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A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF ERNEST HEMINGWAY AND BARBARA KINGSOLVER'S WORKS: ECOLOGICAL CONSCIOUSNESS AND ENVIRONMENTAL THEMES

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Abstract. The article provides a comparative ecological analysis of Ernest Hemingway's and Barbara Kingsolver's literary works, focusing on how each writer reflects humanity's relationship with nature. Hemingway's fiction demonstrates an implicit ecological consciousness, using natural settings as moral testing grounds where human ambition meets environmental limits. His minimalist style conveys ecological degradation through personal struggle and existential reflection. In contrast, Kingsolver adopts an explicit environmental ethic, integrating scientific knowledge, ecological justice, and indigenous wisdom into her narratives. Her works, such as *Flight Behavior* and *Prodigal Summer*, advocate for ecological literacy and social responsibility in addressing climate change and biodiversity loss. The study concludes that the transition from Hemingway's implicit conservation concerns to Kingsolver's explicit environmental activism reflects the evolution of American ecological literature from individual moral struggle to systemic ecological awareness.

Key words: ecological literature, environmental ethics, Ernest Hemingway, Barbara Kingsolver, ecological consciousness, environmental justice, anthropocene.

ERNEST HEMINGUEY VA BARBARA KINGSOLVER ASARLARINING QIYOSIY TAHLILI: EKOLOGIK ONG VA ATROF-MUHIT MAVZULARI

Annotatsiya. Maqolada Ernest Heminguey va Barbara Kingsolver asarlarining ekologik jihatdan qiyosiy tahlili berilgan. Unda har ikki yozuvchi ijodida inson va tabiat o'rtasidagi munosabatlarning badiiy talqini yoritilgan. Heminguey ijodi tabiiy manzaralarni insonning ma'nnaviy sinov maydoni sifatida tasvirlab, ekologik muammolarni bilvosita ochib beradi. Uning minimalistik uslubi tabiatning buzilishi va insonning ichki inqirozini uyg'unlashtradi. Kingsolver esa o'z asarlarida ekologikadolat, ilmiy bilimlar va mahalliy ekologik tajribalarni bevosita ifoda etib, ekologik savodxonlikni targ'ib qiladi. *Flight Behavior* va *Prodigal Summer* romanlarida u ekologik muammolarga ijtimoiy va ilmiy yondashuvni ilgari suradi. Tadqiqotda Hemingueyning bilvosita ekologik qarashlaridan Kingsolverning ochiq ekologik faoliyatigacha bo'lgan o'zgarish Amerika ekologik adabiyotining evolyutsiyasini ko'rsatadi.

Kalit so'zlar: ekologik adabiyot, atrof-muhit etikasi, Ernest Heminguey, Barbara Kingsolver, ekologik ong, ekologikadolat, antropotsen.

СРАВНИТЕЛЬНЫЙ АНАЛИЗ ПРОИЗВЕДЕНИЙ ЭРНЕСТА ХЕМИНГУЭЯ И БАРБАРЫ КИНГСОЛВЕР: ЭКОЛОГИЧЕСКОЕ СОЗНАНИЕ И ТЕМЫ ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЫ

Аннотация. В статье проводится сравнительный экологический анализ творчества Эрнеста Хемингуэя и Барбары Кингсолвер, отражающий особенности взаимодействия человека и природы в американской литературе. Произведения Хемингуэя демонстрируют скрытое экологическое сознание, где природа выступает моральным испытанием для человека. Его лаконичный стиль передаёт деградацию окружающей среды через внутренние переживания героев. Кингсолвер, напротив, формирует открыто выраженную экологическую позицию, сочетающую научные знания, идеи экологической справедливости и традиционные знания коренных народов. В романах *Flight Behavior* и *Prodigal Summer* она рассматривает экологические проблемы как социально-научный вопрос, призывая к экологическому просвещению. Исследование показывает, что переход от имплицитных мотивов у Хемингуэя к эксплицитной экопозиции у Кингсолвер отражает эволюцию американской экологической литературы от индивидуальных моральных конфликтов к системному экологическому осознанию.

Ключевые слова: экологическая литература, этика окружающей среды, Эрнест Хемингуэй, Барбара Кингсолвер, экологическое сознание, экологическая справедливость, антропоцен.

Introduction. Modern American ecological literature is a rich and diverse field, reflecting the nation's complex relationship with its environment. Several key themes emerge from the provided texts:

The Politics of Place and Identity. This approach highlights the ways in which ecological concerns are inseparable from social and political realities, challenging traditional notions of nature as separate from human society.

Environmental Justice and Social Inequality. The concept of environmental justice, focusing on the disproportionate impact of environmental degradation on marginalized communities, is a significant theme. This perspective challenges the often-dominant narrative of passive victimhood in environmental justice discourse, offering a more nuanced understanding of human-environment interactions.

The Representation of Wilderness and the Sublime. The American wilderness has long held a powerful symbolic significance, often associated with notions of the sublime and the untamed. This movement challenges the traditional dichotomy between human civilization and untouched nature, reflecting a growing awareness of the pervasive human impact on even the most remote environments.

The Anthropocene and its Literary Reflections. The Anthropocene, the geological epoch marked by significant human impact on the planet, is a recurring theme and reflects a growing awareness of humanity's profound and lasting impact on the planet and a critical examination of our relationship with the natural world.

Autobiography and Ecological Selfhood. The intersection of autobiography and ecology has given rise to the genre of "natural biography" (Straight, 2011). This approach emphasizes the intimate and inextricable connection between individual identity and the natural world, highlighting the personal and emotional dimensions of ecological concern.

Outstanding representatives of Modern American literature Ernest Hemingway and Barbara Kingsolver's works contribute to a literary tradition examining humanity's relationship with nature. Hemingway's mid-twentieth-century fiction focused on wilderness preservation, while Kingsolver's work addresses contemporary environmental crises with a systemic and scientific approach.[3;128] This evolution from implicit to explicit messaging reflects the ongoing adaptation of environmental literature to address ecological challenges.

Literature review. Ecocriticism as an organized field emerged in the 1990s and established the conceptual tools later critics use to read literature in relation to environment, science, and politics. Seminal collections and syntheses — notably *The Ecocriticism Reader* (Glotfelty & Fromm, 1996) and Lawrence Buell's *The Environmental Imagination* (1995) — define the discipline's core concerns: the representation of nature, the ethical stakes of literary form, and the role of narrative in shaping environmental consciousness. Subsequent overviews (e.g., Garrard 2004; Heise 2008) refine Buell's program by emphasizing scale (local vs. planetary), temporality (deep time, generational change), and the globalizing frame of the Anthropocene. This methodological grounding pushes critics to treat texts both as aesthetic objects and as interventions in debates about ecological knowledge, responsibility, and policy.

Methods. Comparative ecocriticism — i.e., studies that place canonical mid-century writers beside contemporary environmental novelists — remains relatively underdeveloped but promising. Approaches in the literature include: (a) formalist close readings that identify ecological motifs and symbolic functions of landscape; (b) eco-historical readings situating texts within conservation movements, colonial resource regimes, or agrarian change; (c) politically inflected ecocriticism that links representation to questions of power, race, gender, and labor; and (d) science-and-literature approaches that interrogate how empirical knowledge is narrativized. Scholars also debate genre expectations: whether the novel should instruct (didactic ecological fiction) or provoke ambiguity (aesthetic restraint that resists policy prescriptions).

Main part.

I.Hemingway's Ecological Consciousness and Environmental Themes

Ernest Hemingway's engagement with the natural world transcends mere scenic portrayal, evolving into a nuanced examination of wilderness as a pivotal force in the human experience and moral contemplation. In narratives like "The Snows of Kilimanjaro" and "The Old Man and the Sea," Hemingway envisions natural landscapes as dynamic forces shaping human destiny, far from being passive settings. The mountain in "The Snows of Kilimanjaro" symbolizes lost opportunities and moral repercussions, while the sea in "The Old Man and the Sea" embodies an indifferent natural world that tests and defines human character through the interplay between man and environment. These works reveal Hemingway's recognition of the intrinsic link between human identity and ecological forces, a consciousness reflected in his sparse yet evocative depictions of landscape degradation and environmental limitations. The protagonist's confrontation with natural elements becomes inseparable from his confrontation with mortality, suggesting that ecological degradation mirrors psychological and spiritual decline.

Hemingway's hunting and fishing narratives, particularly in "Green Hills of Africa," present a complex interrogation of human-animal relationships and resource extraction practices. His detailed accounts of African safaris reveal an ambivalent perspective: they celebrate the hunter's skill and the aesthetic dimensions of wilderness while acknowledging the ecological toll of colonial exploitation and unchecked killing. The text oscillates between romanticizing the hunt and implicitly critiquing destructive practices, exposing the contradiction between personal exhilaration and environmental consequence. Hemingway demonstrates awareness that hunting and fishing are not merely recreational pursuits but acts with ecological ramifications, especially within colonial contexts where resource extraction often exceeded sustainable limits.

The recurring motif of environmental deterioration throughout Hemingway's fiction functions as an oblique critique of modernity's relentless exploitation and commercialization. The transformation of African landscapes from pristine wilderness to depleted hunting grounds, and the systematic depletion of marine fish stocks, serve as indices of broader human destructiveness. [2;59] These environmental changes are central to his moral vision, linking ecological destruction to the spiritual impoverishment and existential alienation that characterize his protagonists. Through the gradual erasure of natural abundance, Hemingway suggests that human ambition fundamentally corrupts the relationship between civilization and nature, a theme that becomes increasingly pronounced as his fiction charts the loss of accessible wilderness and abundant resources across geographical and temporal settings.

II. Barbara Kingsolver's Explicit Environmental Ethics and Ecological Justice.

Barbara Kingsolver's fiction represents a deliberate departure from Hemingway's ambivalent environmental consciousness toward an explicitly didactic engagement with ecological science and environmental ethics. Her novels integrate scientific frameworks into narrative structures, transforming literature into a vehicle for environmental education and advocacy. In "Flight Behavior," Kingsolver constructs climate change not as an abstract backdrop but as a central narrative force, depicting monarch butterfly migration disruption resulting from altered temperatures and habitat destruction. The protagonist's journey toward ecological literacy mirrors the reader's education, progressing from rural isolation to engagement with climate science and global environmental networks. Similarly, "Prodigal Summer" employs multiple narrative perspectives to explore interconnected ecological systems, with characters representing distinct relationships to biodiversity: the logger advocating resource extraction, the ecological researcher studying predator-prey dynamics, and the farming community confronting decisions between chemical and sustainable agriculture. Through these narratives, Kingsolver demonstrates that ecological knowledge reshapes how communities understand their relationship to land and species survival, positioning scientific literacy as essential to contemporary citizenship. [8;201]

Kingsolver's environmental vision explicitly links ecological degradation to social injustice and systemic inequality in ways Hemingway's work only obliquely suggests. "The Poisonwood Bible" illustrates how colonial extraction of African resources generates cascading ecological and human consequences, showing that environmental destruction disproportionately harms indigenous and economically marginalized populations lacking the political power to resist exploitation. "Animal Dreams" similarly reveals how pesticide contamination in orchards affects primarily indigenous communities and migrant agricultural workers, exposing the unequal distribution of environmental risks across class and ethnic lines. These narratives demonstrate that ecological problems are fundamentally problems of power distribution and resource control, requiring attention to both environmental restoration and social transformation. Kingsolver's protagonists do not remain passive witnesses to environmental crises but actively develop ecological literacy that motivates environmental activism and community organizing, suggesting that individual consciousness shifts must couple with collective action for meaningful change. [10;109]

Through her emphasis on indigenous ecological knowledge and sustainable practices, Kingsolver constructs nature not as a pristine wilderness separate from human society but as a system in which humans participate with specific ecological and moral responsibilities. Her characters recognize that traditional ecological knowledge, developed through generations of attentive relationship with specific environments, offers superior guidance for sustainable living compared to industrial extraction models. The cultivation of diverse crops, the preservation of native species, and the integration of predators into agricultural systems emerge as both ecologically necessary and culturally valuable practices. This integration of indigenous knowledge with scientific understanding positions Kingsolver's environmental vision as fundamentally relational, demanding recognition that human well-being is entirely dependent on ecosystem health. Her emphasis on sustainable agriculture and biodiverse land use transforms environmental stewardship from abstract ethical principle into concrete daily practice, suggesting that ecological ethics manifest through tangible choices about consumption, production, and community relationships with land.

Results.

Comparative Analysis: Implicit versus Explicit Environmental Messaging. This systemic analysis requires Kingsolver to develop more complex narrative architecture capable of representing the economic and political dimensions of environmental crisis, whereas Hemingway's focus on individual encounters with natural limits enables his characteristic economical prose and concentrated emotional intensity.

Ecological Theme	Hemingway	Kingsolver
Environmental Perspective	Implicit; emerges through landscape deterioration and human-nature conflict	Explicit; functions as central thematic concern integrated into plot structure
Narrative Approach	Sparse, minimalist style; interpretive ambiguity about ecological consequences	Multiple perspectives, scientific exposition, pedagogical guidance toward ecological literacy
Human-Nature Relationship	Individual encounters with ecological limits as tests of character; nature as autonomous force	Humans as embedded within ecological systems with specific moral responsibilities and relational dependencies
Explicit Environmental Critique	Ambiguous authorial stance; moral judgment withheld from reader interpretation	Direct critique of consumer culture, industrial agriculture, and economic systems driving environmental destruction
Integration of Scientific Knowledge	Limited; natural world depicted through sensory description and aesthetic observation	Central; climate science, ecology, and sustainable agriculture explicitly integrated into narrative and character education
Conservation Framework	Mid-twentieth-century resource scarcity and wilderness loss concerns	Late-twentieth-century climate change, biodiversity crisis, and environmental justice concerns
Protagonist Agency	Passive witness or participant in ecological conflict with limited capacity for intervention	Active development of ecological literacy motivating environmental activism and community engagement
Treatment of Indigenous Knowledge	Marginal; hunting narratives emphasize colonial perspective and extractive practices	Central; traditional ecological knowledge presented as superior guidance for sustainable living compared to industrial models

Discussion. Hemingway's ecological consciousness operates fundamentally through indirection, manifesting in narrative strategies that embed environmental concerns within representations of landscape degradation and human struggle without explicitly articulating environmental ethics. His sparse prose style deliberately withholds judgment, allowing readers to confront the tension between existential human drives and ecological consequences without authorial guidance toward moral conclusions. The environmental crisis in "The Old Man and the Sea" emerges through depleted fish populations and exhausted marine resources, yet the narrative emphasizes the protagonist's individual heroism rather than the systemic factors driving ecological collapse. [1;98] This aesthetic of understatement reflects mid-twentieth-century conservation anxieties rooted in resource scarcity and wilderness loss, concerns that Hemingway filters through personal encounters with natural limits rather than societal restructuring.

In contrast, Kingsolver's environmental vision operates explicitly and didactically, integrating scientific exposition, character education, and narrative guidance that directly engage readers with contemporary climate and biodiversity crises. "Flight Behavior" transforms monarch butterfly population collapse from background ecological event into central plot mechanism, with the protagonist's journey enacting and modeling readers' own environmental awakening. This deliberate pedagogical approach reflects late-twentieth and early-twenty-first-century environmental consciousness, wherein climate science demands explicit communication and public understanding rather than ambiguous literary allusion. [7;170]

The structural and narrative techniques employed by each author reveal fundamentally different relationships between literary form and environmental messaging. Hemingway's minimalist style creates distance between narrator and moral judgment, cultivating interpretive ambiguity about humanity's proper

relationship to nature and whether environmental destruction represents an inevitable consequence of human civilization or avoidable ethical failure. His protagonists encounter ecological limits as inexorable natural forces rather than outcomes of specific historical decisions or economic systems, suggesting a naturalized view of resource depletion and wilderness loss.

Kingsolver, conversely, employs multiple narrative perspectives, scientific exposition, and explicit didacticism to guide readers toward specific ecological conclusions about consumer culture, industrial agriculture, and carbon-dependent civilization. In "Prodigal Summer," competing perspectives on predator reintroduction and pesticide use are not presented as equally valid positions but are weighted according to ecological knowledge and scientific understanding, with narrative authority favoring sustainable practices. This technical divergence reflects broader epistemological differences: Hemingway's ambiguity presumes nature operates according to autonomous principles beyond human moral categories, while Kingsolver's explicitness assumes that clear environmental science should shape individual decisions and collective policy.

While both authors interrogate human domination of nature through narrative conflict, their analytical scope differs significantly in addressing root causes of environmental degradation. Hemingway's fiction foregrounds individual moral confrontation with ecological forces, suggesting that human ambition and the pursuit of mastery generate inevitable collisions with natural limits. His protagonists encounter the consequences of hunting, fishing, and resource extraction as personal trials revealing character through struggle with indifferent nature.

Kingsolver extends environmental critique beyond individual ethical choice to encompass systemic analysis of economic structures, consumer capitalism, and industrial agriculture that deliberately externalize ecological costs. "The Poisonwood Bible" traces cascading consequences of colonial extraction not as natural inevitability but as deliberate economic exploitation driven by capitalist resource hunger and ideological justification. "Animal Dreams" similarly exposes pesticide contamination as an outcome of corporate profit prioritization over community and ecosystem health, positioning environmental destruction as a symptom of deeper power imbalances rather than tragic natural conflict.

Literary Legacy and Influence on Environmental Literature. Hemingway's ecological consciousness established a foundational paradigm for environmental literature wherein natural environments function as active moral testing grounds rather than decorative backdrops. His minimalist aesthetic and emphasis on individual confrontation with ecological limits created a literary template that subsequent environmental writers have adapted and expanded, particularly in representing how wilderness encounters reveal character and expose human vulnerability to forces beyond individual control. Writers working in the late twentieth century drew upon Hemingway's approach of embedding environmental themes within narratives of personal struggle, yet modified his ambiguous authorial stance to engage more explicitly with ecological science and policy questions. The Hemingway legacy in environmental literature emphasizes the tension between human ambition and natural constraints, a dynamic that continues to structure environmental narratives exploring resource scarcity, climate disruption, and species extinction. [5;423] His spare prose style and emphasis on what remains unsaid influenced environmental writers to recognize that ecological crisis need not require rhetorical excess but rather demands precision in representing specific landscape transformations and human-animal interactions.

Barbara Kingsolver represents a paradigmatic shift in environmental literature by synthesizing scientific literacy with narrative sophistication, demonstrating that contemporary ecocritical fiction can simultaneously function as aesthetic achievement and explicit environmental advocacy. Her integration of climate science, ecological research, and sustainable agriculture directly into plot structure establishes a model wherein scientific understanding becomes inseparable from character development and narrative resolution. Rather than withholding authorial judgment, Kingsolver employs multiple perspectives and scientific exposition to guide readers toward specific ecological conclusions about consumer culture and industrial systems, positioning environmental literacy as essential to contemporary citizenship. This approach reflects the urgency of late-twentieth and early-twenty-first-century environmental crises that demand clear communication about causes and consequences rather than ambiguous literary allusion. Kingsolver's influence on subsequent environmental literature lies in legitimizing pedagogical dimensions of fiction, transforming the novel into a vehicle for environmental education that reaches general audiences beyond academic ecocriticism circles. Her emphasis on indigenous ecological knowledge, sustainable agriculture, and environmental justice establishes environmental literature as necessarily engaged with questions of equity and power distribution alongside ecological restoration.

Both Hemingway and Kingsolver participate in a broader literary tradition examining humanity's relationship to nature, yet their historical positioning and philosophical approaches reveal fundamental

evolution in how environmental literature addresses ecological crisis. Hemingway's mid-twentieth-century fiction emerged during a conservation era emphasizing wilderness preservation and resource management, concerns he encoded through narratives of landscape degradation and exhausted environments. Kingsolver's work reflects the urgency of anthropogenic climate change and biodiversity collapse, requiring more comprehensive systemic analysis and explicit scientific grounding than Hemingway's existential exploration of human limits. [9;309] The literary tradition connecting these writers demonstrates that environmental consciousness manifests differently across historical moments, with early environmental literature emphasizing aesthetic and philosophical dimensions of nature while contemporary environmental fiction integrates climate science and environmental justice into narrative structures. This evolution from implicit to explicit environmental messaging, and from individual moral trials to systemic critique, indicates that environmental literature continues adapting its forms and concerns to address the specific ecological crises and scientific understanding of each era.

Conclusion. As a summary, it's important to note that **Hemingway's** approach is indirect, embedding environmental concerns within narrative elements without explicitly stating them. His minimalist style allows readers to interpret the tension between human ambition and ecological consequences. In contrast, Kingsolver's work is direct and didactic, integrating scientific exposition and guiding readers toward ecological literacy.

Hemingway's narratives focus on individual encounters with nature, while Kingsolver addresses systemic issues like consumer culture and industrial agriculture. Kingsolver's work emphasizes the role of science and indigenous knowledge in shaping ecological understanding.

Hemingway's ecological consciousness laid a foundation for environmental literature, using nature as a moral testing ground. His style influenced writers to embed environmental themes within personal struggles. **Kingsolver** represents a shift toward integrating scientific literacy with narrative, transforming fiction into a tool for environmental education.

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