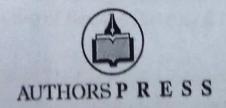
Re-Thinking Environment: Literature, Ethics and Praxis

Editor: Dr Shruti Das



14	Re-Thinking Environment: Literature, Ethics and Praxis	
8.	Rethinking Nature: Wilderness in Arun Joshi's The Strange Case of Billy Bismas N. Lakshmi & G. Chenna Reddy	9
9.	Ecological Crisis in Ruskin Bond's Selected Short Stories Annie Jane C Mawkhiew	10
10	Culture and Nature in Selected Poems of Shruti Das: An Ecocritical Study Samita Mishra	111
	PART III. CLIMATE CHANGE REPRESENTATIONS	
11	Climate Change and its Impact in Barbara Kingsolver's Novel Flight Behavior Sr. Innyasamma Gade	121
12	"Not a drop of water, nor a blade of grass:" Reading Haruki Murakami's Colourless Tsukuru Tazaki and His Years of Pilgrimage as a Postmodern Ecological Text Minakshi Prasad Mishra	130
13.	Dire Consequences of the Fall of an Ecosystem: A Critique on Helon Habila's Oil On Water Ramesh K. G., James Joseph & P. C. Roy	141
14.	Environmental Scatology in Eni-Jologho Umuko's The Scent of Crude Oil Ajumeze Henry Obi	151
	PART IV. LOCATION, ANTHROPOCENE AND DEEP ECOLOGY	
15.	Creating a Sense of Place through Literature: A Bioregional Reading of Barungin (Smell the Wind) Aleena Manoharan	165
16.	Bonbibi and Cetology: The Confluence of the Mythic and the Scientific in Amitav Ghosh's The Hungry Tide Maitravee Misra	176

Bonbibi and Cetology: The Confluence of the Mythic and the Scientific in Amitav Ghosh's *The Hungry Tide*

Maitrayee Misra

Amitav Ghosh's novel The Hungry Tide (2004), published quite coincidentally in the year of the Tsunami (26 December, 2004) in the Indian Ocean, is primarily set in the Sundarbans - the archipelago in the Ganges delta in the southernmost part of West Bengal. The abundance of 'Heriteria Minor' or Sundari trees has made this region literally the "beautiful forest" - the Sundarbans which holds the world's largest mangrove forest with a variety of flora and fauna. [Also known as the 'Bhatirdesh', this terrain has a 'mutating' and 'unpredictable' (HT 7) tidal eco-system that controls the biosphere as well as the life and cultural identity of the people living in that area. In this novel, Ghoshtells his readers that apart from the "kadaarbada - mud and mangrove" (HT 51) and the predators inhabiting the region, the cult of Bonbibi - the forest Goddess, shapes the religio-cultural life and the consciousness of the subaltern peasants of Sundarbans (for example, Fokir, Horen etc.). Alongside the introduction of this myth of Bonbibi, Ghosh craftily alloys the issue of modern science of cetology (study of the dolphins) through the fictional character of Piya (Piyali Roy), who manifests the current trends of research in