving a strong arguments consequently she focused on the idea that everything is connected to everything else , she claims : “The history of life on earth has been a history of interaction between living things and their surroundings ,”(Carson,1962,p.5) . In essence Carson put emphasis on the relationship between living things and their habitats even she focus on the idea that all creatures and nature are intricately connecting and influencing each other.

By here the book foregrounds the irreversible damage that those chemicals cause to the ecosystem due to human actions and attitudes, that is the centre of the natural world. Hence, Rachel Carson described how pesticides can come into direct contact with human skin especially for those who are exposed to these chemicals . Carson (1962) argues “it is absorbed slowly through the digestive tract ; it may also be absorbed through the lungs,” (p.8) .The author used this explanation to blaster her argument against insecticides and to communicate the immediate risks of those chemicals .Additionally , miss Carson used imagery of silent spring to challenge the anthropocentric concept , Carson states that “on the morning that had once throbbbed with the dawn chorus of robins , catbirds , doves , jays , warens and scores of other birds voices there was now no sound ; only silence lay over the fields and wood and marsh ,’ (p.4) . This quote shows the consequences of human actions on nature .

WiiliamRueckert in his essay *Literature and Ecology: An Experiment in Ecocriticism*, defines ecocriticism as “ the application of ecology and ecological concepts to the study of literature, because ecology (as a science, as a discipline as the basis for human vision) has the greatest relevance to the present and future for world we all live,” (Rueckert, 1978,p.107) . In this quote, the theorist focuses on the impotrance of linking literature to ecology, because for him literary works can refelct ecological problems which can influence human’s thoughts to

raise environmental awareness. Also he believes that literature is like the ecosystem because it contains an energy stored, “ poems are a verbal equivalent of fossil fuel (stored energy), but they are a renewable source of energy, coming, as they do, from those ever generative twin matrices, language and imagination ,” (Rueckert, 1978, p.108) . In this quote, Rueckert suggests that poems have a stored energy which gathered over time through creative process. When we relate this idea to *Silent Spring* book we find that this piece of work has a certain stored energy which came from Rachel Carson , then flow to the readers , to clarify, this book focus on the dangers of chemicals and interconnectedness of all living forms in nature, that push the reader to stop his abuse on nature and start to protect the environment. Basically, in this way the ecological concepts are applied in literature.

In his theory of ecocriticism William Rueckert put emphasis on the concept of Anthropocentrism . Rueckert (1978) claims that “In ecology, man’s tragic flaw is his anthropocentric (as opposed to biocentric) vision, and his compulsion to conquer, humanize, domesticate, violate, and exploit every natural thing ,” (p.113) . This quotation demonstrates the meaning of anthropocentrism ; which is the human perspective to view the world from a human centred vision rather than a nature centred one . By this , Rueckert means that humans consider themselves as the owners of nature and put their needs and desires over the needs of environment. He considered this anthropocentric vision as a big mistake that leads to negative consequences on the ecosystems and the natural world. Hence, Rueckert challenges the anthropocentric vision by introducing the idea of human tragic flaw, also by shedding light on the negative effect of this concept. Indeed, he advocates for a biocentric perspective.

By here, the book *Silent Spring* examines the concept of Anthropocentrism by challenging the human abuse on nature. Carson (1962) asserts that:

Responsible public health officials have pointed out that the biological effects of chemicals are cumulative over long periods of time, and that the hazard to the individual

may depend on the sum of the exposures received throughout his lifetime. For these very reasons the danger is easily ignored. It is human nature to shrug off what may seem to us a vague threat of future disaster.(p.154)

In this quotation, Carson provides a scientific study, therefore she focuses on the responsible public health that addressed the importance of recognizing the negative effect of these chemicals and its long term harm on living organisms, since the harmful effect of these chemicals grow slowly through time , people aim to underestimate the risks. Carson provides this example to challenge anthropocentrism by highlighting the negative consequences of human's actions and attitudes.

b) Interdependence of Life

As we have seen that, Rachel Carson's book *Silent Spring* was a landmark in the development of the modern environmental movement. It explains how the indiscriminate application of agricultural chemicals, pesticides polluted streams, damaged birds and animal populations, and caused severe medical problems for humans. Additionally, Carson used to address the impact of World War two on the spread of pesticides. She claims "This industry is a child of the Second World War. In the course of developing agents of chemical warfare, some of the chemicals created in the laboratory were found to be lethal to insects," (Carson,1962,p.13) . In this quotation, Carson identify that the Second World War played a significant role in spreading and accelerating the development and use of chemicals including insecticides.

When the Second World War started in 1945, several new technologies were developed to help the military. At the beginning, these technologies were used to improve people's lifestyle, instead of improving people's lives, these technologies made their situation even worse. Hence, the chemicals invented to save several crops from the attack of insects started to harm people, because of these phenomenons Rachel Carson began her journey to explore the natural world and make humans aware about the environment degradation, and

highlighting the major idea of the interconnection of all living creatures on Earth. Through humans, a new level of evolutionary adaptation has been achieved . However, this evolution has badly affected the environment. This environmental degradation pushed Rachel Carson to write this book by trying to put in human mind the idea that all creatures on earth are interconnected, and humans are just a part of the whole natural world.

By exploring the human abuse and destruction of the environment using chemicals, Carson on her book *Silent Spring* writes about how all living creatures are interconnected also she stresses the balance of nature and how disrupting one part of the ecosystem can harm the entire web of life. Carson (1962) states “Water, soil, and the earth’s green mantle of plants make up the world that supports the animal life of the earth. Although modern man seldom remembers the fact, he could not exist without the plants that harness the sun’s energy and manufacture the basic foodstuffs he depends upon for life ,” (p.51) . By this quotation, carson highlights the importance of water, soil and plants for ecosystem in sustaining animal life including humans , she discusses the human dependence on plants in order to demonstrate the fundamental interconnectedness of everything living on earth as well as mankind.

Moreover, the atmosphere, biosphere, geosphere and hydrosphere are the four main systems that dictate life on earth. All systems are interconnected as matter and energy flow from one to another. Therefore, the author on her seminal book *Silent Spring* used to put emphasise on the idea of interconnectedness of all living thing, hence Carson (1962) argues “The earth’s vegetation is part of web of life in which there are intimate and essential relations between plants and the earth, between plants and other plants, between plants and animals ,”(p.51) . In this quote , Carson described nature as a “web of life”, where every species plays a major role in maintaining ecological balance. She refers to the fundamental connections between plants and the soil , she highlights the relationship linking plants and animals in term of food, shelter and other resources. Overall, Carson’s quote sheds light on

the ideas that every species of the ecosystem is interconnected, and disrupting one part of this web can lead to harmful effects on the entire system.

The concept of interconnectedness play a major role in William Rueckert's essay *Literature and Ecology An Experiment in Ecocriticism*, hence he address the interrelation between literature, ecology, and the environment by suggesting that literary criticism have the capacity to communicate the ecological issues . Rueckert (1978) claims “It would make the poet and the green plants brothers and sisters ; it would charge creative writing and literature with ecological purpos ,”(p.120) . In this quote , William Rueckert highlights the deep connection between literature and the natural world so as ecosystems involve cycles of energy, the creative process contain the generation of ideas and the development of themes . Indeed, this comparison made by Rueckert sheds light on the interconnection between human creativity and the ecology also he views literature as a way to inspire readers to have a greater understanding of the natural world.

Furthermore, the theorist explores this concept of interconnectedness by demonstrating the connection of all living things on earth “In that ecosphere there is a reciprocal interdependence of one life process upon another, and there is a mutual interconnected development of all of the earth's life systems ,”(Ruckert,1978,p.112). This quotation introduces the interdependence of all organisms and how they need each other to survive . For instance, plants produce oxygen which animals need to breath, while animals produce carbon dioxide which plants need. Also he put emphasis on the idea that no organism in the natural world exists in isolation . Instead , each part of the ecosystem are tied and influence one another.

The theorist believes that literature has an important role in shaping humans ecological consciousness, also it helps them to have a deeper relation with nature. So accordingly , he introduces the idea of interconnectedness by relating literature with ecology .

Additionally, to demonstrate the connection of literature and nature , the theorist links the flow of energy in ecological systems to the flow of ideas, themes, and feelings in literature. Rueckert (1978) claims “poems are part of the energy pathways which sustain life ,”(p.108). This quote, demonstrates poems as an energy pathways which means that poetry or literary works in general are like the energy in ecological systems . Poems contain emotions, themes and ideas that influence reader’s thoughts, feelings, and behaviours which lead to greater ecological awareness and contribute to the maintainable of both the human and natural world. In essence, William Rueckert uses the relation between literature and ecology to put emphasis on the interconnectedness of all living beings with the natural world.

When we refer to Carson’s book *Silent Spring* ,we find that she explores the concept of interconnectedness which is introduced by William Rueckert. Carson used to demonstrate this concept by focusing in the effects of pesticides “One of the most sinister features of DDT and related chemicals is the way they are passed on from one organism to another through all links of the food chains ,”(Carson,1962,p.19) . This quote explains the long persistence of chemicals and how they affect not only individual organisms but also the entire web of life. Indeed , this evidence indirectly shows that all components of the natural world are interdependent and that harming one part of this related web can lead to dangerous consequences. Furthermore, Carson challenges the human centred view by suggesting that humans have a moral responsibility to preserve nature, by stressing these idea Carson sheds light on the interconnectedness of all living creatures on earth.

c) Nature Preservation

Rachel Carson has been called the founder of the U.S. Environmental Movement, which originated with the publication of *Silent Spring* in 1962, hence she shaped environmental consciousness and started a new movement to save nature. Carson’s movement informed the

public about how these pesticides were harmful to living organisms. Also she put emphasis on the biocentric perspective rather than the anthropocentric one so as to call for a new environmental ethics that acknowledges the value of all life forms and the need to live in harmony with nature. Yet, the author keeps fighting the human abuse of nature by using her ideas and arguments until the excessive use of fertilisers was banned.

Nature has its proper laws in biology, physics and chemistry that affect every nation. Rachel Carson provides guidance for making decisions based on our common humanity and our common place in the global ecosystem as animals. Besides, on her book *Silent Spring* she explores the concept of environmental ethics by questioning the indiscriminate use of chemical pesticides and raising awareness of their harmful effects on the environment “One story might serve as the tragic symbol of the fate of the birds - a fate that has already overtaken some species, and that threatens all ,” (Carson,1962,p.84) . This quote reflects aspects of environmental ethics . Indeed, the “tragic symbol” mentioned in the quote highlights the moral failure of humanity in permitting such damage to occur, suggesting that it’s not only an ecological issue but also an ethical one. In addition, this quote underscores the importance of the protective principle in environmental ethics, these principles argue that when humans action harms the environment preventive measures should be taken to correct the harmful impacts of their actions on nature.

In the book , Carson makes reference to Robert Frost’s poem *The Road not Taken* meant to yearn her readers to take the road “less traveled by” that assert the preservation of earth, instead of the smooth superhighway of newness which end with disastrous impacts on the natural world. If we look closely at this reference, we see that Carson is evoking nostalgia for the beauty of the past, before these chemicals were invented to steal the charm of nature, therefore she directly challenges the public to question their moral responsibility towards the environment by choosing between those two roads.

After an entire book devoted to the many dangers of pesticides use and challenging the anthropocentrism vision by highlighting the importance of interdependence of life, the end of this book questions humans environmental ethical responsibility to reach a safer planet. Further , Carson discusses several methods of pest control . Hence she quotes a work developed by the chief of United States Department of Agriculture's Entomology Research Branch, Dr Edward Knipling who created the idea of male sterilization, which means that, if it was possible to sterilize and release a lot of insects the sterilized males would compete with the normal wild males, after multiple releases, only infertile eggs are produced then the population dies. In addition, Carson cited the example of Knipling to support her arguments for a "formation of a new science of biotic controls" , Carson (1962) asserts :

Beginning in August 1954, screw-worms reared and sterilized in an Agricultural Department laboratory in Florida were flown to Curacao and released from aeroplanes at the rate of about 400 per square mile per week. Almost at once the number of egg masses deposited on experiment goats began to decrease, as did their fertility. only seven weeks after the releases were started, all eggs were infertile. Soon it was impossible to find a single egg mass, sterile or otherwise. The screw-worm had indeed been eradicated on Curacao.(pp.230_231)

In the above quote , Carson relay on the work of Edward Knipling in the context of biological control methods . The latter involve Knipling's technique where male screw-worm were sterilized through exposure to radiation and then released into the wild. Even though those sterilized males would mate with wild females, there would be no offspring eggs. Through time , this biotic solution would lead to reduction of screw-worm population. Also she investigates further evidence of biological pest control which is *Bacillus Thuringiensis* ; it was discovered in Germany in 1911 is a bacterium that is toxic and kills by poisoning certain bad insects but it is harmless for most other forms of life including humans and animals ; Carson (1962) argues "Compounds containing spores of *Bacillus thuringiensis* are now being manufactured by several firms in the united states under various trade names ,"(pp.238-239). In this quote , Carson is highlighting the availability and acceptance of BT as a biological

pest control, also she put emphasis on the use of natural pest control instead of chemical pesticides in order to maintain ecological balance and preserve the environment .

If we appeal to William Rueckert 's work we find that literary texts are important to understand nature. He argues that "literature can serve as a tool for promoting ecological consciousness", it encourages readers to understand how all living creatures are interdependent, and to see themselves as a part of the natural world rather than the center of it. Rueckert (1978) declares "We need to some connections between literature and the sun, between teaching literature and the health of the biosphere ,"(p.109) . It means , to stress on the importance of combining ecological awareness into the study and teaching of literature , to clarify profoundly this quote , the 'sun' symbolises the origin of all life on earth therefore by invoking the connection between literature and the sun , he asserts that literature should be adapted to the natural world to illuminate our understanding of the larger ecosystem . Also he advocates for teaching literature to take into account the ecological impact of human action and to preserve the environment . This perspective fits with the novel *Silent Spring* which represent the natural world and how we can contribute to environmental awareness.

Rueckert discusses the concept of environmental ethics which refers to an ecological conscience or moral that reflects a commitment and responsibility toward the environment. within the context of literature, also he believes that literature has an important role in promoting environmental ethics. Additionally, to blaster his argument about how literature contributes to ecological perspectives, he makes reference to various literary works among them Ian McHarg *Design With Nature* which embodies an ecological approach and advocates for human's dependence on natural systems. In this context , Rueckert (1978) claims "Literature in general and individual works in particular are one among many human sun," (p.109) . This quote serves as a metaphor to assert that literature, as the sun, is a powerful source of energy for illuminating human thoughts and consciousness . to clarify, the 'sun'

represents a central power of earth . hence , literature play the same important role that help humanity to understand natural world and to influence humans ethical responsibilities toward the environment.

Nowadays, the book *Silent Spring* is a powerful work that enlightens public consciousness toward nature. By reference to William Rueckert's perspectives we find that Carson's book acted as a "sun" by shedding light on environment issue and questioning human's morality about it which motivates people to act for its preservation. Since humans are interconnected with nature and they are a part of it , Carson emphasises the ban of chemical pesticides he she advocates for the use of natural pest control in order to protect the natural world which mirrors the protection of human community. She states "There are ways to solve this problem—to preserve the forests and to save the fish, too," (Carson,1962,p.114). From this quote Carson advocates for another possible solution to environmental issues by relying on natural pest control instead of harmful chemicals . Also she recommends more sustainable and ecological balance for pest control and preservation of natural habitat , she maintains that environment protection and human activity can coexist if it comes with awareness and consideration.

Moreover, in the book we find that Carson clearly implies moral consideration on the animal's part and moral responsibility on our part, on this context Carson (1962) declares "By acquiescing in an act that can cause such suffering to a living creatures, who among us is not diminished as a human being ," (p.81). In this quote the author believes that when humans accept actions that cause suffering or harm other living creatures mean that human lose their humanity, therefore she call the readers to consider the effects of their actions and to have a moral responsibility toward other living being. Also Carson sheds light on the important role that insects play in agriculture, "These insects, so essential to our agriculture and indeed to our landscape as we know it, deserve something better from us than the

senseless destruction of their habitat ,”(Carson,1962,p.60) . This quote introduces the extensive use of insecticides which cause a harmful effects to insects population, hence she advocates for more responsible and harmless environmental practices.

To conclude this chapter, Rachel Carson wrote *Silent Spring* to inspire the reader and the writer to work for preservation of nature. At the beginning she challenges the anthropocentric vision by emphasising on the impacts of chemical pesticides on the natural world, to blaster her arguments about those harmful fertilisers she provides a scientific evidence and explains how those chemicals led to various environmental issues like the extinction of many animal species, environmental imbalance, and spread of mysterious diseases among humans. Furthermore, Carson deals with the concept on interconnectedness of all living form on earth, therefore she highlights the idea that no creatures on the environment live in isolation and that everything on nature is connect to another. The book reflects William Rueckert’s theory of the relationship of literature with the environment even this literary work serves as a powerful tool in raising the environmental consciousness.

Chapter Two : Culture vs Wilderness in McCarthy's *The Road*

The growth of interest in ecocriticism particularly in the field of cultural studies has brought about new interest in many central concepts such as interconnectedness and environmental ethics. These important concepts are analyzed and examined by the theorist William Rueckert, the first who coined the term of ecocriticism. This chapter will deal with the novel of Cormac McCarthy *The Road* (2006). The American writer McCarthy deals with important topics like violence, survival and revenge of nature. *The Road* is a post-apocalyptic book which studies the revenge of nature and characters struggle to survive their bad conditions, also the novel grapples with the loss of culture because of the dark dystopian world. Indeed to analyze this novel, we will make reference to William Rueckert's theory including its important concepts.

a) The Interconnection between Characters and Nature

In the novel, the characters were facing an unknown natural disaster which pushes them to move to the south of America searching for better life conditions. The novel also focuses on the missing relation between the two main characters the father and the boy with other humans. In addition, McCarthy's *The Road* puts emphasis on the theme of interconnection between the father and his son which demonstrates a deep emotional relationship, they depend on one another for survival. Thus, the father teaches his son how to survive the bad conditions. In return the son represents hope and strength for his father "This is what the good guys do. They keep trying. They don't give up," (McCarthy, 2006, p.137). In this quote the father teaches his son that he has to survive even when the circumstances push him to give up, and that their endurance and resilience separate them from the bad guys. Also the novel depicts character dependence on natural elements to survive. Thus the father and the son deeply depend on nature to survive their bad conditions because the earth was dying and

there are few natural resources left. McCarthy (2006) “He banked the fire against the seam of rock where he’d built it and he strung the trap behind them to reflect the heat and they sat warm in their refuge while he told the boy stories,” (p.41) . This quote illustrates humans dependence on natural world ; even if nature was destroyed, the father and his son remained connected to their environment , this shows the human dependence on nature whatever its condition, as it is demonstrated in this quote where the character need fire which is one of the natural resources, in order to keep alive and face the harsh circumstances.

This novel *The Road* predicts a serious nightmare which humanity will face on the future life , because there is a significant problem that destroyed earth and human civilization, that is shown on the destruction of forests, reefs and the raise of cannibalism. McCarthy believes that humans are always aware of the impact of nature on their life, such as the air they breathe, the food they consume, and the water they drink. Hence in this novel there is a strong presence of nature and environment on his work. The behaviour, action, and thought in the book are influenced by nature, this reflect the deep interconnection of the main character the father and his son with their post-apocalyptic environment, McCarthy (2006) claims “He walked out in the gray light and stood and he saw for a brief moment the absolute truth of the world,” (p.130) . This reflects the profound connection between the characters and their post-apocalyptic world they live in. The term ‘gray light’ symbolizes lifeless and colorless condition of the world. Hence the characters are confronting this reality of existence in such environment where survival is difficult and hope mostly vanished. Further, the novel *The Road* focuses on the understanding and consciousness toward the biophysical environment, the unnamed narrator (2006) states ‘The clock stopped at 1:17. A longshearoflight and then a series of low concession ,’ (p.52). This quote demonstrates that a massive destructive phenomenon would occur, which reflects human awareness of the fragility and seriousness of this moment.

William Rucker in his essay *Literature and Ecology: An Experiment in Ecocriticism*, put emphasis on the concept of interconnectedness between nature and human. Rueckert (1978) argues, “The conceptual and practical problem is to find the grounds upon which the two communities the human, the natural can coexist, cooperate, and flourish in the biosphere,” (p.107) . In this quote the theorist highlights the importance of connecting humans to their natural environment, he also focuses on the need to find a common ground where these two communities can interact and coexist within the biosphere. In the same context, Rueckert makes reference to Barry Commoner’s first Law of ecology, “Everything is connected to everything else.”(Rueckert,p.112), to put emphasis on the interconnectedness between human, nature, and literature. Moreover in this essay we find that the theorist focuses on the relation between literature and ecology . He considers literary works particularly poetry as green plants to demonstrate its important role in the ecological and cultural environment . He means that since green plants gets its energy from the sun and transfer it to life sustaining process, also poems have a sorted energy which its gained from imaginative process of the poets that flow to the readers creating meaning that energize the human conscious to have a deeper understanding of ecological problems and interconnection of creatures with natural world.

By referring to the novel we find that McCarthy depicts this interconnection between the characters and their apocalyptic world through relaying on natural resources to survive , the main characters the father and his son throughout their road trip they look for food and water, they are in need for clothes and home. Despite these hard conditions the characters try to adapt to their new environment, “Keep going south, do everything the way we did it,” (McCarthy,2006,p.275) . This statement sheds light on how the characters are connected to their environment even though it was destroyed, they try to adapt it, their move to the south may symbolize search for better life conditions to survive.

b) Revenge of Nature in *The Road*

The direction of the revenge of nature on human community is a significant topic in postmodern fiction. In *The Road* Cormac McCarthy deals with nature's revenge through an unnamed disaster. The novel starts by the protagonist woman who commits suicide, her death serves as a tragic depiction of the harsh conditions the character faces in the post-apocalyptic environment which is a world where everything is dark and bad. She tries to convince her husband to commit suicide. Since she fails, she leaves her family and commits it alone in the forest. The unnamed narrator (2006) states "She was gone and the coldness of it was her final gift," (p.58). This statement reflects her husband's emotional conflict about suicide of his wife, where he feels alone leaving him and his son to face the bad situation on their destroyed world. Even after her death the man still dreams about her, "In his dream she was sick and he cared for her. The dream bore the look of sacrifice but he thought differently," (McCarthy,2006,p.32). This quote demonstrates the father's regret which creates a huge emotional complex. The novel shows the loss of family members, that is considered as the nature's revenge on the characters as the father who loses his wife due to that postapocalyptic world.

In the novel, the weather has a great role in illustrating the revenge of the natural world. Therefore the author depicts the bad weather as 'hazy', 'cloudy', and 'cold', these words suggest that something disastrous was occurring to nature. In addition, the father and his son are suffering from the harsh weather conditions which make survival a great challenge for the characters. The narrator (2006) claims "The snow fell nor did it cease to fall," (p.96). This statement symbolizes the character's difficult situation in facing the unstoppable snowfall which makes their survival impossible because of the cold weather, thus it reflects nature's oppression. These circumstances push the father and his son to take the road moving to South America searching for warm weather where they can survive. Also the characters face the lack

of food and water in their apocalyptic world. “ They ate sparingly and they were hungry all the time,” (Ibid, pp.31-32) . This statement reflects the harsh reality of their post-apocalyptic world, also the lack of food and mostly did not satisfy their hunger as well as they are aware that their natural resources including food and water are limited.

In this post- apocalyptic novel, the characters did not have connection with others, for example the father and his son move to the south without any interaction with other humans. Thus McCarthy through his narration depicts the idea of missing relation between people. Also the father appears afraid of being seen by other people during his journey and always he escapes from other humans, in this context the narrator claims “He grabbed the boy by his hand, Christ, he said. Run. Run,” (2006,p.111) . This quote occurs when the father perceived a danger and escapes from something harmful, the repetition of the word ‘run’ indicates a situation of fear. Further, in the novel there is emergence of cannibalism which is symbolized as a ‘bad guys’, because they use to eat the ‘good guys’, McCarthy (2006) states “The world soon to be largely populated by men who would eat your children.”(p.181), this statement mirrors the apocalyptic world where cannibals used to eat other people which determine the extreme degradation of the human morality, civilization and the loss of humanity. Also the main characters experience the most terrifying situations where they find the remains of cannibal of a new born infant victim; hence, those bad events lead to the isolation of the father and his son from other people. In essence, all these incidents of loss of relationship between people, lack on the natural resources like food and water and appearance of cannibalism, are the results of nature’s revenge.

In the theory of ecocriticism by William Rueckert, we find that the concept of Anthropocentrism which put emphasise on the human centered vision rather than the biocentric, one has an important role in understanding the negative effects of human vision and action. Hence he considers human as the first to destroy the natural world, Rueckert

(1978) claims, “The problem now, as most ecologists agree, is to find ways of keeping the human community from destroying the natural community, and with it the human community,” (p.107). The theorist believes that the human survival is interrelated to the good conditions of the natural world, and when humans used to destroy their environment they also destroy themselves because they are deeply connected to nature. Additionally, he criticized the human actions toward nature because they view it as a resource to be conquered, therefore he advocates for a shift to another better perspective which view nature as the center of the universe, because if humans continue to impose themselves on nature, massive disasters will emerge as a result of their actions. Rueckert (1978) asserts:

These nightmares are all if/then projections: if everything continues as is, then this will happen. A common form of this nightmare is Garrett Hardin’s ironic population projection: if we continue our present 2% growth rate indefinitely, then in only 615 years there will be standing room only on all the land areas of the world.(p.113)

In this citation William Rueckert criticizes the human behaviour in the environment. He draws attention to the predictable consequences of human actions particularly in relation to population massive growth, which he describes as a nightmare. Also he refers to Garrett Hardin to illustrate a real fact of ecological issues which concerns the consequences of uncontrolled population growth, hence Hardin population projection predicts disastrous impact on the natural world if humans follow their path of rapid growth. This quote serves as a warning about human actions on earth. Further, when we relate Rueckert’s idea of harmful consequences of human actions with the novel, we find that the narrator illustrates the result of human behaviour. He (2006) states “The segments of road down there among the dead trees. Looking for anything of color. Any movement,” (p.4). This statement reflects a world that has been empty of color and life as a result of human activities like wars, industrialization and many of other acts. Also it highlights the anthropocentric vision where humans seek just

for their own interest without regard for ecological balance, leading into an apocalyptic world where both nature and human suffer.

Moreover, the theorist provides a biocentric perspective which focuses on the ecological values and the interconnectedness of all living beings with the natural world, in this subject Rueckert (1978) argues “The biosphere (or ecosphere) is the home that life has built for itself on the planet’s outer surface,” (p.112). In this quote the theorist reflects a biocentric vision, and that life is profoundly connected to the biosphere, because it is a palace where living organisms flourish and are maintained. In addition, Rueckert addresses the idea that nature contains certain laws that humans should respect, and they work as fundamental principles that govern humans behaviour and actions with the biosphere, Rueckert (2006)claims :

Trying to learn something about what the ecologists variously call the laws of nature, the ‘body of inescapable natural laws,’ ‘the impotence principles’ which are beyond our ability to alter or escape, the remorseless inevitableness of thing, the laws of nature which are ‘decrees of fate’. I have been trying to learn something by contemplating one of ecology’s basic maxims : ‘ we are not free to violate the laws of nature.’(p.113).

This above quote italicizes the importance of respecting those ecological principles. The theorist refers to the physical, biological and ecological laws that govern the environment and all living beings . Hence he believes that nature has laws which cannot be violated or ignored by humans, because if they do so there will be huge consequences on their environment and themselves too. Also the nature’s laws have a certain inevitability and determinism that human actions must conform to these laws to avoid harm , Rueckert uses the word ‘inescapable’ to highlight the importance of those natural laws which human can not avoid, because neglecting them leads to negative impacts. As well as, he addresses the idea of ‘decrees fate’ that focuses on the essential existence of those laws which are predetermined and unchangeable.

Rueckert's call for literature to involve with ecological principles, this is depicted in McCarthy's novel *The Road*. This book shows the characters struggle to survive in their post-apocalyptic world, hence McCarthy (2006) claims, "The world shrinking down about a raw core of parsible entities," (p.88). This quote deals with the harsh realities of that environment where everything is destroyed . If we analyze this statement deeply we will understand that this phenomenon happening in that world is a consequences of human's previous actions, in which they use to consider themselves as the owner of the natural world. When we relate it to our theory , we find that the laws of nature are important and human can not violate them because it will cause a massive harm for the environment even for mankind as Rueckert mention it 'self-destructive'. Additionally, the depiction of the revenge of nature in the novel is seen as a nature's reaction towards human's actions, behaviours, and attitudes, which means that the biosphere is an active entity that can feel the pain and disrespect of human abuse on it. Through this literary work the reader will understand the dependence of human community on nature and its resources, focusing on having a biocentric vision rather than the anthropocentric one, and to show how the human abuse on the environment results in dangerous natural disasters.

c) Nature and Culture Relationship

The novel is set in a post-apocalyptic world where nature has been demolished by human actions that lead to the collapse of civilization and cultural memory. The author explains that since the natural world is destroyed, the humans culture, ethics and relations are too. " The frailty of everything revealed at last. Old and troubling issues resolved into nothingness and night," (p.28) . This quote can mirror the collapse of culture, it refers to the old problems among human culture that the environment was facing before its collapse . By the term 'old troubling issues' the writer refers to the cultural problems that were prominent before the collapse . This means that even culture contributed to the disturbance of nature. The novel

reflects the cultural loss . However, the two main characters the father and his son try to maintain their cultural value and norms. Therefore they remain as the ‘good guy’, in this context the two characters debates:

We would never eat anybody, would we ?
No. Of course not.
Even if we were starving?
We’re starving now
You said we weren
But we wouldnt
No. We wouldnt
Because we’re the good guys
And we are carrying the fire. (McCarthy,p.128-129)

This above citation deals with the fragility of civilization and the loss of humanity in that post-apocalyptic world, hence the father used to explain to his son that they will not eat anybody even if they are hungry because they do not resort to cannibalism which do not resemble their moral values. The father put emphasis on the importance of maintaining their humanity and cultural values, thus the character uses a symbolic term ‘Carrying the fire’ which means that the good people on that novel always try to keep the flame of human goodness despite their darkest world.

Moreover, in this book there is a loss of social relation and missing on the cultural values. The father and his son during their journey do not encounter other human which depict the miss of human’s interaction. Therefore the writer describes the absence of society especially on the city, McCarthy (2006) states “ The city was mostly burned. No sign of life. Cars in the street caked with ash, everything covered with ash and dust, ” (p.14). This statement reflects the empty life and the miss of habitats in this apocalyptic world, the city is uninhabited except the father and his son who wonder in that city searching for food and clothes. Further, the characters suffer from the loss of culture, hence each time the father tries

to remember and teach his child human cultural values , which have excited before the unknown natural disaster occurs. The narrator claims:

The man turned and looked back at him. He was lost in concentration. The man thought he seemed some sad and solitary changeling child announcing the arrival of a travelling spectacle in shir and village who does not know that behind him the players have all been carried off by wolves.(pp.77-78)

This above citation can be interpreted in the context of tradition and culture loss in the face of collapse world. Since the cultural values in this dark world seemed out of a context , the writer suggests the idea of spectacle in order to revive the cultural values, however this performance in that destroyed world is impossible, it can be just remains about how life was before.

According to ecocritical theory by Rueckert we find that he relates nature to culture through literature by exploring how literary works engaged with environmental themes and reflect cultural attitudes toward nature. The theorist believes that humans attitudes contributed to nature's destruction, hence he claims “ this is what ecologists like to call the self-destructive or suicidal motive that is inherent in our prevailing and paradoxical attitude toward nature ,” (Rueckert,p.107). This statement demonstrates that humans behavior and attitude lead to the collapse of the environment and even to the destruction of human community. Also he explains that even if culture keep nature in higher level and know it importance for human survival, but the human actions lead to the degradation of the natural world. Further Ruecker tcrriticized the human culture interaction with the environment, thus Rueckert (1978) declares:

Culture – one of our great achievements wherever we have gone — has often fed like a great predator and parasite upon nature and never entered into a reciprocating energy-transfer, into a recycling relationship with the biosphere. (p.119)

In this quote, Rueckert believes that culture is a great human achievement which include technological advancements, social structures, art, et cetera, therefore culture is considered as a 'predator' because it exploits the natural resources, and as a 'parasite' because it benefit from the natural world by causing environmental harm without taking into consideration nature's health and regeneration. Also he believes that human culture should be engaged with energy transfer, to elaborate, both nature and culture must benefit each other culture has to give back the extracted resources from nature by adopting activities that support ecological sustainability and regeneration in order to maintain the balance between the two aspects.

By referring to the novel , we find that the writer present a deep review on the interrelation of the human culture with the natural world, depicting that environmental degradation leads to cultural collapse, the narrator (2006) argues :

Finally the names of things one believed to be true. More fragile than he would have thought. How much was gone already ?The scared idiom shorn of its referents and so of its reality. Drawing down like something trying to preserve heat. In time to wink out forever (p.89).

This quote concerns with the decline of culture and traditions through the revenge of nature, which demonstrate the deep connection of nature and culture. Hence, this statement shows the loss of meaning, expressions, and reality , and the human understanding and hope vanish. If we appeal to our theory we notice that through literature particularly *The Road*, helps the reader to understand the interrelation between human, culture, and nature and how human attitudes and actions influence their cultural values which lead to the destruction of nature, as a result nature will take its revenge leading to human cultural collapse.

William Rueckert used ecocriticism to break the dichotomy between culture and nature, and show how this to aspects are related to each other. Rueckert (1978) claims "In fact, one of the most common antinomies in the human mind is between culture/ civilization

and nature/wilderness,''(119). In this quote, the theorist highlights an opposition between culture and nature, to explain more, culture and civilization refer to human achievements like technology, social norms, arts etc , this statement sheds light on human control over the natural world. However, nature and wilderness represents the pure world which is free from human domination, therefore this contradictions between culture and nature is founded in human mind where they use to consider culture as superior and nature as inferior. In addition, Rueckert proposes literature as a solution to avoid the dichotomy of culture and nature, hence by applying ecological concepts to literary works which will helps the human community to understand the interconnectedness of culture and nature. He believes that literature can contribute to preserve the environment and consider it as an active entity which needs respect and protection.

Cormac McCarthy's work *The Road* serves as a good example which helps to eliminate the contradiction between culture and nature through his depiction of the revenge of nature and characters struggle to survive in an apocalyptic world. Also the reader will understand that nature is not passive, it is an active entity that has laws which human should obey and respect, thus if human does not accept the nature's laws this will lead to a disastrous consequences on the natural world as *The Road* illustrate it by an unknown natural disaster, which cause harsh conditions where human struggle to survive and even they loss their cultural values. In essence, this situation proves to the readers and humans in general that all creatures are connected to nature, and that the biosphere is the central of the universe.

To conclude the chapter, the events of the novel *The Road* take place in a post-apocalyptic world where the unnamed characters the father and his son struggle to survive their harsh conditions. Also McCarthy represents unknown natural disaster which is a result from nature's revenge leading the characters to solitude, fear, and escape from cannibals. This last depicts that nature is an active entity which reacts against human actions and cultural

values. Further, this literary work helps the reader to understand the interconnection of all living being with the natural world, to raise awareness about environmental issues among them human behaviour, and to highlight the importance of living in a safe environment.

Chapter Three: Energy Transmutation in Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea* from Meaning to Ecological Symbiosis

Existence on earth would not be possible without air, water, soil, sunlight, minerals, plants and animals. All these nature's gifts make our earth a beautiful place to live in. Therefore the preservation of all those natural resources make life on earth worth living. Conservation of nature is an important step that humans should take into consideration. To do so we need to stop destroying the environment and understand the interconnectedness of all living things. when this happens, humanity will start to respect the natural world and to recognize the Essential meaning of ecological value. This last chapter deals with the novella of the famous American writer Ernest Hemingway *The Old Man and The Sea*, which show how the character struggle with nature and how he begins to respect and preserve the environment as he realizes that the energy stored in literary works had shifted from meaning to symbiosis.

a) Santiago vs. Nature

The old fisherman named Santiago has been unable to catch a fish for eighty four days until one morning he decided to return to the sea in search of a bigger catch. This is where his struggle with the sea began. *The Old Man and The Sea* demonstrates how Santiago is struggling with the nature particularly the sea. In this context the narrator (1952) states "The sun was hot now and the old man felt it on the back of his neck and felt sweat trickle down his back as he rowed," (pp.28_29). This quote highlights the protagonist's struggle against his environment. The sun represents the challenges caused by nature toward Santiago. Even if the sun caused discomfort and fatigue but he continues to row to demonstrate his strength and power in the face of nature. Moreover, he has a great battle of endurance with the Marlin that lasts three days and nights. In this regard the narrator (1952) claims "He rested sitting on the unstopped mast and sail and tried not to think but only to endure," (p.33). This quote occurs

during the old man's struggle with the Marlin that highlight Santiago's mental state because he was exhausted both physically and emotionally. Hence he convinced himself that it was not the time to over thinking his situation but to concentrate on enduring the pain and struggle, "He felt the line carefully with his right hand and noticed his hand was bleeding." This is another example from the novel that shows Santiago's struggle with the big fish. Each time the old man wish if the boy was with him "I wish I had the boy," (Hemingway, 1952,p.32). This quote demonstrates that the old man is in a hard situation and he needs the boy to help him in his battle. After catching the marlin, the old man was unable to pull it over because to its huge size and strength, therefore the marlin began to drag his small boat into the ocean. Despite his struggle he did not give up, declaring "I'll stay with you until I am dead," (Hemingway,1952,p.38). This citation reflects Santiago's pride and honour, he is ready to endure pain and even face death to achieve his purpose.

Furthermore, his battle did not just involve the marlin, he also struggles with the sharks, which want to eat his big fish. He managed to kill three of them; however, he is defeated and the other sharks succeed to eat the marlin. His fight with the marlin is not just about catching the fish but it represents a transformation of his physical energy into a deeper connection with nature. We find in the novel a kind of connection between Santiago and those creatures. To elaborate, the old man feels a profound connection with the marlin which influences his action and emotion during their struggle. This relation was characterized by a sense of freindship, "the fish is my friend too"(Hemingway, p.56). This citation expresses the deep connection with the marlin because Santiago believes that even in the situations where one must kill to survive there is an interconnection between the two. Additionally, Santiago demonstrates the struggle as a test of his own strength and endurance reflecting a deep love for the fish. Hence the narrator (1952) states "If you love him, it is not a sin to kill him," (p.81). This statement shows Santiago's feeling of love and his moral conflict of killing

the fish. He said 'is not a sin' to focus on complexity of life where love and killing coexist for a necessity which is represented on the dependence of Santiago to the marlin to survive and this is the cycle of life.

William Rueckert in his essay *Literature and Ecology :An Experiment in Ecocriticism*, explains the commoner's first law of ecology that asserts "everything is connected to everything else," (Rueckert, 1978,p.112). This quote emphasizes the interconnectedness of all creatures of life and their environment, even it serves as a basic principle in understanding ecological interdependence and the consequences of human actions on the natural world. This idea is demonstrated in the novel *The Old Man and the Sea*, through Santiago and the shark's dependence on the marlin for survival, reflecting the harmony of all creatures on earth. In addition, Rueckert emphasizes on the idea that literature serves as a source of energy that can refresh and energize the human community, in this context Rueckert (1978) claims "Reading, teaching, and critical discourse all release the energy and power stored in poetry so that it may flow through the human community; all energy in nature comes, ultimately, from the sun, and life in the biosphere depends upon a continuous flow of sunlight," (p.109). By this quote William Rueckert assimilates between the flow of energy in nature and the flow of energy in literature, to explain more this idea, he links literature, particularly poetry to the flow of sunlight which is essential for life in the biosphere, this stored energy serves as a force that facilitates connection within the human community and the natural world, and this energy can be liberated through reading, teaching and critical discourse permitting to this stored energy to flow through human community.

Moreover, Rueckert believes that poetry or literature in general is a form of ecological activism (which is any form of activity by environmentalists that is designed to raise public awareness of environmental issues), where the act of writing can elevate an ecological responsibility and awareness and promote a better understanding of the relationship with

nature. Hence Rueckert (1978) argues “By its very nature it is concerned with complex interactions and with the largest sets of interrelationships,” (p.112). This statement put attention on how organisms, environments, and ecosystems interact in a complex ways, even Rueckert in his theory has applied this interrelation to literature, suggesting that literature especially poetry can also involve with this complex interaction by not just describing ecological concepts, but to reflect on how everything in the world is interconnected. This idea can be related to the novel *The Old Man and The Sea*, in which the protagonist is interconnected with the sea creatures including the marlin and the sharks, “You’re feeling it now, fish. And so, God knows, am I,” (Santiago,1952,p.41). This citation reflects the deep connection between Santiago and the marlin, even it shows their shared struggle where Santiago recognize that both of them experience a huge physical pain.

Furthermore, William Rueckert explores the idea of energy transmutation by making reference to Ian McHarg, hence he illustrates from McHarg work by saying “Where humans are involved and where literature provides the energy source within the symbiotic arrangement, that a very complex process occurs in which energy is transmuted into information and thence into meaning by means of a process he calls apperception,” (Ruckert,1978,p.120). This statement deals with the complex interaction between ecology, human and literature. To clarify, literature like nature contains a certain form of energy which is transformed into information and then into meaning through humans consciousness, which he named apperception. According to William Rueckert views literature as a system of energy that flow from poet to poems and this energy will be transformed into information and meaning through the reader by using the process of apperception to connecte emotionally and intellectually with ecological issues and to have a better understanding of ecology and environment. Also the theorist put emphasis on the importance of putting ecological concepts to the study of literature. Therefore Rueckert states “it would charge creative writing and

literature with ecological purpose,' '(p.120). The citation explains the idea that literature should not only mirrors human experiences but also to engage with ecological concerns, suggesting that literature can play a critical role in raising awareness about environmental issues.

By here , *The Old Man and the Sea* reflects Rueckert's vision about the interconnectedness and energy transmutation, we notice on this piece of work that Santiago on one hand is destroying the marine creatures by killing them but on the other hand he is regretting to do it. we will analyze the point, when Santiago was struggling with the big fish he declares " I will kill you dead before this day ends," (1952, p.40). This statement is addressed to the big marlin he has fished. It demonstrates Santiago's determination to kill the fish, hence this quote in a way addresses Santiago's destruction of the sea creatures among them the marlin but when we transform this statement from information, to meaning, we will understand that Santiago is obliged to do it for survival. Accordingly, the novel demonstrates through this illustration the harmony and interconnection of all living creatures on nature. In this context Santiago (1952) claims "I have never seen or heard of a such a fish. But I must kill him," (p.57). This quote highlights Santiago's complex relationship with the marlin. He was impressed by the seize and beauty of that marlin which represents the power of nature that Santiago's admires, however, his work as a fisherman obliged him to struggle with the fish.

Moreover, nature has been the source of psychological well-being and physical health to human from the beginning of his existence on the planet Earth;therefore,there is a deep relationship between human and nature. The novel continues to reflect William Rueckert's theory of ecocriticism by exploring the human dependence on natural world, when Santiago went to the sea to fish, he shows his dependence on nature, hence the narrator (1952) claims "He watched his lines to see them go straight down out of sight into the water and he was

happy to see so much plankton because it meant fish,” (p.24). In this quote Hemingway used to demonstrate the dependence and relation of humans with nature, therefore he uses the character Santiago who depends on natural environment signs which are the plankton to locate the presence of fish. Also since those plankton leads to a small fish. The latter will attracts the big fish like the Marlin. This shows the cycle of life in nature and the interconnection between the sea creatures demonstrate how Santiago is part of nature. Additionally, the protagonist reveals his dependence on nature through his journey on the sea. He maintains “The old man had seen many great fish. He had seen many that weighted more than a thousand pounds and he had caught two of that size in his life,” (Hemingway,1952,p.47). This statement demonstrates the dependence of Santiago to nature, since he succeeds to catch big fish two times, it means that he has a long experience on his domain as a fisherman that denote his reliance and dependence on the sea for his survival.

b) Santiago’s Eco-personality

Hemingway depicts Santiago as complex character containing resilience and endurance. The fisherman’s relation with nature is profound therefore he loves animals of the sea and nature in general. In the novel , we remark that Santiago has a profound love and admire for nature’s beauty, the narrator (1952) claims “The clouds over the land now rose like mountains and the coast was only a long green line with the grey-blue hills behind it,” (p.24). This quote shows Santiago’s deep connection and admiration of natural world, this description demonstrates that even the ordinary elements of nature including ‘clouds’, ‘mountains’ and ‘hills’ are wonderful and organized in a harmonious way. The old man admires not only the beauty of natural world, but also the charm of sea creatures “He loved the green turtles and hawks-bills with their elegance and speed and their great value,” (Hemingway,1952,p.25). This statement focuses on the fisherman’s respect and appreciation for sea creatures more precisely the turtles, he is admiring their elegance in the way they move and speed on travelling the sea.

From the beginning of the novel, Santiago feels a deep connection to the sea and does not consider it just as a place for catching fish, but a place where he feels a sentimental relation with nature. Hence, the old man connection with the sea is profoundly personal even he view the sea as feminine, the narrator (1952) declares “He always thought of the sea as ‘*la mar*’ which is what people call her in Spanish when they loved her,” (p.19). The quote reflects Santiago’s thought of the sea as a woman stresses his deep relation with nature, to explain more, ‘*la mar*’ is feminine, therefore the sea referred as a woman to whom Santiago has a personal relation. He means also by this reference the sea is not just a natural resource, but as a living thing that deserves respect and admiration. However, the other fishermen perceive the sea as masculine call ‘*el mar*’ means that they consider it as their enemy to which they present an economical interest, as a result those fishermen do not reveal the same respect and love toward the sea as Santiago do. Hence, Hemingway portrays Santiago as men who respects and knows the value of the sea and that his dependence on the sea is not limited for his economic benefit “you did not kill the fish only to keep alive and to sell for food” (Hemingway, 1952,p.81), but also to observe the beauty of nature and its marine creatures.

In *The Old Man and the Sea* Hemingway put emphasis on the theme of respect between the character Santiago and the sea creatures especially the Marlin. After the old fisherman begin his battle with the Marlin. He shows respect for it; hence, he argues “I’ll kill him though. In all his greatness and his glory,” (Santiago,1952,p.49). This quote demonstrates Santiago’s deep respect for the marlin; therefore, he believes that killing the fish did not reduce the marlin greatness and majesty also he considers his struggle with the big fish as a moment of deep respect to its beauty and power. Further, Hemingway focuses on respect through equality between humans and the natural creatures, therefore we find that the Santiago tries to set up an equal relationship with the marine creatures. “You are killing me, fish. But you have a right to. Never have I seen a greater, or more beautiful, or calmer or more

noble thing than you, brother,” (p.71). In this statement, Santiago believes that the marlin is an equal participant in the natural world, despite the struggle between them, but Santiago realizes marlin’s greatness and nobility, and a profound feeling of respect and equality between the old man and the big fish.

If we appeal to William Rueckert’s theory we find that we can relate all these ideas to his essay *Literature and Ecology : An Experiment in Ecocriticism*, in terms of energy flow and transmutation. In this part we are going to clarify the fact. When the theorist communicates his ideas of energy transmutation he closely ties it to negentropy, hence Rueckert (1978) claims “He identifies negentropy as the creative principle and process at work in the biosphere which keeps everything moving in the evolutionary direction which has characterized the development of all life in the biosphere. Where humans are involved and where literature provides the energy source within the symbiotic arrangement,” (p.120). In this quote, the theorist is emphasizing that this negentropy is responsible to keep the order and survival of all living organisms. Similarly to the role of literature on humans, to elaborate the idea, literature serves as an energy source that preserves intellectual and emotional order on humans thus literature serves as a vital force between humans and nature by transferring the energy of literary works to the readers, and this will contribute to the maintenance of life and raising environmental awareness. By analyzing the novel *The Old Man and the Sea* through Rueckert’s theory of energy transmutation, we find that Santiago’s struggle with the marlin reflects the process of energy transfer between human and nature, therefore Santiago’s connection, endurance and admiration for nature and its marine creatures flow to the reader through the energy of the novel.

Moreover, Rueckert discusses the idea of symbiosis by making reference to McHarg, hence he declares “cooperative arrangement that permits increase in the level of order.”(p.120). This quote means that symbiotic is something beneficial whether in nature or

culture because it leads to create a deep relation and equal balance that allow both nature and human to coexist by supporting each other. In the same context, Rueckert suggests for connecting poetry to ecology, “One has to begin somewhere. Since literature is our business, let us begin with the poets or creators in this field and see if we can move toward a generative poetics by connecting poetry to ecology,” (Ruckert,1978,p.114). In this statement, Rueckert believes that to address environmental problems we have to use literature particularly poetry, because it can help humans to have a deeper connection with the natural world and even to raise awareness about ecological issues which will contribute to environmental activism.

The Old Man and the Sea can help the reader to have a profound connection with the natural world through its examination of the relationship between humanity and nature, thus the novel illustrates the interconnection between the characters especially Santiago, the marlin, and the sharks. Hence when the old man hooked the marlin few hours later it was devoured by the sharks, this shows the interdependence between humans and nature creatures that will provide to the reader a deeper understanding of this relationship. In addition , the novel contains a certain energy which is transferred between the characters and flow to the reader, specifically, Santiago’s respects and love for the marlin which he consider it as his ‘brother’ and ‘friend’, sheds light on the deep connection with nature. Hence this respect and love by Santiago to the marlin is flowed to the readers through Hemingway’s narration and symbolic imagery focusing on the ideas of coexistence rather than domination over nature. Also in this piece of work Hemingway highlights the importance of this beneficial dependence, especially between the old man and sea creatures including birds, fish, the marlin and sharks, which is introduced by Rueckert as ecological symbiotic.

c) Santiago's Sympathy towards Nature

In *The Old Man and the Sea*, the main protagonist shows a deep sympathy towards nature particularly the sea through his interconnection with the sea and its creatures among them the marlin. Santiago has a sense of kinship and sympathy with the sea creatures; hence he argues "I do not understand these things. But it is good that we do not have to try to kill the sun or the moon or the stars. It is enough to live on the sea and kill our true brothers," (Santiago,p.57). This statement, demonstrates the old fisherman respect to the grander component of the universe like the sun, moon, and stars, which represent the untouchable force of nature that Santiago respects and admires, however he shows sympathy to all the sea creatures that he hunts. In the same context, the narrator (1952) states "Then he was sorry for the great fish that had nothing to eat and his determination to kill him never relaxed in his sorrow for him," (p.57). In this quote, Santiago express his complex feeling of empathy for the marlin, he recognize that they are in the same situation of struggle to survive and also he feels the fish's suffering when it has nothing to eat because it has been fighting for days. Thus Santiago reflects a profound understanding and empathy for the marlin's suffering.

In addition, the old fisherman has passed through three levels in his relationship with the marlin ; from an enemy to a friend to a brother and finally from a brother to his own self. At the beginning, Santiago wants to catch the marlin, he claims "Eat them fish. Eat them. Please eat them. How fresh they are and you down there six hundred feet in the cold water in the dark. Make another turn in the dark and come back and eat them," (Santiago,p.29). In this statement, the fish symbolizes a strong worthy adversary, therefore Santiago is battling against it, after the marlin gets hooked the old man develops a level of friendship and brotherhood not only with the marlin but also with all the sea creatures "They are our brothers like the flying fish," (Santiago, 1952,p.35). The last level is when Santiago begins

to feel empathy towards the marlin which means that he shares and feel the pain of that creature.

In the theory of Rueckert we find that through literature we can raise environmental awareness among humans, because the energy stored on this novel is flowed to the readers which will lead to have a deep understanding of the interconnection of living being and nature and to have a sense of respect and sympathy towards the environment . Further, Rueckertemphasizes on the ideas that literature should engage with ecological theme “I am going to experiment with the application of ecology and ecological concepts to the study of literature,” (Ruckert, 1978,p.107). In this quote the theorist wants to explain how literature critics ecological perspectives. Hence he believes that analyzing literature through the lens of ecological principle will help the reader and the human community in general to understand environmental issues, raise environmental awareness, even to preserve and respect the natural world.

Moreover, the theorist make reference to McHarg’s book *Design with Nature* to highlight the idea of environmental activism, hence Rueckert (1978) states “Each individual has responsibility for the entire biosphere and is required to engage in creative and cooperative activities,” (p.114). This statement, suggests that human has a role in preserving the natural world, and he believes that this responsibility toward nature is not limited on passive awareness; however, it necessitates active participation to protect the natural world. Additionally, Rueckert’s groundwork focuses on the idea that literature has a certain energy which flows to the readers and helps them to understand the relation between human and nature and know about ecological issues, thus literature can promote and encourage environmental activism through perceptions.

Ernest Hemingway’s *The Old Man and the Sea*, can be related to the idea of environmental activism through the character Santiago and his interrelation with the marine

creatures, “Stay at my house if you like, bird. I am sorry I cannot hoist the sail and take you in with the small breeze that is rising. But I am with a friend,” (Santiago 1952,,p.40). This citation, occurs when the old man speaks with the bird which came near his boat, the act of speaking with him and invites him to his home (boat) reflects Santiago’s deep connection with the natural creatures, thus this statement help the readers to understand the profound connection between human and nature and that we cannot live in isolation because we are all connected to our natural environment. Also Santiago’s struggle with the marlin depicts the balance between humans need and environmental sustainability, even his battle soon demonstrates the respect towards the big fish “I love you and respect you very much,” (Santiago,1952,p.40). In this quote, the old man show his respect and admiration for the marlin, which influence the human’s conscious to respect nature and its components. the latter, the old fisherman reflects sympathy and empathy to the sea and its creatures he declares, “That was the saddest thing I ever saw with them,”(p.36). This quote, shows how Santiago feels pity towards his destruction for the sea creatures which he loves and respects deeply. Hemingway by using sympathy on his novel, he encourages readers to consider the consequences of their actions on nature, even he calls for environmental actions to preserve the natural world.

To conclude this last chapter, Ernest Hemingway through *The Old Man and the Sea* tackles many themes among them: struggle to survive, dependence on nature, respect and sympathy towards the environment. The main character of the novel Santiago struggles to survive, and fishing a big marlin demonstrates a kind of humans dependence on natural resources to keep alive, also it depicts the interconnection of all creatures on Earth. Further the old man show his respect and love to the marine creatures, even he considers the sea as his home which highlights his eco-personality, also his feeling of respect soon transformed into sympathy where he feels pity for the marlin because it was hooked than devoured by the

sharks. This act highlights the preservation of natural resources. Accordingly, this ideas and themes are related to the work of WillaimRueckert*Literature and Ecology :An Experiment in Ecocriticism*, where we find that Ernest Hemingway through his creative imagination transfers a certain energy to his literary work, this last flows to the readers. This energy transmutation help the human community to understand their connection with the natural world and raise environmental awareness, which will lead to act in a beneficial way on the environment.

IV. General conclusion

In conclusion, in this dissertation we have analyzed the following novels; *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson, *The Road* by Cormac McCarthy, and Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea*, through the lens of William Rueckert's theory and concepts. The first chapter deals with non-fictional novel *Silent Spring*, which tackles the dangerous effects of chemical pesticides on the natural world, that is caused by humans actions and attitudes. Also it challenges the anthropocentric vision and call for a biocentric one. The author highlights the theme of interconnection of all living beings with their biosphere. In this context she used to explain that humans are connected to their environment and that they can not live in isolation, because they are a part of the whole natural world as other organisms are too. Further, Carson call for solutions to preserve the environment, therefore she provides scientific evidence that shed lights on the use of biological pest control rather than the chemicals one.

The second chapter handles Cormac McCarthy's fictional novel *The Road*. Deals with an post-apocalyptic world where everything is destroyed by humans actions, therefore the main characters the father and his son face hard living conditions, during all their journey in the road they were seeking for natural resources like food and water. Moreover, this novel highlights the revenge of nature which is a result of humans behaviour on their natural world. This revenge demonstrates that nature is an active entity, and has it ecological laws which humans have to respect and obey. Otherwise it will lead to harsh consequences. The author tackles the collapse of culture and civilization due to the revenge of natural world.

The third chapter concerns *The Old Man and the Sea* by Earnest Hemingway, who narrates a story of an old fishermen taking its journey in the ocean. The main character Santiago struggles with the sea creatures among them the marlin and the sharks. This act highlight the connection and the dependence of all natural creatures including mankind to the

natural world. Also this battles between Santiago and the big fish demonstrates the harmonious life in nature. Additionally, the novel deals with the old man's eco-personality. He used to show respect, admirationand sympathy for nature particularly the sea and for its creatures. all this themes push the reader to preserve and to appreciate the value of nature.

V. Bibliography

- Cormac, McCarthy. (2006). The road. First vintage international edition. Peter A. Andersen.
- Ernest, Hemingway. (1952). The old man and the sea. Penguin random house UK. Arrow books. (2024).
- Rachel, Carson. (1962). Silentspring. Penguinclassics. (2000).
- William, Rueckert. (1978). Literature and ecology : an experiement in ecocriticism.
- Alicia, B, M. , Daniel, P, G. (2022). The construction of Santiago's identity through nature in Ernest Hemingway's The old man and the sea.
- Barra, N, J. , Sussan, R , J. (2023). Id, Ego, Superego McCarthy The road.
- Carmen, L. (2019). Trauma and Existentialism in Cormac McCarthy The road. hppt : // typh. unizor. es
- Christopher, R. (2004). Environmental Movements. University of Kent at Canterbury. https : // www. researchgate. net.
- David, K, H. (2012). How to make a villian : Rachel Carson and politics of anti-environmentalism. https : // pubmed. ncbi. nlnihs. gov
- Dr., Rajisha, p. (2023). The vitality of nature in The old man and the sea by Ernest Hemingway. Volume : 10. Issue :7. https : // www. jetir. org.
- Erica, K, J. Legacy of Rachel Carson's Silent spring. http : // www. ocs. org.
- Jajata, S. (2007). A psychological analysis of Santiago's motivation to struggle for out into the sea reflected in Hemingway's The old man and the sea. http : // hib. unnes. oc. id.
- Jordan, D. (2015). The road and the end of capitalism. http : // muse. jhu. edu.

- Kamaldeep, K. (2024). The role of literature in shaping environmental consciousness. Volume : 5.
- Matthew, B. (December, 2017). Psychoanalytic theory upon The old man and the sea. [http : // www. scribd. com.](http://www.scribd.com)
- Micheal, B, S. (2001). Silence miss Carson, Science, gender and reception of Silent spring. [http : // ethz. ch.](http://ethz.ch)
- Philip, S. (2006). The environmental effects of war. [http : // research. library. fordham.](http://research.library.fordham)
- Qien, W. (2020). Analysis of The old man and the sea from perspective of ecological literature. [http : // web of proceedings. org.](http://webofproceedings.org)
- Qi Han. (2015). New discussion about ‘ cannotbedefeated’ read The old man and the from the perspesctive of ecocriticism. Petroleumuniversity. Open jornal of social science. [http : // www. researchgate. net.](http://www.researchgate.net)
- Redwan, G, S. (2007). The American nightmare : America’s future as a wastland in Cormac McCarthy’s The road . [http : // www. researchgate. net.](http://www.researchgate.net)
- Sarah, C, C. (August 2021). The revenge of nature in modern literature : An eco-critical study of the selected novels. University of Jordan.
- Siyu, C. (2020). Biography studies of Ernest Hemingway in the 21st centry : New trends and new features. Volume : 497. [http : // www. researchgate. net.](http://www.researchgate.net)
- Southwestern writers collection. The wittliff collections : Alkek liberary. Texas state university – San Marcos.
- An ecological victory : Deep ecology in The old man and the sea. (July,2018). Volume : 4. Issue : 4. [http : // www. english journals. com.](http://www.englishjournals.com)