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Climate Change, Migration, and Myth: Analyzing Ecological Displacement in Amitav Ghosh’s *Gun Island*

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This research paper on “Climate Change, Migration, and Myth: Analyzing Ecological Displacement in Amitav Ghosh’s *Gun Island*” uncovers several significant findings related to the novel’s engagement with environmental humanities, climate-induced migration, and the interplay of myth and reality. Through a close reading of the text and a critical analysis of secondary sources, the study highlights how Ghosh reimagines the relationship between humans and nature while emphasizing the urgency of climate action.

One of the key findings is that *Gun Island* portrays climate change as an immediate and lived reality, not a distant or abstract phenomenon. Ghosh challenges the idea that environmental disasters primarily affect the future, instead showing their present-day consequences, especially in vulnerable regions like the Sundarbans. Rising sea levels, storms, and erratic weather patterns force characters to relocate and adapt, demonstrating that climate refugees are not just a possibility but an existing global crisis (Mukherjee 120).

Another major finding is the novel’s depiction of migration as a complex and multidimensional process. While most migration studies focus on economic or political reasons, *Gun Island* expands the discussion to environmental displacement, highlighting how climate change is a direct cause of forced migration (Chakraborty 46). The parallel between historical trade routes and contemporary refugee crises suggests that migration is an age-old survival strategy rather than a modern crisis. The characters Tipu and Rafi symbolize a new generation of climate migrants facing challenges similar to those endured by the legendary Bonduki Sadagar, whose myth reflects the cycles of displacement caused by natural calamities.

However, the study also reveals that myth and folklore serve as a way of explaining environmental phenomena. Thus, by using supernatural characters and local folklore, Ghosh offers an indigenous perspective that most of the knowledge that people have regarding the world and its transformations could be found in folklore and oral traditions (Banerjee 80). The appearance of the goddess Manasa, the geographical changes of the Sundarbans, and the migrations of the animals also depict the fact that nature controls the history and the incidents of the people (Lal 94).

One of the most important lessons to be learned from this study is the fact that Gun Island presents nature as the dominating force that controls the movement and existence of people. The research finds that Ghosh's use of magical realism helps break down the rigid boundaries between science, history, and mythology, encouraging a more holistic understanding of climate change (Trexler 30).

Moreover, the findings also show that the novel addresses the issue of climate change and migration as a global problem and not a local one. Such a comparison of the Sundarbans and Venice shows that despite the geographical location of the peoples of different countries and their respective economic statuses, they are united by the problem of climate change. The study points out that climate fiction (cli-fi) such as Gun Island is significant in creating awareness and public discourse on ecological displacement and sustainability (Mukherjee 126).

This is, therefore, an intervention in the climate change discourse by the author to make people reconsider their interaction with the environment. They indicate that myth, migration, and climate change are related, and literature is an effective means to discuss ecological and humanitarian issues. In this novel, Ghosh offers an important message regarding the need to reconsider migration policies, address the issue of climate refugees, and listen to indigenous knowledge.

Conclusion

This paper aims to discuss the novel Gun Island by Amitav Ghosh in terms of its connection to the environmental humanities, climate change, migration, and myth. This paper has shown that in Gun Island, climate change is portrayed as a current issue rather than in the future, as well as the negative effects it has on the people of Sundarbans. Therefore, by representing forced migration as the outcome of environmental degradation, Ghosh expands the topic of the displacement and focuses on the issue of climate refugees. The use of Bengali folklore and supernatural in the novel helps to support the notion that myth and history both are rich with ecological lessons, including the fact that environmental change and migration are indeed connected. In addition, Gun Island dehumanizes anthropocentric views by presenting nature as an agent that determines people's lives and, through the use of magical realism, defamiliarizes the readers with the scientific, historical, and mythological approaches to the concept of ecological disasters. It also emphasises the fact of the global nature of the climate change and the connection between the Sundarbans and Venice as an example of the multinational consequences of the unstable environment. In the end, this study establishes that Gun Island is an intervention in climate discourse and a call to action for people to change their approach toward the environment and the necessity of policy. Thus, using myth and the present-day realities of climate change, Ghosh underscores the importance of acknowledging climate refugees and reconsidering the policies regarding migration. This paper demonstrates how literature can shape the public's awareness on environmental matters in relation to Gun Island as a climate fiction novel that is paramount in the analysis of the socio-political ramifications of climate change-induced displacement.

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