

**IN THE LAP OF NATURE: AN ECOCRITICAL READING OF
*THE ENGLISH PATIENT***

Remya K

Assistant Professor, Department of English, St. Joseph's College, Affiliated to the University of Calicut, India

Received: 30 Dec 2017

Accepted: 04 Jan 2018

Published: 18 Jan 2018

ABSTRACT

*Thoroughly backed by the insights from philosophy and other cultural movements initiated by Feminism and Marxism, Ecocriticism, as a literary theory, makes serious interventions in a culture's attitude towards Nature and, in Praxis, aims at creating awareness through the interpretations of cultural artifacts, thus acquiring a political dimension. As stated in *The Ecocriticism Reader* (1996), Ecocriticism is the study of the relationship between literature and the environment. In the present day context, set against the bio-social backdrop of exploitation of Nature under the facade of progress and development as a result of science, technology and capitalism, an analysis of the way in which the textual rhetoric codes the practices of ecocide is imperative. Following the premise that literary texts do have embedded in their narratives an ecological vision, the paper titled, "In Love with the Wilderness: An Ecocritical Reading of *The English Patient*" attempts to explicate the manner in which Michael Ondaatje's novel constitutes, from an ecocritical perspective, a response to the most brutal of all human cultural constructs, war, and its devastating effects on the natural world.*

KEYWORDS: *Ecocriticism, Colonialism, Capitalism, Nature/Culture, Othering*