

**O'ZBEKISTON RESPUBLIKASI OLIY TA'LIM, FAN VA
INNOVATSIYALAR VAZIRLIGI**

O'ZBEKISTON XALQARO ISLOM AKADEMIYASI

MUMTOZ SHARQ FILOLOGIYASI FAKULTETI

CHET TILLARI KAFEDRASI

**Xorijiy tillarni o'qitishda
innovatsion texnologiyalardan
foydalanish metodologiyasining
ahamiyati**

**mavzusidagi respublika ilmiy-amaliy konferensiyasi
materiallari to'plami**

24 may 2023

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TEACHING ECOLOGICAL ETHICS THROUGH LITERATURE: MARY ALICE MONROE AND HER “GREEN” NOVELS

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Key words: ecology, nature-oriented literature, Mary Alice Monroe, “green” novels, zoonyms, phytonyms, toponyms, epigraph, ecological knowledge

In the current global age, the problem of ecology has become the most physical for the whole world - scientific and technical progress, although it changes human life for the better, does not pass without harmful consequences for nature and does not affect human production. Animal populations, air quality, water quality, and global climate play an important role in protecting the environment and life on Earth. The United States also faces soil pollution, air pollution, water pollution, garbage disposal, global warming, deforestation, ozone depletion, radioactive contamination, overpopulation, and nanodestruction. However, it is natural that such problems are reflected in the examples of modern American literature. Especially, Mary Alice Monroe's works also attract readers' attention with similar features. The fact that the author's simple environmental studies are directly addressed to the reader through open comments or through the speech of the characters of the work proves that Monroe's work has a significant impact on nature and the environment, and environmental sustainability. As described by Patrick D.

Murphy: “Nature-oriented literature - on the one hand, draws the reader's attention to the natural world and the human interaction of that world with other aspects of nature, and on the other hand, has its own character. an aesthetic text that becomes a part of the plots and themes of various works”. This definition, as we've seen, applies very well to Monroe's eco-fiction work of recent years. Indeed, describing nature and its beauty is one of the ways to draw students' attention to the natural world. In Monroe's works, there are many cases where the beauty of nature causes strong emotional reactions in her characters.

In all the eco-fiction works of M.A.Monroe, any animal or animal is involved, of course, the scientific facts about the way of life, species and characteristics of that representative of nature, as well as, if we are talking about a place, the location of this place interesting specific information about the landscape, flora and fauna is given as epigraphs at the beginning of the sections. In our research work, we classified the information that the author chose as an epigraph:

- a) Epigraphs explaining zoonyms
- b) Epigraphs explaining toponyms
- d) Epigraphs explaining phytonyms
- e) Epigraphs explaining the leisure activities

In most of M.A. Monroe's eco-fiction works, chapters begin with paragraphs explaining the species characteristics of creatures in nature, that is, zoonyms. In particular, it is possible to list zoonym species such as water turtles, monarch butterflies, hunting birds, crabs. The most successful environmental work "Beach House Series" provides scientific information on the structure, types, where and how they reproduce, and various aspects of sea turtles. For example:

Hatchlings are two inches long when they emerge from the nest. Adults weigh in at 250-400 pounds and the shell length can measure more than three feet in length. It takes 20-30 years for them to mature and reproduce, but no one knows for certain how long they live. It could be as long as 100 years.

The sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*) is a species of ocean turtle that is distributed throughout the world. When fully grown, turtles average about 90 cm in length. An adult sea turtle weighs about 135 kg, and the largest specimens weigh more than 450 kg. Monroe mainly introduces readers to the biological and physiological characteristics of these aquatic animals in the novel "Beach House" through the epigraphs at the beginning of the chapters. The novel provides information about the turtles, which are connected with the central themes of the story, and interprets the characteristics of their 4-stage lifestyle and the similarities between the characters in the novel.

If we discuss that these stages also happen in the lives of the characters of the play, after 20 years Kara's return from Chicago to her place of growing up and her mother's house - the Isle of Palms is the sea turtles' seasonal egg laying every summer. It is clear that it is depicted in connection with the return of the sea turtles. The author parallels the physiological information of the turtles about breeding, the moments when Kara, despite

being 40 years old, still regrets her marriage and lack of children, and the beginning of her personal relationship with her old schoolmate Bret after returning to the island. The fact that turtles leave their eggs, swim across the vast sea, and never return to their neglected eggs is compared to Kara's mother, Mrs. Olivia, who has only a few years left due to a serious illness and is forced to abandon her beloved children forever. The turtles' journey alone across the ocean is likened to Kara, a talented writer, who becomes lonely again after 20 years of solitary life after her mother dies.

When we cognitively analyze most of the epigraphs, when providing factual, relevant information about the turtles in the chapter headings, M.A. Monroe, without slowing down the pace of the story, in order to give a certain connection to the events that take place in the work and the inner experiences of the characters of the work we will witness that she tried.

In the chapter that begins with this epigraph, which describes how dangerous it is for sea turtles to swim long distances in the sea and come ashore to lay their eggs, Kara is about to leave the conditions she has learned for a long time and start a new life. There is a symbolic connection between the ambivalent feelings. In this way, the reader will enjoy learning about sea turtles. This knowledge helps the reader to better understand the idea of the work and enjoy the story.

M.A. Monroe gives interesting information about a certain area - toponyms and its flora and fauna as epigraphs for sections. When a writer chooses South Carolina, Charleston Township, Lowcountry, Isle of Palms, Dewees Island, etc. as locations in his eco-fiction novels, he cites the real names of these places and their geographic and ecological conditions. This is important for eco-fiction novels, because this artistic technique makes it easier for readers to feel that nature is actually

being destroyed. Therefore, mother nature attracts people, and people try to find ways to compensate for their mistakes.

For example, in the work "Sweetgrass": "South Carolina is rich in history, heritage and natural beauty. For us to continue to enjoy these gifts, we must accept our role as good stewards, and together, we will save the last great places." we come across an epigraph. Through this epigraph, it is pointed out that it is the duty of every person to show the right ecological attitude to this area.

Also, devoted environmentalist Monroe uses epigraphs about phytonyms - the names of plants - in Sweetgrass, and skillfully explains with the help of the epigraphs at the beginning of chapters to give the reader up-to-date information about this endangered plant.

Sweetgrass (*Muhlenbergia filipes*) is an indigenous, long-stemmed plant that grows in tufts along the coastal dunes from North Carolina to Texas. This native plant is fast disappearing from the landscape due to urbanization and development of coastal islands and marshland.

In this example, the novel "Sweetgrass" tells the story of the disunity in the Blakely family and the unity achieved at the end of the work, along with the loss of land belonging to many families as a result of urbanization, and as a result, the species of reeds that have been used for weaving baskets for thousands of years are decreasing, wildlife burning and its negative consequences are indicated.

Muhlenbergia serisea (or *Muhlenbergia filipes*), also known as bay hair grass or sweet grass, is a species of grass in the spike family. It is native to the southeastern United States (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Texas). This plant is historically important in South Carolina, where it was used for basket weaving. African-Americans of South Carolina's Gullah tradition still

weave remarkable baskets using this native grass.

In Monroe's work "Sweetgrass" mentioned above, information based on interesting scientific facts is presented at the beginning of the chapters about the activities that became the daily activities of the characters of the work. In particular, in the eighth section of this work, the construction of the bridge named after the Cooper River in 1929 and the asphaltting of Highway 17, which became of great importance for the north-south route through the Pleasant Mountain, are given as an epigraph. Because basket weavers started selling their baskets to passers-by, basket collectors and foreign travelers, and to this day, such baskets are highly valued by their admirers and museum staff.

The art of Sweetgrass basketry penned in Sweetgrass is an African American tradition that has been passed down from mother to daughter, from daughter to granddaughter, in South Carolina for over three hundred years. In this novel, we can discuss the parallels between basket weaving and family relationships and strong ties. It is not wrong to say that our opinion has been proven in the lines selected as the following epigraph at the beginning of the fifth section of the work:

"The basket making tradition is a family affair. It was the custom for men and boys to gather the materials while women and girls sewed the baskets. Although this tradition continues, nowadays all members of the family gather materials and make the baskets".

In the novel "Time is a River" by M.E. Monroe, the techniques and recommendations for fly-fishing, which is written as an activity, are given as epigraphs in the sections of the work. For example: in the third section "Fly-fishing starts with paying attention. It's about being a good observer." ; and in the sixteenth section "Shooting line is the releasing of fly line during the cast to allow the line to be

carried out by the momentum of the rod. It's all in the timing. It's about knowing when to let go." The characters of the work, such as Bell Carson, Kate Watkins, and Stuart Douglas, express their thoughts about the special methods of fishing as epigraphs. In "Time is a River" this type of fishing is described as "The thinking man's leisure activity".

Such examples of epigraphs rich in moral and educational content in Mary Alice Monroe's "green" works are proof that the author is a unique element of eco-fiction novels. Providing such information serves to ensure the scientific and genre complexity of the work. There is no doubt that the balance of both scientific and literary texts in one work will help the reader to improve ecological and geographical knowledge and spirituality.

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