

Rethinking Kinship and Responsibility: An Interface between the Human and the Non-Human in Amitav Ghosh's *The Glass Palace*

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Abstract :

Kinship primarily implies the relationship among human beings based on consanguinity and biological affinity. But Kinship is not limited to the human world, rather it extends to the world of nature. The relationship between human beings and their surrounding environment is a form of kinship. In the Indian cultural context, human beings are considered inseparable from their surrounding environment. This form of kinship sustains mutual sympathy and symbiosis between human beings and non-human organisms. The ecological interconnectedness is destroyed when human need is superseded by human greed. The human encroachment and the capitalist tendency to exploit the natural entities mark the gross violation of environmental ethics raising concern for the lack of human responsibility. Due to the drastic change in the environment, the ecosphere is transformed making the existence of various non-human organisms vulnerable. The exploitation of natural entities also coincides with the violation of human rights and exploitation of human resources. To bring out my point, I have selected Amitav Ghosh's historical novel, *The Glass Palace* (2000) as the case-study. The proposed paper aims to explore how the human encroachment especially in the form of teak trading and rubber plantation have problematized the kinship relations disrupting the ecological balance in Burma and Malay. This paper would also examine the affected environment and the displacement of people to usher in consciousness about the role of human responsibility in sustaining kinship with the surrounding environment.

Keywords: Kinship, Exploitation, Encroachment, Responsibility, Transformation