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## NEXUS OF CLIMATE CHANGE WITH HUMAN BEINGS IN THE CLI-FI NARRATIVES

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### ABSTRACT:

Climate change is the centre of attraction for scientists, environmentalists, literary scholars and social workers. People all over the world witnessed and victimized the drastic climatic change. In the last two decades climate change is found in a greater way because of human interferences in nature. Increasing pollution in modern times due to industrialisation, urbanization, globalization and cut through competitions of companies as well as man competition for financial development. This climate change resulted into the spread of contagious diseases and pandemic drought, heavy-rainfall, failure of crops. Mass migration of people has become a necessity for the sake of survival due to this unpredictable climatic change. Climatic changes disturbed the entire livelihood of human and nonhuman lives on this planet. Literary genres which deal with climate change teaches people how to cope up with climate change, on the other hand literature of climate change which portrays climate change only for theorizing, analysing, and understanding the concept of climate and climatic changes.

**KEYWORDS:** climate, climate change, cli-fi, Anthropocene

### INTRODUCTION:

Climate plays a pivotal role in the lives of all living and non-living things on this planet, every life is subjected to climate and climatic changes. This drastic climate change affects human lives in different ways. Human beings struggle for survival and to adjust with this change to the extreme level of climatic changes. This drastic climate change and its impact on human beings is reflected and articulated in contemporary climate fiction. Literature reflects and articulates the activities of human beings especially in anthropocene scenarios. Literature portrays drastic climate change through various genres such as fiction, non-fiction, drama, poetry, essays etc. Literature being one of the major tools of expressions, articulates, among other themes, human lives in relation to climate and climatic changes. Climate change, which is also known as “cli-fi” which describes literary narratives that deal with climate and climatic changes either man made or natural. The term “cli-fi” was coined by the Taiwanese blog writer Dan Bloom, as he quotes about the importance of climate change fiction “one very important thing we can do about climate change is to encourage more and more novelists to write cli- fi novels and cli-fi movie scripts”.

Narratives that focus on the themes such as natural disasters, effects of global warming and drastic fall in temperature came into the types of climate change fiction. Climate change transforms the world, leading to a new ice age, to global warming, contemporary climate change fiction by the western writers portrays freezing cold as more dangerous than increasing heat. A literary work which deals with natural calamities and related to sudden changes in nature considered as science fiction. Climate fiction is a separate branch of study concern with above natural issues.

It was said that novels regarding climate change were not written until the last decade of the twentieth and the beginning of the twenty-first century. Earlier novels mostly deal with the umbrella term known as science fiction and environmental issues only. Number of literary works presented climate related disasters which may be man-made or natural. Famous British author J.G. Ballard deals with natural disasters caused due to climate change. Ballard's *The World from Nowhere* (1961) portrays the entire human being threatened by continuous hurricane-force wind. *The Drowned World* (1962) deals with the melting of ice and increasing sea level. These novels are also known as sci-fi which deals with climate change related issues. Consumption of fossil fuel in the modern world due to liberation, privatization and globalization, the increase of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere is known as global warming. Susan Gaines's *Carbon Dream* (1998) was an early example of literary narratives that articulated the story about the dangerous issues of man-made climate change.

Climate fiction writers deal with the universal problems human caused climate change such as several drought, snowstorms and extreme winter weather in temperate regions of warming the Arctic. Wildlife habitats around the world are becoming hostile to animals. Forests are becoming victims of warm weather and wildfires. The twenty-first century is notable for the anthropocene, which means a particular period in which the influence of human lives on climate and environment is greater than any other period. In modern times excessive use of fossil fuel has increased the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. In the present scenario urbanization, industrialization and globalization is mainly responsible for the increase in pollution. The impact of global warming, triggering an increase of temperature, melting of ice-caps of Arctic region. This resulted into the increase of sea level that threatened coastal cities of many countries to be drowned. Climate changes resulted such as floods, drought, tsunami, storm, and contagious diseases, pandemic, epidemic. These climate changes make a great impact on human lives which altered human relationship in such drastic changes in environment.

Literature which articulated these climate changes and its consequences on human relationships. Generally climate fiction which is popularly known as cli-fi portrays characters either who cope up with these changes in climate or to migrate for survival. Climate fiction represents heroes who are either scientists, environmentalists or activists aware of the wild effects of climate change on the inhabitant of the earth. Heroes are attempting to find solutions to the chaos created by climate change, they also try to create awareness among the people about the reason or causes of these drastic changes in climate and environment. Characters in Climate fictions are the victims of these disastrous climate changes. Heroes of climate fictions are the alter-egos of the almighty who

directly or indirectly help common people for survival. Climate fiction writers present themes like survival for the fittest, Darwinian theory. Some characters in climate fiction suffer and die because of the climate changes, smooth, happy joyous pleasurable relationships between them change into violent, aggressive, quarrelsome and often villainous. Climate fiction authors portray victimized characters of climate change in such a way that there is no any kind of discrimination or differences of class, gender, colour, race, ethnicity, etc. The environmental pressure, global warming and cooling are so deeply engraved in the minds of the characters that they always feel anxiety, trauma and frustration. The characters in these narratives struggle with the natural calamities climate changes and their resultant impact on personal, familial and social lives

J. G. Ballard is one of the most popular climate change fiction writers who deals with natural disasters caused due to climate change. Ballard's well known novels are about confluences climate change and human geographies. Ballard's *The Wind from Nowhere* (1961) exhibits an entire civilization that is reduced by persistent hurricane force winds. Author states that the disaster and tragedy brought people together, hurricanes resulted in the stoppage of air travel, people shifted to live in tunnels for survival. His *The Drowned World* (1962) showcases how human lives are threatened by the increasing solar radiation as a result the ice sheets melt and the sea level rise. Ballard in *The Burning World* (1964) also titled as *The Drought* comment on climate change, a climate catastrophe that is human made. The novel is about drought due to disruption of the precipitation cycle by industrial pollution. The novels of Ballard's deal extensively with climate issues therefore it is considered as climate fiction.

Susan M. Gaines's *Carbon Dream* (1998) was an early example of literary narrative that articulated the story about the devastatingly serious issue of man-made climate change. The perspective of climate change is associated with subjects like geography, environment, geology, chemistry, language, literature, political science, environment etc. Climate change fiction explores extensively the climates of the distant geologic past: but at the same time, these narratives showcase modern implications. These texts portray growing controversies over global warming and the characters in such narratives struggle to sort out their conflicting responsibilities to science and society.

Environmental issues such as global warming, rise of temperature, melting of ice and rise of sea level which threaten the people. The characters of climate change fiction suffer from anxiety, frustration and confusion, and are busy with searching for solutions created by climate change. Generally characters in climate change fiction are either scientists, environmentalists, or social activists who are always thinking about these man-made disasters with reference to climate change. Climate is the creator of the human beings on the earth, climate and human beings are interdependent on each other. Climate nourishes people such as a mother nourishes a baby. But the same man has now become obstacles in the smooth functioning of the climate, for the benefit of himself, he makes a number of prohibited things that are harmful for the climate. Hence climate works as the destroyer of human beings and their relationships.

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