IMPACT: International Journal of Research in Humanities, Arts and Literature (IMPACT: IJRHAL)
ISSN (P): 2347–4564; ISSN (E): 2321–8878
Vol. 13, Issue 6, Jun 2025, 1–8
© Impact Journals

LITERATURE AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS: AN ECOCRITICAL STUDY OF CLIMATE CHANGE, MIGRATION, AND BELONGING IN AMITAV GHOSH'S *THE HUNGRY TIDE* AND *GUN ISLAND*

Dr. Manjunatha S

Associate Professor of English, Government First Grade College, Thyamagondlu

Received: 10 Jun 2025 **Accepted:** 15 Jun 2025 **Published:** 18 Jun 2025

ABSTRACT

This paper examines how Amitav Ghosh connects environmental crisis with unequal access to habitation, mobility, and protection in The Hungry Tide and Gun Island. A comparative ecocritical reading brings the novels into dialogue with Rob Nixon's account of slow violence and Dipesh Chakrabarty's discussion of planetary interdependence and historical responsibility. It argues that ecological disruption becomes a crisis of belonging when institutions restrict people's ability to remain safely or move without coercion. The discussion considers embankments, conservation restrictions, migrant routes, scientific knowledge, and narrative mediation. Particular attention is given to the contrast between knowledge that survives and people who do not, and between spectacular rescue and sustained protection. The comparison distinguishes the political displacement represented in The Hungry Tide from the explicitly climatic pressures and multiple migration motives in Gun Island. Its principal finding is that environmental belonging requires material support and accountable relationships, rather than attachment to place alone.

KEYWORDS: *Ecocriticism; Amitav Ghosh; Environmental Justice; Climate Change; Migration; Belonging.*