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## REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-56610

Title: Ecofeminist Interconnections: Mutual Domination of Women and Nature in Anita Desai's *Where Shall We Go This Summer?* and *Clear Light of the Day*.

### Recommendation:

Accept after minor revision.....

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✓		
Techn. Quality		✓		
Clarity	✓			
Significance		✓		

Reviewer Name: Faheem Abdul Muneeb

### Reviewer's Comment

This manuscript examines the ecofeminist dimensions present in Anita Desai's novels *Where Shall We Go This Summer?* and *Clear Light of the Day*. The study explores the interconnected relationship between the oppression of women and the exploitation of nature through an ecofeminist theoretical framework. By analyzing the symbolic and thematic elements of Desai's works, the article highlights how patriarchal structures simultaneously marginalize women and degrade the natural environment. The author situates this discussion within broader ecofeminist discourse influenced by scholars such as Françoise d'Eaubonne, Vandana Shiva, and Maria Mies.

The topic addressed in the manuscript is relevant to contemporary literary criticism, particularly within the growing interdisciplinary field of ecofeminism and environmental humanities. By focusing on the works of a prominent Indian English novelist, the article contributes to the exploration of how ecological concerns intersect with gender and postcolonial narratives in South Asian literature.

The manuscript successfully emphasizes that Desai's fiction often integrates psychological landscapes with environmental imagery, demonstrating how personal and ecological crises are interlinked. This

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thematic focus makes the study a meaningful contribution to the understanding of ecofeminist interpretations of Indian English literature.

### Scientific Contribution and Empirical Strength

The study provides a thoughtful interpretation of how Desai's novels portray the parallel domination of women and nature. Through textual analysis, the author demonstrates how female protagonists such as Maya and Bim embody the intersection of environmental and gender-based oppression.

For instance, the analysis of Maya's retreat to the island of Manori in *Where Shall We Go This Summer?* highlights the symbolic relationship between her pregnancy and the threatened ecological landscape surrounding the island. Similarly, the depiction of Bim's deteriorating home and garden in *Clear Light of the Day* is interpreted as a metaphor for emotional stagnation and the broader socio-environmental consequences of historical and political upheaval.

The article effectively uses symbolic imagery—such as water, gardens, and domestic spaces—to illustrate the connection between ecological decline and female marginalization. This interpretive approach helps demonstrate how Desai's narrative techniques transform personal experiences into broader ecological and feminist concerns.

However, while the manuscript provides meaningful interpretive insights, the analytical discussion could be strengthened by engaging more extensively with existing scholarly debates on ecofeminism in Indian literature. Including references to additional critical studies would help situate the research within the broader academic discourse.

### Methodology and Analytical Approach

The research adopts a qualitative literary analysis approach, relying on close textual reading of the selected novels. This methodological approach is appropriate for examining thematic patterns, symbolism, and narrative structures within literary texts.

The use of ecofeminism as a theoretical framework enables the author to interpret the texts through the lens of gendered environmental critique. The analysis effectively identifies symbolic parallels between women's bodies and natural landscapes, illustrating how patriarchal systems simultaneously exploit both.

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Nevertheless, the methodology section could be elaborated further to clarify the analytical framework guiding the textual interpretation. A more detailed explanation of how ecofeminist theory informs the analytical process would strengthen the methodological clarity of the study.

### Structure, Style, and Presentation

The manuscript follows a clear academic structure, including an introduction, methodology section, analytical discussion, and conclusion. The introduction effectively outlines the theoretical foundation of ecofeminism and introduces the literary works under analysis.

The discussion section presents several insightful interpretations of symbolic elements within the novels, particularly the use of environmental imagery to reflect psychological and social tensions. These interpretations demonstrate the author's engagement with the texts and contribute to the thematic coherence of the study.

However, some sections would benefit from improved clarity and organization. Certain sentences are lengthy and could be simplified to enhance readability. Minor grammatical inconsistencies and stylistic issues should also be addressed during revision.

Additionally, the conclusion could be strengthened by summarizing the key analytical findings more clearly and emphasizing the broader significance of the study for ecofeminist literary criticism.

### Final Recommendation

Overall, the manuscript addresses an important topic within literary and environmental studies by examining the ecofeminist themes present in Anita Desai's fiction. The study provides useful interpretive insights into the relationship between gender oppression and environmental degradation in postcolonial literary contexts.

With minor revisions focusing on expanding engagement with existing scholarship, clarifying the methodological framework, and refining language and structure, the manuscript would make a valuable contribution to research on ecofeminism and Indian English literature.

**Decision: Accepted with minor revisions.**