

An Eco-critical Analysis of the Studio Ghibli Films and the Representation of the Shinto Beliefs in them

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Abstract

The Studio Ghibli is a Japanese film production house best known for its animated feature films. The movies are linked by a common thread through the representation of the Japanese Shinto religion of Human-Nature coexistence. Ecological awareness and environmentalist themes occupy a major backdrop to the plotlines in various movies like *Nausicaa of the Valley of the Winds*, *Princess Mononoke*, *My Neighbour Totoro* etc. This paper aims to apply the theoretical framework of ecocriticism to observe a textual analysis of the films. The paper attempts also to identify the representations of the physical environment, the effects of human occupation on nature and the relevance of Japanese Nature Spirits (Kami) in the films by a general environmentalist perspective. The films represent the essence of Shinto belief system which teaches tradition, family and love of nature.

Keywords : Animation, Ecocriticism, Human-Nature relation, Shinto, Japanese Films.